

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian Missions!

Tell me, what book you like to read, what is your most frequent prayer and I will tell you where your heart is. Without missionaries there are no missions. Without the Christians who leave everything and devote their whole lives to serving the Gospel, mission *ad gentes* is impossible. Without prayer for new missionary vocations it is hard to plan the future of missions. Today we see quite a lot of commitments to help the missions in terms of projects and of finances. I invite you to make the Lenten journey of 2011 and collaborate with a constant prayer for missionary vocations .

Václav Klement
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions



Missionary Cooperation through Prayer

One form of missionary cooperation is spiritual cooperation through prayer, sacrifice and the witness of Christian life. Missionaries need to be accompanied by prayer so that their proclamation may be effective through God's grace. Being a missionary implies sacrifice in different ways, great and small. Thus, prayer for missionaries too needs to be accompanied by sacrifice. One way, which is easily possible for everyone is to accept the sufferings of our daily life and offer them to God with love for missionaries and for missionary vocations. There is also the possibility to fast or abstain from something and offer its equivalent for the material needs of missionaries.

All have the possibility offer their collaboration to the Congregation's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. The **missionary rosary**, where every continent is remembered in each mystery, is a good initiative in this regard. Every year, a prayer is composed and distributed to all the communities according to the theme of the **Salesian Mission Day** and every month, especially on the 11th, a **Salesian missionary intention** is proposed in order to emphasise the importance of this spiritual dimension of missionary cooperation. On the other hand, the community prayer for missionaries fosters a missionary culture and gives an apostolic impulse which, in return, revitalises it.

MISSIONARIES FOR AFRICA SOUGHT

Country - Province	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
Ethiopia - AET Vicariate of Gambella	English, local languages	Apostolic Vicariate entrusted to the Congregation, few personnel, Initial evangelisation
Sudan - AFE	English, Arabic (North), tribal languages (South)	Initial evangelisation in the South, postwar, great possibility in animist zone, very few Salesian personnel
Nigeria - AFW	English, local languages	Possible new presences - Lagos, few Salesian personnel
Uganda - AGL	English, local languages	Initial evangelisation, postwar, start of the 4th presence in the country
Angola - ANG	Portuguese, local languages	Initial evangelisation, postwar, Salesian bishop, few SDB
Chad - ATE	French, local languages	Few Salesian personnel (multireligious context; islamic context in some countries), tough climate
Equatorial Guinea - ATE	French, local languages	Few Salesian personnel (multireligious context; islamic context in some countries), tough climate
Central Africa - ATE	French, local languages	few Salesian personnel (multireligious context; islamic context in some countries), tough climate
Madagascar - MDG	French, Malagasy	Initial evangelisation - Bemaneviky, few personnel, SDB bishop



I was afraid, but I wanted to share my faith!

As a young Aspirant I have heard stories and testimonies of missionaries and I have been inspired by their heroic lives. I too wanted to dare. Yet, I had my apprehensions. Besides, I was afraid of my health. Nevertheless, I applied to go to the missions during my post-novitiate. I just felt a strong desire to share my faith with other people. I was excited when Fr. Provincial told me that I will be sent as missionary to Papua New Guinea.

When I arrived I found the Melanesian culture to be rather “strange” and at times also “weird.” I found it very difficult to adjust to their way of thinking. But as time went by, as the students in our school and the youth in our parish became my friends, it became easier for me to accept who they are and understand their customs and values.

After a year of missionary life I was given the chance to join the *Cultural Orientation Course for New Missionaries in Melanesia* organised by the Melanesian Institute. It helped me a lot to evaluate my initial experiences and aided me to make sense of what I have seen, heard and experienced. It opened my mind to the various aspects of the Melanesian culture and how I can inculturate myself better into this culture. It made me appreciate the many good elements of the Melanesian culture, and better understand their beliefs and customs.

I spent my three years of practical training in what many describe as our toughest mission in Papua New Guinea - Araithiri. I had to cope with isolation from “civilisation”. The simple and frugal lifestyle in the heart of the jungle has taught me and formed me into what I am today. I had to be resilient and persevering in order to survive the hard life. I had to learn how to be flexible and patient with myself and with the local people. One thing that I had to face and battle with was the reality of “waiting” since the local people did not have that sense of time which we, people coming from highly urbanised society are used to.

I lived in the middle of nowhere, yet there I experienced the real presence of God especially in the most trying and challenging moments of my missionary life. When we lacked even the basic necessities of life, we turned to no one else but Him. I also grew in my trust and confidence in His love and Providence. Our community brought to prayer our worries, our concerns, our fears and anxieties, the apostolate, and our very selves. My eyes were opened to see miracles which I would not have, otherwise, noticed if I were still immersed in the busy city life of Manila.

There I also realised what a very powerful source of strength is our Salesian community life. I was so blessed to have lived with very committed and self-sacrificing confreres. I am proud of their dedication, their unwavering love for the mission and their zeal for the salvation of souls.

As I prepare for my priestly ordination I am also looking forward to return to the land and the people I have come to consider my own! .



Deacon Angel Sanchez
Filipino, missionary in Papua New Guinea



Salesian Missionary Intention

Migrants in the Middle East

That the Salesians in the Middle East and the Gulf countries are able to journey with the migrants on their territory through our educational - pastoral services, even in vocational accompaniment.

The Province of the Middle East includes works scattered in seven countries: Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iran, in the Gulf countries we are present in Kuwait and Yemen. The presence of refugees - especially of Iraqi Christians and other immigrants from many countries in Africa, Asia, has become significant in many Salesian contexts. Like everywhere else in the globalised world, even here the primary service to migrant communities is accompaniment at all levels, including faith and vocation journey.



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com