



### Dear Friends!

The title "Mary Help of Christians" is very familiar to members of the Salesian Family. From his childhood John Bosco referred to Mary as Teacher and Mother, because that is how Jesus had indicated her to him in the dream at nine years old. Imitating Don Bosco's love for Mary, the Salesian Missionaries take devotion to Our Lady to every part of the world. Many of them founded new groups of women religious with the titles of Our Lady: 'The Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary', 'the Catechist Sisters of Mary Immaculate Help of Christians', 'the Handmaids of the Heart of Mary Immaculate', 'the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians', 'the Daughters of the Queenship of Mary', 'the Sisters of Marie-Auxiliatrice'...

The whole Salesian Family celebrates the feast of Mary Help of Christians this month, remembering Don Bosco's words: 'She did everything', and we are convinced that She is still doing wonderful things in our Family and in the Church.

Happy Feast Day to all!

■ Br. Domenico Nguyen  
Duc Nam SDB  
Member of the Secretariat  
for the Salesian Family

## Formation in the Africa and Madagascar region



In Africa and Madagascar, the Salesians who have expressed their missionary generosity and pastoral charity in the Africa Project have not lacked formation initiatives. In fact, in their concern to **foster vocations and to train local confreres**, the various Provinces are in the process of setting up formation houses. The formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco is structured along three lines:

Initial formation is based on the criteria of the Ratio Fundamentalis with the different stages of novitiate, post-novitiate, apprenticeship, specialisation for coadjutors and theology for clerics. The dynamism of vocational pastoral work had led to the creation of vocational houses or aspirants for the pre-novitiate experience. Gradually, under the impetus of the General Councillor for Formation, the formation itinerary began with aspirantates and pre-novitiates, with the aim of **facilitating vocational discernment** during the rest of the formation process.

As for ongoing formation, the provincial formation teams work hard to ensure a good environment. According to a well-developed programme, the **provincial formation teams** accompany priests and coadjutors during the first five years after their ordination or perpetual profession, with a view to good integration. Other types of formation are organised periodically for other brothers who do not belong to this category.

**The specialisation of the confreres** is also the subject of attention by the various provinces. On the basis of a well-developed specialisation plan, and of course taking into account the needs of the provinces, members are sent to UPS or other universities in the region or elsewhere for higher studies.

This is how formation is structured in the Africa and Madagascar Region.

■ Fr. Dieudonné Oteko SDB  
Former director of the Institute of Philosophy  
and Human Sciences in Lomé (Togo)

### FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

- What could be improved in the formation of young Salesians?
- How can I deepen my ongoing formation so that it is true and authentic?



# SALESIAN FILM SCHOOL TEAM HELPS THE MISSIONS SECTOR



*40th short video of CaglieroLIFE will be produced this month by your team for Missions Sector, as it is done every month. Could you please introduce yourself to us?*

DBIMA (Don Bosco International Media Academy) is a first Don Bosco Film School in Paris, founded by the Salesians of Don Bosco in the FRB Province. It offers extensive bachelor's and master's programs in filmmaking. Its curriculum covers film direction, scriptwriting, cinematography, editing, sound mixing, and production. Led by a Salesian missionary, sent by the Mission Sector in Rome twelve years ago under the Project Europe, this school maintains a commitment to fostering creativity and excellence with the emphasis on Salesian values.

*What is the role of involving young people in media work?*

Operating in a secular country with 80% of the student body hailing from non-faith backgrounds, DBIMA, as a Don Bosco school, is committed to inculcating Christian values in all students. To fulfill this mission, we initiated the CaglieroLIFE project as an integral part of our program. Each month, students participate in the CaglieroLIFE club, crafting short films inspired by ideas shared by the Missions Sector. Through this creative endeavor, students foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for moral and ethical human principles through the language of film.

*Do you also perceive a mission dimension of your work?*

Our aim at DBIMA extends beyond producing high-quality videos; we entrust young minds with the task of crafting content for the young themselves. Rooted in our mission to instill Christian values irrespective of faith backgrounds, we engage students in initiatives like CaglieroLIFE. Here, they delve into media work, using filmmaking as a means to explore and articulate moral and ethical principles. Through this project, students create short films inspired by ideas from the Missions Sector, fostering personal growth, introspection, and skill enhancement within a mission-centric approach to media education.



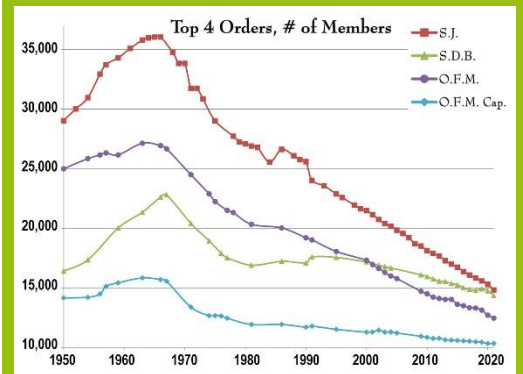
**Team of the Salesian Film School (DBIMA) in Paris**

- Sandra LANGMAIR
- Prajwal GOPI
- Joan Marshal PETER (Coordinator)
- Emmanuel MARIYAN
- Benedict RAJAKUMAR
- Prakash THARAKAN SEVI
- Abraham MATHEW



## FORUM

### Religious in the world



The Jesuits were the first order (of the first dozen) to have lost more than half of their members since their recent high point (from 36,038 in 1966 to 17,908 in 2011). They are currently at 14,839 members, down 59% from their all-time high.

Two other orders reached this milestone in 2016: Franciscans (now at 54%) and Oblates of Mary Immaculate (now at 53%).

If current trends continue, in nine years the Jesuits will lose the title of largest religious order to the Salesians.

# MAY SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTION

**For the formation of nuns, religious and seminarians**



**For the adequate formation of Salesians and members of the Salesian Family in Cameroon**

Let us pray that women religious and seminarians may grow in their vocational journey through a human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.  
[Prayer intention of Pope Francis]