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May God bless all of us
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A “Kairos” For Africa And Madagascar

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These two occasions impel us to look around us with the missionary heart of Don Bosco!

With the missionary eyes of Don Bosco we see around us “the urgency of proclaiming the Good News to the millions of people in Africa who are not yet evangelised” (Ecclesia in Africa, 47.) It is important, therefore, to stir up an interest in Jesus Christ among those who do not know him, as well as to revitalise the faith of African Christians who have become lukewarm in their faith.

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Fr. Guillermo Basahes, SDS
Regional Councilor for Africa & Madagascar
MISSIONARY FORMATION OF THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

The Article explores three main themes (contents, attitudes, experiences) in the different stages (translated as "momenHs") of formation. These three elements have to be constantly deepened, and adapted to different contexts. The aim is to "keep alive the missionary zeal of Don Bosco", a significant part of our charism and spirituality. It is expected that when this is properly done, it would facilitate the discernment process for Salesian missionaries. "ad gentes". In simple terms, it attempts to answer the question: "HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A MISSIONARY VOCATION ‘AD GENTES’?"

In the introductory letter to the document we are reminded of the renewed in-depth study of the person of St. John Bosco and the specific charismatic identity the Holy Spirit gave to the Church through him. This is spread all over the world by the Salesian family through a missionary commitment started by don Bosco himself. The Rector Major has called for an "inculturation of the Salesian charism" (ACG 412, Rome 2011) and this echoes one of the main tasks of the missionary endeavours of the Church in "modern world". The idea is now not new but perhaps more urgent as the signs of the times are demanding to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ not only relevant by effective in every generation. This reminds us of the concern of St. Paul: the apostle to the Gentiles: "Now, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" (Romans 10:14).

Article 6 of our Salesian Constitutions explains what the Salesian sense of mission is. It is not just being somewhere or going somewhere else but it has the following key components:

1. Service to the Church and faithful to the commitments of Don Bosco
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The rest of the documents gives some guidelines on Attitudes, Content, and Experiences (ACE... you can remember with Adeyemi College of Education, A. C. E which, by the way, is a good three-step method for analysis in youth groups and communities as well...) to be developed in the different stages of formation. I also feel this arrangement is in right order. Attitude makes you ready and open to what is happening and that makes you most prepared to get the best out of the content which in turn helps you to have a good experience and the circle continues again... an open attitude to your experience which helps you to look critically at the content and helps you to have a more meaningful experience again...

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2. Intense  
3. Joy  
4. Desire  
5. Openness  
6. Sense of compassion  
7. Generosity  
8. Simple life  
9. Gift of self  
10. Commitment  
11. Service | 1. Study of Don Bosco's life  
2. The desire to go to the missions in his early years of priestly formation  
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3. experiencing the world of the young, especially of the poorest  
4. Prayer for mission - Eucharistic adoration and the Rosary,  
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III- Vocation Motivation:
During my Novitiate, many home-visit Missionaries passed by the community and shared their inspiring stories of missionary lives, hiding no challenges and difficulties. I was challenged by their stories and dedication and asked myself why I should not become one of them but I had still the fear to face the demands for a missionary life. I am quite aware of my limitations in intellectual capacity as well as personal weakness. I shared my concerns and anxieties to my superiors who accompanied me with delicacy and sensitiveness. Yet, the impulse has grown up and become mature when I decided to apply formally for ad gentes missionary life.

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<td>1. critical and Christian reading of culture and events 2. the study of the history of the Congregation 3. the preventive system with attention to its inculturation 4. knowledge of the phenomenon of migration and its challenges; 5. the study of catechesis and social communication 6. knowledge of the Criteria for the Discernment of the Salesian Missionary Vocation</td>
<td>1. apostolate among young, the poor, youth at risk 2. organise and animate missionary groups 3. missionary promotion using the means of social communication 4. reflect on the Criteria for the Discernment of the Salesian Missionary Vocation.</td>
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Fr. Cyril Odia

**First Name**: HUAN [hwaː:n]
**Family Name**: TRAN QUOC
**Full Name**: Thomas Aquinas TRAN QUOC HUAN

**I - Family Background**: I was born as the sixth of eight siblings in a traditional Catholic family. My parents are working-hard farmers yet rather devout Christians. One of my brothers is a diocesan seminarian and a sister is a religious of a local congregation.

**II - Vocation History**: After graduation from High School, I chose to help my parents in their farming. Yet, one year later, my seminarian brother asked me to take examination for college studies, since the seminary accept only graduates from college. I passed the entrance examination and continued my studies. During my college, I met the Salesians through the mediation of my sister [while she was in formation house, some Salesians visited them]. After two years of attending the aspirant program offered by the Salesians, I dropped out for a while because of the pressures of my college courses and lack of interest in the program. Anyway I felt some emptiness in my heart when I did not keep in touch with the Salesians. In the third year of my college studies, I asked to continue the aspirant program. I joined the preparatory year for those who would enter the Pre-Novitiate. What came next was what all Salesian candidates had to pass through: Pre-novitiate, Novitiate and Post-novitiate. I have been happy all the time to be a Salesian.

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