The heroic guard who last March 15, 2015 (Sunday) in Lahore, Pakistan prevented a suicide attacker from the Jamaat ul Ahrar group from entering a crowded St John’s Catholic Church 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 what 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.

**HAPPY EASTER**

**to all the readers of “Caglieri 11”**
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 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**

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

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.

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.