



Goodnights



FR. VÁCLAV KLEMENT SDB

FR VÁCLAV KLEMENT SDB

GOODNIGHTS

EAO Regional Councillor (2014–2020)

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Introduction



At the end of this six-year period (2014–2020) we offer this collection of 72 regional Good Night Talks to the 1500 Salesians of our East Asia-Oceania region and all members of the different groups of the Salesian Family.

After so many visits to our 12 provinces and almost 200 communities, I am more aware than ever of the charismatic importance of the 'Goodnight' in our daily community or pastoral life. It makes a huge difference – just compare a Don Bosco school without a good morning talk or Salesian education with a daily good morning talk. It is amazing how these brief but powerful daily moments transform the lives of many young people, Salesians and members of the Salesian Family. What makes the difference?

Don Bosco believed that this short daily opportunity brings many fruits: it helps to wrap up our life on a daily basis, builds up the community, trains us to take a faith perspective on our reality. We need this constantly renewed experience of sharing, storytelling in the life of a community (school, family, religious community, group home or boarding school). Listening to a personal life sharing daily or not lis-

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tening to one – those two daily experiences are very different! As different as it is to interpret our complex world each day from a faith perspective, or not to do so. We are convinced that thanks to this invention of Mamma Margaret's our life becomes richer and we find its meaning and deeper joy in living it.

Some 18 years after the establishment of our East Asia-Oceania region, I am happy to share this simple collection of 'goodnights', the result of ongoing monthly reflection, prayer based on some heart-touching events, encounters or deeper insights along my journey.

Our hope is that this simple collection could inspire our Salesian community rectors, leaders, Lay Mission Partners or Salesian Family members to treasure this deep and charismatic opportunity of the 'goodnight' or 'goodmorning' talk. And we are also grateful to everyone who has made the publication of this collection possible in digital and paper form.

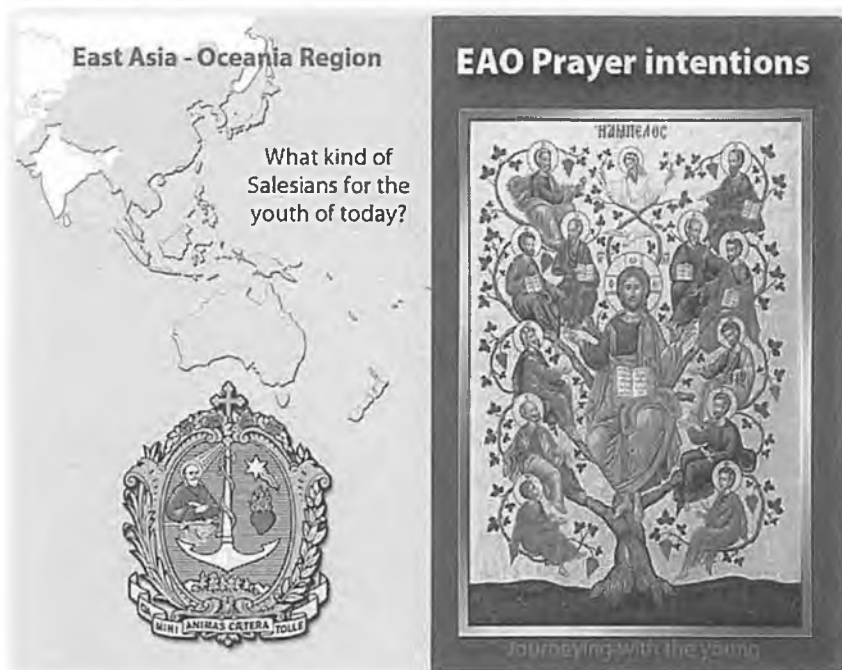
In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020.

Rome, 5 April 2020

2014: GC27 – Sense of belonging to the EAO Region



GOODNIGHTS

Goodnight 1

Listen, to serve

Rome
5 April 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

Heartfelt greetings from Rome, where we are busy trying to bring the General Chapter 27 to a successful end in a week's time. Thank you for all your prayers before and during the GC27.

From yesterday onwards, our new General Council is complete with the arrival of Fr Ivo Coelho (Formation Councillor) from Jerusalem. All in all, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime as the 10th successor of Don Bosco has thirteen (13) councillors (one fewer than Fr Chávez). And we are very proud to have among us the first African confrere – Fr Americo Chausse (Mozambican), with only 2.5 Italian confreres in the Council (Frs Francesco Cereda, Stefano Martoglio and Natale Vitali – who was living and working as a missionary in Chile since 1975).

First of all, I would like to share with you some personal insights after 50 days of the General Chapter experience. The whole 'Chapter community' has been breathing a very nice family spirit in daily life, well animated by different people (liturgy, communications, sports, secretaries, translators, infirmarians, document drafting). Among the main daily 'rituals' is the reading of the Gospel at the beginning of the Assembly and installation of the Bible on the main stage, sports animation by the Congolese 'chaplain' at the end of each lunch time, prayers and serious work in the commissions and personal reflections.

Apart from the whole 220+ confreres at the General Chapter, we were able to enjoy some special regional moments. There are some

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'famous' speakers at this GC, among them also Fr Lanfranco (CIN), Fr Eli (FIN), Fr Mariano (MYM), Fr Alex (FIN), Fr Boedi (ITM), Frs Andy and Václav (RMG). Many deep, radical and joyful interventions from the CIN provincial were appreciated in a special way quite often (5 diamonds)!

We have already celebrated the EAO regional Eucharist twice, and will continue until 11 April. The new Rector Major will preside and all Councillors for the sectors will participate in our EAO Mass next Monday. During the elections we met a few times for our regional contribution to discernment, and celebrated the new Regional Councillor and a few days later the Silver jubilee of profession (Br. Raymond Callo, FIN and the Regional).

Therefore, all of us have been able to appreciate the nice family spirit within our region, get to know each other more, to link and try to share more among our 10 provinces and 4 delegations.

Now I am handing over to the new Councillor for the Missions – Fr Guillermo Basaños: multiple tasks, contacts and information about the sector (starting with *Cagliero11* newsletter, blog, AGORA on www.sdb.org) and slowly connecting with our main available EAO regional digital platforms:

<http://blogs.sdb.org/eao.php>
(EAO BLOG);

<http://agora.sdb.org/index.php?board=59.0>
(EAO Agora reserved area for sharing)

<http://www.bosconet.aust.com/pmwiki/pmwiki.php>
(EAO documentation website)

<http://sdl.sdb.org/cgi-bin/library> (Salesian Digital Library)
sections available in Bahasa, Burmese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean,
Tagalog, Tetum, Thai and Vietnamese

<http://eaosalesianbrothers.wordpress.com/>
(EAO Salesian Brothers, Manila)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1576979272526655/> (Salesians
EAO Region)

Last week, when my life changed overnight from the global attention and care for the missionary spirit in the Congregation to our beloved EAO Region once more, I tried to figure out how to animate the Region more effectively. Indeed, within the past 12 years, when I was elected for the first time as the Regional Councillor, a lot of communication tools and approaches have significantly changed. And my conclusion? Probably the **Cagliero11 newsletter effect** suggests to me that the best way might be **one 'Good Night' for all confreres in the EAO Region**.

In this first **EAO regional 'Good Night'** I would like to share just one of the General Chapter 27's key words – '**Listen**'.

Already the three-step method of GC27 discernment process (Listening – Interpreting – Way forward) **starts by listening** to life as it is.

The new Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernandez Artime, in his first homily (March 27) invited us many times: 'Listen to His voice today ... Listening together to the Word of God helps us to go out of ourselves, to overcome our self-centredness and listen to the needs of other, especially to the young.'

Also the Rector Major emeritus, Fr Pascual Chávez, in his deep and passionate homily for the EAO members today: 'Everything depends, hinges on our ability to listen to Jesus and to accept him, and our willingness to make him 'Our Living Rule'. This is the only way our Salesian life can become relevant, credible, visible and fruitful (5 April).

I should honestly acknowledge that **a solid Salesian life and mission depends on the listening attitude in any sense of this term**: Listening is the start of any solid communication among us (community building, personal talk to the rector), listening is the basis of serious discernment (obedience), listening is the first step of Gospel proclamation (if we want to listen, first we should listen to others), listening is the first step of effective youth ministry (youngsters are strongly asking: 'Listen to us!'). To listen well is not easy!

Starting my service as the 'recycled' Regional Councillor, I am asking you to pray for me especially to be a good listener to the all of 1400+ EAO confreres and many other Lay Mission Partners, Salesian Family members and youth that I will meet during the next 6 years. The Chinese letter 'Ting – Listening' is part of my personal plan of life for these six years!

East Asia – Oceania Region: past 6 years (2008–2014)

1. Region East Asia – Oceania (2014, January 1)

	2008 Total	Temp - L	Temp - S	Perp -L	Perp -S	Dc	Priest	2014 SDB	2014 Novices	2014 Total	2008- 2014
AUL	108	2	7	13	1	0	73	96	2	98	-10
CIN	126	1	10	24	5	1	75	116	0	116	-10
FIN	230	6	18	11	11	0	158	207	5	212	-18
FIS	100	3	27	12	7	0	69	118	7	125	-25
GFA	120	0	9	13	1	0	82	105	0	105	-15
IJM	170	15	75	13	8	1	77	189	24	213	-43
KOR	127	1	19	19	3	0	74	116	5	121	-6
MYM	(73)	7	37	1	2	0	32	79	4	83	(-10)
THA	84	9	9	13	5	0	65	93	0	93	-9
VIE	251	14	53	27	35	0	147	276	25	301	-50
	1316	50	264	149	78	2	852	1395	72	1476	-160

Total: 1395 professed SDB (+10 Bishops): 852 priests, 199 brothers, 264 clerics, 72 novices Missionaries sent from EAO (2008–2013): 88 [FIS-1, FIN-4, ITM-11, KOR-3, MYM-1, VIE-67= 43

2. EAO Region within the whole Congregation (2008–2014)

REGION	SDB 2008	%	SDB 2014	%	Novices 2014	Novices %
Africa–Madag	1271	8.12	1416	9.61	97	21.8
Amer South Cone	1639	10.61	1419	9.63	30	6.7
InterAmerica	2106	13.56	1919	13.03	38	13.1
EAO	1258	8.05	1395	9.5	72	16.2
South Asia	2135	15.68	2597	17.63	153	34.4
Europe North	2532	16.19	2597	17.63	153	34.4
Europe West	1638	10.47	1384	9.4	8	1.8
Italy Mid-East	2532	16.19	2107	14.3	16	4.0
UPS	205	1.31	202	1.37	—	—

Total: 10.308 priests (68%), 1758 brothers (11.6%), 2646 seminarians (17.4%), 445 novices (2.9%) = 15.298 SDB (100%) + 122 bishops

3. Listening to God who is speaking through the statistics to EAO

Main changes during the past 6 years (We could ask what happened and why?) – Total number of EAO confreres grew by 160 Salesians (MYM+, missionaries sent out!) – The significance of the EAO Region grows within the Congregation (16% of novices ...) – We have 5 Provinces numerically growing and 5 Provinces numerically diminishing. At the same time we have 5 Provinces with solid financial resources and 5 which are struggling. – Slowly diminishing number of Salesian Brothers (10 SDB fewer especially 7 temporary professed Brothers fewer...) – Significant growth of the 'clerical face of DB' (100 priests and 30 more clerics than in 2008) – EAO provides 43% of missionaries ad gentes in the whole Salesian Congregation.

Yours in Mary Help of Christians and Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 2

What does it mean to be a region?

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

8 May 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

Heartfelt greetings from the Provincial house of Vietnam–Mongolia province, where I have just reached after participating in the EAO Salesian Cooperators Regional Congress (Manila, 23–26 April) and after some days in the Korean province for the installation of the new Provincial, Fr Stefano Yang, meeting the provincial council and visiting all three formation houses (Seoul – Dae Rim Dong, Neri and Kwangju). The first full month of my new service to the Congregation is over!

My personal feeling during the past few weeks following GC27 is one of 'reconnecting' with our ten provinces after 6 years, and with some 1400+ Salesians within the great variety of situation and history, challenges and dreams!

In this second EAO regional 'Goodnight' **I would like to ponder the meaning of belonging to a Salesian Region.** What does it mean to be part of 'OUR REGION' – what gift does God offer each of us in this way?

In our Constitutions, the 'Region' is called a 'group of provinces' (C. 154). What does it mean in concrete terms for each of us, living scattered across 22 often very distant countries of the vast area of East Asia and Oceania?

Probably C. 59 (World community) offers us a meaningful clue. It is about '**communion of spirit, witness and service within the Universal Church**'. In my humble opinion, the Region is a concrete way for each

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Salesian to really live as a 'member of the Catholic Faithful' (member of the universal community of Jesus' disciples and missionaries) and as a 'catholic = universal Salesian'.

A few days ago, the Korean novices were checking my duties (R.136) as Regional Councillor: **"to foster a concrete and creative family sense in the relationships of confreres and provinces** among themselves and with the Rector Major and his council." So, it is about communion and relationship between confreres who don't necessarily meet each other personally. But at the same time, regional life could bring a lot of inspiration, encouragement, solidarity, mutual help of prayer and resources. The Region opens our heart and mind to the world-wide Salesian community. This is also the 'added value' of our EAO Region!

Allow me just three practical considerations: (1) *EAO vision-mission*; (2) *EAO as a communion of provinces* and (3) *praying for each other (25th day of each month)*.

(1) EAO vision-mission (growing together)

Twelve years after our EAO Region was born at the GC25 (AD 2002) I would once more like to share our **'Vision-Mission' Statement of the EAO Region** with you (1st. ed. Team Visit 2005 – Hua Hin; revised ed. 2013, November – Melbourne):

What does it mean to be a region?

We envision (Vision)

East Asia-Oceania Region as a communion of Salesian Provinces, creatively faithful to Don Bosco's Charism and effectively collaborating with each other to be evangelizers of the young, especially those who are poor.

Thus, we commit ourselves (Mission)

- ▶ to inculturate the Preventive System
- ▶ to cooperate in common projects such as Formation, Youth Ministry, Social Communication, Salesian Family and other [C] services
- ▶ to show solidarity and practical support in times of natural calamities that frequently occur in many places of the region
- ▶ to strengthen and deepen our communication with each other and to use the English language as the medium of communication

The common EAO Vision-Mission could help us to focus more our common exchange!

(2) EAO as communion of provinces (sharing)

During the final week of General Chapter 27 there was a good opportunity to share among the 26 EAO participants in the GC about the future of our Region. In the first workshop we shared two simple topics: (1) What can we offer to the other EAO provinces? (2) What do we want to receive from other EAO Provinces (in terms of resources – human,

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spiritual or material; established experience; venue for meeting, opportunity for other province). It was a very enriching exercise. Most of us were quite surprised that the long list of offers was greater than the list of needs (Attachment).

I am deeply convinced that the EAO communion of provinces has grown so much during the past 12 years, and we can still benefit from this mutual sharing among the ten provinces and four delegations.

(3) EAO as a communion of prayer (25th of each month)

During the 2014 EAO provincials meeting (Rome, 10 April), a day was selected once a month to pray for the EAO Region so that confreres of the province feel their belonging. It was scheduled for **every 25th of the month**, the day commemorating the martyrdom of St Louis Versiglia and St Callistus Caravario.

I am deeply convinced that a true fraternal life always starts with mutual prayer. All of us were moved by the offer of CIN province requesting concrete prayer intentions from other EAO provinces for their senior confreres.

Please, help me to be a creative and constant servant of our Region as the Congregation wants! I am entrusting all of us to the motherly care of Mary Help of Christians.

Yours in Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 3

Pentecost – reminder of our first love?

Rome

8 June 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

Heartfelt greetings from the General House, where with the Rector Major we are busy working on the Six-year Project 2014–2020 in the first plenary session of the Council.

Also the discernment for new provincials in eight provinces (Bolivia, Ecuador, USA West, Mexico–Guadalajara, Mozambique, Madagascar, UPS and Japan) is on-going.

On Pentecost Sunday I would like to share one of the GC27's key phrases: vocation culture. After my first visit to the Region I was deeply impressed by the fast changing face of young generation of Salesian candidates, strongly influenced by globalised culture.

There are very different approaches to vocation ministry in our ten provinces. Indeed, this variety is one of the best gifts of the Holy Spirit to the EAO Region! As a matter of fact there are some 20 'Aspirantates' around our 22 countries. From the 324 College student Aspirants of Vietnam (meeting every Sunday in 7 centres) up to the junior high school experiences in Japan (Yokkaichi: cover photo), Myanmar, Timor, and Thailand.

Altogether, some 500–600 boys, youth and young adults are accompanied by EAO Salesians in different ways as 'Aspirants' – thanks be to God!

I often ask myself often – what or who attracts youngsters to the Salesian consecrated life as Brothers or Priests in Don Bosco's style?

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Is it our family spirit? Our commitment to the poor youth education or evangelisation? Is it Don Bosco himself attracting? Or some model – ‘charismatic’ Salesian? Is it the good spiritual guides met in the confession, in the youth centre, youth group or by chance somewhere else (‘Go to the Salesians’)? Or is it our meaningful mission to serve, to save the poor youth: at risk, without parents or education? Yes, our witness is important. But at the end of the day we should acknowledge the inner call of God who loves, chooses, selects, one by one, ‘His’ young men to follow his Son as Don Bosco did. Really, we believe the Holy Spirit ‘raised, formed, called and guided’ (SDB C.1) not only Don Bosco but is working in the life of each of us and in our aspirants.

On this Pentecost Sunday I made a pilgrimage from the General House to the Basilicas of Saint Paul & St Peter in the Vatican and back. It was a half-day of walking (20 km) and prayer to the Holy Spirit for the growth of the vocational culture in our East Asia-Oceania Region communities! May each of us be grateful for the first love and share this gift also today with our youth – with humility and courage!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 4

One Hail Mary daily for the other EAO country confreres!

Rome
4 July 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

Please, accept today a simple invitation to pray one Hail Mary daily for the other EAO country confreres! Each one is my brother! Yours in Don Bosco, Fr Václav.

EAO countries, Salesians, Communities, Provinces (1 January 2014):
10 provinces + 4 delegations; 1395 SDB, 76 novices; 214 communities and 25 presences.

AUL (Australia, Fiji, Samoa, New Zealand); CIN (Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan); FIN (Manila–Luzon, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands), FIS (Cebu, Pakistan); GIA (Japan); ITM (Indonesia, East Timor); KOR (South Korea); MYM (Myanmar); THA (Thailand, Cambodia, Laos); VIE (Mongolia, Vietnam) stretched in 22 countries!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

EAO Regional Vision-Mission statement

We envision (Vision) East Asia–Oceania Region as a communion of Salesian Provinces, creatively faithful to Don Bosco’s Charism and effectively collaborating with each other to be evangelizers of the young, especially those who are poor.

Thus, we commit ourselves (Mission)

- to **inculturate** the Preventive System in our Provinces
- to **cooperate in common projects** such as Formation, Youth Ministry, Salesian Family, Social Communications, and other [C] services
- to **show solidarity and practical support** in times of natural calamities that frequently occur in many places of the region (and formation expenses).

Prayer intention for each day: free invitation to build our EAO Regional communion

One Hail Mary daily for the other EAO country confreres!

1. Australia
2. Fiji
3. New Zealand
4. Samoa
5. China – Hong Kong
6. China – Macau
7. China Services
8. Taiwan
9. Philippines
10. Papua New Guinea
11. Solomon Islands
12. Pakistan
13. Japan
14. Korea
15. Indonesia
16. Timor Leste
17. Myanmar
18. Thailand
19. Cambodia
20. Laos
21. Vietnam
22. Mongolia
23. Salesian Brothers vocation
24. Salesian Family groups – vocation
25. East Asia – Oceania region (*Memorial of Sts Versiglia and Caravario*)
26. Vocation culture and ministry
27. Missionary culture and missionary vocation
28. Rectors & SDB in charge of presences
29. Provincials and their Councils
30. Rector Major and his Council
31. Spiritual guides and formators

Goodnight 5

The best witness to Jesus!

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

6 August 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

For EAO Salesians, August 2014 is full of many meaningful events: the worldwide Salesian community starts celebrations for the 200th Birthday of Don Bosco on 16 August and after 15 years, and now in the 21st century, we finally welcome the Holy Father to the Asian continent. Following the WYD visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Australia (2008, July), Pope Francis is coming to our Region, this time too for another Youth Day event.

The five days of his visit to Korea (14–18 Aug) for the 6th Asian Youth Day and for the Beatification of 124 Korean Martyrs are interconnected through the motto of the 6th AYD: **'Asian Youth, wake up! The glory of the martyrs shines on you!'**

This occasion might be, for us Salesians, a strong invitation to walk the GC27 path of 'Witnessing to the radical approach to the Gospel'.

If we really wake up with our youth to give thanks for the many thousands of martyrs in almost each particular Church, our life changes!

With admiration, deep gratitude and prayer through the intercession of the Martyrs we discover the roots and great gift of our faith in Jesus Christ. There are only a few hundred Martyrs in our region officially recognised by the Universal Church (China – 120 Saints, Vietnam 117 Saints, Japan 26 Saints and 388 Blessed, Korea – 103 Saints and 124 Blessed, Laos – soon to be 17 Blessed, Thailand – 7 Blessed, Oceania – 1 Saint and 5 Blessed, Philippines – 2 Saints, Myanmar –

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2 Blessed). Yes, there are also the 'unbloody Martyrs' who witnessed in very difficult ecclesial situations to Christ, like the first Australian Saint, Mary McKillop, or the SVD missionary in China, Saint Joseph Freinandemetz etc.

They are just the tip of the iceberg – a few hundred of the many thousands who over the past 500 years have shed their blood as witness to God's great love! Who witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus more radically than the Martyrs? St Mary McKillop (8 August feast)

Let us take a look together with Asia's young people at the rich faith witness of our martyrs! Let us take advantage of the commencement to Don Bosco's Bicentenary celebrations to focus on our daily witnessing to Jesus amongst the young!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 6

'No English – no Vocation'?

Pampanga, Philippines

4 September 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

The first historical encounter of Salesian text translators! During the past two months on my animation visits around EAO, I was able to meet many confreres in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and in the Northern part of the Philippines. I am trying to listen: thanks for sharing your daily life witness and mission for the young, your joys and challenges! It is a good opportunity to reconnect with the dynamics of growth of the Salesian Charism in each province. Various provincial and local events around 16 August marked the opening of Don Bosco's Bicentenary. Different provincial pilgrimages to the holy places of Don Bosco (groups from FIN, CIN, GIA and Mongolia) showed our love for our Father. For me personally, those five days spent with Pope Francis in Korea remain as a daily inspiration and strong motivation to reflect again and again on his 'Joy of the Gospel' (*Evangelii Gaudium*). In attachment you will find a solid study guide of *Evangelii Gaudium* published by Word and Life (FIN, Manila, Fr Sal Putzu). Thanks a lot!

"No English – no Vocation!" – is the criterion of the Jesuits in the East Asia Pacific Region which covers basically the same provinces and countries as our EAO Region. Also during our recent Manila – Parañaque formation houses Curatorium meeting with six provincials and three Delegation superiors, a significant portion of time was dedicated to improvement in the standard of English language. Yes, as a Region in 2005 we chose English as our common language and we

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can see that long-term strategies help improve the standard of English. Yes, there is good improvement noticed in all 10 EAO provinces.

The other side of the language variety in our Region is the need to share our Charism within the local cultures and Churches. The role of the 'translator of Salesian texts' will be highlighted through the first historic meeting next 9–11 October. The message of the Rector Major (in attachment) for the participants and their respective provincials says a lot! About twenty participants from Mongolia, Korea, Japan, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam will work out some strategy for translator formation and methods. We consider this service to be a very important ministry for the future and inculturation of the Salesian education and evangelisation, for our formation in most of the EAO provinces! Formation and support of quality translation ministry of Salesian texts might be one of the best gifts for Don Bosco's 200th birthday! Let's contribute sections in the different EAO languages to the Salesian digital library (sdl.sdb.org)!

With a grateful heart to all confreres who have contributed and are contributing to the spread of Don Bosco's Charism through their patient and constant translation or simultaneous interpretation from 1906 until now!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 7

Advancing in the spiritual life

"Do you want to advance in the spiritual life? Then you must be constantly a missionary!"

— Pope Francis

The Joy of the Gospel – Evangelii Gaudium

Hanoi, Vietnam

1 October 2014

Dear brothers and friends!

October is the month of the Missions and of the Holy Rosary! For all of us living in the missionary region of East Asia and Oceania it is a special time to pray the Rosary in order to strengthen the missionary culture in our community. I am sending this 'Goodnight' just a few days after the 145th Salesian missionary expedition at Valdocco, Turin. Among the 12 new missionaries of 2014 there are five from our Region (*one from Indonesia, Korea and the Philippines and two from Vietnam*). As the exchange of gifts is going on also 3 of them are being sent to our Region (Br. Raphael from Swaziland to Hong Kong, Br. Harsha from Sri Lanka with Br. Peter Khai for the Papua New Guinea–Solomon Islands Delegation). Welcome to our Region!

On the Feast of St Therese of Lisieux, the Patroness of World Missions, I am sharing my innermost ongoing meditation on my journey: **'Without a solid missionary culture building and daily missionary commitment the Church and our Congregation has no future!'**

We are very grateful for the more than 150 Salesians who were sent out of EAO provinces as *missionaries ad gentes*! Last month,

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while visiting one post-novitiate, I was caught by surprise when among the 5 formators and 20 brothers, seven of them shared with me one by one their missionary dream! Thanks be to God for this healthy Salesian environment! We pray for new, solid and numerous missionary vocations among the young confreres! But they are just the tip of the missionary iceberg!

As Pope Francis shares in his *Evangelii Gaudium*: **“If we want to advance in the spiritual life, then we must constantly be missionaries! The work of evangelisation opens up spiritual horizons and makes us more and more sensitive to the workings of the Holy Spirit... a committed missionary knows the joy!”** (EG no.272)

If we are serious with our constant *‘going out of our comfort zone’* – we will foster missionary groups in our youth centers, parishes and schools (*Tondo–Manila junior catechists*), we would pray often for missionary vocations; we will ask missionaries to share their motivations (as in the *monthly bulletin of missionary animation – Cagliari11*), we will try to live the initial proclamation of Jesus Christ in everyday ministry (as the *three catechumens in Hua Hin school are witness to*), promote missionary volunteers (like the *Cagliari Project in Australia or the Salvo Project in Cebu*). How much I would wish to meet, in each local community, these and many other genuine expressions of missionary culture, of daily commitment community as radical disciples and missionaries of Jesus! Good night!

United in the daily prayer of the Holy Rosary,

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 8

Without Lay Mission Partners there is no future for consecrated life!

Auckland (New Zealand)

1 November 2014

The one-year Don Bosco Jubilee Year (2014–2015) helps us to re-discover the roots of Salesian – our DNA in the history and spirit of Don Bosco.

When Don Bosco passed away in 1888 he left some 776 SDBs and more than 250 FMAs. But Don Bosco also left a great flock of 80,000 Salesian Cooperators. In 1888 there were some 100 Salesian Cooperators per 1 consecrated Salesian Brother or Priest!

Fr Pascual Chávez used to say **'there is no future for consecrated life without the lay people'** (in our region we would say 'without our Lay Mission Partners'). What about our ten EAO provinces? How many among the thousands of teachers, catechists and parish council members, SYM group animators are deeply identified with Don Bosco? I can observe in 2014 during my first animation visits a renewed movement to spread and foster the Salesian Cooperators Association in many of our EAO provinces. At present we have 2500+ members of the Association with 300+ aspirants organised in 120+ local Centres.

During the Sixth EAO Regional Congress of the Salesian Cooperators (Manila, April 2014) Mr Philip Yu (China – Hong Kong) was once more elected, after six years, as the World Councillor for our Region. The recently renewed edition of the **'Project of Apostolic Life'** of the Salesian Cooperator Association – already translated into Korean and

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Thai – should be in our hands and studied by each Salesian of Don Bosco (SDB General Regulations, 38).

Thanks be to God, during this year numerous Salesian Cooperators have made their **promise** in Taiwan (53), Vietnam (39), Korea (29), Philippines (26) and Japan (2). At least six new Centres have begun (Taiwan –3, Philippines North –3), Thai Cooperators have prepared their second Congress of local centres after 26 years and the recent trend of new diocesan priests and bishops (Cambodia–Taiwan) is showing a way forward. This wonderful gift is shared by the FIS province with some **165 aspirants being prepared** for their promise on 16 August 2015! After meeting personally many EAO Cooperators Centres during the past four months, I feel we should invest more in the **formation of SDB Delegates** and help each local Salesian community to foster the Salesian Cooperators vocation. A first step might be a careful reading of the recently published **Project of Apostolic Life**! Let's start with a prayerful reading of the Salesian Cooperator Promise (PAL, art. 32).

Yes, there are still many SDB and FMA communities or even some countries in our Region without any Salesian Cooperator (*Fiji, Laos, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Samoa, and Solomon Islands*). To (re) launch the Salesian Cooperator vocation in each of our communities might be one of the best gifts for the 200th Birthday of Don Bosco.

With Mamma Margaret, the first Cooperator of Don Bosco,

I wish you a 'Good night!' in Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 9

'Who is your Cafasso? – Where is your prison?'

Rome

1 December 2014

The Don Bosco Jubilee Year (2014–2015) helps us to re-discover the roots of Salesian apostolic consecrated life. A few days ago we also began the **Year of Consecrated Life (24 Nov 2014–2 Feb 2016)** announced by Pope Francis during the memorable encounter with the Union of Major Superiors (Rome, November 2013). It is a three-fold invitation for: (1) renewal of (our) consecrated life; (2) making the life witness and service of consecrated men and women in the Church more visible and (3) an invitation to young Catholics to consider the consecrated life option. A few days ago I completed almost five months of animation visits around 'Our Region' (= East Asia–Oceania). It was a wonderful time for reconnecting with old friends, appreciating the growth of the Salesian Charism and sharing the specific challenges faced in each of our ten provinces and four delegations of the EAO Region. I was deeply impressed by the vocation recovery, youth ministry re-launching, the missionary availability of many confreres, and the strong movement during the preparation and celebrations of the Don Bosco Bicentenary in each province. As the main challenge I would like to mention the need for more Salesian personal spiritual guides in each province. In November we had two very meaningful and important regional meetings – delegates of Youth Ministry and with the respective General Councillors – Fr Fabio and Fr Ivo. I was able to participate

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in both events (first in Australia – Lysterfield and second in Korea – Seoul).

When we try to live a more authentic Salesian life, we could admire and imitate the numerous Saints of the Salesian Family, especially those directly connected to our Father Don Bosco. During the Formation of formation guides (Seoul, 13–16 November) one morning the liturgy of St Joseph Cafasso was chosen. It was a challenge for me, but then I realised that this figure of Don Bosco's spiritual guide might be a good companion for us during the whole six years! Indeed at the end of the GC27 the twenty six EAO delegates recognised the very strong need to prepare more Salesians as spiritual guides!

Saint Cafasso was just 4 years senior to Don Bosco. He was his regular confessor for 20 years (1841–1860), and guided the newly ordained priest to keep in touch with the cry of the migrant youth in streets and prisons Turin. The influence of Cafasso on Don Bosco's life and mission is enormous. At the beginning of the Year of Consecrated Life the figure of St Joseph Cafasso might be very inspiring. The guidance offered to Don Bosco speaks loudly about the Salesian 'DNA'. Let us accept two questions shared in the formators formation meeting in Seoul: **Who is my Cafasso? Where is my prison?**

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

2015: DB 200 –
Bicentenary celebrations



Goodnight 10

What makes you truly joyful and happy?

Yangon – Myanmar

1 January 2015

This personal question about our sources of joy is the result of the past five months of animation visits around our Region. I was often asking everybody – Salesians, Lay Mission Partners and young people – **‘What makes you truly and deeply joyful?’**

There are many occasions during this Don Bosco Bicentenary Year for making our Father more visible as the model of consecrated life. Many EAO pilgrims entering the rooms of Don Bosco at Valdocco have watched the short seven-minute video ‘Workshop of the Holy Spirit’ (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wF6xPw_95s). The script starts with a concise presentation of Don Bosco’s charismatic profile: *“On the evening of 24th January 1854 Rochietti, Otiglia, Cagliari, Rua and I met in Don Bosco’s room. From that evening on the name ‘Salesians’ was given to those who took part and follow this code. “Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to everyone!” – “I have always done, what I could, how much more remains to be done. My sons will see to the rest!” – “Give me souls, take away the rest.” – “Give your soul completely to God; give your soul completely to God, with your thoughts, bones, physical energies.”* In this way He can make use of you as He deems best for the salvation of the world.

The joy of our radical life-witness to the Gospel is the best gift we can offer to the young and the Christian community as religious people.

Ongoing invitations of Don Bosco **‘Give your heart and soul completely to God’** and the recent insisting invitation of the Rector Major

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'Belong more fully to God, belong more to your brothers and belong more to the young people' (Letter of Fr Ángel F. Arttime in the Acts no.419) are a good starter for this Year of the Consecrated Life.

This invitation makes me think about our sick or senior confreres who are witnessing to the fact that there is no such things as retirement from consecrated life. It is a reminder about joyful life witness in the extreme situations of frontier mission such as Mongolia, Pakistan, Laos, Cambodia, Solomon Islands. Yes, only joyful life witness can help us to wake up the world!

Let's accept this question at the beginning of 2015: **What makes me truly happy?**

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 11

What are the Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB) good for?

Taiwan – Taipei
The Day of Consecrated Life
2 February 2015

Heartfelt greetings from Taipei!

This year I am privileged to spend almost three months with the China province confreres until 28 April, which also includes the Lunar New Year (19 Feb will start the Year of the Goat). The experience of the extraordinary visitation helps to get into a deeper and calmer dialogue of life with all 124 Salesians of 14 nationalities forming this provincial community with 12 communities in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

The Year of Consecrated Life offers all of us a good opportunity to deepen our roots. There are some 700,000 religious sisters, 80,000 religious brothers and 115,009 religious priests in the Catholic Church. But usually nobody pays much attention to the small flock of the 'secular institute members'. In fact worldwide there are only 32,549 members of secular institutes in the Church. Believe it or not, the Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB) are the largest (1200+ members) among them and Olga, their 'President General' is also the President of the World Federation of all 214 Secular Institutes in the Catholic Church.

In Asia we can meet find **143 VDB** living in India (14), Hong Kong and Macau (16), Thailand (12) and Cambodia (2), Vietnam (28), South Korea (21), Japan (3), Philippines (46), Indonesia (1) and Timor Leste (2). Probably most of you have already met Paoline, the first Asian

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member of the VDB Central Council (2001–2013). In our region there are 18 SDB 'ecclesiastical assistants' accompanying the VDB on their vocation journey.

During my 12 years as VDB Assistant in Korea (1990–2001) I was asking myself often: **'What is the specific contribution of the VDBs to the Church and to the Salesian Family?'** Indeed among the 30 groups of the Salesian Family there are five secular institutes: VDB, *Disciples of Don Bosco*, *Daughters of the Queenship of Mary*, *Cancão Nova* and with *Don Bosco*(CDB). 'Yes, we are good for any situation and occasion!' – is the VDB enthusiastic answer during 2015 Salesian Family Days in Rome.

To be in a humble, very concrete and effective way the 'salt of the earth' is the best contribution of the VDBs. Without any protection of community or external structures they witness to the obedience, chastity and poverty of Jesus in ordinary secular environments. They are able to transform from within their family, workplace or local society. Their regular formation and monthly recollection is their 'formation house'. Without revealing their consecration they offer a shining witness to Jesus in Don Bosco's way, as the VDB are accustomed to saying: 'We bring Jesus and Don Bosco to the society'.

The preparations for the VDB Centenary (1917–2017) already began three years ago. Their roots go back to Blessed Fr Philip Rinaldi at Valdocco. You can meet some VDB in your province and ask her: 'What is your vocation good for?' Don't miss this inspiration during the Year of Consecrated Life!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 12

What is your favourite prayer? – Cetera Tolle!

Hong Kong
1 March, 2015

Heartfelt greetings from Hong Kong!

Dear friends!

Each day is a grace of God. Each day during the extraordinary visitation of China province I am trying to listen, to be in touch with the hearts of China province Salesians, Salesian Family members, many committed mission partners and young people. It was a grace to remember on 13 February, the 109th birthday of our Region – the arrival of the first six Salesians in Macau with Fr Versiglia in 1906. It was a special grace to pray in the Holy Places of Sts Versiglia and Caravario once more, just a few days ago. That bamboo forest is still a silent witness to their martyrdom which happened already 85 years ago on that remote mountain not so far from Hong Kong. During the past six weeks in personal talks I have felt the strong and profound prayerful spirit of the China province confreres. And the question '**What is your favourite prayer**'? became part of the personal talks.

At the same time I am often asking if we are eager to make own Don Bosco's favourite prayer and life motto: [Good Lord], **Give me souls and take away the rest!** (= Da mihi animas, cetera tolle!) During the past 10 years I have been trying make it my own prayer as well and it is still a challenge for me! If you try to pray it often and seriously, your life is being transformed!

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During the last Christmas celebrations in Jakarta (25 December 2014) one young parishioner was attracted by the Good Shepherd Cross (SDB sign of perpetual profession). He took many photos and asked for a while about the Good Shepherd. We Salesians are fortunate to ponder this small crucifix with its 1,800 year-old image of Jesus the Good Shepherd and the inscription 'Strive to be loved' (= *Studia di farti amare!*) of Don Bosco.

During this Lenten season we are invited by Pope Francis to advance in the formation of hearts! Francis invites us to pray often: '**Make our hearts like yours!**' (= *Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*). In order to reach the hearts of the youngsters or of fellow Salesians we always need to go out of our comfort zone. In order to leave our comfort zone we need to travel light – only in this way we are able to listen, to touch hearts.

Let's keep our Salesian crucifix in front of us, so we can pray with Don Bosco and like Don Bosco often 'Good Lord, give me the souls and take away all the rest!'

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 13

What Attracts Vocations to Consecrated Life?

April 5, 2015

Dear friends and confreres, heartfelt greetings to all! After forty days of the Lenten season we are glad to be sharing the deep joy of our encounter with the Lord Jesus, Crucified and Risen for all of us, for each human being! During the past two months in our China province visitation I have listened many times with deeper concern about the Salesian vocations among the SDBs, members of various groups of the Salesian Family and also among our Lay Mission Partners. We are called to build up the vocation culture and we need to provide regular opportunities for vocation camps, meetings and encounters. Almost all of the EAO provinces have their vocation director.

Unfortunately there are also many 'special places' of our region with very few vocations. After 52 years of our presence in Taiwan we have still only three Taiwanese SDBs (one priest, one student of theology and one post-novice). In the oldest EAO presence (China-Macau) we have had no new Salesian novice for the past 24 years. On the other hand, there is a new 'vocation spring' in Australia, the first Salesians from Cambodia and Pakistan. I often ask myself, 'What attracts the youngsters today to Salesian consecrated life?'

There are many answers, but one of them is Fr John Lee (a Korean missionary in South Sudan who died of cancer in 2010)! It is hard to believe the ongoing impact (five years after the release) of the 90 minute movie, "Don't cry for me, Sudan!" on the Salesian vocation or even on

GOODNIGHTS

the new catechumens in our Region (<https://vimeo.com/69300535>). In Korea every year some of the new aspirants confess that their initial attraction to Don Bosco came through Fr Lee's witness. Many missionary vocations of Vietnamese Salesians have their origins in this movie. Even some teenager catechumens in Japan owe their first moments of their faith journey to this young missionary.

The image of Fr John is that of a totally dedicated missionary sent to the youth in a very difficult place. He touched the hearts of many Sudanese youth through his very dedicated ministry of the 'Assistant' in the Oratory. "Don't cry for me, Sudan" shows a sincere and highly committed follower of Jesus. Yes, many have cried and have been deeply touched by his story! There is nothing more attractive than the life of a Salesian assistant, immersed among the youth, fully as their servant, giving all and forgetting himself!

I wish you a fruitful Easter season 2015, fifty days of opportunity to witness to the Oratorian lifestyle of humble serving presence among the young, among our brothers and sisters.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 14

Welcome to the EAO Region, Fr Ángel!

1 May 2015

Dear friends and confreres,

Just yesterday morning we welcomed for the first time the new Rector Major in our Region of East Asia–Oceania at Port Moresby airport! Welcome, Fr Ángel!

After three months of the China province visitation I have embarked with the Rector Major on this 20-day visit. Fr Ángel arrived in Papua New Guinea and will spend three weeks (30 April–17 May) between Papua New Guinea, *Solomon Islands*, *Fiji* Samoa, *New Zealand* and Australia, including *three countries* never visited by any Rector Major.

Eight years ago his predecessor, Fr Pascual Chávez shared: "From a geographical point of view the place most distant from Rome is somewhere in the Region of East Asia-Oceania. I was able to verify this for myself during my journey to Australia and Samoa in 2004. It was the first Samoan Rector, who was absent at the time of my visit, who in May 2006 expressed as his dream: "I would like to visit the holy places of Don Bosco, and at least once in my life meet the Rector Major personally..." ... For some Provinces their last visit from a Rector Major had been as much as 24 years ago. There were also some places where no Rector Major had ever been at all, like the **Solomon Islands**, Pakistan, Mongolia, Laos, and **Fiji**" (Acts of the General Council no. 397, February 2007). We are grateful that during GC 27, Fr Ángel accepted the invitation to visit the peripheries of the Congregation first of all in EAO. Within the next three weeks he will meet 100+ Salesian Brothers and Priests living far from each other around the Pacific Ocean.

What does this first visit of the 10th Successor of Don Bosco to our EAO Region mean for us? First of all, beside the joy and festive atmosphere, we approach Fr Ángel as sons meeting their father to share our life with simplicity and listen to his sharing as well. He asked to have enough time (2 hours) for meeting the Salesians in each country. Secondly, it is a good opportunity for us to deepen the sense of belonging to the worldwide SDB community (C. 59). Last but not the least, it is also a good chance to share the lasting fruits of the DB200 Year of Grace with the Rector Major! **Welcome!**

As well as the Rector Major's personal secretary, Fr Horácio Lopez (Argentina), there the ANS video producer, Fr Jacob Iruppakkattu (India) is also joining us. The presence of a social communicator is a good help for sharing daily on Boscolink (www.bosco.link) and ANS as well. It is also a good opportunity for the *Salesian Mission Day 2016* video with its focus on Oceania. In each of the six countries some Salesians and Lay Mission Partners will be interviewed about the initial proclamation of Jesus in their daily life.

I wish you a fruitful month of May, month of Mary!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 15

Thank you Fr Ángel for the great gift of communion!

1 June 2015

Dear friends and confreres!

I am sending heartfelt greetings from Rome on the first day of the General Council session. When reflecting on the past five months of 2015, only deep gratitude comes to my mind. Especially thanks for the three weeks of the first visit of the Rector Major to our Region. I am convinced that the best way how to share the emotions and beliefs of all confreres met by Fr Ángel, is to share the voice of two superiors, in their own words:

"From the beginning to the end of his visit to the six Oceania countries, our Rector Major had a marvellous impact and a long-lasting effect upon everybody he met and engaged with and embodied the spirit, fatherliness and friendliness of Don Bosco in every sense of those words ... For my own part, I found our new Rector Major to be encouraging and affirming at all times, being ever ready to boost our confidence and raise our morale in the face of current difficulties. I saw that he was honest and open, perceptive and straightforward, unafraid to assess present issues and problems and to 'call things as he saw them'. Moreover, I perceived him as a man who was courageous and bold enough to make the 'hard decisions', to put forward significant challenges, and to back up his dreams and projects with meaningful actions and firm commitments. Finally, and most importantly, I judged him to be a leader of strength and

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resilience, always with a smile on his face, indicative of a deep-seated Salesian cheerfulness and optimism."

Thanks to all confreres and especially rectors, delegates and provincials for the good preparation for this visit and also for a good opportunity to share many interviews relating to the **Salesian Mission Day 2016** video with its focus on Proclamation of Jesus in Oceania. In a special way we treasure also a historical interview of Fr Ángel on the shores of Samoa, after riding the DB200 boat with 44 Bosconians of Don Bosco Alafua.

"Dear Rector Major, in your first year of service to the Congregation, you have already visited 25 nations and met personally some 2600 confreres. However to reach first those living on the most distant places from Rome, it is a strong sign and for us a blessing. Yes, dear Rector Major: "Fiji – Samoa – Solomon Islands – Papua New Guinea – New Zealand – Australia are never far from Rome! – Thanks for this loud message and your inspiring presence amongst us! Thank you, Fr Ángel for making Oceania such a high priority in your first year in office!"

The most significant gift we received is that of a stronger communion, as expressed by another superior: **"For me the greatest grace Fr Ángel brought us is Communion. Communion with Don Bosco** (as his successor) and his Charism, **Communion with the Salesian world** (not only among the SDBs, but the Salesian Family and Bosconians) and **Communion in our Delegation** that brought us again in common sentiments and ideals."

Tenkyu tru! (Tok Pisin–PNG) *Tangio tu mas!* (Tok Pisin–SI) *Vinaka vakalevu!* (Fijian) *Fa-afetai!* (Samoan) *Kia ora!* (Maori) Thank you very much!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 16

'What you observed in Valdocco, do it in the EAO Region!'

1 July 2015

Dear friends and confreres!

During this Jubilee year I spent a few days in our Mother house in Valdocco. Last week's visit was during Pope Francis' pilgrimage to Turin (Shrine of Mary Help of Christians) and the previous one was a few weeks ago during the **Don Bosco 200** encounter of 90+ Salesian bishops with the Rector Major. It was a time of grace!

It is also amazing to meet so many EAO pilgrims in the Holy Places of Don Bosco during this year. So far there have already been visitors from Australia, Cambodia, China, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. We could ask: **What are the fruits of meeting with Don Bosco at Valdocco 200 years after his birth?** The simple and deep sharing of Salesian Archbishop Tim Costelloe (Perth–Australia) might be a good insight into a Salesian heart and soul during this Jubilee:

"For me, perhaps, the real value of the experience lay very much in the quiet moments, when all the pilgrims had gone home, and I was able to wander around the grounds of the Oratory or sit quietly in the Chapel of St Francis de Sales. These are the places where the stories and events we all know so well actually took place. It wasn't hard to picture Don Bosco in the courtyards of the Oratory, outside the Basilica and just under the windows where he had his rooms. You could sit quietly in the small area behind the altar in the Church of St Francis de Sales where Don Bosco

GOODNIGHTS

discovered the young Dominic Savio still in prayer hours after Mass had ended. You could stand in the doorway where Don Bosco handed out the bread rolls for breakfast, managing to feed all his boys even though he only had a few bread rolls in his basket. You could see the little window through which someone fired at Don Bosco in an assassination attempt which luckily failed. And it wasn't too difficult to imagine you could hear Grigio barking, or Mamma Margaret calling the boys to the evening meal, or Don Bosco with his young men around him talking to them about how important it was for the boys to know that they were loved.

"I came back to Australia with a much deeper sense of what Fr Václav meant when he said to me, shortly after it was announced that I was to become a bishop (2007), that I must do all I could to be not so much a bishop who used to be a Salesian but rather a Salesian who was also now a bishop, called to live out my Salesian vocation in this new ministry of service to the Church. My time in Turin has given new life to my understanding of what it means to be a Salesian – and hopefully it will help me to enrich my episcopal ministry with the spirit of Don Bosco, so tangible and so accessible in those places where it first came to birth."

With sincere wishes that each of our houses will become a more Valdocco-like presence. Don Bosco is telling us that what you observed in Valdocco, do it everywhere.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 17

Happy Birthday Don Bosco!

1 August 2015

16 August 2015 is already here – after many years of preparation finally we can share heartfelt wishes for your 200th Birthday!

"Dear Don Bosco, being the most distant Salesian region from Becchi and Valdocco, your 200th Birthday celebration has very deep meaning for all of us in our Region!"

"We were lucky enough to welcome your relics 4 years ago in Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Timor Leste and Australia. Thousands of Salesian Family members still treasure this special encounter with you for the rest of their life."

"You know how we did our best to spread your life story and spirit with translations and publications of your writings in EAO languages. We did not spare our efforts, funds and Salesian Family energies to prepare many DB200 events during these past four years: Congresses, Symposium, Celebrations, Sport festivals and Youth gatherings. Many provinces prepared pilgrimages to your beloved Becchi and Valdocco." "Dear Don Bosco, help us to continue to harvest the fruits of your 200th Birthday Jubilee! Give us the wisdom and zeal to witness your predilection for poor youth so that other generations will also be able to celebrate your 300th Birthday in many more East Asia – Oceania locations!"

May the following resolution from Papua New Guinea youth, the result of this Jubilee Year, express our innermost feeling: *'Oh God, full of mercy, I would like to commit myself to Don Bosco! Help me reach out to the needy and poor youngsters, so that I may bring them to Don*

Bosco, to be closer to Jesus. May I be a shining light to all through Christ, Our Lord! Amen.'



And this creative logo DB200 made by China province: **'Heart to heart, hand in hand, moving together towards the future of the Salesian Family'** shows us the way!

Dear Don Bosco, we wish you from the bottom of our hearts – Happy Birthday!

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 18

Time of harvesting ... with the young!

1 September 2015

Dear friends and confreres!

A few days ago in most of our communities, delegations and provinces each of us took part in different celebrations for the 200th Birthday of Don Bosco. We are really very grateful to the numerous Salesians and Don Bosco Salesian Family members who shared those moments through AustraLasia news (www.bosco.link). From Turin and Becchi, down to Anisakan, Auckland, Banpong, Cebu, Darkhan, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Manila, Melbourne, Seoul up to Apia in Samoa we gave thanks and enjoyed the deep joy of one family around our Father and Founder. Now, the celebrations are (almost) over. And we can ask – what will be the next step the day after these big celebrations?

Fr Ángel sent the Salesians SDB his 2015 letter – ‘Five fruits of the Bicentenary’ (Acts of the General Council no. 421). **I would like to suggest – take those five simple and deep dreams and share them with the young people around us!** You would know how much the presence of young missionary volunteer changes the sensitivity of a religious community (SDB, FMA or other groups) if they pray, eat, work and share together with us during an entire year. I feel the Strenna 2015 ‘Like Don Bosco, for the Young and with the Young’ – left us with the challenge to live, pray, plan and **work with the young!**

The first dream of the Rector Major is for Happy Salesians. It strengthens the China province Salesian Cooperators ‘Happy Vocation Movement’ launched already last year, ten months ahead of these five dreams of Fr Ángel’s! It helps us keep on track with Pope Francis’

'Joy of the Gospel'. What will happen if we allow and encourage the youth around us to ask: **'Dear Father, Brother, Sister, Teacher ... what makes you truly happy and joyful'**? If we try to open our life to the youth in this way we might find the deepest joy of Don Bosco.

Let's allow the young people to enter into our daily life more: listen to them with passion and bring their needs, doubts into our community prayer or invite some of our animators or youth leaders to community meals, prayers or sharing. If we try to open our life to the youth, it helps us to discover God in their lives and believe more in their important role in the Salesian mission. Living more with the young will help us to become more authentic Salesians – like Don Bosco, who dreamt about the sheep being transformed into the shepherds!

In Saint John Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 19

‘Look at Don Bosco!’ – Mons. Cimatti continues to inspire (1965–2015)

1 October 2015

Dear friends and confreres!

Some countries and provinces in our EAO Region are happy and fortunate enough to get **‘their Don Bosco’** (= Don Bosco of China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Fiji, PNG ...) and some are still looking for their local incarnation of Don Bosco. It means that among the first missionaries were strong Salesian personalities who made Don Bosco visible in that specific culture and situation. Thanks for those great Salesians! Fr Chávez used to say: “The best pages of Salesian history were written by our missionaries!”

On 6 October, with the Salesian Family of Japan, we remember the 50th anniversary of the departure of Venerable Mons. Vincenzo Cimatti (1965–2015). He spent 40 years in Japan as the leader of the first missionary group. In Tokyo–Chofu every 6th of the month there is a special Eucharist and encounter near his tomb and museum. My wish is that many of EAO confreres will visit the ‘Cimatti Museum’ one day. It documents well the missionary zeal and strategies of the early EAO missionaries who shared the Charism 100 years ago. When Vincenzo was three years old he was told by his mother in church during Don Boscos preaching: **‘Look at Don Bosco!’** After following the Salesian vocation and after many years as excellent formator of future Salesians in Turin, at the age of 46 he was finally sent to become the leader of the first missionary group to Japan. When you walk around the

'Cimatti Museum' in Chofu it is easy to understand why he was called **'Don Bosco of Japan'**. The wide variety of first evangelisation activities, education and social work, collection of music and fossils, social communication and formation of first local vocations documents his missionary zeal so well.

Last 27 September, the 146th missionary expedition with 25 new missionaries was sent from Valdocco like Fr Cimatti in 1925. We welcome two incoming missionaries to our Region (Michael and Joshua for Cambodia) and also pray for nine new missionaries who were sent from three EAO provinces (Korea-2, Philippines North-2 and Vietnam-5).

Today we are starting October, the month of Mary and of the Missions. **"Lord, send me!"** – Salesian Missions Day 2015 is an invitation for listening to the missionary life witness. Let's allow them to communicate their motivations, missionary life joys and difficulties. By listening to their stories, looking at Don Bosco missionaries many young people might follow the Salesian call like Mons. Cimatti!

In Jesus Christ – Missionary of the Father,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 20

'Good Night' – With thanks to Mamma Margaret!

1 November 2015

Dear friends and confreres!

I am very happy to share this **Good night about the Good night**, in the month of Mamma Margaret, our first Salesian Cooperator. During the DB200 Jubilee Year the focus has been on St John Bosco, but even indexterm2:[Pope Francis] highlighted his mother Margaret on 21 June during his meeting with SDBs and FMAs in Mary Help of Christians Basilica, Valdocco.

Among Mamma Margaret's very important contributions to the Salesian Charism is also the *Good Night* given to the first boarders in early days of the Oratory.

After visiting already most of the provinces of our Region, I am more aware than ever of the charismatic importance of the 'Good night' in our daily community or pastoral life. It makes a huge difference – just compare a Don Bosco school without a good morning talk or Salesian education with a daily good morning talk. It is amazing how these brief but powerful daily moments transform the lives of many young people, Salesians and members of the Salesian Family. What makes the difference?

Don Bosco believes this short daily occasion brings many fruits: it helps to wrap up our life every day, builds up the community, trains us to take a faith perspective on our reality. Our Rector Major Fr Ángel shares a 'Good morning talk' on his Facebook page every day, in English, Italian

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and Spanish (*Angel Fernandez Artime Rector Mayor*) with thousands of friends. Each Salesian rector, educator, animator, father and mother in the family personally experiences the attraction and effect of this daily humble 3–5 minutes of sharing.

Yes, we need this constantly renewed experience of sharing, storytelling in the life of a community (school, family, religious community, group home or boarding school).

Listening to a personal life sharing daily or not listening to one – those two daily experiences are very different! As different as it is to interpret our complex world each day from a faith perspective, or not to do so. We are convinced that thanks to this invention of Mamma Margaret our life becomes richer and we find its meaning and deeper joy in living it.

When I was asked to give my first good night during a summer camp as a Salesian prenovice to the kids in Czechoslovakia I was trembling. As vice-rector in Gwangju, Korea, I used to think from the morning onwards: 'What shall I share after the evening prayers with my community?' During the last 13 years I am very happy to share a good morning or good night talk almost daily with many youth or confreres on my ongoing pilgrimage around the Congregation. And I am very sad if I visit a community that has forgotten the mother of Don Bosco and her cleverest invention. Do you miss a Good morning or Good night talk in your daily life? I wish you a good night!

Thank you, Mamma Margaret!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 21

With the heart of the Good Shepherd enter the Year of Mercy!

1 December 2015



Dear friends and confreres!

At many airports and during daily meditation time in the month of November I have reflected on some special 'discovery' or 'insight' during the 2015 Don Bosco Jubilee Year.

During the Don Bosco Bicentenary Year, my attention was caught by our ordinary sign of recognition, the Salesian Cross! On many occasions like a Good Night or Conference to Lay Mission Partners or to young people, I have been able to share the meaning of this Salesian

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sign. I have been surprised at their deep admiration and appreciation of the Salesian Cross that expresses our Salesian Heart – the Heart of Don Bosco, inspired by Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Since the previous Don Bosco Centenary celebrations in 1988 this 'Crucifix' has become a unique and typically Salesian symbol. In most of the EAO Salesian provinces it is a common visible sign according to which we can recognise the Salesians SDB – Brothers or Priests of Don Bosco, in any part of the world.

Jesus as the Good Shepherd (Catacombs) is one of the most meaningful images of early Christian Art and it is probably also the most ancient image of Jesus Christ.

On the reverse side of the Salesian Cross we see the handwriting of Don Bosco '*Studia di farti amare*' (cf. Letter from Rome, 1884: 'Strive to be loved!') – that expresses the heart of the Preventive System of Don Bosco – his spirituality, pedagogy and lifestyle.

I wish you a good night and good start of the Year of Mercy! In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

With the heart of the Good Shepherd enter the Year of Mercy!

The Good Shepherd: one of the most ancient images of Jesus in the early Church period. (AD 2-3)



Back of the Salesian Cross

In Don Bosco's own handwriting

Studia di farti amare (Strive to be loved)

— Don Bosco

Letter from Rome

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2016: Year of Mercy



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Goodnight 22

Our Mother of Inclusive Love – Mother of Mercy

1 January 2016

Dear friends and confreres!

Every time I visit the Battambang Apostolic Prefecture in Cambodia, I am deeply touched by one of the most meaningful and beautiful carvings of *indexterm2*: [Mary – Mother of Mercy]. It is coincidence accident that this statue emerged in the country of the Killing Fields. The original name is '*Our Mother of Inclusive Love*'. Simple contemplation of this welcoming, embracing and smiling statue of Mary might help us on the journey during the Year of Mercy, AD 2016.

A simple catechesis by the Prefect Apostolic of Battambang, Fr Enrique Figaredo, SJ, helps us at the beginning of this Year of Mercy:

Mary is holding Jesus, who is welcoming all who wish to draw near with open arms. Both of them with a disarming smile under the warm cloak of loving kindness.

In the middle of the figure, there are two children: one of them holds a book symbolising wisdom that helps to discern between right and wrong. The other one is playing the flute putting together art, music and tradition for praising God. One of them is on a wheelchair holding a dove, symbol of peace and the other uses a crutch, and is holding a bunch of flowers, the sign of love, God's greatest commandment: 'Love one another as I have loved you!' The crutch and the wheelchair are like a sacrament that gives them back their dignity and makes communion between disabled and non-disabled.

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The cloak of our Lady is an image of the family we all belong to: the Church. We are all included under this cloak. In the bottom there are lotus flowers. The lotus flower is the most emblematic flower in Cambodia, a symbol of glory, purity and holiness.

In this Apostolic Prefecture there are only 10 priests in 31 parishes and mission stations, ministering to 4000 Catholics living among 5 million of the majority Buddhist population. This statue of Our Lady is found in all the parishes of the Prefecture and is carved by disabled Cambodian artists. This also shows that we can help each other in bringing the love of God that Jesus brings to our lives, no matter what our situation.

May this beauty of the young Cambodia Church help us to start this year with a renewed heart, full of mercy!

Wishing you a truly Happy New Year!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 23

Where is your life energy coming from?

1 February 2016



Dear friends and confreres!

In most of our EAO Salesian communities, the birthday of each Salesian is a wonderful occasion for thanksgiving and family celebration. So we have more reason to celebrate the Birthday of our Region on 13 February 2016! Exactly **110 years ago** a small group of six missionaries, headed by Fr Louis Versiglia, reached Macau-China and started the first Salesian presence in 'our part of the world'. May this historical remembrance of the first EAO foundation – the arrival of the first missionaries in China, Macau – on 13 February 1906, inspire us to greater fidelity to the vocation and mission we have received from God!

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The **51st International Eucharistic Congress** was concluded by Cardinal Charles Bo, SDB, just yesterday in Cebu. Many of the events were shared by the Filipino Salesians day by day through AustrAsia news. This Eucharistic event helped me to reflect on the central place of the Eucharist in our life and mission. We humbly recognise the '*Eucharistic life deficit*' (Fr Chávez, 2007–ACG 398) in many of our provinces and communities.

What does the **Eucharistic life deficit** mean? We prefer to be busy, hiding ourselves behind doing so much for others and we deprive ourselves of the wonder of knowing that we are so much loved by God! How is beating the Eucharistic heart in our life? Could the people around us recognise our frequent encounters with Christ in the Eucharist as the source of our energy and endurance in our mission for the young? If the Eucharistic heart is alive in us, we will always find the way to share Jesus with the young who have never met him. Yes, our Eucharistic heart can be measured by our missionary lifestyle. Love for the Eucharist sends us towards poor youth and those who have never met Jesus!

My wish is that the cover photo of '*Globe–Tabernacle*' helps us to reflect personally and in our communities about the Eucharistic life as the fundamental element of our charism and pedagogy.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 24

Beyond the Way of the Cross

1 March 2016



Dear Friends and Confreres!

When some of the young Salesians from our region reach the Basilica of Don Bosco at Becchi, they are surprised by the 14 stations of the **Way of Light**, usually not well known in our 11 provinces. This is a simple invitation to pray these stations during Easter time 2016!

The Way of the Cross, consisting of 14 stations, moments in the last 12 hours of Christ's life, is a long-established form of prayer in the Church. It is an especially appropriate devotion during the Lenten

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season. However, during the Easter season when our attention is focused on the Resurrection, the Stations of the Cross appear a little out of place.

And so 25 years ago, an Italian Salesian priest, Fr Sabino Palumbieri (founder of the official Salesian Family group 'Witnesses of the Risen Lord') was inspired to compose a continuation of the Lenten devotion into an Eastertide devotion. He substituted the moments of Christ's passion and death with the events which took place from the day of the Resurrection till the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost.

Very soon an artist, Mr Giovanni Dragoni (Salesian past pupil) captured the vision of Fr Sabino with 14 stations carved in wood. And the first known Way of Light was blessed on Easter Sunday 1994 at the hill of Becchi, in the Basilica of Don Bosco (cf. photos).

For those who are interested to pray the 'Way of Light' during this 2016 Easter time – different materials are available on Boscolink in Italian, English, French, Chinese and Japanese:

http://www.bosco.link/index.php?mid=resource&document_srl=10361.

I wish you a fruitful experience of great God's Love during this Easter celebrations!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 25

The Salesian Family grows by way of listening!

1 April 1 2016



Dear friends and confreres!

Once again a truly HAPPY EASTER journey to all of you! It is already one month after the memorable first post-GC27 visit of the Rector

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Major to East Asia, that also included two unforgettable days with the EAO provincials and delegates in Batulao, Manila.

Many SDB provincials shared how they grow in humility, patience and sharing in their service of animation and government. They spend hours listening to their confreres!

When Jesus walked with two disciples to the village of Emmaus, he dedicated many hours of listening to those discouraged and disoriented fellows. Without patient listening on their journey they wouldn't have been able to discover the face of the Risen Lord.

At Colle Don Bosco Becchi), at the centre of the Basilica we see a giant wooden statue of the Risen Lord. Before we leave the Basilica we are inspired by the giant colourful fresco of the Jesus Emmaus story.

How much time, energy and patience do we dedicate through daily listening to our fellow Salesians? How much time do we spend in dialogue with the young people or to sense the meaning of the non-verbal language of our Lay Mission Partners and Salesian Family members?

We humbly recognise the importance of simple listening from heart to heart! Since the time of Don Bosco our Salesian Family has grown by listening!

The attached photo of Don Bosco hearing the confession of Paul Albera shows us the Emmaus story alive today!

I wish you a 'listen-full' and fruitful Easter season 2016!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 26

Discovering Pope Francis in the periphery!

Tiruchy
1 May 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

Just a few hours ago here in Tiruchy we concluded the three months extraordinary visitation of this moth southern Indian province. It was a wonderful experience to personally get to know the heart and soul of 220+ mostly young Salesians in their daily life. Even now, almost half of the confreres are still in initial formation and the average age is only 35 years. What is the secret of this growth, enthusiasm and joyful life style?

Tiruchy province was launched in 1999 with the following motto: **To bring those at the periphery to the centre!** Exactly the same movement as that of Pope Francis!

It was an exciting experience during the past three months to visit many rural parishes and dozens of small substations in the villages or coastal plains of Tamil Nadu. Our Salesians are living a really very simple life and serving really very poor people. Many of them also belong to the 'scheduled castes' (Dalit – Untouchables) and are marginalised also today.

How do the Salesians witness to the Gospel of Jesus? Their outreaching capacity is marvellous. In many villages with the majority of people belonging to other faiths (Hindu or Muslim) we organise youth groups (serving the village), empower women self-help groups with livelihood activities and accompany children's parliaments which help the children and youth take responsibility for the common good.

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During the past three month I have asked hundreds of times: **What fills your heart with deep joy?** Indeed, Salesian joy comes from journeying with the poor, when we make a difference in their life with education – from night school in small rooms, up to College education for the first generations of boys and girls from some rural areas.

In many of the small Christian communities based in the villages I discovered the heart of Pope Francis. Indeed some of those people daily watch him on the local Catholic TV channel and are very encouraged in their struggles. The joy of poor people is contagious!

Again we start the month of Mary – the month of May. Like in Cana, so it is today She shows us the way to discover the needs: **'There is no wine!'** Let us go out of our comfort zone to reach those young people who are most in need.

Mary Help of All People! She is invoked among people of many religions. She is also today the true Mother of all. Wishing you a fruitful month of May, month of an open heart!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 27

Salesian Brother in the Heart of Jesus!

1 June 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

The Year of Mercy continues, a wonderful opportunity to be renewed and discover the heart of Jesus – the Good Shepherd. Before flying to Rome after four months away, I pondered the most relevant *discovery* of this semester: **what difference does a presence or absence of the Salesian Brother in our life and mission make?**

Already Fr Egidio Viganó some 30 years ago pointed out that ***'if the Salesian Brother were to completely disappear we would cease to be the Salesians of Don Bosco'***. During the three-month visitation of one Indian province I encountered with surprise and sadness an attitude of giving up almost completely on the vocation of the Salesian Brother. Among 220 confreres there are only six Brothers and I didn't perceive any move to relaunch a new generation of Salesian Brothers like Br. Zatti, Srugi or Sandor!

Fortunately, among the 214 temporary professed Salesian Brothers around the world there are **52 Brothers living in our region** (*America 60, Africa 41, South Asia 32 and in Europe 30*). And every year we have some novices who opt to join the Congregation as Brothers. This year we also are proud to congratulate the first profession of the first Khmer Brother Eng Sarong!

Among **153 perpetually professed Salesian Brothers in our Region** we are glad to appreciate many attractive models of the living Don Bosco: founders of new missions, provincial economists of Vietnam, Japan and Thailand, excellent educators and experts in the technical

GOODNIGHTS

field, wonderful communicators, principals, directors of mission offices, spiritual guides, counsellors of youth at risk, formators, teachers or the best assistants.

What makes the presence – life witness of our Brothers so important? It is not so much what the Salesian Brothers do, but thanks to their irreplaceable contribution to the family spirit in our communities, with their closeness to the poor and working youth and their shining witness of humble consecrated Salesian life. We know from our personal experience that their absence diminishes the effectiveness of our educative and pastoral works. Also Brothers are the best bridge between civil society or other religions and the Catholic community. Last but not the least, Salesian Brothers help us to face the danger of clericalism in some cultures. We give thanks for the gift of the Salesian Brother in our provinces and delegations and pray for more Brother vocations!

I wish you a fruitful month of June, month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 28

Year of Mercy – what are the fruits we harvest?

1 July 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

The Year of Mercy has entered its second half, and most of us have already passed through the Holy Door in our diocesan cathedral or in some important shrine. Many were surprised at the creativity of Gizo's (Solomon Islands) bishop to bring the Holy Door by boat even to the remotest islands. Now we can ask: What are the fruits of this Jubilee?

One month ago I returned to Rome again and have been able to pray three times in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Every time I pass through the Jubilee Year Holy Door I am touched by the very evocative image of Jesus washing the feet of Peter and other disciples (*John 13 – photo*). And Jesus keeps on inviting us: 'You also must wash one another's feet. I have given you an example...' During our present joint spiritual retreat (SDB + FMA General Councils), I ponder this deep invitation of Pope Francis once more:

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ... I ask all of you to do this unfaithfully each day. Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord... I need you. Save me once again. Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace!'

– Pope Francis

Apostolic exhortation 'The Joy of the Gospel'



How I wish all of us would always be firmly rooted in the conviction that it is God who always takes the first initiative: 'He has loved us first' – and our whole life is just a reply to his boundless Mercy! **Indeed our God is kneeling in front of each of us!**

I wish you a fruitful month of July! For many of us it will be a busy summer time, full of youth pastoral activities, for a few of us it will be also participation in the World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow and still for some a good chance for conversion in their retreat.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Vaclav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 29

Communion – a very precious gift!

1 August 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

Yesterday, the World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland concluded. The two million young people from all five continents, including the Salesian Youth Movement Forum & Festival (6,000 youth gathered on 27 July) are already heading back home. Not many of us were so lucky to participate in some World Youth Day, but everybody is aware of the impact on the Catholic Church of this clever initiative of St John Paul II since 1985. Through the encounters with young disciples of Jesus of Jesus from other continents the faith is growing and we can touch multiple effects also in our Salesian Youth Movement in the EAO Provinces.

Keeping in mind the communion produced by the personal visits of the Rector Major in our EAO countries, we can better appreciate this precious gift. Those who share and live in communion with the Rector Major grow and act with more of a Salesian mind and criteria. Those who are not very much in touch with the worldwide community of the Salesian Family become weaker and less motivated and dynamic.

The Biblical Icon of Jesus the Vine of Jesus the Vine was chosen by General Chapter 27 as a visible reminder and motivation for our renewal in this six-year period (2014–2020). One tree with many branches reminds us of the intertwining of our life as Salesians of Don Bosco wherever we are living. Even an unnoticed life witness in one Oratory affects the life of my Salesian confreres in other communities, other provinces and other continents.

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I find this biblical icon to be a very powerful reminder in my daily life! As with every icon we can contemplate Jesus and his branches on the icon. But at the same time we believe that Jesus is contemplating us daily with his welcoming arms, keeping the Word at the centre!



I wish you a fruitful month of August, another opportunity to live within the communion of the worldwide Catholic Church and the Salesian world community!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 30

Don Bosco Alumni: Prayer and Promise!

1 September 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

Bosconians – Alumni – Salesians: there are different names for the Past Pupils of Don Bosco who started from the annual celebration of Don Bosco's Feast day on 24 June.

Bosconians forever! The Don Bosco Alumni (Past Pupils) is the largest group among the 31 in the large Salesian Family. Although there are a few million young people who have received a Don Bosco education in our Oratories, Youth Centres, Schools or Parishes, the World President Mr Michal Hort acknowledges about 100,000 registered members.

It is exciting to read the Alumni World Confederation 6-year flagship projects:

(1) Permanent secretariat: goal – collect 3 million of Alumni contact address; (2) Don Bosco Alumni Business Platform – to support DB mission; (3) Alumni Academy: to foster the formation of SDB delegates and Alumni leadership; (4) Alumni Voluntary Service: to involve the Alumni in youth ministry or missionary volunteer activity.

However I was more deeply struck by their newly approved Statutes, which contains a wonderfully courageous prayer – promise, suggested for all Alumni meetings:

PRAYER AND PROMISE of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco

GOD, OUR FATHER, through the mediation of your Son, Jesus, and through the intercession of Saint John Bosco give heed to the prayers of the Past Pupils all over the world.

WE THANK YOU for the invaluable gift of education which we have received, under the enlightened guidance of the Salesians, which have instilled our lives with the Salesian Spirituality.

WE ASK YOU WITH FAMILIAL TRUST – Give us strength and courage to live the human and Christian message, in the Society and in the Church. Encourage us to become "good Christians and honest citizens", Help us to live together and promote solidarity in our Association and beyond it. Strengthen our faith, hope and charity.

WE PROMISE YOU – to fight against injustice, blackmail, superficiality, indifference, – and to defend at all costs, the values inspired from Don Bosco's teaching, especially life, freedom and truth with a spirit of social, political and financial commitment, – and to be, "the salt of the earth and light of the world" with a strong influence in the world and in the Church.

WE BEG YOU to watch over our Salesian Family, our dear ones and all of us. Amen. (Statutes art 5.b)

I dream that all who are receiving Don Bosco education in our EAO countries may be invited to one day join the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association. On 4–8 October, our ITM Vice–province is hosting the first Salesian Family regional encounter in Dili, Timor Leste: the **11th EAO Regional Congress of Salesian Family Past Pupils**. We congratulate and pray for many fruits from this event!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 31

Japan's Volunteers are reaching out!

1 October 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

A few days ago we witnessed the 147th Salesian missionary expedition in Valdocco. We are happy to witness a good number of EAO members: SDB-FMA from Korea, Timor Leste, Philippines and Vietnam, among the 39 members. We are also glad to welcome another Mexican missionary (for the FIS delegation of Pakistan) to our Region.

During the two months of the Rising Sun Japan) Province extraordinary visitation, I have been deeply touched by a renewed effort to reach out to serve. Different ways of volunteer action are growing in many schools and parishes: weekly outreach to the Hamamatsu homeless people, Kumamoto or Tohoku earthquake areas; volunteer groups and different school groups regularly visiting social welfare institutions.

Very interesting were the many sharing sessions on the volunteer experience impact on the life of many young people in our schools, parishes and Salesian Youth Movement. For many of them one evening in the streets with the homeless, five days of service in the earthquake-hit areas or three weeks in the Solomon Islands is a life-transforming experience. In the volunteer service they discover many poor people, they are being exposed to the joyful faith of poor youth in Timor Leste (Salesian Polytechnic), in the Philippines (Shizuoka Salesio) or in the Solomon Islands (Don Bosco Volunteer Group). After coming back home their life changes for many of them: a faith journey towards baptism, new life dream about a future career (teachers, medical doctors,

GOODNIGHTS

vocation), more convinced and committed Christian life for Catholic members. I will never forget those sharings!

During this month of October we are happy to welcome the 10th successor of Don Bosco among us – this time in the Mongolia delegation (VIE) and Myanmar vice-province (MYM), not counting his transit through the provincial houses of Seoul and Bangkok. May the animating presence of the Rector Major strengthen our out-reaching spirit!

I wish all EAO Salesian Family members a fruitful month of October – month of Our Lady, month of the Holy Rosary and month of missionary animation! My dream is to meet volunteer groups in all of our Salesian works around the EAO Region!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 32

Fruitful Year of Mercy – Hamamatsu, Japan!

1 November 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

It was an exciting time with the Rector Major in Mongolia (historic first visit of a Rector Major to Chinghis Khan Land), Myanmar (historic first visit to the Myanmar Vice-province) and two encounters in the provincial house in Seoul KOR) and Bangkok (with the FIS delegation confreres)! For the past 12 months, thanks to Pope Francis and with the whole Catholic community around the world, we have had a good opportunity to know the name of God – Mercy better! So many Holy Doors were open in 23 countries of our EAO Region. In some places the door was even transported by boat from one island to another, like in Gizo diocese, Solomon Islands. This 20 November is the official closure of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and of the Holy Door also in the Salesian parish of St Francis of Assisi, Hamamatsu – Japan, Yokohama diocese.

Thanks to the pioneer Fr Evaristo Higa who has lived in this city since 1993 and with him later on also other Salesians, slowly a weak parish community has become a model parish for the whole diocese. During this year, all four Catholic language groups in Hamamatsu (Japanese, Brazilian, Spanish and Filipino) have built up a unique environment of service and spirituality. The Bishop of Yokohama brought all his clergy to experience the multicultural community family spirit and service, and two important national meetings of migrant ministry were held in this parish.

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The Salesian community of Hamamatsu shares a variety of Mercy Jubilee Year fruits: for the pilgrims many confessions and conversions; for the missionaries of mercy it was a deep life-transformation with faith formation to guide pilgrims. In the intense service to the 4000 pilgrims over the last year, the parish faithful grew in faith, responsibility, spirituality and community spirit. Among the parishioners a new inter-cultural group of spiritual formation began, and many other Catholic pilgrims during the Year of Mercy have been inspired in their faith journey by this vibrant community!

I wish to East Asia–Oceania (EAO) Salesian Family members a fruitful conclusion to the Mercy Jubilee Year!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 33

Do you believe in the Salesian Family?

1 December 2016

Dear friends and confreres,

We are starting the last month of this year. For the next few weeks I hope to enjoy a regular life in the General House once more. After many months of travelling, meeting and listening to many Salesians, Salesian Family members and the young, I will once again have a good chance to pray, reflect, write and share with calm in my office. An almost incredible time!

Looking back I give thanks for many fruitful meetings with many of you during our EAO regional meetings. Especially the recent three-day **formation session for EAO Salesian Family delegates** (Seoul, K'Long, Cebu) was for me, personally, a very strong charismatic experience. I am happy that more than 150 members of 10 different Salesian Family groups from all 11 EAO provinces personally experienced the rich gift of Don Bosco's spiritual and apostolic family! The personal presence of six EAO SDB provincials was the best witness of our interest and deep commitment for the Sal. Family!

Do you believe in the Salesian Family? It is not just about answering a joyful 'Yes!' Thanks to the animating presence of Fr Eusebio Muñoz (Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family) and his team (SF Secretariate)! Thanks to the very Salesian input from Ms. Olga (VDB World President), Mr Philip (EAO Regional Councillor for the Salesian Cooperators), Mr Wichai (former EAO regional Councillor of the Salesian Cooperators) and Mrs Noemi (World Coordinator of ASC)!

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Together we discovered that our Salesian vocation cannot be lived without the mutual enrichment of priests, consecrated people and lay people. **'Without you we are not ourselves!'** [*Salesian Family Charter of Charismatic Identity*, art. 10]. It means that without the FMA, without the Salesian Cooperators or Don Bosco Past Pupils we are not true Salesians of Don Bosco!

For the 150 participants of the three Salesian Family formation Delegates it was a deep insight into the Salesian Charism. Our wish is that all 1500 SDB in 22 countries of the EAO and thousands of members of the 15 groups to be found in our Region may **appreciate this great gift and responsibility for the growth of Don Bosco Salesian Family!** Life witness of 500, 000 Sal. Family members sharing the same Vocation in 31 different Salesian Family groups is our best contribution to the mission of the Universal Church and the salvation of the Young!

I wish you a good Advent journey towards the Christmas Feast! May the Holy Family of Nazareth help us to deepen our belief in the youth, in the Family as well our deeper conviction of the importance of the Salesian Family in our daily life!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,


Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

2017: Strenna 2017 – We are one family!

Strenna 2017
サレジオ会誌 年間目録

We are
FAMILY!
Every home, a school of Life and Love

サレジオ会誌長
アンヘル・フェルナンデス・
アルティメ神父



わたしたちは家族!
“家庭”は命と愛の学び舎

サレジオ
Strenna

GOODNIGHTS

Goodnight 34

Stop all War! Make 2017 the Year of Peace!

Seoul – Korea
1 January 2017

Dear friends and confreres,

At the beginning of this year, I entrust all important encounters with the Salesians to the guidance and protection of our Mother. Especially the three visits and encounters with the 10th Successor of Don Bosco in our Region – in Vietnam, Thailand and during the four days of the Team Visit in Hua Hin with our provincial councils!

During this Christmas season, and celebrating New Year 2017, my heart is deeply touched by numerous wars and violence (37 armed conflict zones) around the world, in the Middle East, in many African countries as well in Asia. Also the Rector Major, Fr Ángel invites us in his 2016 Christmas message to pray in a very concrete way for peace!

During recent visits to Myanmar I witnessed once again the impact of a domestic war that has lasted more than 60 years. It is probably the longest civil war in the world. No fewer than 75 different armed groups have already signed a peace treaty, but the violent clashes are never ending. Let's take to heart the invitation of our fellow Salesian bishop to our New Year Day Eucharist! May Mary, Mother of the Church help to build more peace!

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Brothers and Sisters of Myanmar,
Happy New Year!

Every year we greet one another with this message. Sincerely there is no happiness in many parts of this country. War goes on in many parts. For more than 200.000 IDPs (internally displaced person) in the camps, there is NO happy new year.

The war that started 60 years ago is still raging on. Cambodia solved its conflicts and Vietnam solved its wars. All of them are on the path towards peace with prosperity. We are involved in an unwinnable war. Agony and displacement of many is the only result.

The silent majority of Myanmar has been just a spectator to the chronic war in Myanmar. Let us come together for peace. It is time for us to come together – all religions, all ethnic groups – for making 2017 a really Happy New Year.

Peace with Justice is possible. Peace through negotiations is possible. Armed response has failed. So we urge all religions to observe 1 January 2017 as a day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace!

Let all of us flock to our monasteries, churches, temples and mosques carrying placards and flags depicting the words 'STOP ALL WARS'!

Let us spend the day in prayer for peace and a day long fast to change the hearts of all people! End all wars! Make 2017 the year of Peace!

Cardinal Charles Bo
Archbishop of Yangon

In Don Bosco,
Fr Václav Klement, SDB,
Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 35

Listen, appreciate and give thanks!

1 February 2017

Dear friends and confreres,

We have started another year, for us the Year of the Family. During January we tried to make the Strenna of the Rector Major our own: "Family a school of Life and Love!" Indeed the recent 35th Salesian Family Spirituality Days in Rome deeply touched our hearts with an old-new mission towards FAMILY based around the Exhortation of Pope Francis – *Amoris Laetitia*. The main thrust – how to accompany families in difficulties!

Entering the month of February we congratulate and pray for three Salesians of our Region: The bishop-elect of Kerema diocese (PNG) Fr Peter Baquero (episcopal ordination on 25 March), the second Superior of the PGS Vice-province, Fr Alfred Maravilla (installation on 19 March) and the 16th Provincial of THA (Thailand, Cambodia and Laos) Fr John Bosco Theparat Pitisan (installation on 2 February).

Last year, during animation meetings and personal dialogues I especially treasured the hope-filled attitude of many rectors, delegates, provincials or others in service of leadership. In spite of many great challenges, they look honestly at the reality with a smile, joy, faith – always with encouraging words.

In one not-so-easy country of our Region I found the truly wise approach of the Superior, who asked the confreres to use '**only future-oriented talks**'! When we asked our young people: What is your life-dream? We can usually begin a life-moving dialogue. It is no coincidence that Don Bosco shared many dreams with his Salesians and the

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young. When we dream together as a local community, as a provincial community during our sharing, assembly, chapter or well prepared planning-evaluation meeting – we are growing and moving forward!

Probably most of began this year a month ago with some simple and concrete resolution. I would like to share my resolution: **"Listen, appreciate and give thanks!"** More and more I am deeply convinced that our most necessary life attitude is listening – listening more to God, listening with empathy to our fellow brothers and sisters and especially to our young people. Yes, there is never enough listening!

I would like to invite all of us to waste more time in listening, listening with calm, with empathy and with a prayerful heart. Mary, Mother of Listening, pray for us!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 36

Never grow tired of walking! Can you tell me, what should I change?

1 March 2017

Dear friends and confreres,

Precisely today we begin our Lenten journey once more, forty days of walking towards the Resurrection of our Lord. This year we celebrate it on 16 April! Every Lenten season is a special forty-day pilgrimage of conversion. Conversion means walking towards God, getting out of our comfort zone. It is always a healthy move. We are invited to move out from our personal comfort zone, move out from our routine, mediocre life-style or move from the security of our small life-space where *'everything is under control'*.

This year I spent the Don Bosco Feast Day among a group of young missionaries mixed with rather senior confreres – a really meaningful multi-generational family experience. One day in the afternoon I was surprised by one of the not-so-young confrere who asked me a straight forward question: ***'Can you give me just 3 minutes time? Could you tell me, what I should change to become a better Salesian?'*** It was a short, but serious, fraternal and very Gospel-like face-to-face encounter. Knowing him well for the past few years, I shared a few points for his personal growth and conversion. This encounter deeply touched my heart!

During this 2017 Lenten journey, Pope Francis invites us to consider the **parable of the rich man and Lazarus** (cf. Lk 16:19–31): 'Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to under-

GOODNIGHTS

standing what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion...

Lazarus (= means God help us!) teaches us that other persons are a gift. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable...

In the **rich man** (= has no name!) we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride! ...

Like the rich man when we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters. *From the depths of my heart* I wish a sincere journey during the next 40 days, so we can together sing 'Alleluja!' with truly deep joy – the result of this conversion journey!

Mary, Mother of the pilgrim people of God, pray for us!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 37

Do we really need each other? Without good communication there is no communion!

1 April 2017

Dear friends and confreres,

During the past few years we are witnessing the rather odd situation around the globe of many countries and people closing their hearts, homes and frontiers to others and even some new walls are springing up. However the future of our one human family is clearly inter-connected; all nations are living more and more as one large family and becoming more and more inter-dependent. Yes, the Church of Pope Francis is definitely the Church of Communion! We are becoming more convinced each day of the importance of communion everywhere!

On my journey over the past four years, I have always carried with me the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis 'The Joy of the Gospel'. Indeed it is an ongoing challenge and strong call for conversion. I realised that '**ALL**' is the most frequent word in this Catholic Road Map. Giving thanks for all, witnessing to Jesus to all, building bridges to all, trying to love all – this is the way traced out by Pope Francis for all of us!

Nobody among us is so rich that he cannot be more enriched by the gifts of others. And nobody in the world is so poor that he cannot share his own gifts with others and enrich them!

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During the recent EAO 2017 Team Visit in Hua Hin, Thailand, we experienced this beautiful mutual exchange in many ways: *Today all of our 11 EAO Salesian provinces are able to receive missionaries and form international and inter-cultural communities. Even the smallest vice-province of Papua New Guinea–Solomon Islands (PGS) can give and even the largest province of Vietnam–Mongolia (VIE) is eager to receive confreres from other countries!*

However communion in the Salesian Congregation, within our Provinces and local communities starts from an open heart that shares, communicates and listens! My phonecall to one sick confrere, my email to the distant missionary community, my personal sharing on Facebook, my photo with a short article sent to AustraLasia news or even simple words whispered in the ear during recreation makes a difference and builds communion!

Wishing you a fruitful end to this Lenten journey and the deep Joy of Easter 2017, always in growing communion with Jesus, Crucified and Risen Lord! Don't be afraid, open your heart to Jesus, again and again!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 38

She has done everything

**She has done everything. Trust in Mary Help of Christians,
and you'll see what miracles are!!**

— Don Bosco

1 May 2017

Dear friends and confreres,

Who is Mary Help of Christians for you? The month of May is among the most wonderful times of the year from Japan to Samoa. The month of Mary was for Don Bosco a special time to growth in faith with his boys and Salesians. Let's make this 2017 month of Mary more meaningful than ever. Mary is present amongst us, our Mother is walking in our playgrounds and classrooms like in the times of Don Bosco.

There is a shining experience all around the world: where devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus, is very deeply rooted with many cultural expressions, there is also a flourishing of the faith of Jesus' disciples! We feel how much our Mother sustains the faith of Her Son's family. In parishes in Vietnam all the faithful come after the Eucharist in front of the statue of Mary and offer three Hail Marys and a beautiful song every day before going back home. Yes, there are many beautiful expressions of deep popular devotion!

We experience many rich expression of our relationship to Mary: daily common prayer of the Holy Rosary with our students, 24th of each month with the Salesian Family Eucharist and the Blessing of Mary Help of Christians composed by Don Bosco. We very often say: 'Mary, our

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Help, pray for us!' or 'Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us!' (= it depends on our multi-religion context). The ADMA (Association of Mary Help of Christians) groups are growing even in Japan and Korea. Yes, we sing so many beautiful Marian songs, we offer flowers to our Mother and we build her statutes from Lahore to Mati. Our first missionaries in Paranaque, Port Moresby or in Darkhan (Mongolia) are building chapels or shrines especially in the frontline missions. We walk in magnificent processions like in Fatumaca, Timor Leste. Some of us used to throw Marian medals on a plot of land needed for future apostolic work. We walk with our youth to Marian shrines for our renewal or begging for some specially needed grace. Entire countries like China or continents like Oceania venerate the Help of Christians as their main Patroness. No fewer than 4/11 provinces in our region are living under her protection: Myanmar, China, Australia-Pacific and Cebu-Philippines.

As Don Bosco sons and daughters we relate to Mary as one who 'walks in our house', 'who leads each of our youth to the house of Don Bosco' and performs real miracles we don't even dare ask for. **Let us fall in love like the first Salesians with this same strong and affectionate love for our Heavenly Mother. Don Bosco is telling us that if we are to walk a sure path as Salesian educators we cannot do so without helping the hearts of our boys and girls beat strongly for our Blessed Mother. Wishing you a special month of our Mother!**

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 39

How are we motivated by the 'Jesus Vine' Icon?

1 June 2017



GOODNIGHTS

Dear friends and confreres,

During the past three years (General Chapter 27 – April 2014) the Biblical Icon of Jesus the Vine (John 15:1–11) has been in our hands, in our communities and also on our small EAO prayer card. This ancient image was entrusted to all Salesians for them to be motivated on their daily conversion journey. We contemplate the open Bible at the centre (Salesians as mystics), the intertwined branches of the vine (Salesians as brothers) and the multiple fruits of communion visible in the grapes (Salesians as servants of the young). Some SDB communities keep the Icon in their chapel, refectory, entrance hall or in some other visible place. For me this icon is a daily strong invitation for my credible witnessing and I keep it with my cellphone. Each EAO extraordinary visitation in all communities and provinces is a good chance to discover its beauty, deep meaning and motivation!

During this June, month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I would like to challenge all of us to keep this Biblical Icon close at hand. Indeed the icon theology of the Eastern Churches tells us that while we are contemplating Jesus, also Jesus Christ of the icon is contemplating our life!

Let's allow him to fix His eyes on our life and mission! During the month of May we celebrated the 9th EAO Regional Congress of Salesian Cooperators in Tokyo with 320 participants. Over these days I am finishing the consultation for the next superior of Australia-Pacific province (AUL). Your prayers for the fruits of both important events are highly appreciated!

Wish you a fruitful and joyful Pentecost 2017!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 40

EAO Lay Volunteers – Mission Possible?

1 July 2017

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members!

The month of July means either summer or winter vacation in many of the EAO countries, in the schools, as well many apostolic activities – summer oratories, faith-vocation or Bible camps and also volunteer service exposure for our young people.

Day by day I am more deeply convinced that without Youth Volunteer Services, Salesian Youth Ministry is not complete, is not truly dynamic and has no future! The name may be Don Bosco Volunteer Group (GIA), may be Cagliari Project (AUL), may be Torch Movement (CIN), may be International Volunteer Group (KOR), VIDES Japan, Korea, Philippines, Cambodia (FMA) or SALVO (FIS) ... such are the different volunteer organisations of the Salesian Family within our 11 EAO provinces.

During the past six months I have met a few young or not so young missionary volunteers who spent one year of their life serving the young people in Samoa, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines or Timor Leste. It is amazing to listen to their experience: *'I applied because I did not want to continue my academic way in life or at least trying to do something good. I thought teaching English is something I can do and so I wanted to do it. After almost one year here I have learned much more than I could have ever dreamt! Probably the best way to sum up my one year of volunteer life is that I shared my little knowledge, experiences and life!'*

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Whenever I visit the Solomon Islands personally or access the Facebook pages of the Solomon Island Salesian Family members I give thanks for 26 years of the DBVG (Japan) consistent volunteer commitment. Whenever I listen to the DBVG members who have returned from Solomon Islands to Japan, I realise how much both groups of young people are enriched by their mutual interaction. The witness of selfless service of our young people shapes the lives of young people all over the world. In developed materialistic countries without the volunteers there would be probably only 50% of consecrated vocations!

Yes, we dream about more missionary volunteers in all of our EAO Provinces and Delegations. Yes, we dream to go beyond a simple two-week immersion experience, in order to give one year full-time in the Salesian mission! Sometimes the young volunteers coming from other countries to our EAO communities may become the inspiration or trigger for the growth of missionary volunteers in Vietnam, Timor, Cambodia, Myanmar or Mongolia. Let's try!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 41

Accompaniment – one of the Salesian key words

1 August 2017

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members!

I am more and more deeply convinced that we **need more time to sit down and reflect, also to kneel down and pray for the things we reflect on.** Just a few weeks ago we had a good opportunity for the yearly spiritual retreat with the Rector Major in a Benedictine Abbey near Florence. When I reflect on the past three years of experience as Regional Councillor, I realise very strongly our renewed commitment to accompaniment. Indeed, at present with Fr Ángel we are dedicating substantial time to accompanying 90 SDB provincials around the world. Straight after their appointment they are called to Rome for a personal talk with all council members and there are three more occasions for this during their 6 year term.

Don Bosco was accompanied by many people, from Don Calosso up to Don Cafasso. We acknowledge a strong family spirit at Valdocco as the best environment for growth in faith, vocation and mission for the young. Everybody was accompanied and in turn the first Salesian generation were able to accompany the youngsters and young Salesians.

With honesty, we acknowledge a huge deficit of accompaniment in our communities today. There are many reasons – no time, not considering it important or simple don't know how to accompany our youth and our confreres. But if I am not accompanied by somebody

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else, it is also very difficult to expect that I will be able to journey together with others.

During this summer time (winter in the southern part of the EAO Region) I am praying that we are able to help our provincials to better accompany their rectors, that the rectors and other mature **Salesians would dedicate enough time and energy for accompaniment of their confreres, Lay Mission Partners, Salesian Family members and especially for the young who show signs of vocation.**

And we believe that the first and most important attitude on the journey is the ability to listen – with calm, patience and a faith perspective. Let's make this summer/winter a time of listening, walking together, praying together and helping to discover the dream of God for each one of us!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 42

When did you fall in love with Jesus?

Seoul – South Korea

1 September 2017

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members!

Six weeks ago, we concluded in Rome the summer session of the General Council. After beautiful moments with the Salesians, Salesian Family members and the Youth in Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Cambodia and in the Philippines, I am now in Korea for the extraordinary visitation until the end of October.

A few days ago in Sam Phran, Thailand, we held a large meeting with 80 Salesians and FMA Sisters from 23 provinces of Asia and Oceania, about '**Initial Proclamation of Jesus and the Salesian Mission**'. According to many participants this seminar was indeed a time of spiritual retreat, deep awareness and life-transforming experience. More than 24 Salesians from the EAO Region (including two provincials) were energised and motivated to change their lifestyle.

During that Seminar I was asking many times: **How are our youngsters attracted to Jesus? How can we help them to stir up their interest in the person of Jesus? Or when was the first moment in my life to fall in love with Jesus?** I must recognise moments of personal attraction when reading the Gospel stories, when encountering attractive Saints like Mother Theresa, Father Cimatti or Nino Baglieri, CDB. I confess that the encounter with my first Salesian confessor and Cafasso-like spiritual guide was one of those grace-filled moments that helped me to follow my Salesian and missionary vocation.

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Only when we give due time to the prayerful reading of God's Word (*Lectio divina*) and start to share our own story with Jesus, are we able to stir up attraction to His person. The first disciples in Galilee were invited by Jesus: Come and see! Until now we can trace a long chain of human mediation when also each one of us was invited through somebody to hear His voice: 'Come and see!' I hope you can access some simple video-clip about the Initial proclamation of Jesus or give some time to this Seminar's reading material. We know that our faith is growing when we share with others ...

Here in Korea we celebrate September as the Martyr's Month.

I entrust each one of us to their intercession, that each member of the Salesian Family in the EAO Region will bring the fruits of his or her own loving relationship with Jesus Christ!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 43

Where is your comfort zone?

Yakutsk – Russia (Siberia)

1 October 2017

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members!

After six weeks of the Korea province extraordinary visitation I am sharing this Good Night from my first visit to Yakutsk (Russia), one of the most forgotten Salesian missions around the world. I am happy to celebrate the East Asia 'Full Moon Autumn Festival' with five Slovakian SDB confreres in this remote place on Earth. Already 25 years ago, courageous Salesians from Slovakia reached this remote area of the former Soviet Union and patiently and courageously shared faith in Jesus Christ in this not-so-easy place. Thanks be to God from this year on it becomes an international community!

Some years ago when I asked the late Jesuit Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi of Kaoshiung (1924–2012) about vocations in Taiwan, his tricky answer revealed a deeper truth about our response to God's call: **'If you want vocations, you need persecution!'** Today we humbly acknowledge with Pope Francis that as faithful followers of Jesus we need to reach out of our comfort zone. And this missionary 'out-reach' always costs us some pain or some sacrifice. But there is no other way to the Joy of the Gospel!

Just yesterday in Bratislava, Slovakia, in the presence of thousands of Salesian Family members, Cardinal Angelo Amato, SDB presided at the Beatification of one **'Martyr for Vocation'** Fr Titus Zeman, SDB (1915–1969). Although he could continue his Salesian life within the difficult situation of a communist regime, he dared to sneak across

GOODNIGHTS

the East–West European 'Iron Curtain' guiding three secret expeditions to save the precious religious vocations of many young Salesians and other diocesan priests. During the last expedition he was caught, and suffered 15 years of horrible martyrdom in communist prisons!

What sacrifice do we offer for the sake of vocations or for the building of a vocation culture? Do we just wait, hoping that some new candidates will come to our summer camp or monthly vocation encounter (Come and see)? The shining example of Fr Titus shows us the way.

During the missionary month of October let us accept Pope Francis' invitation to go beyond our comfort zone, to get our hands dirty and also hurt. I deeply believe that only this way can we experience the deep and lasting Joy of the Gospel! When we cross from the peaceful and safe environment of our circle of school, family, parish or friends, we taste true Gospel Joy!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 44

How do you hear the cry of the poor in your daily life?

First World Day of the Poor – 19 November

Seoul – Korea

1 November 2017

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members!

I have often experienced that even four years after the gift of Pope Francis' prophetic letter **'The Joy of the Gospel'** (November 2013), many faithful within the worldwide Catholic community are still not aware of the full shape of his 'Project – Dream' for the Church in a state of permanent mission, reaching out especially to the poor.

So we were glad at the announcement of the **First World Day of the Poor (Sunday – 19 November 2017)**. Indeed, it is another consistent initiative as part of Pope Francis' deepest conviction: at the very heart of the Gospel is life in community and commitment for others. Without loving the poor in concrete ways, we cannot be true disciples of Jesus.

During the past four years our Rector Major has repeated with a tireless zeal: **The poor young people are saving the Salesians!** Indeed our Salesian vocation, lived in different ways (*SDB, FMA, Salesian Cooperators, VDB, CDB, ADMA, Caritas Sisters of Jesus, SAL, SIHM, DQM – SQM religious, Past Pupils of Don Bosco & Mary Help of Christians or Michaelites*) experiences the same reality: wherever we are committed with and for the poor or youth in need/at risk – in these places we see our vocation flourish!

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In accordance with the specific wish of Pope Francis, **let us make the week of 12–19 November a special time of personal encounter with the poor (youth) and in action for them: Let us love, not with words but with deeds!** Without poor youth we cannot properly encounter Jesus as Salesians of Don Bosco – and not only in our special works like Tuloy sa Don Bosco (FIN), Los Palos (ITM), Kodaira-Tokyo (GIA), Myitkyina (MYM), Liloan-Cebu (FIS), Dae Rim Dong-Seoul (KOR), Boys Town-Taiwan (CIN), Engadine-Sydney (AUL), Can Gio (VIE), Chiang Mai (THA) or Tetere in Solomon Islands (PGS).

Also, each member of the Salesian Family is called this November to personally encounter Jesus in the poor, face to face, not just on Facebook. As the poor (youth) have a special place in the Heart of God – if we like to remain his true children, we are called to live with the same heartbeat! Let the role models of Fr Gaetano Nicosia or Br. Elmer Rodriguez and many other Salesians committed to the poor, keep us walking out of our comfort zone towards the encounter with Jesus present in the poor youth around us!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 45

All for Jesus, Jesus for all!

Macau – China
1 December 2017

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members!

Each one of us, at the end of the year, reflects on the most meaningful moments, encounters, gifts received or challenges faced. When I look back on this year, the strongest impression that comes to my mind is the numerous witnesses of Jesus who bring the Joy of the Gospel to the 'peripheries' of our times.

I give thanks for the meeting with the family of Pakistani Bosconian, martyr Akash Bashir (+2015, March 15) in Lahore – Youhanabbad parish of St John.

I give thanks for the whole life witness of Salesian Family members who moved the hearts of thousands with their life-long passion for poor youth, like Fr Gaetano Nicosia (CIN) and Br. Elmer Rodriguez (FIN) and many others.

I give thanks for the tireless efforts of Pope Francis to keep us on the track to growth as an out-reaching Catholic community. All of us are touched by his visit to Myanmar and Bangladesh. Indeed 'the peripheries of the world' are becoming the heart of the Church!

On my ongoing journey around the 23 countries of our Region, I keep always in my luggage the paper copy of the SDB Constitutions and *The Joy of the Gospel*. Through reading and meditation on the project for the Church according Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, I am more and more touched by his stress on reaching out to all! At the end of this year, I remind to myself again of the motto of one Chinese Salesian

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who was motivated during his life by the following motto '**Tutto a Gesù, Gesù a tutti!**' For me it is a daily strong invitation to live like Don Bosco as a disciple-missionary of Jesus. The wisdom of 'Cetera Tolle' (All for Jesus) helps us to live the 'Da Mihi Animas' (Jesus for All) in this life motto: **All for Jesus, Jesus for all!**

一切為耶穌, 耶穌為一切人! (Chinese)

Todo para Jesus, Jesús para todos! (Espanol)

Tous pour Jésus, Jésus pour tous! (Français)

Jesus para todos, todos para Ele! (Portuguese)

Wszystko dla Jezusa, Jezus dla wszystkich! (Polish)

예수님께 모든 것을, 모든 아들을 예수님께로! (Korean)

全てをイエスに、イエスは全ての人に! (Nihongo)

Hotu-hotu ba Jesus, Jesus ba hotu-hotu (Tetum)

Semua buat Yesus, Yesus buat semua (Indonesian)

Givim olgeta long Jisas, givim Jisas long olgeta! (Pidgin)

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

2018: Strenna –
Listening and accompaniment



GOODNIGHTS

Goodnight 46

2018 – A Happy New Year of listening!

Rome – Sacro Cuore (Sacred Heart)

1 January 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings on New Years Day 2018! I wish each and all of you a truly blessed and grace-filled year 2018!

Many of us start this year with a special resolution. For example, the PGS (PNG and Solomon Island) Vice-province has chosen as its main thrust – *'Let our Good Night or Good Morning talks become an explicit group accompaniment of youngsters and of our Salesian communities'*! Indeed it is one simple, wise, effective and very Salesian resolution! I am very happy to share with you my excitement at the beginning of this year. All around the world the young people are disappointed with the lack of listening by the Salesians! **In 2018 we are invited to move forward, to embrace this important challenge and become more 'listenful' (to coin a new word!)**

The whole Catholic community around the world is invited this year to learn how to listen to the young! Pope Francis is asking all bishops to listen to the young, in order to strengthen their faith and accompany them well on their vocation discernment journey. Next October the Synod of Bishops will explore the dynamics of 'Young – Faith – Vocation Discernment'.

The Rector Major is asking the whole Salesian Family to 'Cultivate the Art of Listening and of Accompaniment' in his Strenna 2018 'Lord, give me this water!' (John 4:15). And each group of Salesian Family gives a special touch to this listenful year!

GOODNIGHTS

The Salesian Mission Day 2018 is focused on 'Whispering the Gospel' to the soul of Asia, especially in Vocational training centres! We know from our own experience, there is only one way if we like to whisper to the ears to our youth: We need to be closely present among them and listen well to their life, their likes and their heart!

How to listen well? How to listen enough? How to listen to the heart of God, heart of our fellow confreres and to the heart of each of the youth entrusted to our care? Yes, we accept this wonderful invitation as our journey for the whole year of 2018!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 47

Why are the Salesians not listening to the Young?

Dili, Timor Leste

1 February 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings from Dili, Timor Leste, where yesterday we celebrated the Feast Day of Don Bosco with his 10th Successor, Fr Ángel F. Artime and the whole Salesian Family in this young country. But my mind flies back to Valdocco: just a few days ago the Rector Major presided in Turin at the 36th Salesian Family Spirituality Days with almost 400 participants belonging to 22 Salesian Family groups and coming from all five continents.

We listened to many good speakers, but the highlight was the open forum with the young. They told us clearly: **"Dear Salesians, don't be tired, we need you always!"**

Most of you have already received the Strenna 2018 in your own language, some provinces or communities have already watched the 15 minutes Strenna video with the narrative of the Rector Major (together, or even with the Salesian Family). The Strenna of 2018 is a true charismatic challenge for the whole Salesian Family. I am sure that also in each single Salesian Family work in the EAO Region the young people – children, adolescents, youngsters or young adults – make the same plea to us: **"Dear Salesians – Brothers, Sisters, Fathers, Teachers ... listen to us!"**

Fr Ángel tells us clearly: "There are young people who request our help to continue to grow and mature in their faith. And there are many

others who do not ask it explicitly, but who feel a great need for a personal encounter and for being listened to. There are many who would be willing to take a personal and group path of accompaniment or vocational discernment.

So I ask myself: **What are we waiting for? Why do we not decide to be much more available to accompany all our young people in what is most important to their lives? What is holding us back? Why "are we busy" or why "are we wasting time" in other things, when this is a real priority for education and evangelisation?** [Strenna commentary 2018]

During the four days at Valdocco last January, I have been praying in the holy places of Don Bosco: "Good Lord, help us to waste more time with the young people and listen to them, like our Father Don Bosco!" Let's encourage each other to listen to the young: in the confession, in the playground, in the group sharing, with an open heart – always happy to 'waste time'.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 48

How do you whisper the Gospel?

Indonesia – Sumba Island

1 March 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings from the beautiful island of Sumba! This is the last of 7 SDB communities of Indonesia Delegation, a very promising presence comprising the prenovitiate, vocational training centre and junior high school, where you can really experience the Valdocco of Indonesia! Greetings from the 10 Salesians and eight prenovices of Sumba mission frontier!

As you already (probably) know, this year the whole EAO Salesian Family has a special chance to deepen our missionary spirit thanks to the Salesian Mission Day 2018 by **'Whispering the Gospel'**. This year's focus is on the initial proclamation of Jesus in Asia, especially in the context of vocational training centres. This year we learn how to accompany the whisper through our life witness and educational accompaniment our love for Jesus to the soul of our young people!

As has been the case for the past 30 years (1988–2018), this year too we have available four attractive missionary video stories (Laos, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Nepal), one inspiring animation booklet (44 pages), a beautiful poster and the following short prayer for this Salesian Mission Day!

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Almighty God, Maker of heaven and earth,
who revealed Yourself to Elijah
neither in the violent wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire,
but in the whisper of a gentle breeze;
Make us docile to the whispering of the Spirit
to announce the heart of the Gospel
to the heart of the Asian continent.
May the harmonious and joyful sound
of an education that leads to employment
dignify the lives of our young people
and lead them to an encounter with Jesus,
the Carpenter of Nazareth. Amen.

How are you whispering today the Gospel to the young people?
Don't miss the chance to learn, how to witness and whisper the Gospel
as true son or daughter of Don Bosco!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 49

Are you happy to waste your time in listening?

Dili, Timor Leste

1 April 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive heartfelt Easter greetings once more from Dili, Timor Leste, one month after our annual EAO meeting of provincials and delegation superiors. Yesterday I returned from the short intermediary General Council meeting in Rome, where we discerned with the Rector Major the theme and path towards the next General Chapter 28 (2020). Today we also remember the 230th Birthday of Mamma Margaret [Margarita Occhiena], mother of Don Bosco [1788 – 1856] as well the anniversary of Don Bosco's canonisation in 1934.

During the past two months moving around Indonesia and Timor Leste, I have met hundreds of young people who are growing alongside Salesian Family members, and have spent long hours in listening, in dialogue and gaining deep insight into the hearts of our confreres. I try to treasure especially the many questions raised. And now, entering Eastertide, my attention is attracted by the Emmaus story of Jesus who walks alongside the disappointed disciples. Yes, Jesus didn't hesitate to waste his precious time in listening. And what about me, what about us today?

We might fall easily into the temptation to cut short a long annoying talk with our fellow confrere, lay mission partner or young leader. We might be tempted to consider this a 'waste of time', because we already

GOODNIGHTS

'know' what will come out of it. We could gain a few minutes but in this way we close our heart to the confrere, lay person or to the young. We recognise again, the most frequent blame raised by young or lay people: "Salesians have no time listen to us."

Starting these 50 days of Eastertide, I turn the eyes of my heart on Jesus walking and listening on the way to Emmaus. Oh, it is a wonderful image to consider! Yes, it is not easy to talk the walk (or walk the talk) with patience and deep interest in the life of our youth, lay people and confreres! I am asking for the grace to follow Jesus in his humble attitude of a friendly assistant, who walks together with the young and leads them to true life.

Yes, I am happy to waste time in listening to the young people and my confreres!

Lord, speak! Your servant is listening! (*1 Sam 3:10*)

I wish all of you a joy-filled Eastertide!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 50

Like Mary in Cana: What is missing? Like Bl. Philip Rinaldi: Concrete items under statue of Mary!

Venilale, Timor Leste

May 1, 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive heartfelt May greetings from the community of Venilale – a small Valdocco in Timor Leste, on the first day of May, the month of Mary, our Mother and Mother of Jesus! This is a family-like little town with the one SDB community of Blessed Philip Rinaldi and two FMA communities: one large mountain parish with 16 chapels, many schools, one orphanage, one pre-Aspirantate (SDB, junior high school, 170 boys) and one Aspirantate (FMA).

Since 31 January last, I have been moving around the ITM Vice-province of St Callistus Caravario in its last days of life, and give thanks for all the miracles of Don Bosco in these two countries. And I am again and again deeply touched by the deep and strong Marian faith in each of our Salesian presences. Especially hundreds of ADMA (Association of Devotees of Mary Help of Christians) members with their committed life witness, deep devotion and organised apostolate contribute a lot to the building of Christian community and Salesian Family!

During this Visitation, I am becoming deeply aware of a very concrete approach to the youth reality. With an eye on Mary, I would like to suggest two models for this May journey:

GOODNIGHTS

First is Mother Mary with her caring motherly heart, deeply interested in the small concrete needs of Her Son's family – the ecclesial community. Like in Cana she was able to discover the things missing at the wedding: let's ask for the gift of deep attention to the needs of the young around us. The first step on this way is our wholehearted *indexterm2:[listening]* to each individual young person!

Second is Bl. Philip Rinaldi. As you know, he used to entrust many 'impossible challenges' to Mary in a very concrete way – also as the Rector Major. He used to write these intentions down on small pieces of paper and put them under her small statue on his working desk. After his death they found many small inscriptions like 'Dear Mamma Mary, I can't do anything more, I have exhausted all human ways, take this ... confrere under your care!'

Let us make this month of May truly a special time of listening to the needs of young people around us! Let's bring their needs to Jesus: 'There is no wine.' And Jesus will answer like at the wedding in Cana! I wish you a fruitful month of Mary – May 2018!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 51

Do you read the Gospel every day? Just two minutes!

Hong Kong – China

1 June 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Let us make this month of June truly a special time of listening to Jesus! Traditionally we celebrate June as the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a good chance to get closer to the heart of Jesus Christ. In his recent video message, Pope Francis challenges the Argentina youth:

"How many of you spend daily two minutes to read the daily Gospel? Just two minutes! Carry a small booklet of the Gospels with you in your purse, in your pocket (or on your smartphone). When you are on the bus, train, subway, waiting for your friend or when you are at home: Open the Gospel and read for two minutes! Try it! You will see how will change your life! Because you will encounter Jesus and encounter his Word."

On the evening of Trinity Sunday in Hong Kong after the beautiful procession of Mary Help of Christians, praying for the Catholic community in China in our Tang King Po Parish, I watched this short video many times. During a short talk in the Parish church I have asked the Salesian Family: *'What is easier – listening to Jesus or listening to your children, your husband or wife?'*

According to a recent survey, about 20% of Hong Kong parents don't listen to their children even once a week! We can also ask how

GOODNIGHTS

often we listen to the young in our schools, parishes, youth centres or boarding houses! Indeed our deficit of listening is felt everywhere!

From our personal experience we know that listening with deep attention to Jesus is not easy. We find so many excuses to shorten our 30 minutes of daily meditation; we excuse ourselves from listening to youth as well. Without a personal experience of life-changing encounter with Jesus, how can we ask distracted young people, along with Pope Francis: 'Listen – just two minutes'?

I wish you a fruitful month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus 2018!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 52

#For You Too! – Movement of Salesian Holiness

Sacro Cuore, Rome

1 July 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

You are receiving this Good Night on the first day of July when we start our spiritual retreat with the Rector Major. Please, remember us in your prayers as we do you too!

First, I would like to entrust to your prayers the EAO new provincials who were appointed during the last month: Fr Joseph NG (China), Fr Andrew WONG (Indonesia) and Fr Jacob HAMAGUCHI (Japan). May they become another Don Bosco to their SDB confreres, Salesian Family members, Friends of Don Bosco and the Youth in their countries!

Probably most of you are aware of the **#Me Too movement** started in 2006 on behalf of women who have suffered sexual assault. During the past 20 years almost 19 million women have reported their suffering so far. It is impressive and make us think a lot.

In his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate* (Rejoice and Be Glad) on the call to holiness in today's world, Pope Francis invites us to another #For You Too movement that sounds very familiar to our Salesian ears – this invitation goes back to St Francis de Sales and Don Bosco:

'... 14. To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious'. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only

for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case...'

'... 16. This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures. Here is an example: a woman goes shopping, she meets a neighbour and they begin to speak and the gossip starts. But she says in her heart: "No, I will not speak badly about anyone." This is a step forward in holiness. Later, at home, one of her children wants to talk to her about his hopes and dreams and even though she is tired, she sits down and listens with patience and love. That is another sacrifice that brings holiness. Later... she goes out onto the street, encounters a poor person and stop to say a kind word to him. One more step."

'...17. ... When (Vietnamese) Cardinal Francois-Xavier Nguyen van Thuan was imprisoned, he refused to waste time waiting for the day he would be set free. Instead, he chose 'to live the present moment, filling it to the brim with love: "I will accomplish ordinary actions in an extraordinary way.'"

Of course, the best idea is to take the whole Exhortation of Pope Francis for your prayer and reflection. Indeed the whole Salesian Family will be invited during next year 2019 to do this. With the Risen Lord, amidst our weaknesses the path to holiness is possible '#ForYouToo'!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 53

Listening to Salesian Brothers – to see the fullness of our Salesian vocation!

Jakarta, Indonesia

August 1, 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

This August Good Night reaches you from Jakarta, where, with the profession of faith by Fr Andrew Wong, the **new Vice-province of St Louis Versiglia (INA)** begins its life. We share the joy and hope-filled enthusiasm with the 72 confreres in this large country, especially after the recent first profession of 12 novices (3 Salesian Brothers and 9 'Fratel' – candidates to the priesthood) and seven new novices!

In a few days time we celebrate the long expected **7th EAO Salesian Brother Congress** in K'Long, Vietnam with the theme 'All of you are brothers!' (Mt 23:8) Why do we need this regular event every 6 years? One of the senior Brothers, who participated already in the unique 1975 Salesian Brother World Congress, shares his deep conviction: 'Don Bosco promised us to have vibrant Salesian communities made up of consecrated Salesians – Priest and Brothers. While we have just one not yet complete community without a Brother we need such occasions to raise awareness of our 'complete Salesian consecrated vocation' as Brothers and Priests, to show the fullness of our Salesian vocation!

In our EAO Region, among the 1500 Salesians there are **215 wonderful Salesian Brothers, most of them taking part in this 7th EAO Congress!** Already before coming together next 9–12 August, more than 40% of our Salesian Brothers shared their interview on Boscolink

(or even ANS in 7 languages), most of the provinces edited wonderful video–presentation.

Listening to the Brothers opens our Salesian eyes to see the beauty of Salesian mission, made up of education and evangelisation, the complementarity and beauty of both forms of the one Salesian Consecrated vocation. Indeed we can say to each other: without you we are not ourselves! In the interviews we can really admire their feet-on-the-ground and the heart-in-heaven approach, being truly deeply present among the youth, especially those most in need. We can admire the Salesian Brothers' simplicity, deep prayer amidst their very secular daily apostolic commitment. But most of all, I have personally discovered during the EAO Congress preparation time many models of Salesian Holiness in our Brothers who have passed way. And they are sometimes really 'Forgotten Saints' – not like Br. Jose Kusy in Timor Leste! I would like simply to invite you – Listen to the Salesian Brothers!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 54

How do we listen to the young today?

Bangkok, Thailand

1 September 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

After the strong invitation of Pope Francis, the whole Universal Church over the past two years has been invited to listen to young people. In one month's time the Synod of Bishops on 'Youth – Faith – Vocation Discernment' starts in Rome, involving many Salesians of Don Bosco – experts, bishops as well as our Rector Major, Fr Ángel F. Arttime (3–28 October).

The Working document of the 2018 Bishops Synod (*Instrumentum Laboris*) is nothing other than the reasonable summary of the global Catholic community listening to the young: Two of the five main sources used for the editing of the Working document refer to the 'Online Questionnaire' answered by 100,000 youth and to the 'Pre-Synod Gathering' with 300+ youth and 15,000 online participants. Also many observations sent to the Synod Secretariat were produced by the youth. Never has any Bishops Synod had such an abundant freedom of contributors! This we consider to be one of the signs of our times, that confirms the exceptional character of this 2018 Synod. All together there are more than 100 expressions taken from the two youth 'sources' and many times the quotations are rather long (Working document – chapter 5). Good to read it (attachment)!

However, already over the past two years all 4500 Catholic dioceses and each parish and ecclesial community has been invited to listen to the young. And we know that many pastors and adults don't know how

GOODNIGHTS

to approach or listen to the young – Salesians included! It is a clear call for conversion!

The upcoming General Chapter 28 of the Salesians has as its theme: **“What kind of Salesians for the young people of today?” And we may add ‘What kind of Salesian Family** (Salesian Cooperators, Don Bosco Alumni, FMA Alumni, VDB, CDB, ADMA, Damas Salesianas, FMA Sisters, Caritas Sisters of Jesus, SIHM Sisters, DQM, SQM Sisters, Sisters Announcers of the Lord, Michaelites) **for the young people in our 23 countries of EAO Region?’**

The 90 SDB provinces around the world are preparing their Provincial Chapters and each province is invited by the Rector Major to approach many young people with these 4 questions:

What kind of Salesian would you dream or want for today's youth?

What do you see as missing in the Salesians of today to be like that?

What are your main needs for which you ask the help of the Salesians?

How can you play active part in serving other youth with the Salesians in your environment?

When we read the first encounter of Don Bosco with Bartholomew Garelli (*Memoirs of the Oratory*), we realise it is an ongoing dialogue with many questions. Without taking the first step, without taking time to talk, listen, exchange questions with our young people, there is no true Salesian or true Salesian Family!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 55

Missionary Youth (*Gioventú missionaria*) possible also today?

Sampran – Thailand

1 October 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

A special greeting from Sam Phran, the 'Vatican' of Thailand, near Bangkok. Just yesterday, another 25 SDB and 11 FMA new missionaries were sent from the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Valdocco by the Rector Major (149th expedition). At the same time also three EAO provincials were present as part of their week-long mid-term encounter with the Rector Major in Don Bosco's holy places: Fr Joseph Quang (VIE), Fr Godofredo Atienza (FIS) and Fr Charles Saw (MYM).

Most of the 11,000+ Salesian missionaries *ad gentes* who were sent since 1875 left their homeland at quite a young age (even as young as 15 years old) and thousands of them even before their novitiate in the mission land. This missionary fire was possible due to the bold and far-sighted Salesian missionary culture, including the Missionary groups in most of our houses. There was a wide network of missionary Aspirantates in many European provinces and vibrant youth magazine '*Gioventú missionaria*' (Missionary Youth) published in six different languages.

Are the young people of today less courageous than 50 or 100 years ago? I don't think so! What do we probably miss today is the missionary spirit and enthusiasm to share the Gospel until the 'end of the world'. Wherever I have been asking the teenagers about their

life dreams, always the only 'missionary kids' are those educated by different Christian denominations, but never Catholics! A few years ago as the *Councillor for the Missions (2008–2014)*, I discovered an exciting Salesian tradition – an experience almost forgotten in most of our EAO provinces: a Missionary group.

What is the 'missionary group about? It is not about the name, it is about the group vision and action. In the recent *Cagliero11* (August) we find these simple indications: (1) daily prayer for the missionaries all over the world – e.g. Missionary Rosary; (2) group study about present mission frontiers; (3) personal offering to the missions (fundraising); (4) sharing of missionary news and needs [*Cagliero11* on social media]; (5) personal commitment to catechesis or sharing the Gospel with non-Christians or (6) personal missionary vocation and action growth (Lord, send me!)

We can start to re-shape missionary groups in our SYM, in our Youth centre, in our formation houses (starting from the Aspirants), in our parishes or schools. What about 'Namuncura Boys' or 'Cagliero Friends'?

In Rome during this month of October we celebrate the Synod of Bishops on **Youth – Faith – Vocation discernment (3–28 Oct)** and the 5th World Congress of Salesian Cooperators (25–28 Oct). May the month of the Holy Rosary and of the Missions, be for us a time of true Salesian prayerful life – centred on God present through the needs of young people!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 56

Young people around the world need the Cooperators of God!

Seoul, Korea
1 November 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

A few days ago we followed the Fifth World Congress of the Salesian Cooperators in Rome (25–28 October), during the final week of the 2018 Bishop Synod 'Youth – Faith – Vocation Discernment'. In the last few years we can see in our Region an overall growth of the Salesian Cooperator vocation, however there are still 5 EAO countries without any ASC members: Fiji, Laos, Pakistan, Myanmar and New Zealand. Yet especially the 'rejuvenation process' is clearly going on. World Congress 'Dreams' – Lines of Action 2019–2024 are promising: Focus on the credible and dynamic witnessing for effective help to the vulnerable children and youth!

When our Father Don Bosco passed away (1888), there were about 800 SDBs and 80,000 Salesian Cooperators, including many diocesan bishops and priests. In the time of Don Rua (1910) the number of Cooperators skyrocketed up to 400,000 members, mostly in Europe. During the past 50 years, with the large expansion of the Congregation to all continents and 134 countries, we can see that not all SDB or FMA missionaries were able to share this beautiful vocation with the lay and youth leaders. Today in the indexterm2:[EAO Region] there are 2170 Salesian Cooperators out of the total 30,000 members around the world.

With the presence of the Rector Major – Good Night and final Cultural night ‘Academy’, the theme **‘Salesian Cooperators: ‘Called to be co-responsible in responding to the new challenges’** was anchored in the wider universal Church vision of the Congress: ‘Young People around the world need the Salesian Cooperators ... Where you are, you need to defend the young!’

The co-responsibility was visible concretely with the publication of the World Directory of the Association with the names of all 30,000 members, and the financial report of the World Council.

In the regional workshop during the World Congress the 20 EAO delegates discerned three goals for the next few years: (1) Formation of our own vocation; (2) Helping the young with discernment towards Salesian Cooperators vocation and (3) Family Education: Salesian Cooperators live out identity to set the example for children in their own family.

At the end of the Congress the Rector Major also appointed a new World Coordinator 2019–2024, Mr. Antonio Boccia (56 years of age, Italy – Naples; since 2015 the World Councillor for Italy–Middle East region). We accompany Antonio with our prayers! And World Congress materials are easily accessible.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 57

Listening, first step always – Cagliero11

Valdocco, Turin
1 December 2018

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Heartfelt greetings from Valdocco, this time gathered here for the biennial encounter of 'Project Europe' with the Rector Major, his Council and all 30 SDB provincials of the old continent. It is a good opportunity to bring a year filled with 'listening and accompaniment' to this Salesian mother house. For us, too, opportunities for listening have been abundant:

Listening to many of our Lay Mission Partners regarding GC28's question: 'What kind of Salesians for the young people of today?' **Listening as the first step of accompaniment** of the young, as the Rector Major's Strenna 2018 asked of us. **Listening** to many confreres, lay mission partners and young people during the extraordinary visitations to five countries in our region: Timor Leste, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Also most inspiring was the October Synod on 'Youth–Faith–Vocation Discernment, when we witnessed the **consistent listening** of Pope Francis and other Synod Fathers to the youth.

This month we also remember the 10th anniversary of the first issue of 'Cagliero 11' – the Salesian missionary animation monthly newsletter. **Cagliero11 has published more than 120 Salesian missionary vocation stories** from all five continents from December 2008 until December 2018. Ten years of SDB listening to missionaries, probably the most frequently and most widely translated Salesian animation

tool today: in our EAO Region alone, we can read *Cagliero11* in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai and Vietnamese.

What is the story of *Cagliero11* telling us? First of all that it is a very humble format (one A4 sheet), an inspiration drawn from the former FIN missionary animation bulletin '*Mt 28:16*', published in Manila between 2007–2009. Secondly, *Cagliero11* brings an attractive missionary style of storytelling, asks us to pray for the missions and presents many concrete missionary models. Thirdly, *Cagliero11* is a simple invitation to real and practical missionary animation on the 11th of each month.

Cagliero11 takes the name of the first Salesian missionary, Cardinal John Cagliero (1838–1926) and invites all Salesian Family members to be inspired by our origins, by the missionary DNA of our family. Listening to catechumens, listening to young missionaries, listening to our brothers and sisters who are involved in the initial proclamation of Jesus with their humble life witness, is good medicine that helps us to leave our comfort zone today, as always!

Before you go to sleep today, just browse or slowly read one page of *Cagliero11* and share it with your friends! Good night!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

2019: Strenna – Holiness for you too!



GOODNIGHTS

Goodnight 58

#For you too: Serve the Lord in holy Joy!

Becchi (Colle Don Bosco)

1 January 2019

Dear Salesian confreres, Salesian Family members and friends of Don Bosco,

Heartfelt greetings for the New Year 2019 from the holy places of Don Bosco!

I am privileged to spend a week of personal spiritual retreat here, praying in a special way for each one of you on this holy ground, so dear to all of us sons and daughters of Don Bosco.

Fifteen years after the previous invitation to holiness (Strenna 2004 – Fr Chávez, on the 50th anniversary of Dominic Savio's canonisation) the entire Salesian Family across 136 countries receives another **wake-up call** or strong motivation for holiness in daily life. We hope that all EAO Salesian Family members will soon receive the official Commentary on the Strenna 2019 in their own respective languages (God bless our translators!). It will be a year's worth of spiritual nourishment for each of us.

My first thought goes to the well-known holy members of the EAO Salesian Family: *Saint Aloysius Versiglia and Callistus Caravario, our proto-martyrs in China, the Venerable Vincent Cimatti in Japan and Servants of God Frs Carlo Della Torre in Thailand, Andrej Majcen in China and Vietnam and Carlo Braga in China and the Philippines. Moreover, we could be inspired by other confessors of faith in China or other excellent Salesians like Fr Fortunato Giacomini in Myanmar.* We have the oppor-

tunity to gradually get to know them more and more especially since they have been living in our countries.

My second thought goes to the champions of Salesian youth holiness like 14-year-old Mak Kam Yun (+1944, China–Macau), 15-year-old Roderick Flores (+1984, Philippines) known for his generosity and goodness, 23-year-old Sigmund Occasion (+2000, Philippines), 18-year-old Joseph Chiminello Dorilag (+1983, Philippines) or 19-year-old martyr Akash Bashir (+2015, Pakistan) and many others in our region. My hope is that these models will be accepted along with the challenging invitation of Pope Francis: **#Holiness is for you too!**

My third thought is simply a personal statement: since 2013 I have always kept Pope Francis' first Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of the Gospel' (*Evangelii Gaudium*) in my luggage, but last June I also added a copy of 'Rejoice and be Glad' (*Gaudete et Exsultate*). I would suggest you keep these precious pages close to your bed during this year.

Whenever I am in the Philippines North – Malaysia (FIN) province, I am always deeply touched by the by now traditional greeting used in our communities: **'Serve the Lord – in holy Joy!'** I hope that all of us can bring this deeply Salesian greeting into our life too!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 59

Do you know our Salesian saints?

Cebu-Lawaan, Philippines

1 February 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Heartfelt greetings from the FIS Province (Southern Philippines – Pakistan) just after the Salesian month of January that ended yesterday with the Solemnity of Saint John Bosco!

During my Retreat at Colle Don Bosco last month, **I made a simple resolution to remind myself during this year, 2019, of one of 'our Saints' each day.** So I have simply started to place one 'official' or 'un-official' Salesian Family saint on my Facebook pages every day with some simple traits of that person and his/her photo.

We began the 'Salesian month' of January with the liturgical memory of Blessed Titus Zeman, 8 January, 50 years after his death (1969–2019) with a special Eucharist in the Sacro Cuore Basilica. With him we remembered so many Salesian Family members who were and are still living under persecution. What strikes my attention is this: 'Although we can't talk about Jesus Christ to the young in many situations, nobody can forbid us to love young people like Jesus Christ did!' Don't forget that 70% of our SF Saints or Blesseds are martyrs!

Eleven years ago, during General Chapter 26, the entire Congregation was invited **'to love, know, invoke, imitate and make known' Don Bosco.** But not only Don Bosco, since each of our 'official' 173 Salesian Family Saints, Blesseds, Venerables and Servants of God is a priceless treasure to explore – to know better. Indeed, if we don't know them, we can't love, we can't invoke, we can't imitate and make them known to

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others. This virtuous chain helps us to grow in faith and in our Salesian vocation. With each holy member of the Salesian Family I come to know a little bit better, I am being motivated to live my own call with more energy, commitment and joy!

A few months ago, when I went to pray at the Salesian cemetery in Banpong, Thailand, I was surprised by a strong remark from Fr John Lissandrin, who pointed to one grave site saying: 'This Salesian Brother passed away 30 years ago, but everybody remembers him as a model of the Salesian educator.' And you can read about his simple life in the AustraLasia news 4555 'Contagious – irresistible model of Salesian Assistance' (October 15, 2018). This remark made me think a lot about the wonderful impact of holy Salesian life on so many people over time.

In this month of February let us discover just one Salesian saint and allow him/her to enter our personal and community life! Have a great journey with our Salesian saints!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 60

In what ways do you love Salesian saints?

Cebu, Philippines

1 March, 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings a few days before the beginning of the Lenten season. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 6 March. In 52 days time from now we will celebrate the Christian heart of each year, the Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We have embarked on the **'Holiness for You Too!'** journey since 1st January 2019. This Strenna message helps us to discover so many official Salesian saints as well the 'next door holiness' in our daily life. I am grateful to the 2019 Strenna video that easily inspires even young people to take this path of holiness seriously in the headaches and challenges of everyday life, and its often grey, daily duties.

How do we express or make visible our love for our Salesian saints?

Yes, **without getting to know each of the 168+ Salesian Family Saints a little bit more**, we can't talk about our love for them.

In some provinces, **each classroom in our schools is named** after one Salesian Family saint, or important Salesian personality of the past. This way our students have a chance to know them better.

In many of our houses we **keep the poster of Salesian holiness in a place of honour** with its photos of the 168 Salesian Family Saints.

Many Salesians dedicate their **time and energy to translating biographies into their mother tongue**, in order to make our Saints known more.

Some of us put **photos of their favourite Saints on their FB page or on a wall**, with some typical saying or short story from their life.

GOODNIGHTS

I was surprised to know that one Salesian confessor asked someone as **a penance after confession to buy and read the Biography of Mamma Margaret.**

To know, love, imitate, pray to and make known our Salesian Family Saints is a sure way to be more faithful in our following of Jesus, encouraging each other and motivating ourselves on this earthly journey.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 61

How do you imitate Salesian saints? The happiest day of my life: Dominic Savio's first communion

Cebu, Philippines

1 April 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

During my retreat (first week of January 2019) in the holy places of Don Bosco, I was touched by the inscription on the house where Saint Dominic Savio lived, reminding that exactly 170 years ago this young boy left us a very precious legacy to imitate through his first communion.

Indeed, in his *Life of Dominic Savio*, Don Bosco devotes one chapter to tell us about Dominic's First Communion on Easter Sunday – 8 April 1849: "After initial hesitation, and subsequent consultation with other priests, the parish priest agreed to permit Dominic to receive his First Communion at the age of seven, since he knew the catechism and understood something of the Eucharist. He spent much time praying and reading in preparation, asking his mother's forgiveness for anything he might have done to displease her and then went to Church. And whenever Dominic talked of the day of his First Communion, he said with joy: **"That was the happiest and most wonderful day of my life."** Don Bosco records that on the day of his First Communion, Dominic made promises which he wrote in a "little book", and re-read them many times. John Bosco once looked through Dominic's book, and

he quotes from it the promises that he made: ***Resolutions made by me, Dominic Savio, in the year 1849 (8 April), on the day of my First Communion, at the age of seven:***

1. I will go to Confession often, and as frequently to Holy Communion as my confessor allows.
2. I wish to sanctify the Sundays and festivals in a special manner.
3. My friends shall be Jesus and Mary.
4. Death rather than sin!

Thousands of young people in Dominic Savio's time were prepared for their first communion following the same catechism (including the four resolutions), but only Dominic took it seriously as pointers for the direction his life would take.

Thousands of boys and girls experience their first holy communion, but not many educators (like Don Bosco) record it for them in a concrete way!

What can we learn from this synergy between a holy master and a holy disciple? Imitating our Salesian saints can start from their concrete and simple consistency in little details: putting our whole heart into ordinary things with extraordinary love.

It was no coincidence that Don Bosco invited everybody 'Give your heart completely to Jesus!'

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 62

Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!

Melbourne, Australia

1 May 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings in full joy amid the Easter season and on the first day of the Marian month of May! I must confess, that from the first day of this year I was deeply impressed by the giant statue of the Risen Jesus at the Becchi in the Basilica at Colle Don Bosco. The open, serene and warmly welcoming arms of Jesus Christ (1984) really mirror the Pinardi chapel fresco of the Risen Lord (1929). Here we find the roots of the Salesian spirituality in following the Risen Christ.

Then, on 25 March, we were surprised with the title of the 'Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis 'Christ is Alive' (*Christus Vivit*), following the 2018 Synod of Bishops on 'Youth – Faith – Vocational Discernment'. We find this lively, 299-paragraph letter really very heart-warming. Its opening words tell the tone and express the way of talking to the young: ***'The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope.'*** (Pope Francis, *Christ is Alive*, nos 1–2)

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Praying in the Basilica of Don Bosco in the Becchi, we ponder also the 14 stations of the 'Way of Light': from the Resurrection to Pentecost and sending the disciples as missionaries around the world. Salesian Youth Spirituality is inspired by Jesus' walk to Emmaus; as Salesians we feel at home on the journey. Pope Francis suggests the Emmaus journey as the way of the whole Catholic community and we feel more at the heart of the Catholic – Universal Church. What kind of Salesians for the youth of today? From each EAO provincial chapter we hear the same plea of the young: 'Dear Salesians, be present in our midst! Waste time with us and listen to us! Dear Salesians, be generous in wasting your time, and walk with us! We need you!'

Our best reply to these expectation is to take the 'Christ is Alive' Exhortation of Pope Francis into our hands, to read and ponder in our communities, day by day on our 50 days Easter journey towards the Pentecost. Let's allow the Risen Jesus to transform also our lives!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 63

How do you invoke Salesian saints?

Jakarta, Indonesia

1 June 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Today is my last day of the first semester journey from Rome. I am leaving Jakarta today, returning to the Sacred Heart Basilica in Rome. During past 20 weeks of travels around ten countries of our beautiful region I encountered many confreres, Salesian Family members and the young. I need to confess also that since last January I have been watching the 2019 Strenna video (19 min) of the Rector Major more than 40 times in different countries and communities. Really it was a heart-warming experience! 'Holiness for You Too!' – this powerful and simple invitation of Pope Francis, echoed personally by Fr Ángel at Termini railway station and at Valdocco, opens new horizons for the young as well. We are sons, daughters and disciples of one Saint who left us a strong culture of holiness. Don't miss the chance to watch this Strenna video again, it is already in 42 languages, including also Urdu (Pakistan) and Cebuano (Philippines)!

And maybe I need also to confess that it is easier for me to admire or share the stories of our Salesian saints than to ask some favour through their intercession. Indeed, there are widely circulated prayer forms for the beatification of our holy Salesians in our region: *in Japan–Korea* (Mons. Vincenzo Cimatti, + 1965), *in the Philippines–China* (Fr Carlo Braga, + 1971), *in Thailand* (Fr Carlo Della Torre, + 1982), *in Vietnam* (Fr Andre Majcen, + 1999) or *in Myanmar* (Fr Fortunato Giacomini, + 2000). But how many of us are really 'invoking' our Servants of God or

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Venerables with our whole heart? When we recite prayers through the intercession of our holy Salesians, do we really put our heart into this invocation?

When a Filipino Salesian Brother Robert N. (Obet) asked his family to pray for his brother being treated in the ICU without any hope, and having already been in coma for two weeks, he didn't even dream what would happen. His whole family was praying with faith through the intercession of Blessed Artemide Zatti for his recovery. And his brother woke up! Today, 4 years later, after his family's devout prayers for God's special intervention, his brother is now very much alive and the investigation of this presumed miracle is ongoing. Only deep faith can lead to this heartfelt invocation!

We tend to repeat, without being involved, and just mechanically: 'Saint John Bosco, pray for us'. But what about just pausing for a moment, then thinking of one urgent need of our 'hopeless Magone-like boys' or a broken family in our school, parish or some other concrete urgent needs... and then whispering this short prayer: 'Dear Monsignor Cimatti, pray for this boy, that family...'?

Good night!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 64

Do you make know Salesian saints? (Bro. Cosimo – Sacro Cuore, Rome)

Holy Land Pilgrimage

1 July 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings from the Holy Land of Jesus, where he was born as one of us in Bethlehem, where he grew up in an ordinary human family in Nazareth and where he was crucified, died and was risen in Jerusalem. Be sure, that with the whole General Council and the Don Bosco's Successor on this pilgrimage we also bring your intentions to these holy places.

I am more and more convinced that listening is the key to any good event in our communities, our families and all groups of the Salesian Family. After one Thursday morning Mass in the Don Bosco rooms at Sacro Cuore with the Rector Major and the Council, I spent a few minutes talking to Br. Cosimo, a passionate senior custodian of the Don Bosco rooms. His custom is to ask every pilgrim or visitor to write a short prayer intention on the back of a Don Bosco holy picture and then offer them on the altar where Don Bosco celebrated his Masses during his last stay in Rome. At the end of his sharing he can't avoid sighing: "Usually, lay people are more attached to our Saint than Salesians SDB. And do you know why?" And his answer is very simple: **"Now the young Salesians don't speak so much about Don Bosco, simply because they don't know him enough!** Reading Teresio Bosco's *Life of Don Bosco* is not enough." As a former missionary in Ecuador who

speaks fluent Italian, Spanish and English, Brother Cosimo is an excellent guide and passionate disciple of Don Bosco. You may spot many holy pictures of Don Bosco at the altar, each with a handwritten intention in some language or other, asking for some grace through the intercession of our Father.

Holy Land, holy People, holy Places... sanctified with the presence of the Son of God in his native Holy Land. Likewise, the holy places of Don Bosco are not only in Italy: Piedmont, Rome, Becchi, Chieri or Valdocco, but they are all around the world.

Where the sons and daughters of Don Bosco try to know him better, love him more, imitate him with their whole heart and invoke him often – they easily make Don Bosco known to the young, to other educators or other people. If their heart is full of Don Bosco, he overflows from their lives.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 65

Lord, send me out of my comfort zone!

Phnom Penh – Cambodia

1 August 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings on the second stop over of this second semester journey around our EAO Region – Cambodia. The EAO Good Night Talk' was started in April 2014 after the General Chapter 27 as a humble attempt to strengthen the sense of belonging among the Salesian Family members in our large and diversified Region of 23 countries. Most of our EAO cultures appreciate very much the story-telling for the community building and deeper relationship.

This year it is already 35th anniversary of my escape from Czechoslovakia to become a missionary in Project Africa! One night, on August 1984, as a young Salesian I crossed the Alps between Yugoslavia and Italy. It was an adventure that marked out my whole life and vocation, was narrated hundreds of times over in various occasions. In 1982 it took two years to plan this flight from a communist country – Czechoslovakia – so I could set out as a missionary *ad gentes*. And finally in August 1984 it took just two days by bus from Prague to the Adriatic sea coast (Yugoslavia) and one overnight of climbing towards the mountain border with Italy.

Thanks be to God and one Salesian Cooperator, I was able to across the Alps to Trieste (Italy), the first canonical Salesian house I had encountered in my Salesian life. That time It was clear I would be never able to return back to my homeland. I left without a passport and with just a small bag, a few summer clothes and a single book, the

New Testament. Indeed – I left then everything behind – and for safety reasons even without telling my parents, friends, even other Salesians.

Why leave everything behind? To follow Jesus. To follow the missionary path, since I had understood that the Lord had prepared me in many ways to be an instrument for bringing the Gospel to others. Even though my original dream of Africa was changed by the superiors for South Korea, my overall life direction did not change. It was about “leaving everything behind, to become all things to all people”.

Since then, over the past 35 years, I have always found it relatively easy to gather the energy for effort and joyful enthusiasm amidst difficulties and zeal for apostolic work. Only years later did I come to understand that leaving everything behind – “Cetera tolle” – brings me ever closer to the souls of the young and closer to the hearts of my confreres. An obedience to the call has been a daily gift of so much strength to be able to give myself completely to Jesus! Let us ask the Lord that many Salesian Family members would experience the joy of leaving daily their comfort zone and get closer to the hearts of the young!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 66

A culture of vocation grows (only) through attraction

Anisakan – Myanmar

1 September 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings from Anisakan–Myanmar, this year remembering 80 years from the arrival of the first missionaries in Mandalay in 1939. We have had an excellent time here, during the recent 2nd EAO Salesian Translators Workshop just a few days ago involving 30 diligent and patient translators, young and seniors; SDB – FMA – Salesian Cooperators and Lay Mission Partners from 9 different EAO provinces!

Attraction! This has been one of my frequent meditation points over the past few months. When we share our faith through stories of vocation, when we ask our young Salesian missionaries about that first moment that sparked their vocation – what we always find are the dynamics of attraction. Wow! That's cool, that's beautiful, that's wonderful – in different ways we express our attraction to Jesus, his People of God, his Saints or some of his disciples!

Reading the Salesian Brothers interviews (2018) or the Salesian Cooperators interviews (2019) over and over again, I am constantly struck by the similarities in the dynamics of attraction:

Simply, because there has been one joyful Salesian Brother (John Baptist) present among the Aspirants or Pre-novices, the province of Vietnam–Mongolia has so many young Brothers!

Yes, today too, the simplicity of Salesian consecrated life still attracts!

Simply, because we encourage our Salesian missionaries to share their vocation story in our formation houses or through *Cagliero11*, we generate new missionary generations among us! Yes, the beauty of an outreaching life is still very attractive!

Simply, because we share, as Don Bosco shared his vocation story among the youth or Catholic communities, we may once more find new generations of Salesian Cooperators. Yes, the most attractive pillar of the Salesian vocation culture is always a priceless life story of Don Bosco!

What and who attracted you to Jesus or to Don Bosco's Family?

Family spirit or simple fellowship you experienced in some Salesian community? A courageous and always available missionary model in your parish or school? A patient and accompanying teacher always ready to listen – a Salesian Cooperator perhaps – who dedicated time to you during your school years? The always smiling and welcoming face of your rector or catechist in front of your Don Bosco school?

The culture of vocation, including in our Salesian environment, grows everywhere through the narrative of attractive stories. Which attractive story will you share during September with your friends, with the young people you are able to meet in your daily life and mission? I wish you good times of attractive story-telling, a humble but very important brick in the large vocation building process of the whole Catholic community around the world.

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 67

Would you like to become a Mission?

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

1 October 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings on the first day of the 'Extraordinary Missionary Month', October 2019. It is really a wonderful opportunity for growing with the missionary Church that Pope Francis has dreamed of during the last 6 years.

A few days ago (12 September) we congratulated our CDB (Volunteers with Don Bosco = Con Don Bosco) secular institute on their 25th anniversary (1994–2019). Although there are only 85 CDB members around the world (including our first 4 member group in Manila), we may learn one important belief from them: 'Our entire life is a Mission!' (CDB Constitutions, art. 5)

One week ago I was privileged to address the Salesian Family in Seoul on Salesian spirituality and Missions: Looking around the Salesian Family today, we recognise many shining missionary models and we can learn from and be inspired by them!

Br. Andrew Phuong, Salesian of Don Bosco (Vietnamese missionary in PNG and Mongolia) Ms. Teresa Tsujimura, Salesian Cooperator (Japanese Past Pupil, missionary in Timor Leste) Ms. Olga Krizova, VDB (Slovakia, with a dream 'to live as a walking tabernacle) Servant of God Nino Baglieri, CDB (Italy, 38 years paralysed, missionary of joy to the world) Caritas Sisters of Jesus (Korea: living in container convent, Kimbe – Papua New Guinea) Mr Sanya, Alumnus of Don Bosco (Thai: founders of Laos Sale-

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sian mission, Vientiane) and many missionary members of the Salesian Family, starting from Cardinal John Cagliero.

These members of the Salesian Family are not 'supermen or super-women', but simply show us the way to 'Be a Mission' in a simple, joyful and meaningful Salesian way! During this mission month of October 2019, I encourage you to do some small missionary act or commitment each day. We believe that we can keep our own faith alive only if we share the faith in Jesus with others!

Let's be inspired by the Salesian animation booklet with a short reflection for each day! We also admire the consistent work of the Vietnam–Mongolia and Korea province missionary animation teams who re-produced this small booklet in their 'local' version, not simply translating it but adapting it to their own cultural situation and sensitivity. Be inspired by Salesian missionaries!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 68

Don Bosco Green Alliance – take action now!

Cebu, Philippines

1 November 2019



Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings from Cebu, starting the last full month of 2019 animation visits. Since last July I was surprised by the growing sensitivity to the environment, care for our 'common house'. In secular society this is about 'environmental care or climate change activism' and for the Catholic community it is about following the beautiful encyclical *Laudato si'*. All the participants at the local Past Pupils of Don Bosco Congress in Dili, Timor Leste, last October wore a Green T-shirt. When the senior Past Pupils were asked what it signified, they talked about the colour of Hope, but the juniors were rather clear about Green as the Colour of the Environment, care for the protection

of nature! And we realise that among the 200 members of the 'Don Bosco Green Alliance' are members in Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Macau, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and the Philippines. As you may know, this grass-root Salesian movement 'Don Bosco Green Alliance' came into existence in May 2018. Today, there are no less than 200 registered member organisations from 50 different countries. On the website (<https://donboscogreen.org>) you can immediately see the simple but action-centred priority areas with simple and very concrete goals:

Combating pollution – Reducing global warming – Eliminating disposable plastic.

Wherever we encourage our youth to aim for simple but meaningful environmental care-related action, there is a good response. Until now, even without a special campaign, already 15 Salesian institutions from 7 EAO provinces have registered with the Don Bosco Green Alliance and a good number of our houses are raising awareness and encouraging environment-related action in most of our provinces.

But you may ask: What is the added value, if we already 'do something' for the environment in our educational institutions? It looks simply like the energy inspired by any movement – yet, young people feel that they are part of something bigger: a world-wide Salesian network and a global cause of saving creation. They are also inspired and learn from similar action happening in other countries. With their youthful enthusiasm they might also encourage others to participate. Thanks to this movement related to one of the major global issues of our times, our youth are also engaging their parents, mentors and Salesian Family members! Be inspired by Don Bosco Green Alliance!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 69

Thank you, Pope Francis for your visits within our region!

Tokyo, Japan
1 December 2019

Dear Friends and Salesian Family members,

Receive my heartfelt greetings from Tokyo, just a few days after the memorable visit of Pope Francis to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo. Japan was already the 5th country of our region visited by Pope Francis after Korea (2014), Philippines (2015), Myanmar (2017) and Thailand.

Amidst the worldwide turmoil of violent civil protests in all continents, the growing number of local wars, we are glad to witness the humble but powerful moral authority of the successor of St Peter for world peace. We are happy and humbly proud, that our Salesian Family was much involved in both apostolic visits: in the Social Communication of Japan – production, comments on mainstream media (Fr Abe, Mr. Okawa, Fr Sekiya), in the music and liturgical animation (choir of Caritas Sisters in Nagasaki and Tokyo; marching band of Thai Salesian schools), in the preparation and animation of youth events with the Pope (Bangkok and Tokyo). Last but not least, the Pope's cousin, Argentinian missionary in Thailand, Sr Ann Maria Sivori, FMA as the official translator between the Thai King and Pope Francis. And we may ponder the numerous available YouTube videos of these two visits. But a simple question remains for all of us:

What fruits will remain after these wonderful days of Pope Francis in our Region?

Pope Francis spoke volumes through his empathy, personal interest in the marginalized in society, and for victims of our highly competitive and of times 'merciless' society. He was not talking to Catholics alone but to all Thai and Japanese people. And the way he was 'teaching' was through a very loving attention to the people. He touched the hearts of all. The Pope's visit was a time for Catholic-minority students to *"revive their own faith and for other non-Christians to think about what Christianity is"*.

One of his homilies is a magnificent missionary lesson and inspiration for all of us: *"...mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, whom the Lord wants to give us and who are absent from our Sunday table (= all those who are poor and suffering, for whatever reason, from being a victim of human trafficking to being enslaved by drug addiction, to facing exploitation because of material need). All of them are part of our family, they are our mothers, our brothers and sisters!"* He is simply calling for missionary hearts who can see their faces, their wounds, their smiles and their lives and make them experience the merciful balm of God's love that heals their wounds and pains. Pope Francis challenges us with his consistent call to become missionary disciples and discover and recognise with joy the faces of all around us as one human family.

Be inspired by the Successor of St Peter and Past Pupil of Don Bosco, Pope Francis! Hopefully in 2020 also Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea (maybe also Indonesia) will be on his travel list!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

2020: General Chapter 28 ...



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Goodnight 70

Would you like to tell your story?

Sacro Cuore, Rome

1 January 2020

Dear confreres, friends and Salesian Family members!

On the first day of the new year 2020 I wish you a **Happy and Blessed New Year!** At the end of this period 2014–2020, just a few weeks before the next General Chapter 28 (16 Feb–4 Apr) we traditionally dedicate time and energy to reflection and evaluation. When we look at the dynamics of animation during the past 6 years in our Region, we discover an interesting experience – the attraction of Salesian storytelling.

We give thanks to all who contribute to the ongoing sharing within our EAO Region on Boscolink (www.bosco.link) through Australasia news over the past 22 years. And we give thanks also to the present team of three Salesians (Vietnam, Korea, Australia) who are making this service possible also for this new year 2020!

The Salesian missionary stories have been shared by *Cagliero11* since 2009 every month, as the best dynamics of missionary animation. Usually a new missionary vocation is born from listening to another missionary's life story.

The Salesian translator stories, normally not very visible, are the fruit of two EAO workshops and help us to discover their spirituality and models, like Fr Hilario Passero (88 years old) who is still translating the Salesian news and materials in the General House from Italian to Portuguese.

The Salesian Brother stories enhanced the visibility of the Salesian consecrated vocation before and during the 7th EAO Salesian Brother Congress in 2018. Indeed, 52 Brothers printed interviews and 50 YouTube online interviews offer spiritual food or spiritual reading for many!

Dialogue is at the heart of our charism, and the interview is a kind of dialogue we use to get these stories shared. Already Don Bosco, in his dialogue with Bartholomew Garelli on 8 December 1841 (*Memoirs of the Oratory*, Chapter 12) used no fewer than 15 questions! We give thanks to all who do not hesitate to share their story; may they continue also during this new year! These stories help us to enter the heart of life; we get inspired or attracted to follow Jesus more closely, with more energy and enthusiasm.

My wish this year is that we become more open to sharing our stories and take time to listen to them!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

Goodnight 71

Without the young we can't reach heaven! Strenna 2020 and General Chapter 28 are auspicious opportunities

Hong Kong, China

1 February 2020

Dear confreres, friends and Salesian Family members!

I am happy to be greeting you from my last animation visit in the region before GC28. First I share the request of prayers from our newly ordained coadjutor bishop of Lashio diocese (Myanmar), Lucas Dau Ze, SDB who was consecrated on 29 January. Lashio, a remote diocese close to the border with China, began as the result of the hard work of our confreres some 45 years ago. And the strong challenges of young people in this part of Myanmar (armed conflict, drugs and human trafficking) have 'called' another Salesian bishop after 24 years!

What gifts and opportunities does this new year 2020 bring us?

The 2020 Strenna is a wonderful gift to explore. The beautiful Strenna 2020 poster made in Japan or 'DOCAT', as another example, show us many concrete ways for living with and for the young as 'Good Christians and Upright Citizens'. The Strenna commentary and video offers also many concrete inspirations for our daily education.

General Chapter 28 is starting in few day time (16 February–4 April) at Valdocco. Again at the centre of our 'Salesian Pentecost' are the young people and their needs. For the first time we enter a General Chapter that calls us to ponder an open question: "What kind of Sale-

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sian for the young people of today?" It is a truly charismatic question to ask for next 6 years.

Moreover, on 24 June 2020, we will celebrate the 150th birthday of the Don Bosco Past Pupils. Their Jubilee Year starts from Valdocco as an act of gratitude for their Father and Teacher and Friend, a precious chance to live this year with an eye to the fruits of our mission!

Both major themes of this year are a good chance to make sure that the young people are at the centre of our life. A few days ago, in their greetings to Cardinal Charles Bo, the Nazareth House (Myanmar) boarding students said: *"We believe that joy is a fruit of love. Here we all feel loved by the good Lord. We feel loved by the Salesians and the Salesian too, feel loved by us. The Salesian Brothers and Fathers accompany us to become upright citizens and good Christians. And we, for our part, accompany the Salesians to find their way to holiness and so we accompany each other on our common road to happiness."*

After the recent Don Bosco Feast day, we again humbly recognise that without the young people we can't reach our heavenly home. We give thanks for Don Bosco's way of meeting Jesus wherever they are. Let's take the opportunity of this year 2020 to become more youth-centred sons and daughters of Don Bosco!

In Don Bosco,

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

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Growing with a grateful heart...

Valdocco Turin

1 March 2020

Dear confreres, friends and Salesian Family members!

I am happy to be greeting you from Valdocco, amid the 28th General Chapter working days. This is probably the last EAO Good Night Talk I am sending you, since the elections of the new General Council members are held in a few week time (20-25 March). It's a special feeling to live, walk, pray and share with the other 240 General Chapter 28 members in Don Bosco's holy places!

Today, I would like to share my grateful heart with all Salesian confreres, Salesian Family members, Lay Mission Partners and young people I have met over the past 18 years around the world and especially in the 23 countries of our EAO Region. There were hundreds of meetings, events, workshops, interactive talks, many group and personal talks – always a precious opportunity to listen, to share from heart to heart, to dream and reflect together. Thanks for your trust, for your support and so many beautiful moments of sharing our joyful or painful moments. Thanks for taking part in so many celebrations, prayers, community sharing with an open heart.

A Korean proverb says that after 10 years even the mountains and rivers are changed. What about hundreds of Salesians, SF members and youth around the EAO Region since 2002? Some former novices have already become novice directors, one former practical trainee already became a provincial. Such is a life where we walk together and enrich each other. Those who listened to hundreds of Good Morning

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Talks during their school time, may now share a Good Night in their families with their children – the story goes on. I am grateful for being part of your life story for a while.

Where is your home? – This was one of the most frequently asked questions wherever I met you. My most frequent reply was – 'My home, **my permanent address is Don Bosco!**' Thanks for making me feel at home everywhere. It was a great gift I will treasure forever.

Writing from Don Bosco's Valdocco Mother house, with this last Good Night Talk my wish is that each of our Salesian communities will treasure this humble but essential charismatic experience of the Goodnight in their everyday life. Yes, we grow by sharing through our simple Goodnights.

From Valdocco, with Don Bosco – 'Good night!'

Fr Václav Klement, SDB,

Regional Councillor EAO 2014–2020

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... After so many visits to our 12 provinces and almost 200 communities, I am more aware than ever of the charismatic importance of the 'Goodnight' in our daily community or pastoral life. ...

Our hope is that this simple collection could inspire our Salesian community rectors, leaders, Lay Mission Partners or Salesian Family members to treasure this deep and charismatic opportunity of the 'goodnight' or 'goodmorning' talk.

— **FR VÁCLAV KLEMENT, SDB**
REGIONAL COUNCILLOR
FOR EAST-ASIA OCEANIA, 2014-2020

Fr. Václav with the delegates of the East-Asia Oceania Region to the 28th General Chapter in Turin.

