

# CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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



**D**ear brothers and friends of the Salesian missions, Today we remember the first missionary expedition of Don Bosco on November 11, 1875 which deeply marked not only the course of the Salesian history, but also the very physiognomy of the Salesian charism. Don Bosco himself had sent 11 missionary expeditions. **In 1888, 20% of the Salesians were in the missions**

**of America!** What impact the 11,000 missionaries sent from 1875 to 2013 had on our charism, spirituality and mission Salesian!

What was the impact on the Salesian holiness! Even Papa Francesco recognises the first missionaries in Patagonia as models of Christian life fruitful (*La Civiltà Cattolica*, September 20, 2013). Among the saints, blessed, venerable servants of God of the Salesian Family are 25 or missionaries or fruits of the first evangelisation of the missionaries! Indeed, the DNA of our Congregation is certainly missionary!

*Václav Klement*

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB  
Councillor for the Missions

## Why send us missionaries? We are not a poor country!

It is not rare to hear Salesians from technologically developed countries asking “*Why send us missionaries? We are not a poor country!*” Similarly, some missionaries from countries once considered ‘mission land’ also wonder the sense of being sent to a materially well-off or technologically developed countries. To many Salesians here lies the non verbalised ‘problem’ regarding the last General Chapter’s directive to relaunch the charism in Europe by making the necessary interventions to renew the Salesian presence in the continent (GC 26, 108, 111) now known as ‘Project Europe.’

Actually the problem is deeper than mere socio-geography! It is rooted in the **selective comprehension** of ‘mission’ expressed in *Ad Gentes* no. 6 understood solely as unidirectional movement from ‘Christian’ countries to ‘pagan’ lands and of *Evangelii Nuntiandi* no. 31 where human promotion and development are seen as the most important components of mission. It seems that the understanding of mission of many has fossilised here. Yet, already way back in 1991, John Paul II had insisted in *Redemptoris Missio* nn. 33-34 that **mission cannot be seen anymore solely in unidirec-**

**tional geographic terms** but primarily as the proclamation of Jesus Christ in interpenetrating contexts where there is a need of either *missio ad gentes*, *ordinary pastoral activity* or *new evangelisation*. Thus, he called for interdependence and mutual assistance between churches in what was traditionally called ‘Christian countries’ and ‘mission countries.’ It is in this light that Pope Benedict XVI invited the Church in Africa “to contribute to the new evangelisation in secularised countries” which “are today sadly lacking in vocations.” This, he underlined, is not a weakening of missionary impulse *ad gentes* but “a concrete sign” of its “fruitfulness”! (*Africae Munus* no. 167). With this renewed vision of mission Pope Francis continually invites Catholics to go “to the fringes of society” to proclaim the Gospel.

Thus, the Rector Major’s insistence that **Project Europe** is a “Congregational Project” which involves “all Regions and Provinces” (GC 26, p.147) primarily demands from **all Salesians a conversion of mind and heart** to appropriate this epochal change in the understanding of ‘mission.’ Only then will there be a multidirectional exchange of Salesian missionaries animated by mutual trust and openness which, in the final analysis, will enrich all Provinces and renew the whole Congregation!



Fr. Alfred Maravilla  
Mission Department





## Like the first Salesian Missionaries in America, I also serve migrants ... in Europe!

**M**y missionary vocation was born when I was in the Salesian prenovitiate thanks to the screening of a video on Father Luis Bolla and his mission among the Achuar Indians of the Peruvian Amazon. This touched my heart and I could not get out of my mind the desire to go work one day among those most in need. Thus, during the novitiate, I expressed the desire to be sent to the mission *ad gentes* to the Regional, who is our current Rector Major. He said I should finish my studies in philosophy before I can expect a response regarding my desire. When I started Practical Training in 2001, I was sent along with 4 other missionaries, to start the first Salesian community in the Peruvian Amazon and work among the Indians of 7 tribes. My dream was becoming a reality. I did the first year of my Practical Training among the Indians and then I was transferred to Lima to work among street children.

After finishing my theological studies I expressed the desire to go to the mission *ad gentes, ad extra*. I got the answer in 2010 when I was working already as a priest among the Indians of the Amazon. The destination was to be part of Project Europe. Thus, I was sent initially to Ireland and then to Genoa - Sampierdarena to work among Latin American migrants. Of course I encountered difficulties due to culture shock : the language, the fraternal relations , the way of seeing the Salesian charism from a secular and secularising world, the difficulty of integrating faith and life, etc. . , even among us Salesians, the little effort in fostering integration.

The *New Course for New Missionaries* was very useful, because I was going to a completely different culture to mine and we had been prepared for this during the course. Besides it was very useful to help me take these steps towards integration and analysis of the various European realities. It had forewarned us of all the difficulties we would meet. The knowledge of the sources of the Salesian charism, the week on spirituality, the exchange of experiences of new missionaries were topics that have helped me tremendously.

Some people ask me: “We need missionaries in Peru, why go as a missionary among Latin Americans in Europe”? My answer in this regard is: one of the main tasks of the first Salesian missionaries was the care of Italian migrants in America. Today, my primary task is to take care of Latin American migrants in Genoa who have waited so long for the presence of a Latin American priest. I know that there is so much need in my country and I have experienced it myself, but I also know that here there is a huge need as well for Latin American migrants to be able to rediscover their culture, to be comforted and listened to especially in these times of crisis at all levels: economic, social, political, cultural and religious. That's why I never tire of thanking God for guiding my life and the lives of all the missionaries who are part of Project Europe according to His will.



Fr. Daniel Coronel,



The Course for New Missionaries for the members of the 144th Salesian Missionary Expedition (<https://vimeo.com/77022954>), prepared by Fr. Roman Sikon of “Group 43” (Poland).



## Salesian Missionary Intention For CAM 4 (the whole american continent)

That the CAM 4 and COMLA 9 in Maracaibo, Venezuela, may foster the relaunching of missionary zeal throughout the continent .



For the successful implementation of the American Missionary Congress (CAM 4) and Latin American Missionary Congress (COMLA 9) in Maracaibo, Venezuela (26 November-1 December 2013). Before CAM4 SDBs and FMAs from various Provinces of America will gather for the **Study Days on the initial proclamation of Jesus Christ in America (Venezuela)** and then participate in the CAM4 which follows. Let us pray that the experiences may re-launch the missionary zeal in the continent. It is important that Christians of America grow in consciousness and commitment of their responsibility to proclaim the Gospel in their settings, but also beyond its own continent, fulfilling what the bishops already pointed out in the Puebla Document (CELAM, 1979): “It’s true that we ourselves need of missionaries ... But we must give from our poverty” (368).