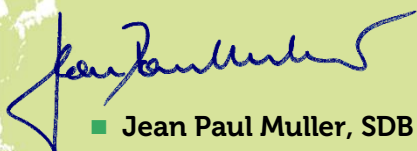




*Dear friend
and confreres,*

We live in a "two-speed world". We Salesians feel, on the one hand, that "wealth is produced" and, on the other, that "inequality is created". Our youth centres feel the need to extend help, but often lack the means (personnel and money) to do so. As "advocates" for young people, we must carry out our commitment to them in an even more radical and honest way, remembering that in every young person there is Christ himself waiting for us.

If we are convinced of this, we will also find ways to finance our projects. To know whether our "Salesian economy" is working as it ought to or not, we need to check whether we have been able to show others the "footprints of God" in this world, which is the most important thing!


■ Jean Paul Muller, SDB
Economer General

The missionary and the money



Greenhorn missionary: "We ought to be careful with money. Money is the dung of the devil!" – Veteran missionary: "That's right. We need it to fertilize the missionary soil."

One does not undergo any physical changes due to one's religious profession or priestly ordination. A missionary has needs like all other **human beings**. The people he evangelizes have their needs, too, and often lack the wherewithal to meet even their basic necessities. Material **resources** are **indispensable** for the missionary.

There are multiple sources from which to acquire these resources.

1. A missionary may **earn**, through the productive use of the land, buildings, and other property of his institution, or as payment for services he offers (school fees, royalties, etc.)
2. He may negotiate with civil authorities to benefit from government **projects** for education, healthcare, social assistance, etc.
3. Most **companies** and corporations feel the need to "give something back to society" and may also be a source of support to the missionary.
4. Many **foundations**, trusts and other organizations would donate to good projects, some even to religious activities.
5. Yet another source: **donations** and church **offerings**, regular ones, and special collections, or for particular services.

A good missionary has **diverse sources** of funds from each of the above categories. He needs to **be discriminating** about his sources. He does not create the image of being a businessman more than a missionary or be seen as buying or selling sacraments and prayers or accept donations from the corrupt or from companies engaged in activities of questionable moral values.

It is of the utmost importance that we be **transparent**, **respect the intentions** of donors, and make judicious use of the money we have. If a missionary is passionate about his mission, serves the poorest, and is economical, transparent, and efficient ... people recognize him, and money flows to him. Money is a necessary means for the missionary to realize his mission. However, it always remains only a means. It never replaces the true **missionary goal**: to reflect God's love for his children.

■ Don George MC Menampampil, SDB
Salesian Missionary Solidarity

FOR REFLEXION AND SHARING

- In which area of my life do I think I can be more economical?
- How do I use the money I have been entrusted with for the benefit of others?



I'AM VERY OPTIMISTIC OF GOING THERE...



Dieudonné, why do you want to go to China? And how are you preparing for this mission?

It is true that I did not choose nor even dream of China as my mission land. As soon as I was assigned to China on 6 August 2020, the day of the Lord's Transfiguration, I told myself that this is where the Lord wanted me. I prayed and entrusted my mission to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Salesian martyr saints Louis Versiglia and Callistus Caravario. I prepared myself spiritually and psychologically to leave my family, my country and my continent for the Salesian mission *ad gentes*. As I knew so very little about China, I wondered whether my integration would be an easy process. I knew that Chinese is probably the most difficult language to learn. Frankly, I was worried. Meanwhile, I started by practising the basics of English knowing that in Hong Kong, where I am supposed to go, also English is in use.

How did your family react?

I was born to Catholic parents, both of whom are still alive. I am the fifth of six children. We are three girls and three boys and each one lives with his/her own small family. When I told them that I was going to China, my parents' and siblings' first reaction was, "Why did they send you so far away?" I replied ironically, "Far away from whom?" When following Christ more closely distance does not count. I only asked them to keep me in their prayers.

You have had a lot of experience with missionary groups. What was it like?

Missionary groups consist of a few young Christians committed to actively participating in Christ's mandate to others. I participated in some missionary groups in Congo during my initial formation at Kansebula, Uvira, Goma (Shasha). All these groups helped me to be close to others, especially those who need it most. I also discovered the richness of the missionary experiences of other Salesians who left for the missions a long time ago. I think these groups can help many others to develop a missionary outlook.



Dieudonné Mulongoy, SDB

Born in **Lubumbashi** in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has known the Salesians since childhood and was once a pupil of the FMA. At the age of 23 he made his first religious profession as an SDB in the Province of Central Africa (AFC).

He is currently doing his initial formation, still in **DR Congo**. He graduated in philosophy and education sciences. Being a member of the 151st Missionary Expedition, he was destined to go to **China**.

F O R U M



Global poverty

9.2% of the world, or 689 million people, live in extreme poverty. 1.3 billion people in 107 developing countries are multidimensionally poor.

EXTREME poverty – it has been defined (World Bank, 2020) as people living on **\$1.90 (€1.60) or less a day.**

ABSOLUTE poverty – when a person cannot afford the minimum needs of nutrition, clothing, or shelter.

RELATIVE poverty – a household income is 50% or 60% below the median income of that country.

MULTIDIMENSIONAL poverty – families have no electricity, no clean drinking water, and no one in the family has completed six years of school; poverty isn't always about income.

MAY SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTION

The world of finance

For fair distribution and regulations of funds in South Africa, Lesotho ed Eswatini.

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers. [Pope Francis' prayer intention]

AFRICA

