

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

ear friends,

During the missionary month, after the Angelus at St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said: "I ask you, young people, boys and girls, who are now in the square: Have you felt the gaze of Jesus on you? What would you tell him? Would you prefer to leave this square with joy that Jesus gives us or with sadness in your heart that worldliness offers us?" (October 11).

I beliève that Don Bosco, in a similar occasion, would have also "thrown the net" like Pope Francis.

Divine Providence places before our eyes, every day in all "six continents" (including the digital continent!), innumerable young people who await a similar tough question. Often, distracted or busy, we forget this question or do not have the courage to do it.

It is here that we find a way to "measure" our missionary spirit, regardless of geographical place, cultural context or educative-pastoral structure in which we find ourselves in. In all these youth contexts the Lord expects us to keep alive our missionary spirit.





An essential

AN ESSENTIAL AND CONSTITUTIVE FEATURE OF OUR SALESIAN IDENTITY

A llow me to recall here what we know very well: from his youth Don Bosco had a desire to become a missionary. Don Cafasso, accompanying him in his

vocational discernment, "blocked" that path, telling him that the missions were not for him (cfr. BM 2, 160-161). However he always had this idea in mind and in his heart and he realised it through his sons. Starting on 11 November 1875, he chose from the group of his first Salesians those he would send to America to provide for the spiritual needs of emigrants and to bring the Gospel to people who did not know it. From that first expedition until the one due next 27 September 2015 there have been 146. Shortly after the first expedition of Salesians, year after year the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians also went to the mission lands. Nowadays this departure ceremony frequently includes the presence of lay missionaries male and female.

We should not forget a fact that speaks for itself and which I mentioned in a previous letter (AGC 419). At Don Bosco's death, in America there were 153 Salesians, that is 20% of the Salesians at the time, as the catalogue of the Congregation for that year records.

n one of his letters written in 1912 Fr Paul Albera states, referring to Don Bosco: "The missions were a privilged subject of his talks and he knew how to inspire in hearts a strong desire to become missionaries, in such a way that it seemed the most natural thing in the world".

I have always been convinced that the *missionary dimension is an essential and constitutive feature* of our identity as a Congregation. The more I have consulted our documents, the stronger has this conviction become!

		Name	Province of origin	Destination
ľ	1.	P. Albert Tae Woo Kim	KOR	CIN
	2.	L. Beom Ju Moses Lee	KOR	CIN
	3.	S. Miguel Angel Condo	BOL	MOR
	4.	S. Giuseppe Andrés Liano	CAM (Guatemala)	IME (Albania)
	5.	S. David Patience Komba	AFE (Tanzania)	MEG
ł	6.	S. Harinandrasana Geroges Rabarison	MDG	VEN
H	7.	S. Jean Jacques Randrianarijaona	MDG	LKC
ľ	8.	S. Don Nyika	ZMB	IME (Albania)
l	9.	P. Noel Sumagui	FIN FIN	LKC
ľ	10.	S. Rodil Padilla Lladones	FIN	MOR
	11.	S. André Ahondju	AFC	VEN
	12.	S. Faustin Bahati	AFC	LKC
ľ	13.	P. Giuseppe Di Sario	IME	MOR
	14.	D. Rodney Barlathier	HAI	FRB
ľ	15.	S. Michael Gaikwad	INB	THA (Cambodia)
	16.	S. Peter Minh Duc Nguyen	VIE	Project Europe [to be determined in June 2016]
	17.	S. Joseph <mark>Quang Vi</mark> nh Nguyen	VIE	
l	18.	L. Joseph Xuan Hoan Pham	VIE	Project Europe
	19.	S. Barthele <mark>my V</mark> iet Truong Nguyen	VIE	[to be determined in June 2016] LKC
	20.	P. Nesly Léonard	HAI	SUE
	21.	S. Joshua Pilaku	AFW (Nigeria)	THA (Cambodia)
	22.	S. Vasanth Raj Antony Dass	INM	MOZ
	23.	L. Peter Ba Dat Phung	VIE	AUL
L				



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

Venerable Laura Meozzi, (1874-1951), Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, missionary in Poland, wrote to some sisters who were about to start a new presence: "Be one with your Superior; make sure your home becomes the home of Jesus; let it be a model house and and let the sisters be models of virtue ... Let there never be jealousy among you, let there be no sad face, but be always cheerful, serene, happy about everything and always ready for any sacrifice for the glory to God. Never raise your voice and smile always. Treat the girls well, but each in its place, so that no one take things lightly".



Salesian Missionary Intention

For Salesians in Africa and Madagascar

That Salesians in Africa and Madagascar may know how to accompany spiritually the young entrusted to their pastoral care.

Pope Benedict XVI underlined that "Africa is the cradle of the Christian contemplative life." (Africae Munus 119). Along these lines we Salesians have the vocation and mission of bringing young people to Christ, following the teachings of Don Bosco, and imitating his pedagogical practice. By allowing himself to be guided by Fr. Cafasso, Don Bosco has accompanied his young people to grow in holiness as good Christians and honest citizens. Like our founder, every Salesian will be capable of accompanying the young, to be close to them as a friend and father only if he lets himself be accompanied by a regular spiritual director.

