

N. 55 - July 2013



Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission



Dear confreres and friends of the Salesian missions!

In early 2013 I carried out animation visits to 20 Provinces, most of them with the new Salesian presences, founded in the last twenty years. Where our presence is established, we always had the strategy of having a missionary group.

I am convinced that **the best way to strengthen the missionary culture is through a group!** One vision and dream I shared with many Provincials, youth ministry delegates and delegates for missionary animation is to **launch or relaunch missionary groups in all Salesian**

houses in the world! There are lots of proposals from *Missionary Childhood* (primary school) to the missionary volunteers (young adults)! Obviously missionary groups play a strategic role in the formation houses, where the young Salesian learns the dynamics of missionary animation.

What does a missionary group do? In Italy they develop around the 'scuola di mondialità', in the Congo it is called 'Cercle missionnaire', 'Grumis' in Mexico and 'DBVolunteer Group' in Japan. It is the missionary group that **keeps the interest especially for the *missio ad gentes* in the community** (SDB or EPC) through regular prayer for the missions or for missionary vocations (e.g. every 11th of the month, the Missionary Rosary), mission information on the web, bulletin boards, social networks, video projection of the missionary, missionary formation, planned visits. But the most important are the missionary activities in rural communities, poor neighborhoods without a priest, visits to families far away from the parish community. A missionary group makes a difference! A Salesian often discovers 'missions' while accompanying a missionary group! Sometimes young people help 'convert' the Salesian who accompanies a missionary group. Happy journey!

Václav Klement

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions

MISSIONARIES FOR EUROPE SOUGHT

Province - Country	Necessary languages	Environment and necessary qualities of the missionaries
AUS - Austria	German	Youth Centres, Oratory, parishes, works for migrants, SYM
GBR- Great Britain	English	Schools, Spirituality Centres, Migrants need young SDBs
IRL - Ireland	English	Schools; Spirituality centres for the young, need of young SDBs
IME- Albania, Kosovo	Albanese, Italian	Primary Evangelization, few personnel, especially Salesian brothers
ICC Italy:Emmigrants	Italian, Spanish, English	Project Sacro Cuore (migrants ROME), Project Genova (Ecuadorians)



An interview of Fr. Jean-Claude Ngoy, Provincial of the Dem. Rep. of Congo in French with subtitles in English. <https://vimeo.com/68783081>



It is necessary to unlearn in order learn once more

Sometimes one could question whether one could make a step further and be more generous in our lives as a Salesian and go where God sends us to meet others waiting who can help them become better people as believers and as professionals who are prepared for their society. I made this question seriously for the last 10 years. Finally the Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chávez accepted my request to go to the missions in January 2010.

In September 2010, I was part of about 40 Salesians who composed the 141th Salesian missionary expedition. That month we were between Rome and Turin for the course for new missionaries. During the course we discussed and discerned what it meant to be a missionary in another culture, in another language, with other customs that are not one's own. It is important and necessary to unlearn to be able to learn again. Another crucial thing is to overcome culture shock. It is also important to see inculturation as journeying together and encountering those whom one works and live with to make our life our educative work more comprehensible and our work of evangelisation more credible.



The risks in the missionary may be, among others, self-sufficiency at work and as a result isolation and sense of incapacity in the context where one lives, pure activism that leads to losing the sense of why and for who do I do what I do which, ultimately, leads to disconnect from God, who is the foundation of what I do.

To overcome these difficulties of my adaptation to this new mission, I tried to learn from those who advised me, strived to understand this other reality, and I brought to my prayer what I was going through and with whom I was living with (young Salesians, lay, ...).

For those who are considering taking this step in your life, I encourage you to be generous and not to be afraid. Difficulties can be overcome with hard work and prayer, by being open to others and by being enthusiastic about one's own vocation, by offering all to the Lord who calls us to be saints. Mary journeys with us, taking us by the hand towards wherever God wills that we respond fully to his call.

L. José Vázquez Gallego
Spanish, missionary in Peru

Let our Parishes be more Missionary!

The World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro (23-28 July) is an opportune occasion to reflect on the letter of the Rector Major on *Salesian Youth Ministry* where he pointed out that "our apostolate is still not very missionary, that is to say, it pays little attention to the need for an initial proclamation or a renewed proclamation of the Gospel."

Regarding the parishes entrusted to the Salesians, Fr. Pascual Chávez called our attention to some aspects to be explored urgently, among them are:

*** promoting a *more missionary style of apostolate* ... with a project of evangelisation and *initial proclamation* of the gospel for those at a distance, and a continuous and progressive programme of education to the faith, especially for the young and for families;

*** promote a *more missionary and Salesian pastoral methodology* with great educative sensitivity capable of accepting people where they are so as to stir up in them the desire to *be open to the faith* and to become involved in a continuous and gradual progression in the Christian way of life.



Salesian Missionary Intention

South Asia Region

That there may be an increase of missionary vocations ad gentes in the South Asian region and vocational perseverance among young confreres who are missionaries.

The South Asia Region has an annual average of 130 novices, but only an average of 7 missionaries ad gentes are sent every year by the Rector Major. There are several initiatives in progress to keep alive the missionary spirit: different formation houses have relaunched missionary groups, during the last two years two missionary aspirantates have been founded - one in Sirajuli (Province of Guwahati, North East India - for the six provinces of the North) and the other in Chennai-Perambur (Province of Chennai for the five Provinces of the South). Above all there is an on-going prayer campaign for missionary vocations ad gentes. The South Asian region accepts the invitation of the Rector Major that now is the time to respond to the grace received through more than 400 missionaries who have fostered the growth of the Salesian charism in the Indian subcontinent.



Titolo notiziario

Nome società

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