



Dear confreres, dear friends, in this month of birthday of our dear Father Don Bosco, let the seventh Beatitude resounds with Pope Francis: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God". "Sowing peace around us, this is holiness" [GE 89]

And rightly Salesian missionaries do so tirelessly. In many nations the Salesian missionary is known and loved as a man of peace, a friend of all. He knows how to radiate peace, even in very hard moments of persecution, of rejection, of various trials. And above all, he knows how to make young people peace-makers, especially through education: "missionary activity mobilizes all the educational and pastoral commitments proper to our charism" (C30). Where young people are unable to live together because of deep ethnic, religious or political divisions, the missionary front of the Salesian oratory is able to work this miracle of unity and peace. "Don Bosco's oratory looks like the United Nations", once said with admiration and gratitude the Muslim military leader in our mission in Sarh, in southern Chad.

To sow peace around us - among our confreres, among the young, among the people: this is a typical characteristic of the Salesian missionary.

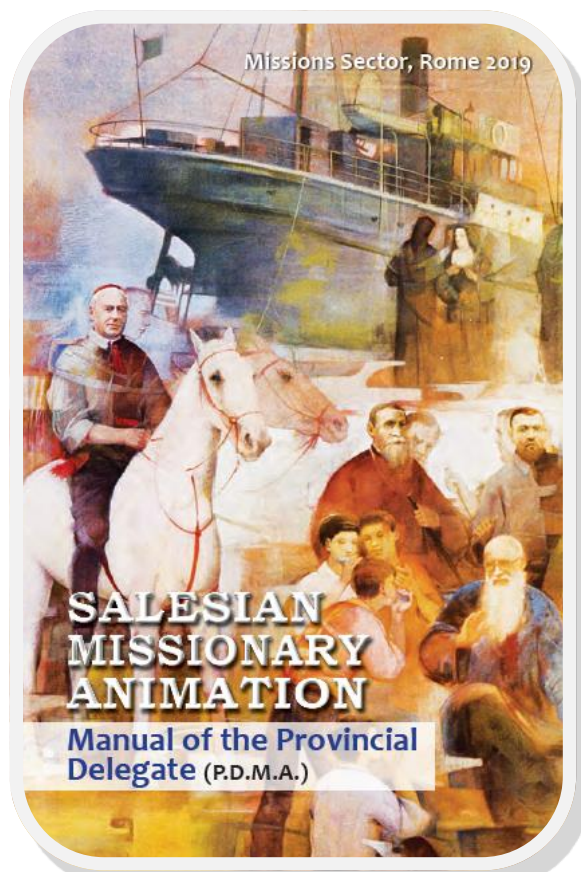
G. Basañes

Fr Guillermo Basañes, SDB - Councillor for the Missions

The **Manual of the Provincial Delegate for Missionary Animation** was approved by the Rector Major and his council on January 26, 2017. Now, in July 2019, it has been published, in five languages, along with other important annexes for Missionary Animation:

- The document on **Missionary Formation** of the Salesians of Don Bosco (2014), which aims to keep missionary zeal alive in the Congregation. This document teaches the apostolic passion from the pre-novitiate to ongoing formation.
- Salesian **missionary holiness**. Some models of missionaries *ad gentes* are presented that stimulate us to imitate them. It is significant to note how the missionary impulse is a source of holiness.
- The **missionary groups** keep the missionary flame alive in the youth ministry, in the youth and ecclesial community. Missionary animation must be present from primary schools to university groups.
- The last chapter selects some aspects that concern the PDMA, in the animation of the **Salesian Missionary Volunteering**, in own province. Certainly the entire manual will also be a rich instrument of animation.

This aid will be of use to the PDIMAs of the Provinces and the missionary animation teams for a continuous process of sensitization and animation of the Provincial and local community, in view of a deeper missionary awareness, of a renewed service in content and methodology, addressing itself at the same time inside and outside of its own community. This MA aims to keep alive in every Salesian and in the educative-pastoral community the missionary zeal and to promote the missionary culture.





“God has so loved the world that He gave His only Son.”

From the brochure of the SMD 2019 Father Papi Reddy is a young Salesian missionary from Guwahati Province, India (ING). Immediately after his priestly ordination, he was sent for the opening of the Salesian presence in the refugee settlement in Palabek, Uganda, in 2017. He is currently a missionary in South Sudan.

My experience in the camp in this short period has been strong and enriching. There were times when I sat with people and cried because their stories were so touching and moving. They do not have food, clothes. They are worried about their children scattered in the camp. Some of their relatives died along the way. It was very hard to listen to these stories.

The most beautiful experience I had ... After two months in the camp, on a Sunday I baptized 30 people in a small chapel that we called St Peter and Paul. After the Mass, a blind woman came to me and asked me, "Father please open the Gospel of John and underline the verses in which he says, 'God has so loved the world that He gave His only Son.' I was surprised as she was blind, she could not read or see. I did what she had asked me; I opened the Gospel, underlined the words and gave it to her. After a while, she took the Bible and went to the church entrance. Since Mass was over, people passed by; she stopped and invited every single person to join in a group, saying, 'God has so loved the world that He gave His only Son.' People sat down, listened to her and talked to her. For me it was one of the most beautiful experiences: what the woman did on that special day was to catechize and lead more people to God. These people have a great deal of psychological suffering due to family problems, daily struggles in the camp. When someone talks to them about God, about forgiveness and love ... I looked at this woman and she was a great inspiration for me. She was blind, and we did not expect a blind person to do something so great. This woman was full of God's strength and went around spreading the good news.

My saddest experience in the camp ... After three and a half months of my stay, I formed a group of young people in the camp. Some of these young people led me to find two newcomers to the camp. There were two young boys lying down without clothes and without a proper place to live. I asked, "What happened? How is it possible that they are in these conditions?" "Father, they have no one. They arrived here after two days of walking in the forest. They have no food, they have no clothes and they are practically dying." When I approached, I sat down and could not help but cry. I did not know what to do. I immediately went home to get something for them to eat. I took some clothes and gave them the clothes. I realized that they were fearful and closed-up. I sat down. I listened to them and talked to them.

As I listened to their stories of how they had escaped from the war, from the situation in South Sudan, how they had arrived here, I did not really know what to do. I was sitting and crying. After a while, they told me, "Father, thank you, thank you for coming. You came to us as God to help us." And I was touched. This dramatic but beautiful experience helped me to strengthen the bond with young people. Now when I go around, the young call me, "Abuna, hello! Abuna, hi! Come, come!" And I'm happy to have learned their language. I celebrate Mass in their language. I can converse at a basic level in their language, but above all, to have a heartfelt dialogue with them.

Fr. Papi Reddy, missionary from India in South Sudan



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

- Blessed Maria Troncatti (1883-1969), whose 50th birth anniversary to heaven falls on August 25th, prayed in this way: "Lord, I want to be yours forever. O Jesus, I have left all that I had most dear to come and serve you, to sanctify my soul. Yes, I have abandoned everything: You are staying with me only now, but you are enough for me. Jesus, make me so good and persevering in the state to which you have called me: let me always serve you faithfully! Grant that I may be forgotten by all to be yours alone; let me go away from all to be your trinket... Give me so much love, so much spirit of sacrifice, of humility, of self-denial to be an instrument of good for so many souls".

For families in ASIA.



Salesian Missionary Intention

That families, thanks to a life of prayer and love, may become more and more “laboratories of humanization”.

The Salesian presence in Asia has been blessed by the Lord. It is a young presence, in 32 countries with almost 600 communities. Let us pray that Don Bosco in Asia may continue to spread the family spirit and to promote solid families as a source of humanization and of Christian life.

