

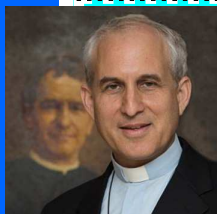


Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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

Rome, November 11, 2016

To the elderly and sick confreres,
and to confreres who for various reasons are unable to be involved
in direct educative-pastoral activity



Dear confrere,
Cordial greetings from the Generalate, the house of the Successor of Don Bosco.

I want to say to you, also on behalf of the Rector Major, a sincere thank you for your closeness and for your affection, but above all, for your fraternal prayer for Fr Ángel Fernández, for the whole Congregation and in particular, for all the missions and all the missionaries of the world.

Since GC27 chose me to be Councillor for the Missions, I have relied frequently on the prayers of so many confreres who are elderly, sick or who are unable to be involved in direct educational missionary work. You know that our Constitutions ask the Councillor for the Missions "to promote throughout the Society the missionary spirit and commitment" (C 138). This also requires much prayer! [...]

The seventh successor of Don Bosco taught us in his beautiful letter "Martyrdom and passion" (Fr Egidio Viganò, in ACS 308):

"Sick confreres were for Don Bosco, a kind of 'paschal mediation', for obtaining the blessings of the Lord on the apostolic activities of the community. Sufferings accepted in the spirit of the 'da mihi animas', do not exclude the confrere from the pastoral campaign; in fact they place him in the very front trenches and invest him with a distinctive role. [...]"

Dear confrere, with these few words and powerful thoughts, finally with all my heart I wanted to tell you two things: a big thank you and also, that we count on you!

A big thank you for your fidelity and for your testimony, for your patience and for your generous daily contribution to the Congregation and its mission, for all the souls whom you have helped and still help to save.

And at the same time, to tell you that we rely so much on you, on your prayers and on your patient daily offering, especially with Jesus in the Eucharist. Through your prayer and offering I entrust to you this year two special intentions:

- ♦ First, for all the novices of the Congregation , [...] so that they may not be afraid to give themselves to the Lord once and for all and to place themselves at the disposal of the Rector Major to go as missionaries ;
- ♦ and then for our missionary presence in the Americas, especially among the indigenous peoples who are the poorest and most abandoned. [...]

May Mary's maternal consolation be your inspiration and your support every day of your Salesian life. Thank you!

Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for Missions

*The complete text of this letter is sent as attachment
to this issue of "Cagliero 11"*



I Continue to be a Missionary through Prayer and Suffering

Immediately after my novitiate in Mis-saglia (Italy) in 1962, I and another companion were sent to the, then, newly established Philippine Province. But first we were sent to do our postnovitiate in Hong Kong in the, then, international studentate of philosophy for East Asia. I arrived when everything was at its beginning and we were just starting to have the first local vocations. Today we have 2 vibrant Provinces which have given birth already to 2 other new Provinces! When the new missionary presence in Papua New Guinea was opened and entrusted to the Philippines I made myself available. I worked there for 16 years until I was called back.

Parkinson disease entered my life only 4 years ago without much notice, just a few weeks after celebrating my 50 years of very active Salesian and missionary life dedicated to the youth of the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Now I'm trying to discover what our good Lord wants from me!

I was always in a hurry and never had time to rest, always trying to develop some pastoral activities for I had never time for myself: my life was totally spent for the young. Today I depend

on others even the most ordinary things of daily life. My wheelchair is a symbol of my non-activity. It is hard to accept this situation but I try as much as I can to be of help to my community, to our youth in Confession and with my presence in different activities of my community. As is my habit, I look at my life with the eyes of God and this makes my days full of the smile of God. In Italian my name is *Felice* (meaning 'happy'). Indeed, I am happy to serve the Lord especially in this specific moment of my life as I approach its final stage.

I think that my situation is actually a special invitation of the Lord to serve Him, his Church, our Congregation and the young through my prayer and sufferings as a means of salvation and purification from my sins. It seems that the good Lord wants to entrust me with this special mission which is fitting to my age and my situation!

With your prayers help me to make my life a *felice* (happy) gift to the Lord by offering my sufferings for His Church, our Congregation and for the young !

Fr. Felix Furlan

Italian, missionary in the Philippines



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

Blessed Luigi Variara (1875-1923), apostle of the lepers and founder of the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, wrote to his spiritual daughters shortly before he died: "Let us sanctify the moments of life that we still have, because the harvest will last forever. Ah, how much I enjoy thinking about heaven! There we will all be together and happy forever. For now we live together in the spirit: obedient, humble, pure, mortified, but only for love ... I will not leave you orphans, because my prayers are incessant for you with the desire to see you all holy".



Salesian Missionary Intention

That the South Cone Region may recognise in popular piety in the parishes where we work as the evangelising force that comes from the Holy Spirit, in order to be closer to the poor and the lowly.

In Evangelii Gaudium (122-129), Pope Francis recognises in popular piety the force to evangelise the people, where the Holy Spirit is the protagonist. Popular piety is a legitimate way of living the faith, a way of feeling part of the Church and of being missionaries.

