

Whom shall I send? —

**LORD,
send me!**



“Go out from your country, your relatives and your father’s household to the land that I will show you. Then I will make you into a great nation...” commanded Yahweh to Abraham (Gen 12:1-2). Heeding this call made Abraham the father in faith for a multitude of nations. Jesus felt the need to leave his native place and settled down in Capernaum (Mt 4:13) and later to leave from there to other places to preach the good news (Mk 1: 38). The Church is the people of God that constantly goes out of itself towards others. “Go out” is also the clarion call of Pope Francis to a stagnant Church intent on its own security and comfort. It is this going out that has made the Church alive.

Don Bosco had hardly a few Salesians in his hands when he chose to send out the best among them to the missions in Patagonia. Blessed Philip Rinaldi, another Don Bosco, understood that the missionary dimension was an indispensable aspect of Salesian Charism, nay of our baptismal call itself. So he came up with the genial idea of a “missionary aspirantate” in Ivrea, just about 50 kilometres from Turin in 1922. In about 40 years this power house of the sent out about 1000 missionaries all over the world, a large number of them landed also in India. We know what they have done to Salesian India. The congregation is commissioning its 145th missionary expedition in 2014. Our Congregation has become a force to reckon with in the Church only because of its missionary dynamism.

The Indian Church has a long tradition of being missionary. From the Western Coast, Southern parts of the peninsula and Chotanagpur area thousands of missionaries have gone out to the rest of India and the world to preach the Gospel. May be these areas have a vibrant Christian faith precisely because they were missionary. A Church that sends out Gospel workers is always blessed a hundredfold. According to a recent survey Indian Catholic missionaries are found working today in more than 166 countries! Salesians from India are working today in all the continents, working marvels of faith and development.



Wanting to work for one's own people only could be an indication of ageing and stagnation of the faith.

All the provinces, aspirantates and formation houses are places of missionary formation. But we have started two missionary aspirantates in India, one in Sirajuli, Assam and another in Perambur, Tamil Nadu with the intention of giving a fresh impetus for the missions, particularly to take care of those young men whom the Lord may be calling right from the beginning to go out of their native area, whether within India or abroad. These houses, besides having special programmes are also a reminder to the rest of our basic missionary call. If there are some signs of stagnation and fatigue in our religious life and a slump in vocations, a missionary thrust is one of the best ways of renewal and fresh dynamism. The Lord is never outdone in generosity. We will always have works in our own native areas. But that should not blind us to the ever increasing needs in other parts of the world.

This leaflet of information, we hope will serve to create greater understanding, not only of the missionary aspirantates, but of our universal missionary vocation itself. Let us keep going out. The Lord will keep coming in!

Lovingly in Don Bosco

Fr. Václav Klement, General Councillor for the Missions

Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga, General Councillor for South Asia Region

31 January 2014, Feast of Don Bosco



Fr. Václav Klement



Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga

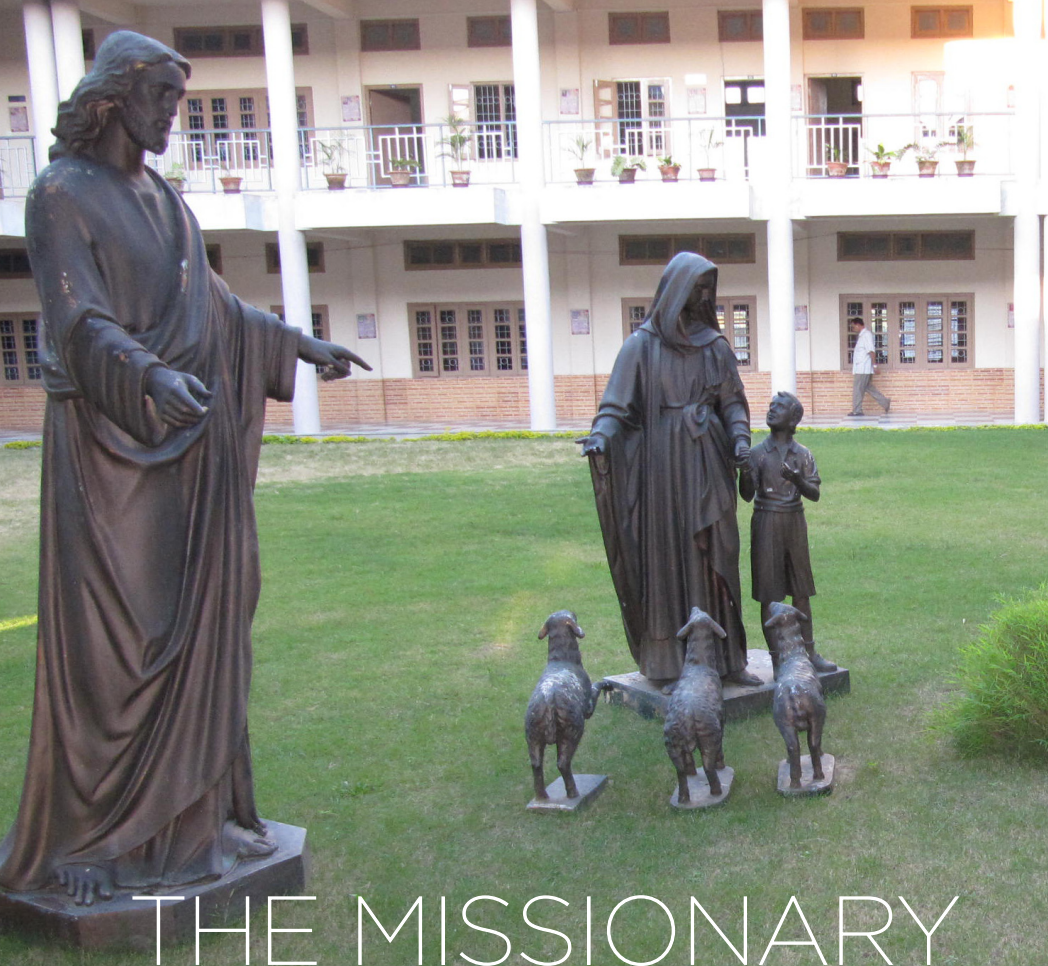
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THE MISSIONARY ASPIRANTATE

- FR. VÁCLAV KLEMENT, SDB

After the First World War the universal Church experienced a period of missionary revival, marked by large-scale meetings and missionary exhibitions, a flowering of missionary youth groups and publications at all levels. Missionary promotion has contributed to sending thousands of European missionaries to all the other continents. The young

Salesian Congregation also received various responsibilities in mission territories (mission Prefectures, Vicariates or Prelatures) in America, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

The third successor of Don Bosco, Blessed Philip Rinaldi, in communion with the Church, founded the magazine *Gioventù missionaria* to animate groups of the 'Friends of *Gioventù missionaria*'. Finally, in



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1922, the first institution which was meant for the formation of future missionaries *ad gentes* was founded in Ivrea near Turin. After high school young people were leaving for the missions, where they began their novitiate.

From the first missionary Aspirantate - Cardinal John Cagliero Institute, Ivrea - other missionary aspirantates were established in Penango, Gaeta, Bagnolo, Mirabello, Novi Ligure, Cumiana, Turin - Rebaudengo, Colle Don Bosco (Italy), Astudillo (Spain), Shrigley (UK), Coat-an-Doc'h (France) - not to mention other specifically missionary houses of formation (Turin Valdocco, the various 'missionary seminaries'). A good part of the 11,000 Salesian missionaries is the result of the typical Salesian tradition, having confidence in young people - even in the field of mission *ad gentes*, *ad extra*, for life. Like many other traditions in the immediate post-Vatican II period, all the missionary aspirantates in Europe were closed in the 60s. On the other side of the globe, in the region of South Asia during the centenary celebrations of Don Bosco in India (2006), the idea to continue the original tradition of Salesian missionaries aspirantates came up. Thus, with the permission of the Rector Major, the first two missionary aspirantates outside Europe were opened: The first in Sirajuli (Hubert D'Rosario Institute, Guwahati, 2011) and the second in Perambur (Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, Chennai, 2012). Now there are about 70 young



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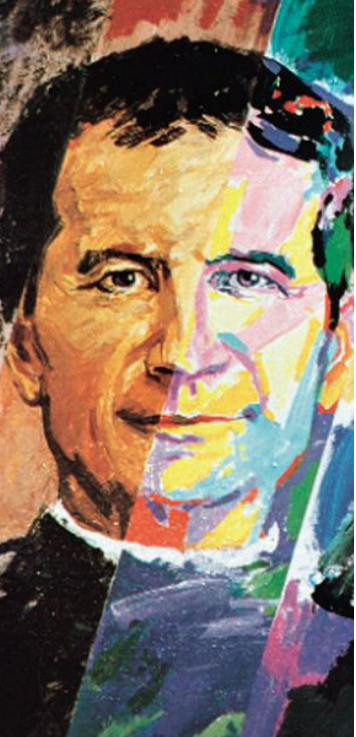
aspirants in India, 18 pre-novices, 6 novices being formed specifically to be missionaries. The project is open to all 12 provinces of the region. It is envisioned that after the postnovitiate the young missionaries will be sent either to other parts of the region or to missions *ad gentes* in other continents. The main motivation of the project is that "after receiving 400 Salesian missionaries, we now have a strong faith and vocations. As a sign of gratitude, the time has come for



India to send missionaries around the world and in Europe."

The opening of missionary aspirantates was warmly endorsed by other Provinces rich in apostolic vocations. The specific missionary formation is expressed mainly in the environment permeated by missionary enthusiasm: contents of conferences, good nights, missionary literature, and contact with missionaries *ad gentes*, missionary experience in the local oratory or the experience of initial proclamation of Jesus in the rural area.

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THE URGENT NEED FOR MISSIONARY PROMOTION

(FR. ALFRED MARAVILLA, SDB)

It is not uncommon to hear statements like “we are in the missions already, so what is the need for missionary promotion?”, or “we also need personnel in our Province so why encourage our Salesians to be missionaries abroad?”. These statements seem to indicate that missionary promotion is often misunderstood as fishing for missionaries. No wonder confreres sometimes wonder at the sense missionary promotion has when there is lack of personnel in the Province!

Looking back to Don Bosco

What is missionary promotion? It might be helpful to return to Don Bosco in order to shed light on what we mean by Salesian missionary promotion. From 1841 to 1850 Don Bosco established his first

works for the young. From 1850 to 1860, at a time of great danger for the faith of the people, he undertook a bold initiative of founding the Salesian Society in 1859 and of establishing a printing press as well as the publication of the Catholic Readings. In the next fifteen years he founded the other branches of his family: the Association of Mary Help of Christians in 1869, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in 1872 and the Salesian Cooperators in 1876. Finally, he opened an entirely new page in the life of his young Congregation by sending out his first missionaries in 1875, immediately after the approval of the Salesian Constitutions (1874).

A closer look at the missionary thrust of Don Bosco reveals that it is but the ultimate fruit and liveliest

manifestation of his missionary zeal to make Jesus known. This apostolic passion is the dynamism which underpins all his initiatives. In fact, if we examine closely his ministry to young people, it is easy to realise that this was deeply permeated by his passion for preaching the Gospel: During the outbreak of cholera in 1854 Don Bosco challenged his best boys to look beyond the safe confines of the Oratory and go and help those stricken with cholera. Dominic Savio’s dreamvision of the Pope bringing the light of faith to England reflects the missionary spirit that reigned in the Oratory. “Don Bosco’s oratory” stressed Fr. Viganò, “is conceived with a missionary perspective for young people without a parish.”¹

This missionary zeal – synthesised in *Da mihi animas* – was the animating dynamism which cuts across all his initiatives. Fr. Michael Rua wrote that “Don Bosco, in the ardent zeal by which he was devoured, shouted out: *Da mihi animas!* It was this need to save souls which made the old world seem narrow and drove him to send his sons to the distant missions of America”². In 1925, the fiftieth anniversary of the first missionary expedition, Fr Philip Rinaldi used these words to describe Don Bosco’s missionary zeal: “The apostolic ardour of a Francis Xavier had been burning in his large heart for many a year, fed by a divine flame which lit up the future through his dreams... He was a true missionary, an apostle devoured by a passion for

souls”³. Indeed, Don Bosco passed on to his first Salesians and to his boys this ardent desire to share his faith with poor and abandoned boys in Valdocco, with the people of Turin and with those who lived beyond Italy’s shores. Truly his example indicates that the missionary commitment to *mission ad gentes* “would be the Congregation’s on-going concern, in such a way that it forms part of its nature and purpose.”⁴

The Twofold Purpose of Salesian Missionary Promotion

In the light of Don Bosco’s experience we can now draw up our purpose for missionary promotion. Salesian missionary promotion has a twofold purpose which is interrelated and mutually complementary. Above all it aims at keeping alive in every Salesian the passion for making Jesus known and for preaching the Gospel. Such missionary zeal leads to a rediscovery of “the joy of being Christians, of being sustained by the inner happiness of knowing Christ and belonging to his Church”⁵. Hence, an effective missionary promotion renews “the passion for the salvation of others, by the joy of sharing the experience of the fullness of life of Jesus”⁶ of individual Salesians and, consequently, makes every member of the local and Province community

3 P. Rinaldi, ACS 30 (1925) p. 367.

4 *Acts of the General Chapter XIX*, 178; *Acts of the General Chapter XX*, 471.

5 Benedict XVI, “Homily, Parco Expo Bicentenario, León, Mexico” (March 25, 2012).

6 P. Chávez, “Address at the Closing of the General Chapter 26”, *Acts of the General Chapter XXVI*, 137.

1 E. Viganò, “The Pope’s Appeal for the Missions,” p. 34.

2 *Bollettino Salesiano* (January 1897), 4.



“happy from deep within.”⁷ From this inner joy energy springs “to serve Christ in hard-pressed situations of human suffering, the strength to put oneself at his disposal”⁸ and live our Salesian life radically. This, in turn, overcomes “faith fatigue” or the “sense of having had enough of Christianity”⁹ which causes inner weariness, small mindedness, and loss of apostolic zeal which, ultimately, “ends up in a state of paralysis and acedia”¹⁰ expressed in the joylessness and inner sadness in living the Christian and consecrated life. Enthusiastic Salesians attract young people to Salesian life. An effective missionary promotion, therefore, is intimately linked to vocation promotion.

This missionary zeal that should be present in every Salesian does not preclude but actually implies that there are Salesians who have a specific vocation to be engaged in the missionary apostolate outside their own homeland, cultural milieu and language group (ad exteros); among those who have not yet heard the Gospel, or where the Church is not yet fully established (ad gentes); and in contexts where there is an abandonment of the faith or where it is lived as merely something cultural (new evangelisation)¹¹ through a life-

long commitment (ad vitam)¹². Thus, the second purpose of missionary promotion which flows from its primary aim is to help Salesians discern whether they have the missionary vocation ad exteros, ad gentes, ad vitam. Those who feel called to be missionaries are helped to start the initial process of discernment by seeking the help of a spiritual guide to discover God’s call, purify and deepen their motives, discern their qualities and attitudes in view of determining their basic suitability for Salesian missionary life.

Our Salesian vocation places us at the heart of the Church¹³ which “is missionary by her very nature” because she “is sent forth to the nations.”¹⁴ In the same way that within the one Salesian vocation some are called to be priests while others to be brothers, similarly the Salesian missionary vocation is a call within our common Salesian vocation.¹⁵ In this light, it is not a matter of “we need confreres here” nor of “escaping” from the needs of the Province. No, no! It is a matter of helping a confrere respond to his vocation to be a Salesian missionary!

Missionary Promotion in Salesian Communities

Salesian missionary promotion in the whole Province is under the care

of the Province Delegate for Mission Animation (PDMA) who works in close collaboration with the Province Delegates for youth ministry, social communication and formation. In our local communities missionary promotion could take different forms. Here are 4 simple proposals:

The annual celebration of the Salesian Mission Day on a common date chosen by the whole Province is meant to foster awareness to different missionary situations and overcome every temptation to shut oneself off in one’s own context. Every year the Missions Department prepares a poster, printed materials, a DVD with short films on the theme which are also available on Youtube. These draw attention to the universality of the Salesian charism and its vitality as shown in the expressions of the missionary zeal of Salesians in different contexts.

The Monthly Missionary Intention as well as prayer for missionaries every 11th of the month underline the importance of spiritual dimension of mission and the possibility of all confreres to support the Congregation’s missionary activity through their prayer and sacrifices.

The monthly issue of Cagliero 11, distributed to the communities through the PDMA, offers resources not only for spiritual reading of the community but also for the ‘Good morning’ talks to students.

The formation of a missionary group in every local setting fosters the revival of the missionary consciousness of young

people and the whole educative pastoral community (EPC), revitalises the enthusiasm for the faith and the fascination for the Salesian charism. A missionary group could also foster volunteer service among the young and all the members of the EPC. These, in turn, stir up the ardour that gives birth to new vocations.

The Sense of doing Missionary Promotion

So, do we really need missionary promotion today? In fact, we really do! Salesian missionary promotion helps us to rediscover the “joy of believing” and of “communicating Jesus Christ”¹⁶ which “enlivens the community of disciples.”¹⁷ Indeed, an effective missionary promotion will be that spark that could trigger an “openness to a constant self-renewal”¹⁸ in every Salesian and, consequently, “the renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion”¹⁹ in every community and Province, less we give in to ‘faith fatigue’, and slide back comfortably to the joyless and ardourless “maintenance mode” of Salesian presence. Salesians overflowing with the “delightful and comforting joy of evangelising”²⁰ will certainly attract young people to the Salesian life!

This missionary zeal – synthesised in Da mihi animas – was the animating dynamism which cuts across all his initiatives.

7 Benedict XVI, “Christmas address to the Roman Curia” (December 22, 2011).

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 81, 83.

11 FABC Office of Evangelisation, “Consultation on Asian Local Church and Mission ad Gentes,” Franz Josef Eilers, ed., *For All the Peoples of Asia*, III, n.5, (Claretian Pub-

lications: Quezon City, 2002) 222; RM 33; Benedict XVI, *Motu Proprio Ubicumque et Semper* (2010).

12 Ad Gentes 6, 27; RM 32, 79; Acts of the General Chapter XX, 465.

13 Const. 6.

14 Ad Gentes 2; RM 1, 62.

15 E. Viganò, “The Pope’s Appeal for the Missions,” p.11.

16 Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 86, 30.

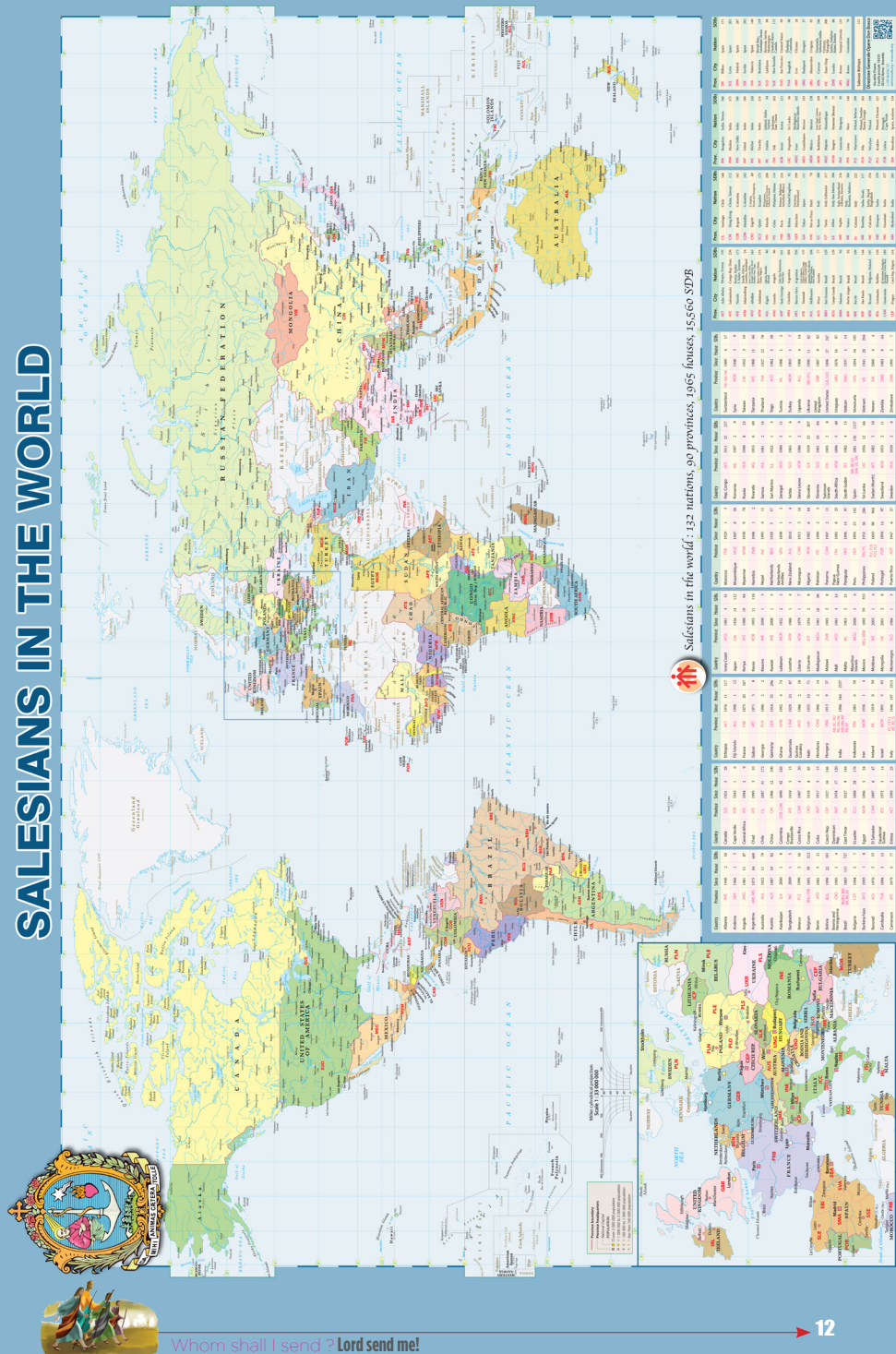
17 Idem, 21.

18 Idem, 26.

19 Idem, 27.

20 Idem, 10, 13, 83.





MISSIONARY INSTITUTE OF **CARDINAL CAGLIERO,** IVREA

The Cagliero Institute, Ivrea, is a milestone for the Salesian missions. A gift to the Congregation from the mother of Cardinal Richelmy, it began in 1892 as a house of formation and novitiate. In 1922, at the wishes of the Rector Major, Fr Philip Rinaldi, the Institute was changed into a Missionary Aspirantate named "Cardinal Cagliero", the leader of the first Salesian missionary expedition. From this Institute alone (1922-65)

more than 1000 missionaries left for the whole world, taking the Gospel of Jesus and the heart and the mission of Don Bosco to countless young people. Majority of 460 foreign Salesian missionaries who worked in India came from there. Among the students of "Cagliero" there have been several bishops. Venerable Fr. Giuseppe Quadrio and Fr Francesco Convertini, a missionary in India and Bangladesh were also from this Institute.



The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature, since it is from the mission of the Son and the mission of the Holy Spirit that she draws her origin, in accordance with the decree of God the Father. (Ad Gentes, No.1) "Missions" is the term usually given to those particular undertakings by which the heralds of the Gospel, sent out by the Church and going forth into the whole world, carry out the task of preaching the Gospel and planting the Church among peoples or groups who do not yet believe in Christ. ... The proper purpose of this missionary activity is evangelization, and the planting of the Church among those peoples and groups where it has not yet taken root. ... The chief means of the planting referred to is the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ... (Ad Gentes, No. 6) The Church, sent by

Christ to reveal and to communicate the love of God to all men and nations, is aware that there still remains a gigantic missionary task for her to accomplish. For the Gospel message has not yet, or hardly yet, been heard by two million human beings (and their number is increasing daily), who are formed into large and distinct

groups by permanent cultural ties, by ancient religious traditions, and by firm bonds of social necessity. Some of these men are followers of one of the great religions, but others remain strangers to the very knowledge of God, while still others expressly deny His existence, and sometimes even attack it. The Church, in order to be able to offer all of them the mystery of salvation and the life brought by God, must implant herself into these groups for the same motive which led Christ to bind Himself, in virtue of His Incarnation, to certain social and cultural conditions of those human beings among whom He dwelt. (Ad Gentes, No. 10) Although every disciple of Christ, as far in him

as he lies, has the duty of spreading the Faith, Christ the Lord always calls whomever He will from among the number of His disciples, to be with Him and to be sent by Him to preach to the nations (cf. Mark 3:13). Therefore, by the Holy Spirit, who

distributes the charismata as He wills for the common good (1 Cor. 12:11), He inspires the missionary vocation in the hearts of individuals, and at the same time He raises up in the Church certain institutes which take as their own special task the duty of preaching the Gospel, a duty belonging to the whole Church. (Ad Gentes, No.23)

They are assigned with a special vocation who, being endowed with a suitable natural temperament, and being fit as regards talent and other qualities, have been trained to undertake mission work; or be they autochthonous or be they foreigners: priests, Religious, or laymen. Sent by legitimate authority, they go out in faith and obedience to those who are far from Christ. They are set apart for the work for which they have been taken up (cf. Acts 13:2), as ministers of the Gospel, "that the offering up of the Gentiles may become acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:16). (Ad Gentes, No. 23)

CATHOLIC CHURCH is by nature **MISSIONARY** (EXTRACTS FROM AD GENTES)



INDIAN MISSIONARIES ABROAD

(From a Study conducted 2012 by Fr. Balthazar Castelino MEP and Fr. Sudil IMS under the patronage of CBCI-CRI)

1940

Religious Priests

159

Religious Brothers

6543

Religious Sisters

226

Diocesan Priests

166

COUNTRIES

While most of the priests are involved in Pastoral Ministry and Proclamation Ministries, most of the Brothers are involved in Education, Teaching (Technical training) and social work. Most of the Sisters are involved in Health Ministry, Social Ministry and Pastoral Ministry. The mission differs from continent to continent.

Priests: There are 799 priests working in Europe, 486 in American Continent, 352 in Asia and Oceania and 303 in Africa. While many in Europe are involved in Pastoral Ministry and in Studies specially in Italy and Germany, they are involved in Africa in Pastoral Ministry and Proclamation.

Brothers: There are 32 Brothers in Europe, 33 in American Continent, 48 in Asia and Oceania and 47 in Africa. In Asia, Oceania and Africa, most of them are doing Education Ministry, Social Work and Teaching (technical training) ministry.

Sisters: There are 3671 Sisters working in Europe, 1002 in American Continent, 544 in Asia and Oceania and 1326 in Africa. While many in Europe are involved in Social Work and health ministry especially in Italy and Germany, they are involved in Africa in Education and Social Development.

As per statistics, the 8642 missionaries from 246 (out of 330) congregations (67.72 percent) and from 40 (out of 164) dioceses (24.39 percent) work in 166 countries. But there are more than 4058 missionaries from 84 (32.28 percent) congregations and 124 (75.61 percent) dioceses who are missionaries abroad to give us a total number of more than 13500 missionaries abroad. It is needless to say that more than 10 percent of Indian priests and religious are missionaries abroad.



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THE MISSIONARIES AD GENTES FROM SOUTH ASIAN REGION



There are 112 Indian salesian missionaries in other countries. Many of these missionaries are in Africa. In the past 10 years 37 confreres have been offered for the Project Europe of whom 23 still continue. The Salesians from South India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu) and Central India (Chotanagpur area) still opt to work in the North or North East India.

	INB	INC	IND	ING	INH	INK	INM	INN	INP	INS	INT	LKC	Net Total
Total Sent	16	14	07	16	07	42	24	04	01	01	08	02	142
Returned to the province	05	04	00	01	01	04	05	00	00	00	02	00	22
Left + Died	02	01	00	01	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	8
Remaining	09	09	07	14	06	34	19	04	01	01	06	02	112



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TESTIMONIES OF MISSIONARIES



(1) Fr. David Tulumelli SDB

Before you became a Christian you were a Hindu. Was it difficult hearing the call to become a Catholic and then a priest?

Not very much in fact, because my parents had already become Catholics before I did. Now the whole family including my brothers is Catholic. It was a little more difficult beginning the journey towards the priesthood. I had met the Salesians for the first time when I was in elementary school at Nuzvid, in Andhra Pradesh, because they were running the regional diocesan seminary across the road. I told them I wanted to become a priest and they said they would begin to guide me for some time. That happened for two years and then I decided to try my vocation in their aspirantate.

You have already spent six years as missionary in Sudan. From your experience what are the most necessary qualities?

When I had just arrived

in Sudan the first thing Fr Ernesto de Gasperi, a Salesian missionary there told me was: "Accept everyone, and judge no one." Even before I had left, while I was waiting for the visa for Sudan, I met again the first Salesian I had known, Fr Johann Lens, my spiritual father in the stages of my vocational discernment.

I asked his advice about how I might be a good missionary and he told me three things: "Think well of all, speak well of all and do good to all." That became my motto. Then another very important thing is being present. Being among the people will make them happy; I learned this from experience. When I was there in Sudan there were so many problems, people came asking you for things, they had no food ... but just the presence among them of a Salesian missionary, used to calm them down and bring them joy. Why did you offer to go on the mission "ad gentes" rather than carry out your ministry among young Indians? It is the question I asked myself in 2000. It was a decision I did not take lightly. But looking at Fr. Lens, who had come from Belgium and was a missionary for 60 years, I wanted to

be like him. I once asked him why he had decided to become a missionary and he told me: "I was sent". And that touched me to the heart. (Courtesy: ANS, 17 September 2012)



(2) Fr. George (George) Puthenpura SDB (First Indian Salesian Missionary Abroad)

Fr. George (George) Puthenpura born

in Kerala made his first profession at Sunnyside Shillong in 1960. After his philosophical studies at Salesian College Sonada (Darjeeling) and practical training, Fr Puthenpura did theological studies in Barcelona, Spain. He was ordained priest in March 1970, and became the first missionary ad gentes from India to Guatemala. Seven years after his arrival in Guatemala, in 1977, he founded the "Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection," which in 2004 became the 22nd group of the Salesian Family. Today the Congregation he founded has more than 50 professed sisters and some 30 novices, in 10 communities and 3 dioceses, and working in over 400 villages. The characteristic of this Congregation is the missionary spirit. All the Sisters are indigenous.

(3) Fr. Jose D'Souza SDB: A Personal Testimony

In 1967 when I was a Deacon in Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore, we were taken to Goa



for a Retreat in preparation for our Priestly Ordination. We were also taken to see Bom Jesu Basilica and the body of St. Francis Xavier.

There, in front of the coffin, inspired by the Holy Spirit, I uttered this simple prayer: "St. Francis Xavier, your body is here in the South, give us your Spirit in the North." In 1968 after my Ordination, I requested my Provincial not to send me to the Missions, as I was afraid of darkness, snakes, scorpions, loneliness, etc. He sent me to Salesian College, Sonada as Bursar of the House and as a Teacher of Logic, Cosmology and English. Everything went off well for six months. One Friday, the Parish Priest, Fr. Iellici came to me saying that he was supposed to go for a tour of 3 days (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and celebrate Mass in 5 villages on the hills and valleys of the Sonada Parish, but because of fever he was unable to go. He asked me if I could go. In the beginning I refused, but after some dialogue and coaxing I agreed to go reluctantly (because of fear and other prejudices) and 'for the first time and the last time'. But that first experience of the people 'like sheep without a shepherd' waiting for the priest and for the sacraments was the beginning of my conversion. On my return I asked Fr. Iellici to send me every Saturday and Sunday to the villages for my priestly ministry, and he did so willingly!



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In 1969 I was transferred to Bongaon as Parish Priest and I started visiting the villages and opened 6 new mission centers. I remained in Bongaon till 1979. In 1973 while Parish Priest in Bongaon, I founded the Institute called 'The Disciples' or also known as Don Bosco Secular Institute for spreading of the Gospel in the rural areas.

In 2009 the Institute was accepted by the Rector Major and his Council as a member of the Salesian Family. In his letter he declares: "The mission of the Association is the Proclamation of the Love of God, with the announcing of the Gospel following the example of the Apostles, the first Disciples of Jesus, in the service of the poorest and the needy according to the Salesian Spirituality, imitating Don Bosco, in the style of the Good Shepherd." (Fr. Pascual Chavez, Rector Major).

I think St. Francis answered my prayer of 1967 because today we are in about 50 dioceses in the North, East, and West India, and in 4 dioceses in South India, and in 2 countries abroad, Italy and Peru. We had 2 Sisters working in the Republic of Central Africa (RCA) for the past 2 and half years, but they had to return in March 2013 because of civil war in the country. At present we have about 325 Sisters and 80 Brothers scattered over 190 centres in India and abroad.



MISSIONARY ASPIRANTATES OF INDIA

**(1) Bishop Hubert D'Rosario
Institute, Sirajuli, Assam**

On November 22, 2011 the first missionary aspirantate in India was inaugurated in Sirajuli, Assam. It is situated in the Guwahati province. It is situated on the main road to Tezpur in lush green paddy fields. The newly constructed

edifice is a welcome sight. The Sirajuli missionary aspirantate will serve the Indian Provinces of Guwahati, Schar, Dimapur, Calcutta, Mumbai, Konkan and New Delhi. It had that year 13 prenovices and 40 aspirants! This year there are 18 prenovices and 61 aspirants. Six have entered the novitiate.





(2) Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, Perambur, Chennai

The second missionary aspirantate of India was started on 29th June 2012. It is the missionary aspirantate for the Southern India, for provinces of Chennai, Trichy, Bangalore and Hyderabad. It had 12 aspirants in the first year. Now this year the number has risen to 28 and five have been sent to the Missionary prenovitiate at Sirajuli, Assam.

Don Bosco, Perambur is situated in the heart of Northern Chennai in a 5.36 acre property with spacious grounds. In addition to being the Missionary Aspirantate it is a home to Don Bosco Higher Secondary School with 2200 pupils and Don Bosco Nursery and Primary School with



515 pupils. The students frequenting the school are from middle class and lower middle class families. Hence, it is a healthy interaction for our aspirants. The ministry of education that the community is engaged in becomes a first-hand experience of Salesian apostolate and preventive system for our aspirants.

SPECIFIC MISSIONARY FORMATION AT THE MISSIONARY ASPIRANTATE

The Missionary Aspirantate

It is a stage of first contact with the Salesians. It aims at familiarizing the candidates with Salesian religious life and apostolate. The candidates are brought into direct contact with the Salesian community. The candidates live in a salesian community and are beneficiaries of the Salesian school.



The salesian community creates in them an interest for the Salesian Missions ad gentes.

Contents to be emphasized

Knowledge of Don Bosco

Knowledge of the Salesian Mission ad gentes

Knowledge about the



Salesian Missionaries

Attitudes to be fostered

Interest in knowing the catholic faith to be able to share it with others

Compassion for the poor and those who do not know Christ

Love of simplicity and responsible service

Experiences to be encouraged

To know the missionaries from the province through videos, visits by missionaries

To share one's catholic faith with fellow candidates

SOME SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

1. Missionary ambient created by constant references to the missions in the talks, sermons, goodnights, other instructions,





- classes, notice boards, etc.
- 2. Monthly commemoration of the first missionary expedition with prayer service & Mass
- 3. Missionary month (like the Marian month) with talks, competitions, etc. from October 11 to November 11
- 4. Participation in the Salesian Mission Day of the province
- 5. A month-long missionary exposure in the missions
- 6. Conferences by visiting missionaries (missionaries on home holidays)
- 7. Classes on world (mission lands) history, geography & culture
- 8. Screening of missionary videos from ANS
- 9. Daily prayers for the missionaries and for missionary vocations
- 10. Missionary sodalities
- 11. Teaching of languages: Hindi, Italian (in addition to English)
- 12. Building up of a library providing literature on the missions & missionaries

- 13. Preparation of prayer services for commemoration of the monthly missionary day in Tamil & English to be circulated in the communities of the province
- 14. Contributing Articles for the Salesian Bulletin on missionary themes



Whom shall I send ? Lord send me!



Whom shall I send ? Lord send me!



MISSIONARY FORMATION CURRICULUM



	Entry after	Aspirantate Preparatory	Aspirantate Studies	Novitiate	Post novitiate	University
Stage	Class X Class XII Univ	1 year 1 Year 1 Year	2 Years ---- ----	One year One year One year	2 yrs. sci. students; 3 arts stud	Depending on receiving provinces
Contents		English, Salesiana	Plus 2 Curriculum (choice)	As per Ratio	Philosophy, Culture, languages	Subject acc. To need
Location		Sirajuli; Perambur	Sirajuli, Perambur	IND, ING	IND, INT	Different places
Send off				After nov. for Indian missions	After phil. For Foreign Missions	After College or return for college

Guiding document for formation and studies: Ratio, Salesian Missionary formation guidelines





SUITABILITY TO JOIN **THE MISSIONARY ASPIRANTATE**

The following are some of the qualities expected of a missionary:

- (1) Free decision
- (2) Right intention (to communicate faith, not merely to help in material progress)
- (3) Normal health to put up with difficulties in the mission
- (4) Capacity for community-living and working together
- (5) Sense of responsibility
- (6) Adaptability to the new culture, language, etc.



Whom shall I send? Lord send me!

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Hence the candidates wishing to enter the missionary aspirantate should have the following qualities:

- (1) A strong desire to be a missionary for life outside the province territories
- (2) Free decision
- (3) Enjoy normal health
- (4) More than average intellectual capacity. The candidates desirous of joining the Missionary aspirantate should have finished Class X or Class XII or Higher studies. He should be duly selected by the provinces (through family visits, camps, etc.) and recommended to the missionary aspirantate.



Whom shall I send? Lord send me!

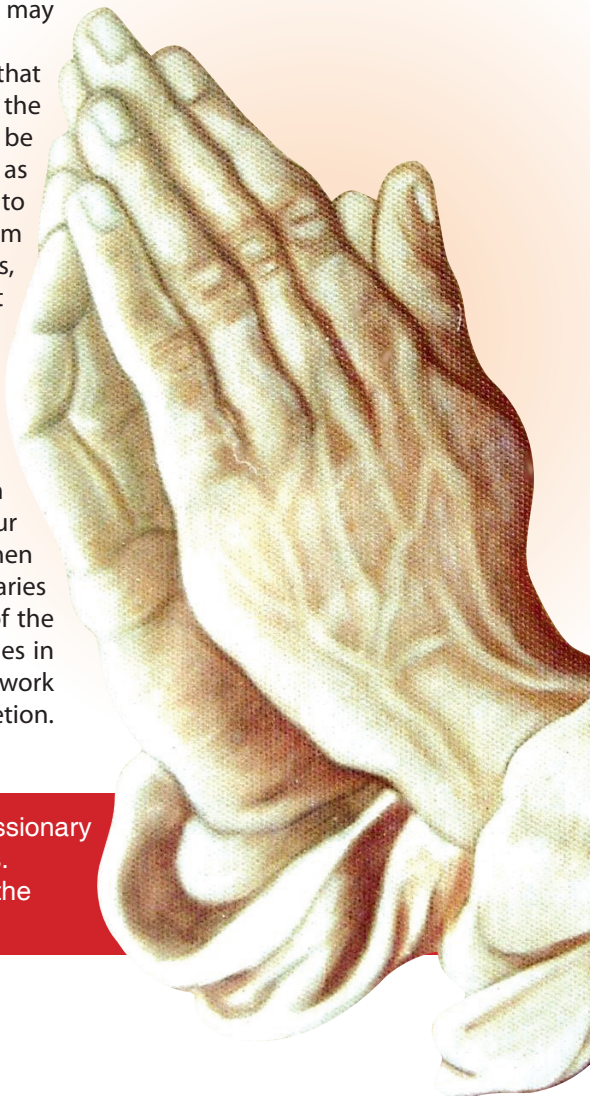
→ 29

MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR HELP

Missionaries need prayers. Pray for the missionaries. The following prayer may be used:

God, our Father, You desire that all men and women come to the knowledge of your truth and be saved. You sent Jesus, Your Son, as Your messenger to bear witness to the truth. He preached the kingdom of God by his words, actions, life and death. To continue that mission Jesus called the disciples, prepared them and sent them out so that the Gospel could be preached everywhere. Behold, the harvest is yet plentiful and the labourers are few. We beseech these to send labourers into Your harvest. Inspire many young men and women to become missionaries to take Your Word to the ends of the earth. Strengthen the missionaries in their toil and stress. Bless their work and bring it to fruitful completion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You may wish to sponsor a missionary candidate or offer scholarships. Please contact the Rectors of the Missionary Aspirantates.



Whom shall I send? Lord send me!

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Whom shall I send? Lord send me!

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02	INC	Br. Lawrence Mondal	lawrence.sdb@gmail.com	08017885680 033-23292024	Salesian of Don Bosco 52A, Radhanath Chowdhury Road Tengra P.O., Kolkata-700 015
03	IND	Fr. Elow Samuel	elowsamuel@yahoo.it	9436266456	Don Bosco Provincial House PB 40, Dimapur-797 112, Nagaland
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13	Perambur	Fr. Pathiaraj	pathiaraj@rediffmail.com	09865713978	Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, 130 M. H. Road, Perambur, Chennai – 600 011 TAMILNADU
14	RMDA	Fr. T. C. George	tcgsdb@yahoo.com	09448815694	Viswadeep, Kristu Jyoti College, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore – 560 036 KARNATAKA