

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

for October 2019

Extraordinary Mission Month



SALESIANS
Canada and Eastern USA

This year we have a wonderful opportunity to begin to raise awareness in our ministries about our call to be missionary disciples with the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month promulgated by Pope Francis.

Here you will find some documents to assist in your local efforts to raise awareness about our missionary call: Baptized and Sent, a prayer resource prepared by the Mission Dicastery of the Salesians; and a document with suggested activities for use during the month. Each local ministry can choose how they would like to use some or all of the suggested activities. The most important thing is that we try to unite ourselves to the Church throughout the world as Pope Francis leads us in strengthening our evangelizing efforts in our local churches and ministries.

One activity that we hope everyone will participate in is in holding a fund raising activity in your ministry to raise funds to assist the people in Venezuela, a country in our region that is suffering greatly right now. Our Salesian Family there is working hard to provide the most basic needs to the people, in addition to providing for their spiritual needs. We can assist them in their efforts with some financial aide.

You could encourage people to give up one special coffee, snack, treat, etc. each week and donate the money to the people of Venezuela. At the end of the month the funds can be sent to Salesian Missions with a notation that they are for Venezuela. You could have a donation box set up in cafeterias (of course, protected and removed at the end of the lunches) throughout the month. You could ask the students, parishioners or club members or your local Salesian Community to commit to a fundraising effort throughout the year. The Provincial House Community has already decided to do this.

Thanks for your help in making the Extraordinary Missionary Month an opportunity to raise awareness of our call to spread the Good News of Salvation.

Fr. Tom Brennan, S.D.B.

Mission Animation Delegate

INTRODUCTION

The emphasis throughout the month should be on Missionary Discipleship, a term Pope Francis promoted in his Apostolic Exhortation: *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*

We are all called to witness to our faith in the place that we live in, and some will be called to do this in places in even great need or which have not heard the Good News of Salvation.

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (Mt 28:19)

All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.

Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.

Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always "missionary disciples."

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR *October 2019* EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH

1. **Pray the Missionary Rosary** in our local ministries. Some ministries already gather to pray the rosary as a community. A Missionary focus for the month would be good. In other places, perhaps a religion class or prayer service could be dedicated to the recitation of the Missionary Rosary.
2. Include **prayer intentions for the missions** in bulletins and during morning and night prayers in the schools and clubs. The **Mission Dicastery** has prepared a **prayer resource** for daily use. Perhaps utilize a few of the suggestions. See attached document: **Baptized and Sent**
3. **Post the poster** on the **Salesian Mission Day** <http://www.sdb.org/en/missions/122-salesian-mission-day/1785-salesian-missions-day-2019-smd-2019> and **October 2019** designed by the Mission Dicastery in Rome around your ministry. Put the images and special prayer in bulletins and websites.
4. Plan a **specific fundraising drive** in the local ministry to help the Salesian Communities in Venezuela. A donation container could be put out during school lunches, special collections could be taken up in the local parish, etc. We can encourage people to consider giving up one “special coffee”, snack or treat they would intentionally offer up and donate the money saved to the Venezuelan children. Youth Ministry Teams and Mission Clubs could coordinate the collection of funds.
5. Plan an activity in your ministry that would call the people to remember those who are less fortunate than us and go out and serve. Perhaps organize a a midnight run, serve at a local soup kitchen, participate in a local volunteer program. Promote volunteerism motivated by the Gospel.

6. Utilize the **videos** prepared by the Mission Dicastery for the **Salesian Mission Day** in classes, small gatherings of people in the parishes and clubs.

7. Show the film ***Solo Dios*** on the wonderful ministry of **Fr. Ugo De Censi, S.D.B.**, in Matto Grasso for decades. It is available on line at:

Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2MHRvnmbAA>;

English: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_OGLD1WPhY

8. Encourage the local ministry to **invite a Salesian Lay Missioner** to present their experience during a class, Mass, etc. **Contact** Mr. **Adam Rudin**, Director of the Lay Missioner Program, to arrange a speaker. (914 633-8344, ext. 113) **Bro. Bob Melusa, S.D.B.**, will be visiting a number of our ministries to speak of his experience as a missionary in Africa.

9. Utilize the resources found on the **Special website** created by the **Holy See** for the **Extraordinary Mission Month**:

<http://www.october2019.va/en.html>

10. Read the message of **Pope Francis** on **World Mission Day 2019**: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions/documents/papa-francesco_20190609_giornata-missionaria2019.html

11. Promote the life of **Fr. Bolla, S.D.B.**, who ministered among the Achuar indigenous peoples in Peru for sixty years. He died on February 5, 2013. His **cause for canonization** has been introduced. <http://www.infoans.org/en/sections/news/item/8545-peru-initiated-the-cause-of-beatification-and-canonization-of-father-luigi-bolla-salesian-missionary>

The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice.