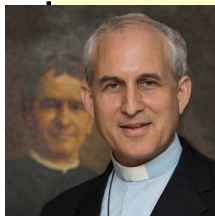


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



A Publication of the Missions Sector for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission



Dear brothers, dear friends,
we are in the month of World Mission Sunday which has a particular significance this year: we are celebrating the 90th World Mission Sunday and at the same time, it crowns the year of Mercy. The message of Pope Francis, "missionary Church, a witness of mercy" speaks to us with such clarity and incisiveness (see below).

Basically it is about helping us understand that we are called to be missionaries to all peoples, above all because the Father is merciful, "He is merciful to all, his love is for all people and he has compassion over all creatures."

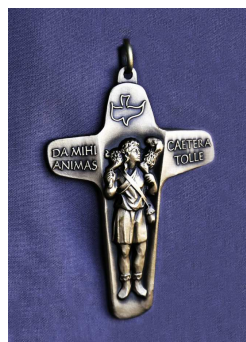
Thus, I invite everyone this month - and especially the Delegates for Missionary Animation - to: (1) study and meditate personally and diligently this message; (2) make it known with intelligence and creativity at the level of the Province and the Salesian Family; (3) collect and disseminate the best Salesian experiences of being a missionary and merciful church. I see in this message of the Holy Father a wonderful opportunity to strengthen systematically, year after year, our missionary formation. Have a fruitful study, and thank you!

Fr. Basaños
Fr. Guillermo Basaños SDB
Councillor for the Missions

MISSION "AD GENTES" IS AN IMMENSE WORK OF MERCY

“The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material ... All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation which is God's gift to every person. This is all the more necessary when we consider how many injustices, wars, and humanitarian crises still need resolution. [...]"

For the complete message of Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday 2016 - see: <http://tinyurl.com/j7od7ar>



THE NEW SALESIAN MISSIONARY CROSS

Starting this year, the members of the Salesian missionary expedition will receive a common mission cross

- **The Cross:** the first powerful symbol is the cross itself.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: the cross is lived according to our charism in unlimited pastoral self-giving: pastoral charity which is the nucleus of the Salesian spirit.

- **Da mihi animas coetera tolle:** the salesian motto, in missionary context, acquires a particular significance: leave everything in order to devote oneself without limit to those to whom one is sent, to be an instrument of salvation for them.

- **The Holy Spirit** descending on the Good Shepherd: Without the Holy Spirit, and without his light, discernment, strength and holiness, all missionary activity is no more than a series of activities, sometimes empty, carried out in distant places.

- **Mt 28,19:** "*Euntes ergo docete omnes gentes baptizantes eos in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti*" is the heart of the missionary mandate given by the Risen Lord.

- **Invio (Send off):** The expression is simple and meaningful. The missionary is sent; he goes in the name of the Lord, of His Church, of the Congregation, to realise the apostolic mandate.

- **Basílica of Mary help of Christians:** From this temple the first expedition was sent on November 11, 1875. Like Mary we welcome the missionary vocation, like her we go immediately to serve; like her we are attentive to the needs of the young and we show them the sources of joy: "do whatever He tells you!"

IT IS VERY BEAUTIFUL TO BE A MISSIONARY IN ORDER TO PROCLAIM JESUS

When I was a novice at Monte Olive-to (Italy) they made me the leader of the missionary group. That's when I began to feel the desire to work as a Salesian among people who never heard anything about Jesus and His teaching. I then sent a letter to Fr. Bellido, the then General Councilor for the Missions, asking him to send me to a place "where there would be just a few Christians". I think that is the reason why I was sent to Japan, where Christians are really very few.

Now as missionary for many years, I think the biggest challenge that all missionaries in Japan have to face today is secularism. The Japanese people are rich in religiosity, but poor in religion. In other words, they have a deep respect for anything which looks sacred and sounds mysterious, but they are, I would say, quite afraid to commit themselves to a Christian life which implies faith and morals. That is due also to their strong sense of re-

sponsibility.

Perhaps the greatest joy for me as a missionary in Japan is Jacob Chihiro Morito, a Japanese young man whom I baptized a few years ago. On August 15, 2014 he made his first profession as a Salesian missionary in the AFE province. Now he is studying philosophy at Moshi (Tanzania).

To many young Salesians who are thinking of becoming a missionary I would like to say: My dear young friends, after 50 years of missionary life in Japan, and after a

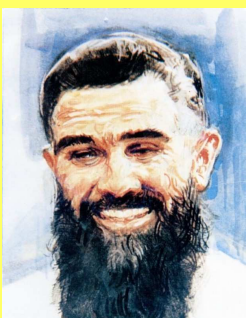
good number of mistakes and mishaps, I do believe that the best thing we can do on earth is to show people that Jesus brings us a joyful news, and that the way he shows us leads us all to happiness. His path is steep, but the landscape is beautiful. We live only once, but it is really worthwhile spend one's life for Him and His kingdom .

Fr. Achille Loro Piana
Italian, missionary in Japan



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Postulator General for the Causes of Saints



Fr. Rosario Stroschio, religious superior, concludes the announcement of the death of the Servant of God **Fr Francesco Convertini** (1898-1976), a missionary in India with these words: "Those who knew Fr Francesco, always remember with love the reminders and exhortations that he used to give at confession, with his very weak voice and yet so full of ardour: Let us love souls, let us work only for souls ... let us be near the people ... Let us deal with them in such a way that the people understand that we love them" His whole life was a wonderful witness of the most fruitful technique of priestly ministry and missionary work. We can summarize it in this simple expression: "To win souls to Christ there is no more powerful way than goodness and love!"



Salesian Missionary Intention

That all Salesians of Don Bosco may rediscover the joy and the responsibility of evangelisation.

Pope Francis invites us to overcome tomb psychology, pastoral acedia and faint melancholy, lacking in hope, which seizes the heart (Evangelii Gaudium 80-83). We pray that all Salesians may rediscover the passion for the salvation of others and the joy of sharing the experience of the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

