



Dear Confreres,

I am again posting the missionary animation newsletter with a considerable delay. I am now giving up sending a regular monthly sharing because of various activities, but I want to send something whenever I see something valuable to be communicated. Please, accept my request for forgiveness!

Last March I published a comment from Fr. Cyril regarding a document named "Missionary Formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco". It was a document issued last January by the Counsellors of Missions and Formation together which you can find at

<http://www.sdb.org/en/Departments/Missions/Documents>. In March Fr. Cyril's comment was mainly on the first phases of formation while now he addresses the confreres in ongoing formation. A personal and deep insight which is worthy reading attentively.

I am again reminding the important event of the annual Salesian Mission Day. You can read in the article some important features to be highlighted that day and the remote preparation preceding it.

May God bless you and the Love of Jesus replenishes your heart!

Bro. Paolo

## MISSIONARY FORMATION DURING ONGOING FORMATION

Two popular models of looking at life are either as a step or as process.

When we look at our vocation history as a step we count the years and the journey is always upward: years spent as aspirants, in the pre novitiate, in the novitiate, in the post novitiate and specialisation as priests (theology) or brothers. We also remember the date, the location, the language of study and more recently, the kind of phones or computers we were using at that time.

When we look at our vocation history as a process, we remember how we felt during moments of adoration, praying the rosary, the experience in the football field or basket ball court, the number of times we went for confessions and what happened, the resolutions we made, news that we got from friends and relatives who died or got married or left the congregation. We also remember the 'secrets' and uncompleted business in our hearts, situation our biological families, the youth groups and influences of the new media in our daily use of time.

For the first model (steps), it is just a continuation of our primary school experience, with the 'report cards' and marks with different colours and signatures and school stamp. The conclusion of the secondary school is the same: a long waiting for the 'great secondary school leaving certificate'. The similarity is very easy to see.

The professions, renewals, ordinations and final professions all follow the same pattern.

In the second model (process), there is a slight difference as there is no card, or certificate or final profession.

The quality and sincerity of confession, the depth of the understanding of the daily psalms and the reading of the scriptures during the mass, the show of compassion and emotions, working

in the house with people. The understanding of patience, the increase in the taste for quality and clarity of virtue, have no certificates and stamps. However, it can make one to be better loved (*studia di farti amare*-behind the salesian cross) and more effective in witnessing to Christ. It can also 'reveal' what can be ignored and what should be made a priority in the vicissitudes of life especially with evil in society coming from the hearts of people.

Ongoing formation is more in the second model of process

That is why this kind of formation has been described as



1. **A Natural Continuation:** this means that there is no escape from it. We learn from life and it would be foolish not to desire this natural continuation
2. **Necessary Deepening:** this presuppose that all the formal skills, attitudes and ‘stages’ lived in ‘initial formation’ will not survive on their own if not ‘deepened’: they will die!
3. **Within the community:** the process is a huge task of the Rector with the house council to ‘design’ the lifestyle and daily rhythm of the community in such a way that each member is ‘helped’ to live in an environment of on-going formation

### **Attitudes to be fostered**

Main attitudes	Possibilities	Remark
1. Desire to give one’s best 2. Interested in New contents and methods 3. Self assessment of one’s actions	Creating a support and ‘safe’ place where inner reflections can be handled and respected.  Lay emphasis on ‘time’ for reflection and analysis of the heart	Not to focus on knowledge or past ‘experience’ but on the ‘significance of ones actions’  The readiness to learn again what is commitment?

### **Contents to be emphasized**

Main contents	Possibilities	Remark
1. Opportunities and possibilities to take part in formation programmes 2. Deeping reflections 3. Mission promotion 4. Service opportunities	This can be well done in collaboration with people in the same area of expertise or interest. It’s a good ground to interact with families and lay people.  Understanding the new trends	This should be scouted out for and advertised as much as possible Honest reflections The more options the better Finding deeper meanings

### **Experiences to be encouraged**

Main experiences	Possibilities	Remark
1. looking into one’s life 2. moments of divine encounter 3. revisiting the awareness of the ‘call’ when it was first received 4. work with a mission group 5. learn new methods of evangelization	A forum of different experiences being shared. Noticing how there is a variety of gifts Looking at the cultures in the world Seeing the possibilities of evangelization	Issues of forgiveness ‘giving and receiving’ Issue of justice and protection of the innocent and vulnerable Issues of systematic evil trends and selfishness in the world Issues of global concern: nature, conflict. Crime, security, education, health, climate.

# SALESIAN MISSION DAY

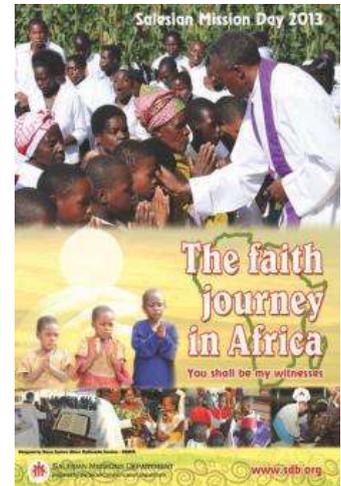
Since 1988 a mission theme has been offered to the entire Congregation. All Salesian communities are invited to get to know about a mission situation in a particular continent.

It is a powerful occasion for Mission Animation in Salesian communities at the local and Province levels, youth Groups, in the Salesian Family. Is not an isolated event but rather a chance to involve SDB communities and educative - pastoral communities in the dynamics of the universal Church, strengthening a missionary culture.

There is no fixed date for SMD. Each Province can choose a date or time best suited to its own calendar and rhythm of events. Some traditional dates in the Provinces (near to the Feast of Don Bosco, or his birthday in August, Lent, the Feast of the Holy Salesian Missionary Martyrs, Luigi Versiglia and Callisto Caravario; the month of May; the missionary month of October; or 11 November). It is above all important to offer a educational – pastoral programme of several weeks – for which Salesian Mission Day provides the culmination. SMD is an expression of the missionary spirit of the whole Educative-Pastoral Community kept alive throughout the years by various initiatives.

The Missions Department offers material for all the Salesian communities: a Poster, printed materials, a DVD with short films on the theme, a CD with the texts, photos in various languages, and other digital material throughout the year, which can be down-loaded from

[www.sdb.org](http://www.sdb.org) (SMD 2013) and the video which is also available in You Tube. For further copies of the material it is sufficient to write to the Missions Department ([cagliero11@gmail.com](mailto:cagliero11@gmail.com)).



## **Missionary prayer intention for the month of:**

### **JUNE: Western Europe Region - Spain, Portugal, France - Belgium (South)**

*That during the year of Faith the confreres of the region of Western Europe, the most vocationally arid of all 8 Salesian regions in the world, may continue to build a culture of vocations with faith, enthusiasm and patience.*

### **JULY: South Asia Region**

*That there may be an increase of missionary vocations ad gentes in the South Asian Region and vocational perseverance among young confreres who are missionaries.*

