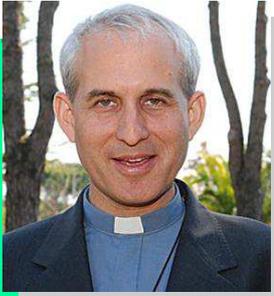


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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



Dear friends,
 In many Salesian provinces of the world, this month is already holiday time. From our homes, so many young people involved in volunteer service and youth groups are “on the field.” We see them and admire them, leaders in service and evangelisation. They are young people who are true evangelisers of the young.

Three months ago the 27th General Chapter reiterated: " We are ever more conscious that the volunteer movement helps young people to mature in a complete way which includes the vocational (see EG 106) and missionary dimension " (n. 17).

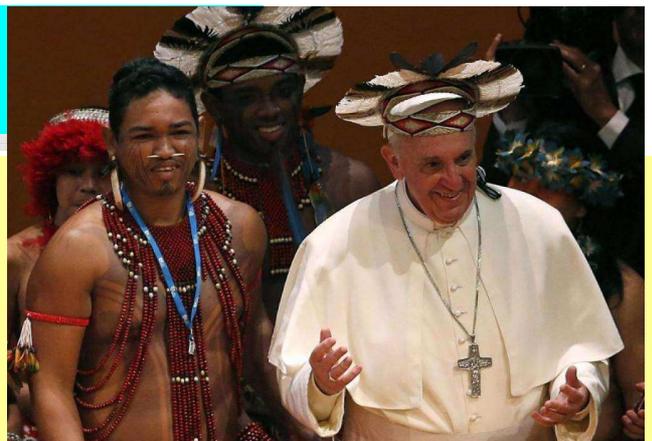
Zuzan Citarcikova, Slovak volunteer in the mountains of Peru, says: "not everything is as I thought, the corn is not only yellow, the north may well mean a place where it is warmer, and finally, being a pastor does not necessarily mean being poor "(in <http://www.infoans.org/> - Volunteer Stories).

My predecessor, Fr. Václav Klement, has left us a brief dream of his for the Congregation; I would say, almost his “missionary testament.” Among other things, he says: “ I dream to see one day a program on missionary volunteer service in every Province and a missionary group in every Salesian house (especially formation communities). Where do we stand now?

G. Basanes
Fr. Guillermo Basanes SDB
 Councillor for the Missions

GO OUT AND EVANGELISE

“ I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: “Give them something to eat”. (Mc 6,37)



Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 49



I became a missionary to live my Salesian vocation to the full



I do not know when my Salesian vocation was exactly born. One thing I know well though is how it has developed over the years. Since childhood,

and then in the Salesian novitiate, I was always impressed by the stories of missionaries from distant lands who came to speak to us of their lives among the poorest. Through the years my concern for the poor has always been present, but perhaps, like the fire in a fireplace, it was a little hidden under the embers of the many activities and my studies. In the Salesian house in Mezzano I had the opportunity to get in touch with Brazil, through twinning and visits in that country. It was there that the fire was decisively rekindled. I was then assigned as Province Delegate for Missionary Animation of the INE Province. The trips with the young people of School of Awareness of Global Realities and the summer experiences in Madagascar have confirmed my desire to spend my life among the poorest.

Some say “we also need the Salesians here in Italy, so why do you have to go to the missions?” This is an objection which might sound reasonable if the choice to leave one’s country to be a missionary *ad gentes* would be seen only from the material, numerical and statistical point of view. But whoever leaves for the mission does not run away from something. He goes in order to live fully one’s own vocation, in my case to my Salesian vocation. By placing my application to be a missionary *ad gentes* directly on

the hands of the Rector Major I wanted to state that my life belongs to God and not to me, and I would like to live it for the poorest and farthest. It will not be so much what I can give, but I’m sure the feeling of happiness inside me for what I do with the poor is the best answer to many initial doubts.

Now I am in Itajai, a port city in southern Brazil; a city that, for the most part, is made up of people who are doing well, who work to earn their living. But even in a city like this, there are hundreds of people and children who live on the margins, in dilapidated houses, in situations of violence, marginalisation and drugs. At this time I am here especially for them, to give them a hope and a future through education, personal development, accompaniment and the witness which I endeavour to give together with the educative pastoral community of Parque Dom Bosco, the social service where I’m working. Surely, I too sometimes wonder if I am in the right place, in a city where most of the inhabitants live a European style of



life, without too many problems. But for now I’m here, with the dream that perhaps, one day, I will be able to give my life in a more radical and poorer missionary context than where I am now. This has always been my dream. But where I am and wherever I’ll be sent or where I will ask to be sent, I will always try my best to live my Salesian missionary vocation, giving my every breath to the least and the poor!

*Fr. Roberto Cappelletti
Italian, missionary in Brazil*



Salesian Missionary Intention

For the growth and consolidation of the missionary volunteer service in all Salesian Provinces.

May young people in Salesian settings gain a taste for missionary activity thanks to mission groups or an experience of mission volunteer work (at home or abroad).

In Fr Rinaldi’s time (1920) mission groups existed in almost all Salesian communities around the world. In the 1960s (following Vatican II) the mission volunteer movement came into being, and is now recognised throughout the world. For a growth in a culture of the missionary vocation in Provinces, the mission group is a strategic tool for reawakening young people and the Salesians themselves. “We should recognise that ... many young people are making common cause before the problems of our world and are taking up various forms of activism and volunteer work. Some take part in the life of the Church as members of service groups and various missionary initiatives in their own dioceses and in other places. How beautiful it is to see that young people are “street preachers”, joyfully bringing Jesus to every street, every town square and every corner of the earth” (Evangelii Gaudium, 106)!

