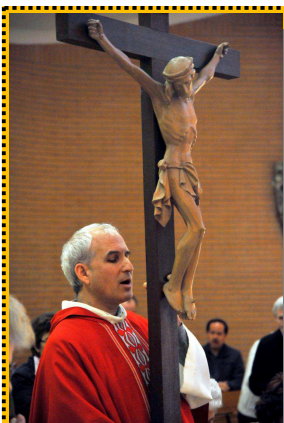


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Missions Sector for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Missions



Akash Bashir

19 years, Salesian past pupil of Lahore. His name and his blood filled the last part of our journey of Lent 2015. The "hatred of the faith" is a *conditio*

sine qua non for the Church to declare someone a martyr. In this case, there should not be just room for discussion: martyr immediately!

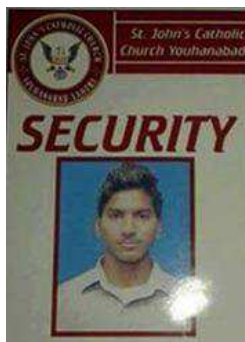
In this month we pray for young Christians in the Middle East and North Africa. Let us allow ourselves to be inspired by the moving example of Akash. So young, yet in a short span of time he understood and put into practice the essence of the Gospel: to lay down his life for his brothers! *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it produces much fruit."*

Behind every missionary availability and behind every project of Salesian volunteer service, the same desire should also be present: to give our lives for our brothers. Or, as Zeferino Namuncura once said, "to be useful for my people."

Thank you, dear Akash! Your life has been so "useful" for your people! We will try to imitate you!

With best wishes for a fruitful Easter!

Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the missions



The heroic guard who last March 15, 2015 (Sunday) in Lahore, Pakistan prevented a suicide attacker from entering a crowded St John's Catholic Church was named **Akash Bashir**. Akash was a past pupil of the Salesian technical school located in the predominantly Christian neighbourhood of Yuhannabad. He caught hold of his assailant, using his

body as a shield. Akash lost his life and saved the lives of many other people.

Akash was standing together with another security guard at the door of the church, checking those who entered. The suicide bomber approached the entrance and tried violently to get past the two young guards. When Akash stopped him he noticed the explosives hidden under his jacket. Akash grabbed hold of the attacker and the lower part of his body was blown off in the explosion. Thanks to his courageous action the death toll was much lower than was intended by the assailant.

"As a Christian minority there are times when our only hope is in God and His Mother, Mary" say the Salesians in Lahore.

**Salesian past pupil
offers his own life
to save
other Christians**



HAPPY EASTER
to all the readers of "Cagliero 11"

Alleluia!

I became a missionary to obey the will of God for me



The frequent passage of missionaries in my town, Ponte de Vagos, Aveiro - Portugal was, indeed, an important milestone. They themselves told, by mouth, their fantastic stories with the help of some movies and pictures that made us dream and question the possibility to follow their example, proclaiming the Good News to so many people who, today, are unaware or have not yet accepted the invitation of Jesus Christ. Although I had the opportunity to continue my studies “regularly”, the idea and the desire to follow them remained with me during my youth. But first I experienced the world of work through construction, metal fabrication and office work. However, it was only after I finished the compulsory military service that I decided to start the great adventure! I started secondary school, while

doing the aspirantate and pre-novitiate; followed, after a year of novitiate, 3 years of philosophy in Spain, 2 years of practical training in Portugal, and 5 years in Rome, where I obtained a degree in theology and a licentiate degree in missiology.

So after four years of missionary life in Cape Verde at the service of my Portuguese Province, I am now part of the Vice Province of Mozambique since October 2013. The decision to make myself available to the Rector Major for the Salesian mission ad gentes, had given rise to some questions in people who knew me as well as among my own confreres in the Province. After all, Portugal is part of a group of countries where, currently, there are so many people who do not know Jesus Christ or who need to deepen their own faith ... So, why leave for the missions when there are is so much need at your doorstep?! Really, it is a fact and a mystery I can not answer ... I just try to do what I perceive to be the will of God for my life and where I am happy!

The knowledge of Don Bosco and the Salesian life, associated with the course of study that I underwent, along with the *Course for New Missionaries* held in Rome and Turin, gave me the courage needed to move on, in view of the worldwide Salesian mission, in order to serve the young and especially the poorest.

Challenges and joys that we find and live with in this mission land are many ... the challenge is to have the courage to let God fulfill in each of us His holy will.

Fr. Jorge Bento

Portuguese, missionary in Mozambique



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

Blessed Philip Rinaldi (1858-1931), third successor of Don Bosco, and whose 25th anniversary of the beatification (29 April 1990) we remember, was a great promoter of the missionary work of the Congregation. In a circular letter he wrote: “Do not forget that the apostolic ardour of Francis Xavier had been burning in his great heart, fed by a flame which lit up the future through his dreams ... I see him, the beloved Father in the distant memories of my vocation, in the years of his greatest missionary fervour: an indelible impression remained in me. Don Bosco was a true missionary, an apostle consumed with passion for souls”.



Salesian Missionary Intention

For Young Christians in the Middle East and North Africa who Suffer for their faith

That young people who suffer various forms of persecution and marginalisation may always remain steadfast in their faith in Jesus Christ.

The intention is an urgent call to open our hearts to refugees around the world, particularly to refugees from the Middle East, the majority of whom are Arab Christians, not Muslims. We are called to welcome these fellow Christians who, because of their faith, are driven away by those who dream of a Middle East and North Africa without Christians.

