



ear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian Missions!

From August 16 to 21 7000 young people of the Salesian Youth Movement (www.bosco2011.com) will be gathered at the Salesian School at Atocha in Madrid together with two million young people attending the events of 26th World Youth Day. Definitely it

will be an event that will strengthen the faith of many young people and their encounter with Jesus. We know that faith grows when it is shared! We also believe that the call of the Lord needs inspiration that comes from the sharing of one's own vocation story. With these simple questions I invite you to share your Salesian vocation or Salesian missionary calling with young people!

#### Courage!

How did you meet Don Bosco and the Salesians, how were you led to the Salesian missionary life? What do you remember of your formation experience (companions, formators, experiences) and how did they form you to be a Salesian missionary the following years?

What change has taken place in the profile of your Salesian missionary so far?

How did you overcome moments of crisis in your missionary vocational journey?

Which people or events have marked your Salesian life in a special way?

What do you say to a young man who wants to be a Salesian or missionary?

What have you learnt from the Lord in your spiritual and vocation journey?

Vocal Council
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councilor for the Missions

A new pastoral approach is necessary for young people today who ask what it means to believe!

esus lives with genuine passion his dedication to the dream he has in his heart: the preaching and the building of the Kingdom of his Father who wants all men to be saved and to reach the fullness of life. His is not a life lived in indifference and indolence. Rather it is a life lived with boundless intensity. It is a life lived with energy and dynamism. His words leave us in no doubt: «I have come to bring fire on the earth and how I wish it were already kindled!». The image of fire is very expressive and describes the ardour with which he pursues the cause he has embraced.

This fire is the Holy Spirit which renews us, first of all in prayer. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love which shows itself in the peace within us, in the joy of our surroundings, and in the dynamism of our life. Renewed by the Spirit, we become people who are fulfilled: patient, faithful, committed.

... The decision to follow Jesus in a radical manner all depends on our committing everything we have to being able to be in love with God and to spend ourselves in the service of people, especially the poor and the abandoned...

I also pray for my beloved sons the Salesians: ... May you be enlightened guides for those who seek spiritual direction and who are already living in practice a sacramental and church life; wise and patient teachers for those who are searching for their vocation.

I pray, in particular, that the Holy Spirit may raise up zealous creative workers capable of coming to the aid of all those young people who nowadays no longer knock on the

doors of the Church. These are young people who on their way following the star would rather meet the Magi than the scribes in Jerusalem; young people who no longer ask us what they should believe but rather what does it mean to believe. For all these reasons a real change in our pastoral approach is necessary!

**Don Pascual Chávez** Message to the SYM, January 31, 2011



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### AUGUST

- 05-06 > Meeting PDMA of South Asia (Kolkata, India)
- 07-11 > South Asia Study Days (Kolkata, India)
- 14-18 > East Asia Study Days (Sampran, Thailand)
- 21-25 > Oceania Study Days (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea)

### **SEPTEMBER**

01-25 > Orientation Course for New Missionaries (Rome - Turin)

(Kome - Turin)

25 > Giving of the Missionary Cross (Turin)

19 September - 08 December > On-Going Formation Course for Missionaries (Rome, UPS)

# As a volunteer I experienced a profound joy and I discovered my Salesian vocation

aith has always been an important pillar in my life. I was raised a Christian by my parents and since childhood we were actively involved in our parish. For many years I was an altar server, I

was also a member of a youth group. In this way the desire to have a missionary experience developed after I finished my studies. I wanted to serve the less fortunate and share my life with them. Through a friend I met the Salesian Volunteer Movement which is coordinated in Austria by the NGO Jugend Eine Welt - Don Bosco Aktion Austria. I signed up immediately.

I was 19 years old when I left for Mexico. I had a great desire to work with young people and undergo new experiences. I worked in Maria Auxiliadora parish and oratory in Tijuana. The Salesians shared their lives with us volunteers. The day began with prayer and breakfast together and ended with the "good night" after a full day of work. Sharing with each other the beautiful and less beautiful events



of the day and with community prayer were the pillars of daily life. In many projects we experienced the riches that each has to offer to others. In this way we helped each other. So I always felt more at home. This stage of my life has shaped me profoundly.



Since I spent a whole year in this country I could participate in Mexican folkloristic and religious fiestas. I got to know their stories, joys and sufferings. I hope that they too learnt something from me because the meeting of cultures is not a one-way street but is mutually enriching. Surely the cultural diversity brought sometimes some misunderstanding. Everyone thought he was right. But one needs to listen, to open up to others and have the desire to understand their points of view as well.

The year I spent as a volunteer with the Salesians was a decisive period in my vocational journey. Through the Salesian Volunteer Movement I was able to mature and reach a decision. After returning to Austria, I started the aspirantate and the following year I made my novitiate at

Pinerolo (Italy). On September 8, 2009 I consecrated my life to God and now I am preparing for the priest-hood. I want to become a true follower of Don Bosco for our times and follow his footsteps!

Cl. Peter Rinderer

austrian, postnovice at Benediktbeuern, Germany



# Salesian Missionary Intention

#### **SPAIN: WORLD YOUTH DAY**

So that all the Salesians in Spain may be open to the Holy Spirit and be more "rooted and grounded in Christ, firm in faith" (Col 2:7) as companions of young people in their path of faith and vocation journey.

The 6 Provinces of Spain (Barcelona, Bilbao, Leon, Madrid, Seville and Valencia) with around 1100 confreres, are experiencing an important historical period full of challenges and hopes. The journey of the reorganization of the Provinces, with a renewed commitment to vocations and evangelisation in a secularised society has began. The 26th World Youth Day will take place in Madrid (16-21 August). This is an opportunity for all Salesians in the journey of revitalisation of our charism.



