

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



Dear Salesian missionaries
and friends of the Salesian Missions!

At a distance of 90 years since the foundation of the first missionary aspirantate at Ivrea, I thank the Lord for the opening of the new missionary aspirantate at Sirajuli, India - Province of Guwahati, last November 22, 2011 in memory of the last Salesian Bishop of Shillong, Bishop Hubert D'Rosario SDB. Since last July the first group of 54 pre-novices and aspirants have already begun their training with the intention of dedicating their life for mission adventures.

So the Salesian missionary tradition in force for 50 years since 1922, due to an inspired intuition and vision of Blessed Fr Philip Rinaldi, is renewed. Soon after other missionary aspirantates were founded in Italy (Ivrea, Penang, Foglizzo, Gaeta, Bagnolo Cumiana, Turin - Rebaudengo Colle Don Bosco), Spain (Astudillo), Britain (Shrigley) and France (Coat an Doc'h). The missionary aspirantate has proven to be a wonderful and very fruitful tool. The 3 or 4 years training offered to young people was very demanding and pragmatic, centered on the needs of specific missions (Italy: 3 houses for the brothers, 5 for clerics). They left for the missions at the age of 15-18. For example, the Cardinal Cagliero aspirantate of Ivrea alone sent about 1000 missionaries in the course of its existence (1922-1965). Like other ecclesial realities, all missionary aspirantates were closed down in the late sixties.

Now a new chapter of missionary vocations in South Asia begins. The presence of the Regional Councilor together with the Rector of Ivrea, Fr Eligio Caprioglio, at the opening at Sirajuli shows a link, inspiration and continuity with the roots of Salesian missionary culture. I thank the courage, missionary vision, and generosity of the Province of Guwahati in this new enterprise. At the same time I have received report that a possible second Aspirantate may arise in south India in the near future.

I ask you to accompany the formators and young people of the aspirantate at Sirajuli with your prayers not only today, but especially over the next three years when the profiles and the journey of young candidates for the Salesian missionary life would be better defined! I commend all to the guidance and protection of Mary Help of Christians. .

Václav Klement
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councilor for the Missions

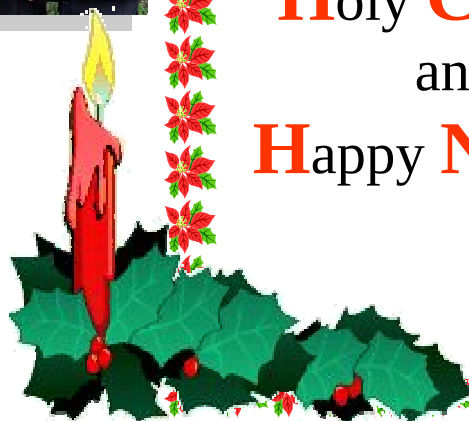


5 Aspirants sent as Missionaries in Japan

Perhaps it is a unique case in the Congregation in recent years when 5 young Vietnamese Salesians started out as missionaries to Japan from the aspirantate to facilitate their inculturation in Japanese culture and society: John Le Pham Nghia Phu, Joseph Nguyen Giao Hoa, Joseph Nguyen Khac Diep, Andrew Tran Minh Hai and Joseph Nguyen Duy Hun. The five young missionaries have done their novitiate and are now in the post-novitiate. They brought a breath of novelty and freshness into the formation house in the community of Chofu. Although they have not received the missionary cross in Turin, they carry the not so light cross of being missionaries in a highly developed country where it is not easy to share the Gospel.



"Cagliero 11"
wishes
all its readers a
Holy **C**hristmas
and a
Happy **N**ew **Y**ear



In the missions I am learning what is true happiness



During my childhood Uruguayan missionaries in Angola sometimes visited us. When I was 15 a Salesian priest invited me to join the group *Juventud Misionera Salesiana* where I had my first missionary experiences in the poor suburbs of Montevideo. At 18 I entered the aspirantate. At 24 I had in my heart the certainty that my Salesian vocation meant leaving everything and going out to wherever Jesus wanted to take me. The following years were years of much personal prayer and discernment, in the meantime, the inner desire to realise this call continued to increase. The help of my spiritual director as well as that of my Rector in the theologate, who advised me wisely and prudently, were crucial.

I wanted to be a missionary *ad gentes*, even if in Uruguay there are many people who do not practice their faith because being a missionary does not come from an idea nor from a personal desire but from the certainty of having discovered the call of God that teaches us to share what we are and have from our poverty and not from what is superfluous for us. I want only to be faithful to the vocation I have received and follow it without looking back.

I feel that the *Course for New Missionaries* was a gift from God! It has helped me become more clearly aware that the missionary vocation *ad gentes* is for life, that you cannot set out to the deep and yet continually look back at the shores you have left behind. It also taught me to accept with humility that one arrives in the new mission like a child, with the need to learn, to listen, to respect and that it is normal that sometimes this situation produces impatience or anger. Finally, the course has confirmed to me the idea so old yet ever so relevant to make Jesus the centre of my life, to give him all my heart once and for all!

It is now 3 years that I live in the poorest neighborhood in the city of Luanda called “Lixeira” which means “rubbish dump”. However, for me, Lixeira is a great school of life where God really dwells. In this school I learnt in a short time from our Oratory animators: One day they came with sad and angry faces. Talking with them one of them told me, “one of those white people who arrived ... we were in their home and they told us that it was time for the family meal so they told us to come back later. We felt very bad”. There I understood that in this school there is always room for one more at home, or 2 or 10! Here hospitality and care for others is so natural which, unfortunately, we have forgotten in our culture because we live surrounded with gates, alarms and sometimes the best friend is “virtual”. The hug, the smile, the bread, the roof is not something that is denied to anyone because tomorrow it will be your turn to eat or sleep in my house. This is the lesson of solidarity from the poor, the friends of Jesus!



Thus, in this school I am learning that the essential things in life are few, that happiness is in little things, or rather in one: Jesus Christ! I knew it before, but now, here in the “rubbish dump” with them, I feel it, I experience it and enjoy it endlessly as long as God permits.

Fr. Santiago Boix Puig
Uruguayan, missionary in Angola



Salesian Missionary Intention

BRAZIL - Missionary Volunteer Service

That all the Provinces of Brazil may foster the growth of the missionary volunteer movement.

The materials and video for Salesian Mission Day 2011 offer insights from the experiences of some Provinces of Brazil. The growth in volunteer Service is understood both in the quality of educative proposals - pastoral and vocational guidance of young people involved, and the involvement of the whole Salesian community. We want to involve children and young people of all ages, from experiences of the Missionary Childhood Society to missionary voluntary service among young adults. We want to accompany the groups from the experience of short intense periods (Christmas, Easter, summer and winter holidays) to long-term commitment or choice for life.

