

# MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY  
2023  
NUMBER 1



Let's reach  
Christ

*"It is not enough to imitate  
Christ if we do not reach him"*

THE MSP CHARISM

*A seed of love in the midst of the  
Church*

NEWS FROM OUR HOMES

*Restorative and constant Adoration  
Back to Campus*

# INDEX

03      LET'S REACH CHRIST

*Saint Bernard leaves us a  
great teaching on  
Christian following*

06      THE MSP CHARISM

*A seed of love in the midst  
of the Church*

08      NEWS FROM OUR HOMES

- *Restorative and  
constant Adoration*
- *Back to Campus*

09      S.O.S A LOS JÓVENES

*Si deseas hacer parte de  
nuestra familia, ite  
esperamos!*

10      S.O.S. TO THE YOUTH

*The most important help  
for missionaries is your  
prayer*





# LET'S REACH CHRIST

The great Saint Bernard (1090-1153) is known for his ardent and passionate love for Christ. He was called the "vocation hunter" and it is even said that wives and mothers hid their husbands and children when they saw St. Bernard pass by, fearing that he would take them to the Monastery with his ardent conviction. Upon entering the Cistercian, he had dragged 31 members of his family. After a while, he was named abbot of Clairvaux (a Monastery located in France).

A few years ago St. Roberto de Molesmes (1028-1111) began with a dream: "to do something chivalrous for Christ"; he wanted to return to the purity of the Rule of Saint Benedict, in which manual work and prayer were the pillars of cenobitic life. Later, it would be St. Alberico (s.XI-1108). and St. Esteban Harding (s.XI-1134) who would continue with this dream, which became a reality upon the arrival of Bernardo de Fontaines (who would be the future St. Bernard).

Indeed, these great Cistercian founders gave our beloved Bernardo all the training that would make him a great saint. For example, it is worth noting that the beautiful Marian devotion that characterized him was inherited from St. Alberico, who liked to address the Mother of God with the title of "Our Lady" (hence the origin).



However, the formation of this great saint is not only the merit of those mentor monks who taught him everything about religious life, his parents also had a decisive influence on his formation.

His father Tescelín and his mother Alice de Montbar planted in Bernard's heart a strong love for God. To his mother, we owe the beautiful phrase: "what prevents us from being saints is wanting to be what we are not" Worthy of meditation! And his father also entered the Monastery, moved by his son, who repeated to him: "Can't you pray?" which encouraged him and would give him the strength to persevere in the Monastery until death.

Returning to our Saint, we want to rescue a beautiful phrase that we believe constituted a whole life program for him: ***"It is not enough to follow Christ, we must reach him!"***. It is quite significant, since, in truth, the purpose of every Christian is to come to live and share the Trinitarian life promised by the Father through his Son in the Holy Spirit.

On many occasions, the worries of life and the various occupations make us forget that "we are citizens of heaven" (Philippians 3, 20) and that our true citizenship is inscribed in it.

With good reason, St. Paul affirms: "I continue my race with the hope of reaching Him, having myself been reached by Christ Jesus". (Philippians 3, 12)







*"Let us take Christ in  
the midst of the poor  
as a Church"*

FR. GIOVANNI SALERNO





## THE MSP CHARISM

*"A seed of love in the midst of the Church"*

When exactly was our Movement of Missionary Servants of the Poor (MSP) born?

It is very difficult, even for me, to answer this simple question, mentioning a well-defined, indisputable date. But even so, I recognize that among the dates that are candidates for this award, there is one that I like to mention in a special way and that, perhaps for this reason, I remember very clearly.

It is about that date in which God was looking for me, He wanted to meet me, He wanted this meeting to be in the secret of the heart, in solitude, in the icy immensity of the Peruvian Andes.

Meanwhile, I did everything possible not to recognize Him, so as not to bump into him on the way.

I really behaved like the chucaro (surly) donkey that I found surprised when I first arrived in the Sierra de Apurímac, in 1968.

On the way to the town of Antabamba, leaving Chalhuanca behind, I was traveling in a truck that was trying to arrive as early as possible.

possible to their destination, so that the night would not surprise us on the way.

During the tour, the sight of the so-called chúcaro (surly) donkeys, which walked loaded with heavy sticks of firewood, pleasantly caught my attention. However, my surprise was not greater than that of those tame animals, who, by the way, mistook our truck for a powerful and strange "wheeled beast of burden", whose sudden irruption caused them such anger and fear that, beyond the control of their muleteers ran in front of the truck so as not to be hit, kicking in all directions and spreading their load everywhere.

Perhaps it may seem ridiculous, but I see my life reflected in these rude donkeys (surly)... God followed me along the way, He did not leave me, He was always by my side, but I did not want to accept it, running from one side to the other, in order to avoid meeting Him, making so many children suffer in this way, so many poor people who needed me and, along with me, so many young people who want to give their lives to the poor.

In all these years I have seen with my own eyes the suffering, the crying of innumerable poor people of the Andes, and I realize that it has been God who has been on the lookout for me. I have understood that the most intelligent option is to let myself be carried away by Him and do His will. (to be continue...)

Fr. Giovanni Salerno



**"I have understood  
that the most  
intelligent option is  
to let myself be  
carried away by  
Him and do His will"**



# NEWS FROM OUR HOMES

## Back to Campus

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the various Campuses that we carried out for young people and girls from all over the world had to be cancelled.

However, we want to tell you with joy that this year we will be able to reopen this beautiful activity, for the good of so many souls.

We encourage all young people to register on our website in the events section.

God grant you great generosity.

## Restorative and constant Adoration

The MSP have within the Masculine Branch a contemplative community that is dedicated to prayer, fasting and manual work.

Since 2021, as a result of Covid, the community has intensified its prayer for the world even more, since in addition to doing an hour and a half of daily Adoration (and two hours, two days a week), two days a week they keep it going all afternoon. Do not hesitate to write us your prayer intentions.

May God bless this community.







# S.O.S

## *TO THE YOUTH*

If you are a boy or a girl, a couple or if from your country you want to form a support group or be an Oblate. God calls you, do not put out the flame and say yes to Christ

contact us!



# WE NEED YOUR PRAYER

THE MOST  
IMPORTANT  
HELP FOR  
MISSIONARIES IS  
YOUR PRAYER

REGISTER NOW



IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF OUR FAMILY,  
WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

DONATE



[WWW.MSPTM.COM](http://WWW.MSPTM.COM)

