



# BAPTIZED AND SENT

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST ON MISSION IN THE WORLD

EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH  
OCTOBER 2019





Missions Sector  
Sede Centrale  
Via Marsala 42 - Rome

**OCTOBER 2019**



***Baptized  
and sent***

# USER'S GUIDE

Pope Francis called for the observance of an Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the apostolic letter of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV in 1919.

This little booklet is offered with the intention of encouraging a deeper reflection on the key elements in *Maximum Illud*.

It may be used by individuals; however, it is hoped that it becomes a tool of animation of groups. It may be profitably used by the Salesian community, groups in formation houses, sodalities and associations in parishes, oratories, youth centres, boardings, hostels and schools. In communities it could replace the meditation in the morning, or the evening prayer and spiritual reading in the evening.

It is your choice whether you want to use every day of the month or only on some particular days.

The booklet follows the sequence in *Maximum Illud*. You may use it in that order or in any other order that is better suited to the community or the context of the particular days of the month.

For each day we offer a quote from *Maximum Illud*, biblical basis for that thought, a reflection by one of the Popes who came in later, a thought from Pope Francis and a guideline given by our own congregation. We do not claim that these quotes are the ones best suited to the thought in *Maximum Illud* or that these are more evolved thoughts than the one in *Maximum Illud*. You may identify better ones and use them.

You are encouraged to read the quotes offered, allow time for personal reflection on them and follow up with a sharing of thoughts within the group. You could think of the similarities and differences in the ideas in the quotes, the evolution of thought, and the spiritual and practical implications of these ideas for us today.

The last section suggests a point for personal reflection, an idea for group discussion or sharing and proposals for concrete action. There is then a request for a prayer to a particular

saint and for a specific intention. A look at the biography of the saint of the day may also be inspiring. You may pick and choose from these suggestions and only do what suits your own circumstances. You may even take up activities of your own.

It may be good to keep in mind a few important points as regards *Maximum Illud*:

1. The exhortation is written in the immediate aftermath of the First World War.
2. Though the colonizing powers continued to believe in the indefinite continuation of their empires, and though decolonization mostly took place only after the Second World War, Pope Benedict XV had a better understanding of global reality. He foresees the end of colonialism. He perceives the dangers of missionaries remaining attached to their countries of origin or being too close to the colonial administrators. He repeatedly calls on them to inculturate, respect the local people, their customs and way of life, to learn their language, to identify themselves with the people they evangelize and to take a distance from the colonial administrators.
3. Despite the very difficult times of the war and its aftermath, he looks positively at the opportunities presented by the situation, just as Pope Francis speaks simultaneously of a “Third World War already being fought piecemeal” and the beauty of the opportunities available to humankind today.
4. It is good to remember and point out once again that *Maximum Illud* was written a hundred years ago. We should not be shocked by the use of some words which would today be considered inappropriate.

**Fr. Guillermo Basañes**

*General Councillor for the Missions*

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**NOTE:** *This booklet is available to you with a complete layout in pdf format in a variety of languages. It is also available to you in WORD format so that you can make your own adaptations to suit your circumstances.*

For your needs, contact: [mcgeorge@sdb.org](mailto:mcgeorge@sdb.org)





# ONLY A FIRE CAN SPREAD A FIRE



## WORD OF GOD

2 Cor 5:14

*The love of Christ urges us on.*

1 Cor 9:16

*Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel.*

Rom 10:14-17

*The Lord desires to reach other people by means of our word.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Very many of these men, while they were working for the salvation of their brethren, themselves attained the heights of sanctity.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

We exhort all those who have the task of evangelizing, by whatever title and at whatever level, always to nourish spiritual fervour.  
*EN (130) – Paul VI*



## POPE FRANCIS

Many men and women, and many young people, have generously sacrificed themselves, even at times to martyrdom, out of love for the Gospel and service to their brothers and sisters. To be set afire by the love of Christ is to be consumed by that fire. *WMD 2018*





## SALESIAN THOUGHT

The missionary commitment *ad gentes* is an integral part of the Salesian charism. Vocations to the missions have been cultivated in the Congregation, from the very beginning, as the keenest and the most generous expressions of the Salesian vocation. *SYM FoR Pg 167.*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To DO

*Think of one of the great missionaries of our congregation.*

*Share in the group what you admire most about him.*

*As a Salesian, we all "have the task of evangelizing".*

*What can I do "to nourish my spiritual fervour"?*

*Mention a missionary *ad gentes* from your province/country/tribe and say a prayer for him "to be set on fire by the love of Christ".*

*Say a prayer to St. Bartholomew, the apostle, the first to set foot in the land of Azerbaijan, that the seed he sowed nearly two thousand years ago may sprout and grow among the descendants of those he preached to.*

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OCTOBER

2

WEDNESDAY

# THE HARVEST IS GREAT



## WORD OF GOD

Mt 28: 19-20

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

Rom 8:19

*The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.*

Joel 3:13

*Swing the sickle for the harvest is ripe.*

Num 27:17

*The Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.*

Mt 9:36

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, for they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

There still remain in the world multitudes of people who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

The mission of Christ the Redeemer, which is entrusted to the Church, is still very far from completion. ... An overall view of the human race shows that this mission is still only beginning and that we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to its service. (RM 1) John Paul II



## POPE FRANCIS

It is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. (WMD 2017 – Introduction)



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

There are many people to whom the Gospel has not yet been proclaimed. Many youngsters need a friend, a brother, a father, whom they can find in the Salesians they meet. *Angel Fernandez Artime*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Who are the people in the greatest need of evangelization in our neighbourhood? What could we do to reach out to them?*

*Do something today to become for a young person more of “a friend, a brother, a father”.*

*Say a prayer for someone you know who seems to be “marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration”, or is an “unjustly targeted” innocent victim of a “fratricidal war”.*

*Pray to St. Augustin Zhao Rong and his 119 companions in martyrdom for an end to the confusion among the Churches of their homeland – China.*

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# RESPONSIBILITY OF PASTORS



## WORD OF GOD

- Acts 15:2 *Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the Apostles and elders about this question.*
- Acts 20:17 *From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the Church.*
- Acts 21:18 *The next day Paul and the rest of them went to see James, and all the elders were present.*
- 1 Tim 3:2 *The overseer is to be above reproach.*
- Acts 20:28 *Be shepherds of the Church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*
- Lc 12,49 *I came to cast fire on the earth and how I wish it were already enkindled.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Bishops or Prefects Apostolic .... All the responsibility for the propagation of the Faith rests immediately upon them....



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

That apostolic fire which Jesus Christ brought upon the earth must issue from their hearts and inflame the hearts of all our faithful children and arouse in them fresh zeal for the missionary tasks of the Church everywhere. (FD - 43) Pius XII



## POPE FRANCIS

Bishops, as primarily responsible for this proclamation, have the task of promoting unity of the local church in her missionary commitment. (WMD 2014 – 4)  
‘Mere administration’ can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be ‘permanently in a state of mission’. (EG – 25)



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

We must be faithful in listening to the Church, to its evangelizing mission. We must be able to live the mission in the present, thanks to the action of the Holy Spirit.

*SYM FoR Pg 43*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Do a group “examination of conscience” as to the depth of your awareness of the priorities and policies of your diocese and your local ordinary.*

*Read within the group the most important points from the most recent pastoral letter of the local ordinary.*

*Pay a courtesy visit to the local ordinary or the parish priest. Listen to his greatest concerns today.*

*Say a prayer for the intentions of your local ordinary.*

*Write a letter of appreciation and support to your local ordinary.*

*Say a prayer to St. Alberto Jurado and St. Teresa of the ndes for the hierarchy in Chile.*

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OCTOBER

4

FRIDAY

## SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CONSECRATED RELIGIOUS



### WORD OF GOD

1 Tim 1:3

*As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer.*

1 Tim 6:20

*Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care.*

Heb 13:7

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.*

Rom 13:1

*The authorities that exist have been established by God.*



### MAXIMUM ILLUD

Superiors of Missions. Their guiding principle should be that each of them must be, so to speak, the soul of the mission in his care. ... The government of the mission is in the hands of a true father – an alert, efficient man, a man filled with charity. ... everything that concerns his subjects ... concerns him personally. ... an attentive superior who always treats him with prudence and charity. ... He has no reason to lapse into complacency. ... he is working constantly and with all the vigour he can muster.



### LATER MAGISTERIUM

Missionary institutes, drawing from their experience and creativity, while remaining faithful to their founding charism, must employ all means necessary to ensure the adequate preparation of candidates and the renewal of their members' spiritual, moral and physical energies.

*RM (66) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

In a particular way, consecrated men and women are asked to listen to the voice of the Spirit who calls them to go to the peripheries, to those to whom the Gospel has not yet been proclaimed. The second Vatican Council's Decree *Ad Gentes* called for a powerful missionary impulse in Institutes of Consecrated Life. *WMD 2015*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

The missions were at the core of his heart and it seemed that he lived only for them ... He talked of them with so much enthusiasm, that one remained amazed and greatly edified by his ardent fervour for souls.

*Don Albera, writing about Don Bosco*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*In what ways am I as an individual and we as a group/ community an instrument of the evangelizing mission entrusted to our province and our community?*

*Can we think of an initiative of evangelizing activity that I or we could propose to our Rector/parish priest/provincial?*

*Say a prayer for the intentions of your provincial superior.*

*Write a letter of appreciation to your provincial superior for his personal concern for every member of your community.*

*Pray to St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the Society of Verbum Dei, that God may grant wisdom to the superiors of all missionary congregations in the guidance of their personnel.*





# ADEQUATE STRUCTURES FOR EVANGELIZATION



## WORD OF GOD

Mk 1:38; Jn 10:10

*Let us go on to the next towns that I may preach there also, for that is why I have come.*

Ex 3:7-8,10

*I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them ... So I send you.*

1 Cor 14:26

*Everything must be done so that the Church may be built up*

Acts 15:41

*He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the Churches.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

... (See that more mission stations and posts are established as soon as it is practicable to do so. ... If they find that their own order or congregation is not supplying enough manpower for the task, they are perfectly willing to call in helpers for the task, to call helpers from other religious groups. ... searches everywhere for helpers in this holy ministry. .... "Provided only that in every way Christ is being proclaimed" (*Ph 1:18*))



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

There are still very large areas where there are no local churches or where their number is insufficient in relation to the vastness of the territory and the density of the population. ... Responsibility for this task belongs to the universal

Church and to the particular churches, to the whole people of God and to all its missionary forces. *RM (49) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

The parish is not an outdated institution. ... It can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. ... It has to prove capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity. *EG (28)*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

This demands that we increase the number and improve the quality of the places where we meet young people of our day. It also means that we need to discover, experience and propose new ways of listening to the young, sharing our faith with them and offering them the Gospel. *SYM FoR Pg.44*



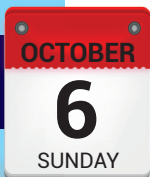
## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Reflect on the extent to which you are available to listen, to share your faith and to offer the Gospel to the young.*

*How can we collaborate with our parish to increase its "missionary creativity", prove itself "capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity"?*

*Plan a programme to invite someone from outside your community to revitalize your pastoral dynamism.*

*Say a prayer to St. Charles Lwanga of Uganda that his life and martyrdom may draw many young men and women to follow Christ as priests and religious to serve the fast-growing Churches of Africa.*



## COLLABORATION IN EVANGELIZATION



### WORD OF GOD

Acts 1:15

*In those days, Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about one hundred and twenty).*

Acts 6:2,3

*The twelve gathered together all the disciples and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the Word of God in order to wait on tables. Choose, therefore seven men among you ..."*

Acts 13:2

*While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

Acts 15:6

*The apostles and elders met together to consider this question.*



### MAXIMUM ILLUD

(He) develops close and friendly relations with his colleagues in neighbouring districts. ... situations demand joint action if they are to be handled successfully. ... The men in charge of missions meet at fixed intervals as frequently as they can to confer and to encourage one another.



### LATER MAGISTERIUM

Greater coordination and collaboration have been realized among missionaries who are working together toward a common end, ... Experiments which have been prudently tried out by different local Ordinaries are pooled to the common advantage and, by common agreement, easier and more efficient methods of apostolate have been adopted. *EP (7) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

Consecrated men and women also need a structure of service. An expression of the concern of the Bishop of Rome for cooperation and synergy are an integral part of the missionary witness. Jesus made the unity of his disciples a condition so that the world may believe. This convergence is not the same as legalism or institutionalism, much less a stifling of the creativity of the Spirit, who inspires diversity. It is about greater fruitfulness of the Gospel message and promoting that unity of purpose. *WMD 2015*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Salesian youth ministry is not just the action of individuals but a coordinated project of different initiatives, the result of a shared search for an understanding and sharing of the gifts of all. It calls for collaboration in research and planning. *SYM FoR Pg 116*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Analyze and discuss: How serious have I/we been in participating in meetings of our community, province, diocese,*

*How can we improve the coordination among all our services so that people see more clearly our unity of faith and mission?*

*In what way can I, my group and my community contribute to the greater effectiveness of our witness and our apostolate?*

*Think about: To what extent can I claim that the work I do is really a collaboration among all the members of my community/group, and is a part of the Provincial Pastoral Plan?*

*Say a special prayer to St. John Bosco for the success of the General Chapter that it may be an exceptionally fruitful occasion for greater coordination, collaboration, planning and strategizing of the work of evangelization by the Congregation.*



# NURTURING LOCAL VOCATIONS



## WORD OF GOD

Mk 1:45 *They came to hear him from all parts.*

Acts 14:23 *Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each Church with prayer and fasting.*

Acts 15: 22 *They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

(He) makes it his special concern to secure and train local candidates for the sacred ministry. In this policy lies the greatest hope of the new churches. The local priest, one with his people by birth, by nature, by his sympathies and his aspirations, is remarkably effective in appealing to their mentality and thus attracting them to the Faith. ... He often has access to places where a foreign priest would not be tolerated.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

The church should be solidly established among other peoples, and a Hierarchy given to them from their own sons.  
*EP-Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

Many parts of the world are experiencing a dearth of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Often this

is due to the absence of contagious apostolic fervour in communities which lack enthusiasm and thus fail to attract. ... Wherever there is joy, enthusiasm and a desire to bring Christ to others, genuine vocations arise.

WMD 2014 (4)



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Fostering consecrated vocations demands certain fundamental choices: constant prayer, explicit proclamation, a courageous invitation, careful discernment and personal accompaniment. We should be committed to daily prayer in our communities and should involve young people, families, lay people and Salesian Family Groups.

GC26, No.54



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Is our style of work, life and prayer of the quality that "attracts" vocations? What changes are needed?*

*What could we contribute to make our families, communities, parishes and educational institutions fertile nurseries for vocations?*

*What could encourage young people to be open to going to any people in any part of the world to serve as priests and religious?*

*Say a prayer to St. Joseph Vaz, Indian missionary to Sri Lanka, that God may inspire young Christian communities to offer many young men and women as missionaries of the word of God.*

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# WELL QUALIFIED LOCAL CLERGY



## WORD OF GOD

Mt 21:6 *The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.*

Mk 4:2 *He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said, ....*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

It is absolutely necessary that they be well trained and well prepared. ... Their education should be complete and finished, excellent in all its phases, the same kind of education for the priesthood that a European would receive.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

While each of you should try to have as large a number of native students as possible, you must further make it your aim to fashion and develop in them sacerdotal sanctity and such apostolic zeal that they will be ready to lay down their lives for their fellow-tribesmen and fellow-countrymen. *RE (25) - Pius XI*



## POPE FRANCIS

Missionary outreach is a clear sign of the maturity of an ecclesial community. Each community is “mature” when it professes faith, celebrates it with joy during the liturgy, lives charity, proclaims the Word of God endlessly, leaves one’s own to take it to the “peripheries”, especially those who have not yet had the opportunity to know Christ. *WMD 2013 (1)*





## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Formation structures need to be adapted to the needs of the times, places and people; they need to be varied, decentralized, flexible and functional.

*Angel Fernandez Artime, Convocation – GC28.*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To DO

*How do I continue my formation so that I remain updated in my work of evangelization?*

*Which of the five signs of maturity of a community mentioned by Pope Francis seems to you to be the most important? Why?*

*How could we make the celebration of the liturgy more joyful?*

*Pray to St. Andrew Dong-Lac and his 118 companions in martyrdom that God may bless the Catholic community of Vietnam which contributes so many missionaries to so many countries.*

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# CHRIST IS AT HOME IN EVERY CULTURE



## WORD OF GOD

1 Cor 9:22

*I became weak with the weak ... everything for everyone.*

Eph 2:19

*You are no longer foreigners or strangers but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

The Catholic Church is not an intruder in any country; nor is she alien to any people. ... Apply remedies adapted to the various regions of the world, and see to the founding of seminaries for both individual regions and groups of dioceses.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Persevering research on the part of missionaries of every age into the various civilizations facilitates and renders more fruitful the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. Whatever there is in the native customs that is not inseparably bound up with superstition and error will always receive kindly consideration and, when possible, will be preserved intact.

*Summi Pontificatus – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

The Church's mission is faced by the challenge of meeting the needs of all the people to return to their roots and to protect the values of their respective cultures. This means knowing and respecting other traditions and philosophical

systems, and realizing that all peoples and cultures have the right to be helped from within their own traditions to enter into the mystery of God's wisdom and to accept the Gospel of Jesus, who is light and transforming strength for all cultures. *WMD 2015*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

The mission of Christ is manifested in the context of incarnation and inculturation. The incarnation, as the greatest expression of inculturation is the way chosen by God to make himself known. The Church's mission has been fulfilled and is fulfilled in categories of time and space, by inculturation in the lives of people. *SYM FoR Pg.63*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*How can I improve my knowledge of the culture of the people with whom I live and work? How can I emotionally integrate more into the local community?*

*Read an article about the best values of the people I live and work with.*

*Visit a cultural centre of the community you live in.*

*Say a prayer to St. Martin de Porres for a greater opening of our hearts to peoples of all nations and cultures.*

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# NOBILITY OF THE MISSIONARY CALL



## WORD OF GOD

Gen 12:1-3

*Abraham received the call to set out for a new land.*

Neh 1:15

*Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace!*

Jn 1:41

*We have found the messiah!*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Missionaries. Never for a moment forget the lofty and splendid character of the task to which you have devoted yourselves. Your task is a divine one.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

God can accomplish this salvation in whomsoever he wishes by ways which he alone knows. And yet, if his Son came, it was precisely in order to reveal to us, by his Word and his life, the ordinary paths of salvation.

*EN (80)- Paul VI*



## POPE FRANCIS

We proclaim the most beautiful and greatest gifts that he has given us: his life and his love. WMD 2016. The Lord gets involved and he involves among his own as he kneels to wash their feet. Evangelizers take on the “smell of the sheep”. *EG 24*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Our mission is a sharing in that of the Church, which brings about the saving design of God, the coming of His Kingdom, by bringing to men the message of the Gospel, which is closely tied in with the development of the temporal order. We educate and evangelise according to a plan for the total well-being of man directed to Christ, the perfect Man. Faithful to the intentions of our Founder, our purpose is to form 'upright citizens and good Christians.' C.31



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To do

*How proud am I of my calling to be an evangelizer? Am I ashamed to pray in public or to let people know that I am a Christian?*

*Do my deeds, my way of life, show that evangelization is my first priority?*

*What elements of my life as an educator make it evident that I am educating to evangelize?*

*Do I make even the most secular work of mine into work of evangelization? How?*

*Say a prayer to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, for a renewal of the fervour in the faith among the indigenous peoples of North America and the entire population of Canada and the USA.*

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# THE CALL IS TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM



## WORD OF GOD

Jer 1:7

*To all whom I send you, you shall go.*

Lk 19:57

*When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today."*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

God was speaking to you, to each one of you, when he said: "Forget your people and your father's house" (Ps 44:11) ... Your duty is not the extension of a human realm, but of Christ's. Your goal is the acquisition of citizens for a heavenly fatherland, and not an earthly one.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Nothing is so opposed to her very way of life as for members to take refuge in selfish solitude, or to be too much devoted to themselves and to take an interest only in the private concerns of their own little group. Such an attitude surely causes any particular Christian community to become completely self-centred. *FD (45) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

Missionary spirit is not only about geographical territories, but about peoples, cultures and individuals, because the "boundaries" of faith do not only cross places and human traditions, but the heart of each man and each woman. *WMD 2013 (2)*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

If we are happy with the thousands of young people who attend our works and we think we know all about young people, we are wrong. The big challenge is to reach those outside, to really get to them, to understand their culture, their language, their needs and expectations. Otherwise we remain closed in our works, dying of asphyxiation ... For this reason, we must be present also in the Digital Continent. *Pascual Chavez*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Would anyone be able to accuse me of being more interested in the welfare of my family, clan, tribe, ethnic group, language group or country than in the welfare of the people I live and work with?*

*Do I show partiality towards any individual or community?*

*Pay a visit to an individual or family that – rightly or wrongly – feels discriminated against or unappreciated.*

*Say a prayer to St. Francis Xavier that the Gospel, whispered to the heart of the ancient cultures of East Asia, may burst forth into a living flame of faith.*

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# HIS KINGDOM, NOT MY COUNTRY



## WORD OF GOD

1 Th 2:4

*We speak, not to please men, but to please God who tests our hearts.*

Mt 6:33

*Seek first the Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you as well.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

It would be tragic ... to spend himself in attempts to increase and exalt the prestige of the native land he once left behind him. ... The true missionary is always aware that he is not working as an agent of his country, but as an ambassador of Christ. ...



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

He must consider the country he is going to evangelize as a second fatherland and love it with due charity. Let him not seek any earthly advantage for his own country or religious Institute. ... Certainly he should dearly love his fatherland and his Order, but the Church should be loved with a still more ardent devotion. *EP (20) - Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end to itself, but a humble instrument of mediation of the Kingdom. A self-referential Church, one content with earthy success,

is not the Church of Christ, his crucified and glorious body. We should prefer a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and clinging to its own security. *EG 49, WMD 2017*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

If Don Bosco had decided to limit the field of the educational pastoral action of his Salesians only to the most needy boys in Italy and had not had a great missionary passion and vision, something that animated him every moment, today the Salesian Congregation would have been a small Congregation, probably limited to one nation.

*Angel Fernandez Artime*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*How is my love for my second fatherland – the community I live and work with – evident in my life?*

*Do I smell a little like my sheep?*

*What can I do to show my sheep that I respect and love them?*

*Say a prayer to St. Eudoxia of Moscow, grand princess of Moscow, for the Russian Orthodox Church and all the people of Russia.*

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# THE KINGDOM IS UNIVERSAL



## WORD OF GOD

Rev 14:6 *An eternal Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tongue and tribe and people.*

Jn 13:35 *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

Jn 17:21 *That they may all be one ... in us ... so that the world may believe.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

He represents a Faith in which “there is no nation on earth, since it embraces all men who worship God in spirit and in truth, a Faith in which “there is no Gentile, no Jew, no circumcised, no uncircumcised, no barbarian, no Scythian, no slave, no free man, but Christ is everything in each of us. (Col 3:12)



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

It would be an error to impose something on the consciences of our brethren. But to propose to their consciences the truth of the Gospel with complete clarity and with total respect for the free options which it presents – “without coercion, or dishonourable or unworthy pressure” – far from being an attack on religious liberty is fully to respect that liberty, which is offered the choice of a way that even non-believers consider noble and uplifting. *EN (80) Paul VI*



## POPE FRANCIS

Cultural diversity is not a threat to Church unity. It is not essential to impose a specific cultural form, no matter how beautiful or ancient it may be, together with the Gospel. We in the Church can sometimes fall into a needless hallowing of our own culture, and thus show more fanaticism than true evangelizing zeal. *EG 117*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

For us, evangelization means being close to them, sharing with them, helping them to be more human, offering them an invitation. It is a process, and even when it does not become a Christian invitation of the same intensity for everyone, it is nevertheless a first and authentic form of evangelization. This proposal of evangelization should be fully integrated into the educational process. *SYM FoR 253*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*How evident is it to one and all around me that I love and respect every human being without making any distinction among them?*

*How can we make our community, our space, our structures and our programmes more welcoming to everyone around us?*

*Visit an individual or a family that seems to have some grudge against us for whatever reason.*

*Say a prayer to Blessed Laura Vicuna for the strengthening of the faith of the people of Argentina.*





# COETERA TOLLE



## WORD OF GOD

Lk 14:14

*Invite those who cannot repay you.*

Ex 32:1-35

*Do not worship the golden calf.*

Mt 5:3

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Mt 25:40

*As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Avoid the desire to make any profit beyond the acquisition of souls. ... Paul wrote to Timothy: "Let us be content if we have food and clothing (1 Tim 6:8) ... St. Paul used to provide for his own needs by manual labour.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

He does not seek what is his, but what is Christ's. ... *EP – Pius XII*. The complete generosity underlying evangelical witness stands in marked contrast to human selfishness. It raises precise questions which lead to God and to the Gospel. *RM (42) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

The Church has made an option for the poor ... They have much to teach us. We need to be evangelized by them. We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voices to their causes, to be friends to them, to listen to them, to speak

for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them. *EG (198)*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Give me souls and take away the rest. Don Bosco made a Gospel choice to become poor with the poor. He took on the poverty, including the material poverty, of the Son of God, in order to reach out to those who were most in need. The streets and squares became his workplace. *SYM FoR Pg 72*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*How can I make it more evident that I am hungry for souls, not for money, material wealth or personal comfort?*

*What can we do make the poorest of the poor aware that they are welcome to our institution?*

*Go out of the compound today and bring some money, food or clothes to the poorest people in the neighbourhood. Spend a little time in a loving chat with them.*

*Say a prayer to St. Willibrord, apostle to the Frisians, first bishop of Utrecht, for the new evangelization of the people of the Netherlands.*

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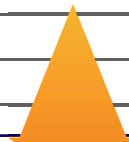
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# NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE



## WORD OF GOD

- Mk 6:2** *They were amazed at his teachings.*
- Mk 1:27** *He speaks as one with authority.*
- 2 Chronicles 1:10** *Give me wisdom and knowledge that I may lead this people*
- Acts 17:23** *What you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.*
- Is 53:11** *By his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*
- Jer 3:15** *I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.*
- Hos 4:6** *My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests.*
- Mal 2:7** *The lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge because he is messenger of the Lord almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth.*
- Phil 1:9** *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

If a man has not been supplied with a creditable provision of learning ... he lacks what could have been an important asset in the fruitful fulfillment of his ministry. ... The more learned he proves himself, the greater will be his reputation and his authority. ... He must acquire proficiency in all the branches of learning ... both sacred and profane. ... The teaching of missiology, as a branch of study, is from now on to be included in the curriculum.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

It is necessary that they should not only get the spiritual and intellectual training that befits ecclesiastical students but should learn in addition subjects ... like languages, sciences of medicine, agriculture, ethnography, history, geography, etc. *EP (21) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

An encounter between faith, reason and the sciences with a view to developing approaches and arguments on the issue of credibility. ... When certain categories of reason and the sciences are taken into the proclamation of the message, these categories then become tools of evangelization. ... Universities are outstanding environments for articulating and developing this evangelizing commitment in an interdisciplinary and integral way. *EG 132, 134*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

It requires an adequate knowledge of the complexity of the cultural and socio-political situation. *SYM FoR Pg 76*. The anthropological sciences are seen as having a specific contribution to offer. This dialogue is enriching because it has the capacity to blend into one the specific contributions of the various disciplines. *SYM FoR Pg 78*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To DO

*How do I ensure that I learn something new each day?*

*How do I foster my own habit of reading and encourage others to read?*

*Am I a victim of superstitions based on ignorance?*

*Learn to improve your use of the internet to widen your intellectual horizons.*

*Say a prayer to St. Augustine of Hippo, for the revival of the faith in North Africa.*



OCTOBER

16

WEDNESDAY

## THE MUSIC OF THE MOTHER TONGUE



### WORD OF GOD

Mk 4:26-29 *They heard him in the native language of each.*

Macc 7:21,27 *There is joy in being spoken to in our mother tongue and mother culture.*

Sir 32:8 *Speak concisely, say much in few words.*



### MAXIMUM ILLUD

He should not be content with a smattering of the language, but should be able to speak it readily and competently. ... He realizes the advantages a command of their language gives him in the task of winning the confidence of the populace.



### LATER MAGISTERIUM

The Aereopagus of the modern age is the world of communication. ... There exist new ways of communicating, with new languages, new techniques and a new psychology. ... It is necessary to integrate the message into the "new culture" created by modern communications.

*RM (37) John Paul II*



### POPE FRANCIS

The preacher must know the heart of the community, in order to realize where its desire for God is alive and ardent. ... *EG (137)*. Just as all of us like to be spoken to in our mother tongue, so too in the faith we like to be spoken to

in our “mother culture”, our native tongue. ... This language is a kind of music which inspires encouragement, strength and enthusiasm. *EG (139)*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Our quality as educators and evangelisers demands that we be qualified communicators. ... We are passing through a phase of profound technological and cultural revolution ... Technology is a liberating tool, one of empowerment ... We need to provide leadership in these situations of communication.

*SYM FoR 170-172*



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*How fluent am I in the language(s) of the people I work with?*

*Plan a short, intensive course in the most neglected of the languages in your community.*

*Make a scheme to learn each day 20 new words in the local language.*

*Say a prayer to St. Peter the apostle for the gift of tongues for our missionaries.*

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# HOLINESS IS INDISPENSABLE



## WORD OF GOD

Mt. 5:48

*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

2 Cor 12:9

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

Heb 12:14

*Without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

Phil 2:21

*You seek your own interests, not those of Christ.*

Mt 12:34

*Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

The one attribute that is indispensable, the most critical is that he have sanctity of life. ... He who preaches God must himself be a man of God.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Missionary cooperation is rooted and lived, above all, in personal union with Christ. Through holiness of life every Christian can become a fruitful part of the Church's mission. *RM (77) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

We are not asked to be flawless, but to keep growing and wanting to grow ... If he does not devote his time to pray with that word, then he will indeed be a false prophet, a fraud, a shallow imposter. ... Christ's message must truly pe-

netrate and possess the preacher, not just intellectually but in his entire being. *EG 151*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

A lived spirituality is precisely the attitude of committed believers. *SYM FoR Pg 100*

It is a spirituality suited to young people, lived with young people and for them, designed and built upon the experience of the young.

*SYM FoR Pg 101*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*What more can we do to ensure that people see us as men of God?*

*How regular are we in our personal prayer, the sacraments and community prayer?*

*Plan a one-day retreat for the joint participation of the religious community and our lay collaborators.*

*Say a prayer to St. Pedro Calungsod, missionary to the Philippines, for an increase in vocations in his country of adoption.*

*Be imitators of me as I am of Christ.*

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# THE POWER OF EXAMPLE



## WORD OF GOD

Rom 12:21

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gal 6:9

Let us not grow weary in doing what is right.



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Preaching by example is a far more effective procedure than vocal preaching, especially among unbelievers, who tend to be more impressed by what they see for themselves than by any arguments .... Moral integrity ... Humble, obedient and chaste ... dedicated to prayer and constant union with God.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

The first form of witness is the very life of the missionary, of the Christian family, and of the ecclesial community, which reveal a new way of living. The missionary who lives a simple life is a sign of God. In many cases it is the only possible way of being a missionary. *RM (42) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

All her members are called to proclaim the Gospel by their witness of life ... On this point there is no compromise: those who by God's grace accept the mission, are called to live the mission. *WMD 2015*

We need to remember that all religious teaching ultimately has to be reflected in the teacher's way of life, which awakens the assent of the heart by its nearness, love and witness. *EG 42*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

The force of attraction that motivates all educative and pastoral action comes from pastoral charity. ... the evangelizer is aware that the good news lies not only in the truth that is proclaimed but, above all, in the witness and conviction of the one who proclaims. ... In proclaiming the Gospel to the young, a witness needs to be able to live his or her faith among the young in a way that can be seen. *SYM FoR Pg 128*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*What can we do to make our personal and community life more exemplary?*

*How could we show more humility in our dealings with people?*

*How can we make it more obvious to people that we respect and obey our superiors and others in authority?*

*How evident is it that our love for individuals is a reflection of our first love – that for Jesus Christ?*

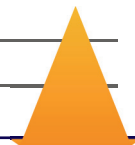
*Say a prayer to St. Patrick for the healing of the wounds of the Church in his beloved Ireland.*

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# A BURNING LOVE FOR ALL



## WORD OF GOD

Lk 12:49

*I have come to bring fire on the earth and how I wish it were already enkindled.*

Jn 8:11

*Neither do I condemn you; go now and sin no more.*

Lk 10:21

*I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes.*

Mt 23:4

*They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves will not lift a finger to move them.*

Mt 5:7

*Blessed are the merciful, because they shall obtain mercy.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Like his model, the Lord Jesus, the good missionary burns with charity and he numbers even the most abandoned unbelievers among God's children. ... He is neither scornful nor fastidious .... Neither harsh nor rough.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

The Church is called to bear witness ... by serving the poorest of the poor and by imitating Christ's own simplicity of life. The Church and her missionaries must also bear the witness of humility, above all with regard to themselves. *RM (43) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

From the beginning the Father has lovingly turned towards the most vulnerable ... in the face of their weakness and infidelity, his heart is overcome with compassion. He is merciful towards all; his love is for all people and his compassion extends to all creatures. *WMD 2016*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

The Salesian house becomes a family when affection is mutual and when all, both confreres and young people, feel welcome and responsible for the common good. In an atmosphere of mutual trust and daily forgiveness, the need and joy of sharing everything is experienced, and relationships are governed not so much by recourse to rules as by faith and promptings of the heart. *C.16*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To DO

*What do we do to make each individual feel loved and respected by us, whatever may be his/her background or reputation?*

*How can we make our dealings with people less harsh, more gentle?*

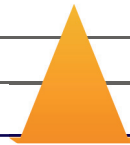
*What practices of ours look more like vinegar than honey?*

*Pay a short friendly visit to someone who has harmed us in the past.*

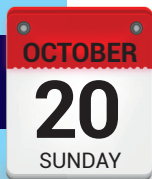
*Pray to St. Francis de Sales for a share in his sweetness, gentleness and courtesy in our dealings with people.*

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## ... NOT WITHOUT PERSECUTION ...



### WORD OF GOD

Acts: 13:50

*They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region.*

1 Pet 4:12

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

Ph 1:29

*It has been granted you on behalf Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.*



### MAXIMUM ILLUD

He cheerfully endures whatever adversity or hardship befalls him. Toil, scorn, want, hunger, even a dreadful death – he will accept them all.



### LATER MAGISTERIUM

May the world, which is searching, be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient, or anxious, but from ministers whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ, and who are willing to risk their lives so that the Kingdom may be proclaimed. *EN (80) – Paul VI*



### POPE FRANCIS

Those who embrace the consecrated missionary life choose to follow Christ in his preference for the poor in the same way that he identified himself with the poor: by living

like them amid the uncertainties of everyday life and renouncing all claims to power. *WMD 2015*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

I have promised to give of myself to my last breath for my poor boys. (C.1)

For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready to give my life. (C.14)



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*What makes it evident that my priority is Jesus Christ and that I am ready for anything that would make Him known and loved?*

*What more can we do to make people aware that we are always available to serve them, in all ways and to any extent?*

*On this day of the Lord, make time to go out of your way to help someone who needs you in some way.*

*Say a prayer to Sts. Cosmos and Damian, born in Saudi Arabia, missionaries to Syria, for the planting of the Gospel among the Arabs.*

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# GOD, THE SOURCE OF OUR CONFIDENCE



## WORD OF GOD

- 1 Cor 3:6 *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.*
- 1 Cor 3:7 *He alone gives the growth.*
- Mk 4:26-29 *The seed, once sown, grows by itself, even as the farmer sleeps.*
- Gal 2:20 *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

The basis of his confidence rests entirely on God. ... Only God can enter men’s hearts and illumine their minds with the radiance of truth. ... The emissary will spend himself in vain unless his Lord helps him as he works.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Those who are incorporated in the Catholic Church ought to sense their privilege. ... They should be ever mindful that they owe their distinguished status not to their own merits but to Christ’s special grace. *RM (11) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

Thanks to faith, I found the sure foundation of my dreams and the strength to realize them. *WMD 2018*  
Faith is God’s gift and not the result of proselytizing; rather, it grows thanks to the faith and charity of evangelizers who witness to Christ. *WMD 2016*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

As he works for the salvation of the young, the Salesian experiences the fatherhood of God and continually reminds himself of the divine dimension of his work: "Apart from me you can do nothing." C.12



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To DO

*Make a list of the successes you have had in the recent past as an individual and as a community for which you need to be grateful to God.*

*What can you do as an individual and as a community to show your gratitude to God for making your work fruitful?*

*Compose a prayer of gratitude to God. Recite it together as a group.*

*Say a prayer to St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, the visionary of Guadeloupe, that the people of Mexico may grow in their love of Mary and Her son, Jesus.*

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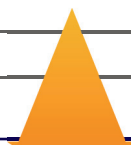
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# RELIGIOUS WOMEN IN THE MISSIONS



## WORD OF GOD

- Mk 6:37** → *You yourselves give them something to eat.*
- Tob 12:9** → *Almsgiving delivers from death and it will purge away every sin.*
- 1 Pet 4:8** → *Maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.*
- Mat 27:56** → *Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's son.*
- Rom 16:1** → *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the Church in Cenchreae.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Nuns. Since the very earliest days of the Church women have always been remarkable for their diligence and zeal in assisting the preachers of the Gospel. ... Our highest praise is for those women who have vowed their virginity to God and have gone to pursue their vocation in the missions. ... The usefulness of their work increases in proportion to the care they give to their own spiritual perfection.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

We wish to pay the highest tribute to the care taken of the sick, the infirm and afflicted of every kind; we mean hospitals, leprosaria, dispensaries and homes for the aged and for maternity cases, and orphanages. These are the fairest flowers of missionary endeavor. There are nuns with full professional qualifications who have earned well merited recognition by the special study of loathsome diseases and by discovering remedies for them.

*EP (45,47) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

The growing presence of women in the missionary world is a significant sign of God's maternal love. Women, lay and religious, and today even many families, carry out their missionary vocation in various forms: from announcing the Gospel to charitable service .... In caring for life, with a focus on people rather than structures, ... the building of good relations, harmony, peace, solidarity, dialogue, cooperation and fraternity. *WMD 2016*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

An important process that can certainly be further developed is that of the mission shared with some groups of the Salesian Family (of the 31 groups within it) or that of the total entrustment of these centres ensuring the charismatic identity and the service to the local Church and to society.

*Angel Fernandez Artime - Convocation GC28 (2.3.4.)*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Do our words and deeds make it evident to everyone that we respect the nuns and women who collaborate work with us?*

*Prepare a greeting card that expresses your gratitude to the nuns and female collaborators of your centre and give it to them with a sincere word of appreciation.*

*What more could we do in our day-to-day work to show our respect for the nuns and women who collaborate with us?*

*Say a prayer to St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello to intercede for God's blessings on the nuns and women collaborators in our works.*



# LAY MISSIONARIES



## WORD OF GOD

1 Pet 2:10 *Once you were no people but now you are God's people.*

Ex 19:6 *You are a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*

Rom 1:8 *I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you.*

Mk 10:21 *Jesus, looking upon him, loved him.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Lay Catholics. The sacred obligation of assisting in the conversion of the infidels applies also to them. *Eccl 17:12*



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Their own world of evangelizing activity is the ... world of politics, society and economics, but also the world of culture, of the sciences and the arts, of international life, of the mass media. *EN (70) - Paul VI*



## POPE FRANCIS

Lay persons have not been given the formation needed to take on important responsibilities. In others room has not been made for them to speak and to act, due to excessive clericalism. The formation of the laity and the evangelization of professional life represent a significant pastoral challenge. *EG 102*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Evangelization is the fruit of a mission that is shared between consecrated members and lay people, who join forces in cooperation in sharing their gifts, despite the differences of formation, different tasks, different charisms and different degrees of participation in this mission.  
*SYM FoR Pg 116*



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Do we respect our lay collaborators as full partners in our mission of evangelization?*

*What more can we do to turn our lay collaborators into true evangelizers?*

*Do something special today to express your appreciation for the lay people in your place of work.*

*Say a prayer to St. Casimir Jagiellon, prince of Poland and Lithuania, for the strengthening of the faith in Eastern Europe and for Catholic leaders in politics.*

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# SUPPORT THROUGH PRAYER



## WORD OF GOD

Ex 9:29

*I will spread out my hands in prayer to the Lord. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail.*

Ex 17:11

*As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning; but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.*

Lk 10:12

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

The first means is prayer. ... It is the duty of all the faithful to follow the example of Moses and grant them the support of their prayers. ... It was for this purpose that the organization called the Apostleship of Prayer was established.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Devout souls should be exhorted to greater efforts in prayer at definite times during the liturgical year that seem to be more suitable for fostering and promoting interest in missionary work: Advent, the feast of Epiphany, and Pentecost. The most excellent prayer of all is the one offered daily at the altar. Let many Masses be offered. *FD (51,52) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

It would be wrong to see it as a heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work, surpassing anything which we can see and understand. Jesus is the

first and greatest evangelizer. He has loved us first and he alone gives the growth. EG 12



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

We introduce the young to a conscious and active participation in the Church's liturgy, the summit and source of all Christian life. With them we celebrate the encounter with Christ in word, prayer and sacraments. C.36



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / To SHARE / To DO

*What opportunities could we create for encouraging our young people towards the spread of the Gospel and the values of the Kingdom?*

*Discuss the possibility of starting a prayer group that focusses on the missions.*

*Share with the young today the biography of St. Therese of Lisieux, explaining especially the reasons for her being declared a patroness of the missions.*

*Compose a prayer for the missions to recite today with the young people you live with.*

*Say a prayer to St. Therese of Lisieux, a patroness of the missions, asking her to continue interceding with God for the spread of the Kingdom.*

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# FOSTERING MISSIONARY VOCATIONS



## WORD OF GOD

Acts 15:25

*So, we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul.*

1 Cor 16:10

*When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.*

2 Cor 8:23

*As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Take pains to foster any signs of a missionary vocation that appear among your priests and seminarians. Do not be deceived by the claims of a false prudence.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

Dioceses that are suffering from a shortage of clergy should not therefore close their ears to our supplications for help in the foreign missions. If a poor diocese helps another poor diocese, it cannot possibly grow poorer in so doing. God does not allow Himself to be outdone in generosity. *FD (67) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

How many young people find in missionary volunteer work a way of serving the “least” of our brothers and sisters. These praiseworthy forms of temporary missionary service are a fruitful beginning and, through vocational discernment, they can

help you to decide to make a complete gift of yourselves as missionaries. *WMD 2018*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

We are convinced that many young people are rich in spiritual potential and give indications of an apostolic vocation. We help them to discover, accept and develop the gift of a lay, consecrated or priestly vocation, for the benefit of the whole Church and of the Salesian Family. *C.28*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*What more could I and my community do to provoke young people to consider the possibility of a religious and/or priestly vocation?*

*Chat with a young person today making it a point to introduce to him/her the possibility of a religious/priestly vocation.*

*How can I and my community make the witness of our daily life something that attracts young people to the religious and priestly life?*

*Say a prayer to Blessed Titus Zeman, the missionary of vocations, that many young people may answer the call to dedicate their lives to Christ as priests and religious.*

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# SELECTION OF LEADERS



## WORD OF GOD

- Acts 6: 3 *Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.*
- Jas 3:1 *Not many of you should become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness.*
- 1 Tim 3:8 *Deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

Choose for this critical work only the best of your men, who are outstanding in virtue, in devotion, in zeal for souls.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

The priests to be sent should be selected from among the most suitable candidates, and should be duly prepared for the particular work that awaits them. *RM (68) John Paul II*



## POPE FRANCIS

Consecrated persons are called to promote the presence of the lay faithful in the service of the Church's mission ... to generously welcome them. They are brothers and sisters who want to share the missionary vocation inherent in Baptism. *WMD 2015*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

To anyone who is thinking of becoming a Salesian, an environment and suitable conditions are offered to enable him to discern his own vocation and to mature as a man and as a Christian. In this way, and with the help of a spiritual guide, he is able to make a choice with greater awareness of what he is doing and without any external or internal pressures. C.109



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Can I truly say that I am still among “the best of men, outstanding in virtue, in devotion and in zeal for souls”?*

*Can we form in our setting a group or a club, consisting of the best among our young people, similar to Dominic Savio’s sodality of the Immaculate, but adapted to our own times?*

*Create an opportunity today to speak to young people about your joys in the life as a priest/religious.*

*Say a prayer to St. Bridget Birgersdotter of Sweden for a new evangelization of the peoples of Scandinavia.*

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# MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE MISSIONS



## WORD OF GOD

Mt 7:2; Lk 6:36-38

*The measure you give will be the measure you get.*

1 Jn 3:17

*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods, and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?*

Mk 15:41

*In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

The missions need economic help. ... We appeal to all good Christians for whatever liberality they can afford. "How can the love of God abide in him who possesses worldly goods, and, seeing his brother in need, closes his hearth to him?" (1 Jn 3:17)



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

The various forms of aid supplied at present to the sacred missions are everywhere short of the amount required for a satisfactory prosecution of missionary effort.

*FD (23) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

A monetary contribution on the part of individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way a material offering can become a means for the evangelization of humanity built on love. *WMD 2014*





OCTOBER

28

MONDAY

## SUPPORT GROUPS



### WORD OF GOD

Acts 20:35 *It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35)*

Mk 12:43 *Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. (Mk 12:43)*

Mk 12:43 *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (Acts 1:14)*



### MAXIMUM ILLUD

We warmly urge Catholics to give generous assistance to the organizations that have been established for the support of the missions. The first of these is the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



### LATER MAGISTERIUM

Let them set aside some of their superfluities, nay, at times, something of what they need. The face of the earth will be renewed if charity prevails. Our best thanks to all those who support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. *FD (58) - Pius XII*



### POPE FRANCIS

Other Church institutions, basic communities and small communities, movements, and forms of associations are a source of enrichment for the Church, raised up by the Spirit for evangelizing different areas and sectors. Frequently they bring a new evangelizing fervor. *EG (29)*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

Salesian presences with their groups and associations, our religious communities, the different apostolic groups, prayer groups, biblical groups, or adult catechesis, volunteering, etc., can offer a space and spiritual environment that are favorable for welcoming and integrating groups of parents and families. *Angel Fernandez Artime*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*Read up today about the missionary groups and Missionary "Leaven Groups" promoted by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.*

*What can we do to promote Missionary Groups and Missionary "Leaven Groups"?*

*Make a list of the young people you think would be suitable to be invited to be members of a Missionary "Leaven Group".*

*Say a prayer to St. Marianne Cope of Hawaii for the spread of the Kingdom in Oceania.*

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# CHILDREN AND THE MISSIONS



## WORD OF GOD

Mt 19:14

*Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them.*

Mt 18:3

*Unless you become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven.*

Ps 8:2

*Out of the mouths of children and of babes you have found your praise to foil your enemies.*

Mt 11:25

*I thank Thee, Lord of heaven and earth, for having hidden these things from the rich and the wise and revealed them to little children.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

A second organization we strongly recommend to the charity of all Catholics is the Association of the Holy Childhood. ... Our Catholic children can take part in it and in this way learn to appreciate the value of the faith that has been given to them.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

These little children of ours are accustomed to pray earnestly for the salvation of the infidel; and may it be the means of sowing the seed of a missionary vocation in their innocent hearts and of fostering its growth. *EP (65) – Pius XII*



## POPE FRANCIS

The rise and growth of associations and movements mostly made up of young people can be seen as the work of the Holy Spirit, who blazes new trails to meet their expectations and their search for a deep spirituality and a more real sense of belonging. *EG 104*

How beautiful it is to see that young people are “street preachers”. EG 106



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

We introduce the young to the experience of ecclesial life by bringing them into a faith community and helping them to take part in it. To this end we promote and animate groups and movements for formation and apostolic action. In these the young people grow in the awareness of their own responsibilities and learn to give their irreplaceable contribution to the transformation of the world and to the life of the Church and to become themselves the “first apostles of the young, in direct contact with them”. C.35



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*What can we do to instill an apostolic spirit even into very young children?*

*Recite the rosary with a group of very young children, offering a decade of the rosary for each of the five continents.*

*Address a group of children today, narrating to them the adventures of a missionary.*

*Say a prayer to St. Dominic Savio for a revival of the faith in Italy and for the children of Catholic families whose religious formation is neglected.*

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## MISSIONARIES AMONG THE DIOCESAN CLERGY



### WORD OF GOD

1 Cor 1:10

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

Acts 16:5

*And so the Churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.*

Acts 2:44

*All the believers were together and had everything in common.*



### MAXIMUM ILLUD

We desire the establishment in all the dioceses of the Catholic world, of the organization called the Missionary Union of the Clergy.



### LATER MAGISTERIUM

Having witnessed the success of this Union, we earnestly desire that it increase and spread ever more widely and arouse both priests and people to work ever more zealously for the cause of the missions. This Union is the source from which depends the success of the other Pontifical Societies. *EP (65) – Pius XII*



### POPE FRANCIS

I dream of a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can

be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. *EG (27)*



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

We feel ourselves a living part of the Church, and we cultivate in ourselves and in our communities a renewed ecclesial awareness. This we express in an attitude of filial loyalty to Peter's successor and to his teaching, and in our efforts to live in communion and collaboration with the bishops, clergy, religious and laity. *C.13*



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*What more could we do to encourage vocations to the diocesan clergy?*

*Is there any way we could encourage missionary vocations among the diocesan clergy?*

*Think of a way to offer encouragement and support to the seminarians from our parish studying in the diocesan seminary.*

*Say a prayer to St. Monica of Hippo that the mothers of Catholic families may inspire their children by example and prayer to dedicate their life to a religious/priestly life.*

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# MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE LORD



## WORD OF GOD

- Jn 2:5 *Do whatever He tells you.*
- Jn 19:6-7 *Woman, here is your son ... Here is your mother.*
- Acts 1:14 *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*



## MAXIMUM ILLUD

May the great Mother of God, queen of the apostles, hear our prayers and call down upon the heralds of the Gospel the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



## LATER MAGISTERIUM

On the morning of Pentecost she watched over with her prayer the beginning of evangelization prompted by the Holy Spirit. May she be the Star of the evangelization ever renewed, which the Church, docile to her Lord's command, must promote and accomplish, especially in these times, which are difficult but full of hope!



## POPE FRANCIS

Let us draw inspiration from Mary, Mother of Evangelization. She welcomed the Word in the depths of humble faith. May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own "yes", conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time. May she intercede for us that we can acquire the holy audacity to discover new ways to bring the gift of salvation to every man and woman. WMD 2017 (10).



## SALESIAN THOUGHT

We believe that Mary is present among us and continues her “mission as Mother of the Church and Help of Christians”. We entrust ourselves to her, the humble servant in whom the Lord has done great things, that we may become witnesses to the young of her Son’s boundless love. C.8



## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT / TO SHARE / TO DO

*How filial is my relationship with Mary, the Mother of Jesus?*

*Say a personal prayer, entrusting your vocation in life as an evangelizer into the hands of Mary the first evangelizer.*

*Compose a prayer together to Mary, asking her to be the support of every missionary as he/she brings the message of her Son to the world.*

*At the conclusion of this special missionary month and the month of the rosary, recite the rosary together and conclude with the prayer you have composed.*

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