

# anima

ACTION NETWORK IN MISSIONARY ANIMATION



## BICENTENARY COLUMN

Anima is happy to introduce this special column for the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco. This column will present some of the missionary writings of the Saint.

### Fr. John Bosco writes...!

#### WE DO NOT GO TO HEAVEN BY CARRIAGE

*Circular Letter of Don Bosco to the  
Salesians and to the Daughters of  
Mary Help of Christians.*

Turin, January 6, 1884

My dear and beloved sons,

Your words of esteem and affection are a source of great comfort to me, but the loving messages you expressed in your letters or personally by wishing me Blessed Holy Days and a Happy New Year call for special thanks in response to the filial sentiments you have shown me.

I must say that I am very happy with all of you, for the trouble you take to perform any kind of task, leaving nothing undone to further the greater glory of God in our communities and among those boys whom Divine Providence daily entrusts to our care, that we may lead them on the path of virtue and honour straight to Heaven.

In so many ways and with so many different means you have thanked me for what I have done for you. You have promised to work steadfastly with me, to share my efforts to promote God's honour and glory on earth in order to obtain the great reward God keeps prepared for all in Heaven. You have also assured me that you

are satisfied with what I judge to be right for you, and that you will unconditionally accept and practise it. I rejoice in your precious words, and as a father I simply answer that I thank you with all my heart, and I wish to add that you will do me the greatest favour if you help me save your soul [These words were underlined in the autograph by Don Bosco himself].

You know very well, my beloved sons, that I have accepted you into the Congregation and that I have spared no effort to make sure of your eternal salvation. Therefore, if you help me with this great task, you are doing what my fatherly heart is expecting of you. You may guess what you will have to practise in order to achieve this great goal: Observe our rules; they are the rules which Holy Mother Church approved for our guidance, for the salvation of our souls, and for the spiritual and temporal advantage of our beloved boys. We have read and studied them, and now they have become the object of our promises and of our vows that have bound us to the Lord. **Also, and I am saying this with all my heart, let no one utter words of discontent or, worse, regret for having consecrated himself to the Lord.** This would be an act of black ingratitude. All we have, whether material possessions or spiritual values, belong to God, and when we consecrate ourselves to Him through our religious profession, we are only offering to God what He Himself has lent us, but which remains His property nevertheless. If we are not firm in observing our vows we are stealing from the Lord; in His eyes we take back, trample upon, and profane what we have offered and placed in His holy hands.

Someone might say that the observance of our rules demands sacrifice! True, the observance of the rules is hard for one who

does not keep them wholeheartedly, who is negligent. But for those who are persevering, who love the salvation of their souls, this observance becomes a sweet yoke and a light burden. As our divine Saviour says: "*jugum meum suave est et onus meum leve*" (My yoke is easy and my burden light, Mt 11:30).

My dear sons, do we perhaps intend to go to Heaven by carriage? **We have become religious not to seek comfort, but to suffer in obtaining merits for the other life.** We have consecrated ourselves to God not to command, but to obey; not to attach ourselves to people, but to practice charity toward our neighbour for the love of God; not to live in comfort and ease, but to be poor with Jesus Christ, to suffer with Him on earth, and to become worthy of His glory in Heaven.

Courage then, oh my dear and beloved sons. We have put the hand to the plough; let us remain firm, let us not turn back to gaze upon a deceitful and treacherous world. **Let us forge ahead; it will mean fatigue, want, hunger, thirst, and perhaps even death.** Because of the abundant reward, we shall always respond. Let the inevitable trials we have to face in earning this reward not daunt us.





"Si delectat magnitudo praemiorum non deterreat certamen laborum". ("If the magnitude of the rewards attract us, let not the struggle of the endeavours deter us". St. Gregory the Great).

I would like to say one more thing: Confreres write to me from everywhere, and although I would be very glad to answer each letter personally, this is no longer possible. But I will try to write more frequently. My letters will give me a chance to open my heart to you. They will also serve as answer or, better, as guidance for those who live in faraway countries for

holy purposes and cannot hear the voice of the father who loves them so much in Jesus Christ.

May the grace of God and the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary always be with us and help us persevere in the divine service to the last moments of our lives, Amen (*Epist. IV. 248-50*).

Your most loving friend,



Fr. John Bosco

## For Reflection & Study

1. Choose a phrase or a sentence from the letter which inspired you.
2. Spell out Don Bosco's prime concern for "those whom the Divine Providence entrusts to our care" and for his beloved sons and daughters.
3. What was Don Bosco's vision of consecrated life?
4. Don Bosco's mission was heaven-oriented. How does the letter reflect this?
5. How does the letter of Don Bosco challenge me today?

## Editorial...



### Where are the Bicentenary Missionaries?

The passion of St. Paul 'to know Christ' and his delight 'to make Him known' found a fitting place in the *Constitutions of the Salesians of Don Bosco*: "Our highest knowledge therefore is to know Jesus Christ and our greatest delight is to reveal to all people the unfathomable riches of His mystery" (*Constitutions*, Art. 34).

"People still awaiting the gospel message were the special object of Don Bosco's concern and apostolic effort. They continue to stimulate our zeal and keep it alive. We look upon missionary work as an essential feature of our Congregation" (*Constitutions*, Art. 30).

The Salesian vocation places us at the heart of the Church. Being "evangelizers of the young, "educators of the faith", and "proclaimers of the Gospel to those who have not yet received it", "we contribute to building up the Church as the Body of Christ, so that also through us she may appear to the world as the universal sacrament of salvation" (*Constitutions*, Art. 30). Pope John Paul II in the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* affirms: "The Church is missionary by its very nature, for Christ's mandate is not something contingent or external, but reaches the very heart of the Church. It follows that the universal Church and each individual church is sent forth to the nations" (RM 62).

For Don Bosco, the "missionary sending" was an essential aspect of his apostolic initiatives. He sent the first group of Salesians to Patagonia under the leadership of Fr. Cagliari on November 11, 1875. This sending paved the way for many a missionary expedition, which the Congregation faithfully continues even today.

Bl. Michael Rua fulfilled Don Bosco's Barcelona "Missionary Dream" (1886), when he sent 'the Six' to Tanjore (India)

under the leadership of Fr. Tomatis. Bl. Philip Rinaldi sent 'the Intrepid Eleven' under Fr. Louis Mathias to Assam (India). Since then, the South Asia region became a recipient of missionaries from far and wide.

The Salesian Region of South Asia today prides itself on having 11 provinces and a Vice-Province, with a strength of 2781 Salesians involved in a wide variety of forms of apostolate. Numerically, it is the second largest region in the Congregation. This immense growth of the region within a short span of 109 years is the fruit of the missionary commitment of many self-sacrificing missionaries who left their homelands in at least 25 countries and came to the region with the Good News of Jesus and the Salesian charism. We are immensely indebted to them all.

During the Centenary year of the Salesian presence in India, Salesian India offered to the Rector Major 24 missionaries for the mission *ad gentes*. On the day of the celebrations, Fr. Joaquim D'Souza the then Regional Councillor said: "In this way we repay, to some extent, the immense debt we owe to the 460 or so missionaries who came to India from Europe and the Americas during the past 100 years".

Fr. Pascual Chavez, the then Rector Major, shared his dream for India on the occasion of the centenary of the Salesian presence in India in 2005: "I dream of a Salesian India which is decisively missionary, within the country and in the mission *ad gentes*, in the same way other countries have done in the past when they experienced strong vocational growth." Fr. Chavez reminded the Salesians of the region of "a historic responsibility" to give back to the world what it had received from others.

Fr. Angel Fernández Artime, our Rector Major, in his letter invited Salesians for the mission *ad gentes* enumerating "fields of pastoral mission where at the present moment we are very necessary" (AGC 419; See *Anima* Oct-Dec 2014, p.5).

Fr. Guillermo Basaños, the General Councillor for the Missions, during his

maiden visit to the region in August 2014 told the Salesians: "We need to think of other regions too in the Congregation and send out the best ones to the missions." (*Message at Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati*). Speaking to the students of Theology in Shillong, he presented Mary the Mother of God who carried Jesus in her womb and rushed out to share Him with others as the best example for missionaries.

And yet, the 146th Missionary Expedition, which is the Bicentenary Expedition, does not have a single Salesian from the region of South Asia. The Bicentenary Expedition will leave in November 2015 with no Salesians from the "vibrant" South Asian Region! This makes us pause and introspect:

☞ Is the missionary spirit and missionary commitment waning in the region? Are we losing that passion which Fr. Pascual Chavez, challenged the Salesians to have: "the passion for the salvation of others, the joy of sharing the experience of the fullness of life of Jesus" (AGC 401, 137)?

☞ Are we faithfully building up that region or that India which Don Bosco and his successors dreamt of?

☞ Is a "tomb psychology" of which Pope Francis speaks in *Evangelii Gaudium*, developing in the region, something that ultimately "consumes all zeal for the apostolate" (EG 83)?

Pope Francis asserts: "At a time when we most need a missionary dynamism which will bring salt and light to the world...., some resist giving themselves over completely to mission and thus end up in a state of paralysis and acedia". (EG 81) The Pope challenges all to overcome "pastoral acedia", "small mindedness" and "the tomb psychology" (EG 83).

Fr. (Dr.) T.C. George  
SDB

Editor,  
South Asian Delegate for  
Missionary Animation





# Th!nk Mission

## Towards a Holistic Understanding of Mission

As Providence ordained, I am a Salesian priest who has spent practically his entire religious life hitherto, in Formation Houses, lecturing either in Philosophy (in The Retreat - Yercaud), or in Theology (in Kristu Jyoti College - Bangalore). Consequently, any discourse on Mission by people like me runs the risk of being a purely theoretical input. Nevertheless, on further reflection, it struck me that "Mission" is not a special "optional" veneer for a Catholic, to be manifested on special occasions, but part of the core identity of *being* Catholic. That set me thinking about how the reality of Mission could be understood and applied in the case of each and every member of the Faithful.

In this regard, my mind goes back to a religious event which I once attended - it was the First Religious Profession of a group of novices. After the function, one of the newly-professed gave the Vote of Thanks. He thanked the superior who had received their profession and, (with the characteristic enthusiasm of novices), said words to this effect: "I only wish that I could die now and go immediately to heaven". Poor boy! Perhaps he expected a "Bravo" or a "Well done!" for this pious wish. But to our surprise, the Superior had strong words for him: "What do you mean die now and go to heaven! Is that why you made your Religious Profession? First, work for fifty or sixty years and then you can go to heaven". The entire audience burst into peals of laughter. But the point was well made and the question well raised, viz.? Are we on a straight trip (a one-way ticket) to heaven? If so, what is the significance of this life?

The above incident highlights one fact: In order to understand Mission, we need to understand the significance of this earthly life. Does it have any value at all? I remember a saying of St. Aloysius Gonzaga which my novice master (Fr. Egidio Sola)

often used to repeat: *Quid hoc ad aeternitatem?* What is the use of all this for eternity? Without in any way downplaying the importance of eternal life, the question remains: What is the significance of this present life?

I should like to see the significance of this life in terms of a "picnic". Not one of those modern outings where one catches a bus or a plane merely in order to reach the destination - but one of those rustic picnics of bygone years, when, early in the morning, we used to carry all the cooking vessels and trudge together to some picnic spot. (In Yercaud, there used to be places with picturesque names like "Bear's Cave", "Honey Rock" etc.). The joy of the picnic lay not only in REACHING THE GOAL or COMING BACK HOME, but also in the TOGETHERNESS OF THE JOURNEY.

Viewing Mission from this perspective, our Catholic Faith tells us that we have all come from God and are on our return to God. However, we are journeying home TOGETHER: and in the process, helping one another, encouraging one another and building up one another.

This has profound implications. Our Catholic Faith would further tell us that this Mission is being simultaneously realized at different levels:

- In the first place, on the Level of the Triune God Himself: As regards this, let us remember that the Trinity is not merely some mathematical puzzle of how God is one and three, but a SAVING MYSTERY. God reveals Himself by saving us. He is FATHER: God-for-Us; He is SON, the Second Person who became incarnate: God-with-us; and He is SPIRIT, the Third Person who dwells within us: God-in-us.

- On the Level of the Church: Vatican II in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Chapter I speaks of the Mission of the Church. God has created the universe and chose humans to share His divine life. He does this THROUGH THE CHURCH.

- On the Level of Religious Life: All the Religious Charisms are GIFTS which the Church has received from the Lord and are meant for building her up - which she lives out in her members. As a result, there is a wide variety of forms of Religious Life in the Church, lived out either in solitude or in community.

- On the Level of the Individual Vocation: The existence of the human being is not merely a FACT, but a CALL, a VOCATION. Each one of us is here for a purpose. If one of us were missing, something important would be lacking from life. WE DO MATTER.

- On the Level of Philosophical Self-Understanding. The human person does not merely HAVE A RELATIONSHIP to the other, but IS RELATIONSHIP to the other. In an evocative paragraph, the late Raimundo Panikkar has this to say: The human being is "nothing but an *is*, *from*, *for*, a term an element of a whole and this term is not the sum of existing factors but the relationship of everything (Cf. R. Panikkar, "The God of Silence", in *India Journal of Theology* 21 [1971], 123 - 124).

These dimensions, as it were, etch the profile of an Emerging Spirituality which is holistic. Catholic Spirituality can be generally described as the ecclesial lifestyle of the believing and committed Catholic disciple. It is the way the Catholic faithful lives in a specific historical situation in the light of the Church's self-understanding.

In this regard, theologians speak of two basic types of spirituality that are an integral part of the Catholic heritage. The first, comparable to "the peeling of an onion", has a mystical overtone, expressed in the adage: "**Discern and Discover your Authentic Self**". The second can be likened to "the carving of a statue". Its watchword, instead, tends to be: "**Become what you are called to be**"; it stresses effort, involvement etc.

Applying both these paradigms to the issue under consideration; on the one hand, each of the Faithful is called upon BOTH **to retrieve the Missionary Dimension of his/her Catholic Identity, assimilate it AND to proclaim it and live it anew with Authority**. In a word, the Catholic is called upon to see him/herself as NOT MERELY HAVING A MISSION, but as BEING MISSION!



Fr. (Dr.) Dominic Veliath SDB

## "Lord Send Me!" Missionary Week celebrated at Divyadaan Nashik

Divyadaan, Nashik celebrated the 'Missionary Week' from 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014, on the theme, "Lord Send Me". Fr. Robert Pen, the Rector, inaugurated the Missionary Week and emphasized the missionary dimension of each Salesian and of the whole congregation.

Fr. Tony D'Souza, a veteran Salesian missionary, gave a conference to the community on the scope of the missionary vocation based on Chapter Documents, as the theme of the missionary week focused on the missionary vocation. "Lord Send Me", a video prepared by the Missionary Department of the Congregation was screened.

The missionary week was enriched with the cultural day programme organized by the Divyadaan Academic Council and a drawing competition. The programme concluded with the movie on the life of BL Stephen Sandor SDB. The weeklong event organized by the Divyadaan Missionary Group was informative as well as inspiring.

By Christopher Xavier



Missionary Group, Divyadaan



This issue is dedicated to St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, St. Euphrasia of Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Joseph Vaz, the newly canonized saints in the region.

# Thank You!

Anima thanks **Fr. Sunny Palamthattel** for supporting the printing of this issue. We invite sponsors to support the forthcoming issues.



## Prayer opens the Door of Faith

### The Role of Prayer in the Nascent Church

Missionary work is not carried out in the same degree and same manner by everyone. However there is one thing that everyone ought to do in an intense way, namely, praying for the effectiveness of the missionary endeavours of others. We look into the Scriptures to endorse what we are reminding our readers in this issue of Anima.

Jesus spent several nights in prayer when He chose his to-be Gospel heralds (Lk 6:12). Shall we rightly presume that Apostle Peter remembered this? For sure, yes! In fact, when Mathias was chosen to replace the one who had gone astray, it was done in an ambience of prayer (Acts 1:15-26). The seven deacons were chosen not only to distribute bread but also to be involved in evangelization as is evinced from the ministry of Stephen and Philip (Acts 6-8). The early community felt the need for prayer when selecting those men (Acts 6:1-6).

The *first missionary journey* of Barnabas and Paul is a watershed in the history of the early Church. The Holy Spirit himself intervened in Antioch when teachers and prophets were in prayer along with the believers. The Church was attuned to the voice of the Spirit and in answer to Him sent them forth to announce the Gospel. However, before they launched their mission, the community fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them (Acts 13:1-3).

The same procedure was repeated when there was the *second missionary expedition*. The community at Antioch entrusted to the Lord the mission of Barnabas and Mark as well as that of Paul and Silas (see Acts 15:36-41). Prayer - this was the manner in which the Church was endorsing, encouraging, supporting and sustaining the missionary teams.

During the *third missionary journey* Paul prayed for the Gospel heralds, namely for the elders of Ephesus. He entrusted them to God and to the Word of God (Acts 20:32). Before taking leave of them, he knelt down and prayed with them all (Acts 20:36). Paul wanted that their missionary endeavour would be fecund. Prayer was the means for this goal.

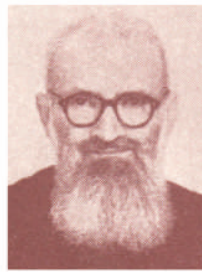
The early community believed that it is God who opens the door of faith (see Acts 14:27). Paul, among the most effective of the Gospel Heralds, discerned God's role and perceived the need for prayer to open the door of faith for Gentiles and Jews alike to accept the Gospel (see 1 Cor 16:9; 2 Cor 2:12 and Col 4:3). He invited the Thessalonians saying, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed on in triumph, as it did among you" (2 Thess 3:1).

Fr. (Dr.) Jose Varickasseril, SDB



"If you have something you can't do without, you don't own it; it owns you."

- Albert Schweitzer



## THEY inspire US!

FR. ELIGIO CINATO

(1898-1964)

Provincial "in vinculis"

Born at St. Ambrogio (Turin), after his studies, Eligio chipped in at home as a carpenter. In 1920, after his military service, he gave up his work to join the Salesians. Three years later, he set foot in India at the age of 25 and entered the novitiate in Shillong (1923-24). His first appointment after ordination was as Rector at Raliang, (Meghalaya). Two years later, he was sent to South India as delegate of the new province of which he was subsequently elected provincial in 1934. He was just 36 years old then. The new South India Province, under the leadership of Fr. Cinato, had 49 professed members and seventeen Salesian presences. The provincial proved himself to be a man of high vision and daring action as the leader of the fledgling province. At the end of his term as the first provincial, the superiors in Turin consulted Mgr. Louis Mathias and appointed Fr. Cinato for a second term in 1939. The World War II (1939-46) put a brake on the rapid growth of Salesian work in India. Fr. Cinato issued a circular to the confreres, advising them to avoid all issues of politics and nationalities, in order to keep the confreres together. After World War II, he worked in Krishnagar, Bandel, Raliang and finally in Cherrapunjee. Fr. Cinato died in Cherrapunjee on January 14, 1964.

It is highly significant that one of the last acts of Fr. Cinato was a house visit to a bereaved family. His life had always been characterized by boundless sacrifice and selfless charity. As provincial of the new province of South India, he did yeoman's service in works of consolidation, expansion and spiritual animation. In the Concentration Camp at Dehra Dun as provincial "in vinculis" he spared no efforts to organize activities as best as possible. His willingness to work also as Assistant Parish Priest speaks volumes for his religious faith. Known for his extraordinary capacities, Fr. Cinato was at the same time a religious of unassuming humility.



### Urgent Prayer Request !



For our brothers and sisters facing the stark reality of religious persecution in the Middle East, in Pakistan, in India and elsewhere.



For the protection of religious freedom, minorities, civilians especially those who are marginalised.



"...we may safely say that Don Bosco can be listed among the great missionaries of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, even though he was never personally on the missions 'Ad Gentes'".

Fr. Egidio Viganò SDB

A prayer

Lord, make us masters of ourselves  
that we may be servants of others.  
Amen.



# FAMILY AS THE NUCLEUS OF EVANGELIZATION

## ■ South Asian Missionary Animation Seminar

The Salesian Provincial Delegates for Missionary Animation (PDMAs), representatives of the provinces and those of the Salesian Family (FMA, MSMHC, SMI, VDB, Disciples), gathered together with the Delegate Provincial for Missionary Animation in the South Asian Region, Fr. Nestor Guria SDB and the Regional Delegate for Missionary Animation (RDMA) Fr. T.C. George SDB, to study the theme, "Family as the Nucleus of Evangelization". The three-day seminar cum synergy-building was held from November 9-11, 2014 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Chennai.

Fr. Francis Karackat delivered the keynote address. Fr. Jerome Vallabharaj presented the Instrumentum laboris of the Extraordinary Synod of the Bishops on Family. Br. Edmund Antao and his Team of the Crusaders for Christ with Mary, a Lay group from Goa, charted the way for a meaningful apostolate in families. Fr. Jayapalan, the Salesian Provincial of Chennai addressed the participants. The group made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Thomas, the Apostle to India, where Fr. Maria Arokiam, the Regional Councillor for South Asia, presided over the Eucharist. His Grace Most Rev. M. Chinnappa, Archbishop Emeritus of Madras-Mylapore, celebrated the concluding Eucharist on November 11, the last day. Fr. Nestor Guria SDB, concluded the seminar, inviting everyone to be filled with missionary enthusiasm, with special attention to the families. A Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Velankanni too was organized.

Among the 46 participants were Sr. Christine Mynsong MSMHC, General Councillor for Evangelization, Sr. Jaisy Varickamthottiyil SMI, General Councillor for Prime Apostolate and Provincial Councillors for Mission and Evangelization in their respective provinces.

The seminar participants shared their conviction that:

- (1) Family is the indispensable basic unit of Christian Community;
- (2) Christian families are at the crossroads at this point of history;
- (3) We need to work together as the Salesian Family to reach out to revitalize the Christian families and reinstate them as vibrant units of Christian faith and joyful agents of Evangelization.

Reaffirming the Salesian Family as a Missionary Family, the participants pledged to work together for the Lord's mission (Mt 28:19), and thus strive to grow into an effective movement of Evangelization in the Church.

Each group of the Salesian Family drew up plans for implementation for its respective Congregation/Institute. Among the Actions Plans drawn up for promoting networking and collaboration in the Salesian Family figure the following:

1. We will organize a Regional Missionary Animation Seminar at the South Asia level on relevant themes every year. Representatives from every province of the Salesian Family Groups who are responsible for Missionary Animation or Evangelization will take part in it.
2. The SDB Provincial Delegate for Missionary Animation (PDMA), the Councillors for Evangelization of the FMA, the MSMHC and the SMI will organize zone level missionary animation programmes.
3. We will work together to establish a regional-level Prayer Campaign through the existing Prayer Mission Hub.
4. We will create a network among the missionary groups in the Salesian Family such as the Salesian Missionary Groups, Young Apostles of Christ (YAC), Women Apostles for Catechesis (WAC), the Little Flower League (LFL), Lay Missionaries, etc.

The 46 enthusiastic participants from all over the region had a "family" experience of reflection, prayer, sharing of experiences and synergy building. Fr. Pathiaraj coordinated the seminar.



Snapshots from the seminar

## Chennai Province Celebrates Mission Day

Salesian Mission Day 2014 was celebrated by the INM (Chennai Province) at Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, Perambur, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014. One hundred and ninety Salesians and members of Missionary Groups from the various communities of the province gathered together for the occasion which had for its theme: Sharing Christ's Love with Migrants. Fr. (Dr.) Antonyraj Chinnappan SDB brought to our notice that migrants belong to various categories such as those displaced for political reasons, for studies, for better job prospects, within the country as well as beyond the borders of the country. He presented the situation of migrants in India with special reference to Tamil Nadu from many scholarly researches on the issue and impressed upon the participants the untold sufferings that they are forced to endure in silence.

The participants also listened to missionaries from INM province (Bro. Arulappa Sellam, Fr. Johnson Paulraj, Fr. Solomon Kolandaiwamy, Bro. Antony Sigamani and Fr. Augustine Kariamadam) about the Salesian intervention on behalf of the migrants in various countries such as Uganda, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Papua New Guinea. The cultural items staged by the missionary groups from our formation houses showcased graphically the migrant situation and its cry for our urgent intervention. The Missionary Day celebration came to a climax with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Devapragasam Joseph SDB, the Vice-Provincial.

The reflections of the day were converted into fervent prayer as we placed before Christ the King, the migrants all over the world and Salesian efforts at bettering their plight. The participants left the venue with the resolve to get to know more about the migrant situation and do something in order to lighten their grim situation. May the Salesian missionary heart impel us!



Scenes from the mission day



## Basañes' Second Visit to the Region

Rev. Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB, the General Councillor for the Missions, visits the Tiruchy and Chennai Provinces in April 2015. Tiruchy : April 26 - 28, Chennai : April 29 - May 01.



## Missionaries needed in the Region

Province – Country	Languages Needed	Features of the Location & Qualities required of the Missionaries
INC- Kolkata, India	<b>Nepal:</b> Nepali, English	A young mission, social and educational work
	<b>Bangladesh:</b> Bengali, English	Pastoral and educational ministry
LKC - Sri Lanka	English, Sinhalese, Tamil	Country has been affected by civil war, great opportunities for Salesian Mission
INN - New Delhi, India	<b>Jamshedpur Diocese:</b> Hindi, Bengali, Santali	Parish, School, Outreach apostolate
	<b>Sambalpur &amp; Rourkela Dioceses:</b> Oriya, Hindi/Sadri, English	Parish, School, Youth Ministry, Young at Risk
ING - Guwahati, India	English	Need practical trainee and formation personnel for the missionary aspirantate in Sirajuli

*"May the Holy Spirit help you to recognise the hopes dreams and challenges of our time, especially of the young, and interpret them in the light of the Gospel and your charism... The Evangelisation of the young is the mission that the Holy Spirit has entrusted to you within the Church. It is strictly bound up with their education: the journey of Faith happens as part of growing up and the Gospel also enriches this human growth. We need to prepare young people to work in society in accordance with the spirit of the Gospel, as workers for justice and peace, and to live as people who are active in the Church."*

(From the Address of His Holiness Pope Francis at the Audience for the General Chapter Members on 31 March 2014)



*"The best pages of Salesian history are those written by Salesian missionaries and the great missionaries of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. They help us to understand, much better than any documents on missionary spirituality, the basic elements that qualify as a missionary, any Salesian, Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, committed lay person or volunteer, man or woman guided by the Holy Spirit, and enable them to become preachers of the gospel and of the joy of humanity inspired by the values of the Gospel."*

(From the letter of Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, the Rector Major, for the Salesian Mission Day 2015).



## Year of Consecrated Life Special

*"I want to say one word to you and this word is joy. Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!"*

(Pope Francis)

**Here is an opportunity for you to share your joy in being a consecrated person.**

Speak out! What gives you joy as a consecrated religious? Share your joy in religious life and become an inspiration for others.

Send your sharing to us via: [joyfullyinjesus2015@gmail.com](mailto:joyfullyinjesus2015@gmail.com) ; OR Post your sharing to the address on the last page; OR **Join the Facebook group "JOYFULLY in JESUS"** and post your sharing directly. This group will be available for the religious only, and will not be open to the public.

Your sharing (maximum 200 words) will be posted in Facebook with your name only. The aim of this campaign is to share the joy of Religious Life, to show the true face of Religious Life, to inspire, to strengthen and to promote joyful discipleship in Jesus. **Join this Joy-Share Campaign!**

## LAUGH CORNER



### Three Missionaries

Three Missionaries were having lunch together. One said, "Ya know, since summer started I'm having trouble with rats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything -- noise, spray, cats -- nothing seems to scare them away."

Another said, "Ya, me too. I've got hundreds of them living in my belfry and in the attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away."

The third said, "I baptized all mine, and made them members of the church... Haven't seen one back since!!"





## Brainstorming

### Responses to the Question in the previous issue:

#### Q How can we transform the families into evangelizing families today?

"Today the faith level of the families is going down. The sacramental life is being replaced by recourse to astrologers, stars, magicians, shooting prayer groups, opportune counsellors and the dreamland media. Their short and immediate response is attractive. In this situation, our pastoral visit to the families imbued with the passion of Christ and sharing the Word of God with our God experience according to the opportune moments can transform the families. The work of Evangelization is the mission of Jesus and we are called to participate in His mission. Therefore, our transformed witnessing and joyful life can help the families to become evangelizing families."

**Sr. Sherly Puthussery FMA (Hassan)**

To be an evangelising family, the family has to be evangelised through regular sacraments and catechesis. An evangelising family can be a missionary to others. They can accompany other families.

**Fr. (Dr.) Gilbert Choondal SDB (Bangalore)**

"Child is the Father of Man," wrote Wordsworth implying that a person's convictions and character are shaped by the formation that he or she receives during the first 16 years of his/her life. An individual's belief in God and spirituality depends primarily on the parents who are physically present with them as role models, complementing it with timely interventions and instructions.

**Fr. (Dr.) Francis Karackat SDB (Trivandrum)**

The situation of the family today is alarming. In the context of the disintegration of family, the loss of family values, the negative impact of the nuclear families etc, the priests and the religious who have professed full time commitment to the Church's mission of evangelization, should be available to evangelize families. They should accompany families through regular contacts and pastoral visits, faith formation with special attention to children, and stand by them in their moments of struggle. Parents should assume their Christian responsibility to form children in faith, to promote family prayer, love and unity. Family ministry is a never-ending mission.

**Sr. Gracy George, SMI (Bangalore)**

"A family which is grafted onto Christ is an evangelizing family. God made human beings in His own image and likeness. Family is the sanctuary of His life and love which He shared with human beings. Deep faith in the God who transmitted both life and love makes that sanctuary a font and reflection of that same life and love. Jesus Christ is the living Word of God who perfectly reflected this life and love and invited us all to be worthy

### Question 3:

#### What should be the Christian response to the increasing attack against the Christian community across India and elsewhere?

Email your reflection to the editor in one paragraph (maximum of 100 words).

Selected reflections will be published.

You could also post your questions for reflection.

sharers of His divine life and love. A family that offers to each and every one of its member an environment for an encounter with or an experience of Jesus Christ will generate within it an evangelical spirit. A family that lives in harmony with the Gospel, embodying deeply within it the evangelical values of faith hope and love, and expresses it sincerely in humble and total service to all humanity in all aspects and to the whole world, is truly an ambassador of Christ. It is in the family that through prayer and communion the Christian faith grows, and is lived and passed on to the young as a treasure to be shared with others so as to bear abundant fruit."

**Fr. Jolly Kavilaveettil SDB (Shillong)**

"We can transform families into evangelizing families by: 1) the family visits by priests, religious, catechists, etc and through the ministry of the Word; 2) the training of couples in the SCC, Neo Catechumenate, etc. and 3) the celebration of the Eucharist in the substations at least on a monthly basis."

**Fr. Joe D'Souza SDB (Delhi)**

## Biblical Word Puzzle - 3

Read John 1:29-51

Jesus calls: "Follow me", "Come and see"!

K	I	N	G	I	B	B	A	R	V	D	J	O	H	N	G	T	K
K	N	O	M	I	S	A	G	Y	L	E	A	R	S	I	N	E	I
N	F	B	F	Q	F	G	V	W	G	S	B	N	M	P	I	S	D
B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	S	R	P	C	N	H	K	H	T	T	Y
I	A	M	E	A	N	S	E	O	H	E	A	E	A	I	S	I	D
A	Z	V	O	H	A	A	T	C	A	N	Z	A	N	L	E	F	F
A	O	D	B	E	T	H	S	A	I	D	A	V	D	I	R	Y	F
D	O	G	U	E	H	S	I	S	S	I	R	E	R	P	H	E	R
G	U	A	R	C	A	E	R	R	S	N	E	N	E	M	L	X	J
W	O	A	N	H	N	E	H	G	E	G	T	I	W	P	Z	D	Q
H	P	J	P	G	A	L	C	O	M	T	H	Q	I	H	O	L	Y
Y	K	E	J	L	E	I	Q	Y	N	H	E	C	W	O	R	L	D
Y	C	S	C	A	L	L	K	K	A	E	S	P	I	S	U	Q	O
E	B	U	Z	M	O	A	S	N	I	I	S	T	I	R	I	P	S
D	L	S	U	B	G	G	Z	N	D	T	X	T	R	E	E	M	B

Identify the words given among the scrambled words in the box.

Send your answers by April 15, 2015.

Please send only photocopy or scanned image. Avoid cutting the bulletin.

ANDREW  
ANGELS  
BAPTIZES  
BETHSAIDA  
CEPHAS  
CHRIST  
DESCENDING  
DISCIPLE  
DOVE  
FIG  
GALILEE  
GOD  
GREATER  
HEAVEN  
HOLY  
HONEST  
ISRAEL  
JESUS  
JOHN  
KING  
LAMB  
MAN  
MESSIAH  
NATHANAE  
NAZARETH  
PETER  
PHILIP  
RABBI  
RESTING  
SIMON  
SIN  
SPIRIT  
TESTIFY  
TREE  
WORLD

## Puzzle - 2 Solved

B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	D	K	H	J	N	F	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	S
R	B	M	S	D	T	C	M	I	C	V	S	A	S	L	A	V	E	R	Y	S
D	A	I	C	I	L	O	N	N	J	U	E	K	A	O	Y	S	C	H	G	E
N	E	E	C	V	M	N	Z	G	S	D	O	O	G	N	E	U	A	Y	F	N
A	T	V	F	A	G	D	A	E	S	Q	E	G	I	G	A	I	T	J	E	R
C	N	Q	O	D	A	E	J	N	O	R	X	A	D	F	S	C	I	T	W	E
M	I	C	U	N	M	N	A	Q	A	A	U	T	S	A	N	A	S	A	D	
B	F	T	E	Y	T	N	T	I	R	J	E	E	H	L	Y	N	L			
X	F	L	T	S	Z	E	E	I	B	I	M	Y	E	I	W	C	N	D	I	
H	R	R	D	T	T	D	Q	O	P	L	J	P	R	P	U	E	E	A	E	W
Z	O	C	L	K	P	O	Y	N	U	H	E	I	A	Y	E	X	H	G	R	V
F	T	J	M	J	P	Y	R	S	X	H	T	S	L	Y	N	E	P	O	I	A
C	L	E	A	R	S	I	G	S	S	A	V	I	O	R	J	C	O	G	N	W
F	U	L	F	I	L	L	M	E	N	T	Z	C	D	Y	R	U	R	U	G	M
O	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	C	S	A	M	U	E	L	O	T	P	E	V	Q
O	E	Y	O	R	T	S	E	D	O	S	A	U	L	A	S	E	V	E	N	K

### Congratulations to the Winners!

Bro. Alex Carvalho (Ahmednagar)

Sr. Margaret Ranjithan (Gujarat)

Answers torn out of the Anima were rejected.



## Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, Perambur

Don Bosco was a great missionary at heart. He wanted to be a missionary, but God had other plans for him: he was to send missionaries! He manifested great love the missions by sending his best sons to the missions. Learning from their father and founder, the Salesians always considered missionary work to be part and parcel of their being Salesians. The Missionary Aspirantate of Ivrea, (Italy), formed and sent thousands of missionaries to the four corners of the world. India itself received over four hundred foreign Salesian missionaries.

The Salesian Province of Chennai took a great step forward and launched the Missionary Aspirantate at Perambur modelled on the one at Ivrea. The Missionary Aspirantate is our way of thanking God as well as of contributing to Holy Mother the Church labourers to gather in His harvest. A survey shows that Indian missionaries are present in more than 160 countries in the world today! For a relatively small Indian Church, with only 1.7% of the population being Catholic, this is no mean achievement! And Salesian India has already sent numerous missionaries especially to Africa and Europe.

Don Bosco Missionary Aspirantate, Perambur, was inaugurated on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the feast of the great missionaries Sts. Peter and Paul. Situated near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, it serves the provinces of Hyderabad, Bangalore, Trichy, Chennai and Sri Lanka. Actually the Aspirantate is located in the erstwhile boarding at Perambur attached to a 50-year old Higher Secondary School and a thirty-year old Primary School with a total of 2,700 students. The aspirants frequent this school.

The Salesian Community consists of ten Salesians. There are thirty (30) aspirants in four groups: Post-Matric students, XI, XII and Post-Higher Secondary students. Post-Matric and Post-Higher Secondary students do a year of

orientation (coaching in English, introduction to Hindi, introduction to Italian, basic human skills, basic catechism, Salesianity) before they begin their XI or proceed to the Pre-novitate.

The specific missionary training that is offered in the Aspirantate are the following: Goodnights, Conferences & homilies with a missionary slant; A strong missionary section in the library; A month-long missionary experience in the mission field; Monthly Commemoration of the First Missionary Expedition with Prayer Service & Mass; Preparing notice-boards on missionaries; Missionary Month (like the Marian month) with talks, competitions, etc. from October 11 to November 11; Organization and participation in the Salesian Mission Day of the province; Conferences by the visiting missionaries (missionaries on home holidays); Classes on world (mission lands) history, geography & culture; Daily prayers for the missionaries and for missionary vocations; Missionary Sodalties; Teaching of languages especially Hindi, Italian in addition to English; Preparation of Prayer Services for the commemoration of the Monthly Missionary Day in Tamil & English for the communities of the province; and writing in the Salesian Bulletin on missionary themes.

First fruits: The Perambur aspirantate has sent four novices to Shillong and Zubza, and three pre-novices to Sirajuli. Many more would follow their footsteps. It gives the Salesians much joy and satisfaction to see the aspirants make a steady progress in human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral field. Soon we should be having a regular flow of missionaries!

(Interested candidates may contact Fr. Pathiaraj, Rector at: [pathiaraj@rediffmail.com](mailto:pathiaraj@rediffmail.com))

**Fr. Pathiaraj SDB**



The Missionary aspirantate community



Music for the mission



Getting ready to be fishers of men

### Join our PRAYER MISSION Prayer Intentions

#### JANUARY

For all Salesians of Don Bosco, that as a Congregation which goes forth in a Church without borders, may the Salesian Mission Day 2015 inspire every Salesian to have the missionary audacity to go out to the peripheries.

#### FEBRUARY

For the Pastoral Care of Families in Inter-America, that the Provinces may have the courage to launch new initiatives, especially for young people who come from broken and dysfunctional homes.

#### MARCH

For the Formation of Lay People in East Asia, that Salesians of the East Asia-Oceania Region invest more time and energy in a systematic way in the formation of our lay mission partners both in educating to the faith and in the Preventive System of education of Don Bosco.

#### APRIL

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.

#### MAY

For Initial Proclamation in the Region of Central and North Europe, that Salesians in Central and North Europe foster initial proclamation in a secularised context by living up to the values of the Gospel.

### BOOK YOUR SEATS FOR THE MISSIONARY COURSE 2015

*in Shillong, the Scotland of the East*

*Place: Sacred Heart College, Shillong*

*Duration: August 2015*

*Contact person: Fr. James Poonthuruthil*

*Participants: Members of the Salesian Family*

**Limited seats only**

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