

THE MISSIONARY FRONTIERS START FROM A MISSIONARY HEART

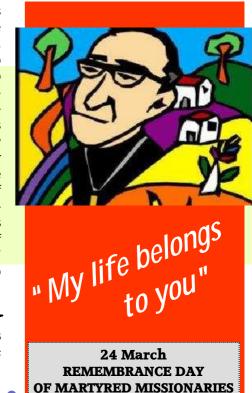
ear Missionaries, Salesian confreres, friends of the Salesian missions!

I greet you from Manila – the Philippines, where I'm doing the extraordinary visitation in the name of the Rector Major until the end of April. During this Lenten season I wish to share with you a simple reflection. During these weeks we are invited to fix our gaze on the Cross of Jesus and prepare the Passover of the Lord. Through the Cross he has saved all peoples of all ages. It is also in this light that we remember missionary martyrs on the 24th of this month with prayer and fasting.

Talking with the confreres, I am often asked the question: Where is the latest frontier of the Salesian missions? It is implied that one wants to hear of a country, the latest place where we arrived.

Obviously there are many new frontiers where many young people who have never met Christ await and ask us, "Sir, we want to see Jesus". There are so many countries, regions or groups who are awaiting Salesians with the missionary heart. I am strongly convinced, however, that the new missionary activities begin from our heart which is totally open to Jesus, continually searching for him and longing to bring him to all. Here lie the most important new frontiers of our missions, it does not matter wherever we find ourselves in. Let us always keep our hearts open to the invitation of Jesus: "Go until the ends of the earth" even if, in some cases, this could lead to suffering or sacrifice of one's own life!

> Fr. Václav Klement, SDB Councillor for the Missions



| MISSIONARIES FOR AFRICA SOUGHT | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Province - Country | Required languages | Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries |
| ATE – Chad | French | few SDB, multi-religious and islamic context |
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| MDG - Madagascar | French, Malagasy | few SDB, first evangelisation-Bemaneveky |
| FRA - Morocco | French, Arabic | Islamic context, educative work (Vocational Training Centre), mission as witness of life, direct proclamation impossible |
| AFE – Sudan | English, Arabic | few SDB in the Delegation, south - traditional religions, first evangelisation, north - Muslim |
| IRL - Tunisia | French, Arabic | Islamic context, Principal of school, mission as witness of life |
| AGL – Uganda | English | few SDB, weak communities |

A LETTER FROM MALAWI

reetings from Malawi in the South-eastern part of Africa!

Malawi is small and poor but very peaceful country. We have two Salesian communities in this country. Our community has a Technical College, youth centre and parish at the outskirts of Lilongwe, the capital city.

Our community is a happy community. I believe that this happiness within our community is a good witness to the people and the young we meet daily.



In fact every day more than 500 hundred young people come to study, work, pray and play in the Don Bosco Campus.

I am the Rector of the community, in charge of the aspirants as well as the vocation promoter. I also minister to a small Korean Catholic community. Recently we started weekly a Bible classes in Korean.

My daily work is to meet my confreres, aspirants, volunteers, young people, teachers and the many others who come with different needs. Besides there are also matters of our Salesian Province and of the local church that I have to attend to. But to me the effort to continue learning and have a better command of the local language is another very important duty.

However, as a missionary, striving to develop a stronger and deeper relationship with Jesus Christ has the primacy in my life because without Him I am nothing. He is the source of my strength to be a good missionary!

I have recently learnt with great sadness the death of a friend, Fr. John Lee, a Salesian Korean missionary in the Sudan. His death is a reminder for me and for us all to be always ready to suffer for the Kingdom of God.

Fr. Alexander Dae Shik Kim, SDB Korean, missionary in Malawi

DAY OF MARTYRED MISSIONARIES

WHAT IS IT?

The day of martyred missionaries is celebrated every year on March 24 (the anniversary of the assassination of Mgr. Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador) to remember and pray for missionaries who have been killed. In 2009, 30 priests (19 diocesan, 11 religious) 3 sisters, 2 seminarians and 3 lay people have given up their lives for Christ. [See: http://www.fides.org/ita/martirologio/liste/].

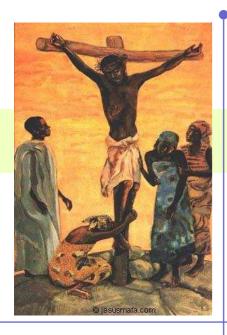
WHY A DAY TO REMEMBER THE MAR-TYRED MISSIONARIES?

The martyred missionaries' love for Christ challenges us regarding the coherence of our choices and encourages us to live the Gospel seriously in places in where we live and work. This year's theme is *My life belongs to you*. Living this day in prayer and fasting means asking God to sustain the missionaries and Christian communities who suffer discrimination and persecution.

HOW TO LIVE THE DAY

It is a day of prayer and fasting with the concrete actions proposed to foster awareness among young people and the community. We propose to the Salesian Family that the donations collected from fasting on this day be destined for Haiti. Materials in Italian are available from this website:

http://www.mgm.operemissionarie.it/vis_news.php?id_art=687.





Salesian Missionary Intention

The Salesian Family in Africa

That the Preventive System of Don Bosco may be an instrument of reconciliation and peace in Africa.

In light of the theme of the 2nd Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops (2009) the Region of Africa - Madagascar has decided for this six-year period to cultivate a greater sensitivity and render operative the involvement of the Salesian Family in reconciliation, justice and peace. The experience of the Preventive System in our oratories, youth centres, schools, parishes, becomes a potential force for reconciliation and justice by making our young Africans instruments of peace in the bosom of society.

