

The Christmas gift of our Founder

WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

With the liturgical season of Advent, we are preparing for the celebration of Christmas, the feast of the Nativity of Christ, the Divine Word that became flesh and dwelt among us (cf. John 1,14). Christmas is for many a thrilling time associated with various traditions and customs like buying and exchanging gifts, inviting relatives and friends to celebrate, decorating homes, preparing special food, listening to and singing Christmas carols, attending solemn liturgies, among others. It is also a feast inviting to show and share the goodness and generosity of one's heart. Therefore, many think about themselves during this time and try to engage in charitable activities, e.g., helping the poor, lonely, elderly, children on the street, homeless people, prisoners, and the like.

For the second time, the celebration of Christmas is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This brings about many new challenges and questions like "Who are the high-risk members in our families, in our society, and how to keep them safe during Christmas? How to show love, closeness, and affection to those who suffer from social and physical distancing restrictions? What could be a real help to all those who mourn their loved ones or are severely affected by coronavirus-related job loss or pay cuts?" These and many other questions keep us immersed in the reality of this world, plagued not only by the pandemic but also by many other modern evils.

Divine Word Missionaries are on the path of renewal and transformation, outlined by the 18th General Chapter. Christmas is another formative moment. We let ourselves be "recharged" and experience the truth

anew that from the fullness of the Word, "we have all received, grace after grace" (cf. John 1,16). We are called to rediscover how we are blessed and enriched by the gift of the Word Incarnate to be messengers of light and signs of hope for the world.

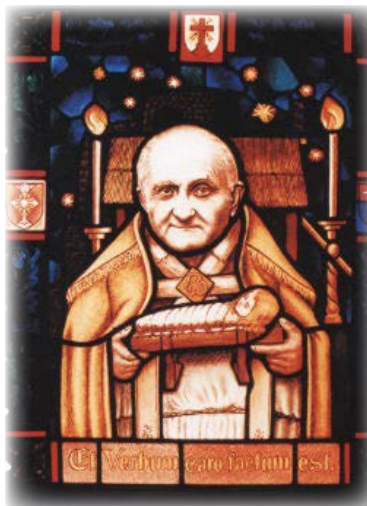
A great example of this discovery is our Founder, St. Arnold Janssen. First, of course, we know about his devotion to the Infant Jesus, which was a characteristic

expression of his extraordinarily great love for the Incarnation of the Word of God. This devotion was introduced to his three congregations, and it is still being practiced in many communities.

Sr. Francisca Carolina Rehbein SSpS, in her book *Gripped by the Mystery*, describes it in a more detailed way. "All who took part in the Christmas night Mass gathered in a festively decorated room, representing heaven where the Infant Jesus was lying. With great warmth and dedication, the founder-led the responsorial prayers composed by himself. They began with the acclamation: 'The goodness

and kindness of God our loving Savior have appeared!' At the end of the liturgy of the Word, the figure of the Divine Infant was borne in a solemn procession to the church while Christmas carols were sung. In the church, the Infant Jesus was laid in the crib. To Arnold, this was no mere external act. He felt a need to give vital expression to the mystery that moved the depths of his heart and thus to express his love and lead others to the same love and veneration."

Fr. Herman Fischer reports on the impression this celebration made on those present: "Anyone who saw him (Arnold) at that hour, kneeling on the floor before the Christ Child on its bed of straw, anyone who



heard his fervent prayers and looked at his face, radiant with devotion and holy joy, could never again forget the hallowed impression."

This devotion is undoubtedly a part of the heritage of our Founder. It could be considered as his great Christmas gift to us. The 18th General Chapter invites us to "commit ourselves to rediscover and renew our commitment to our SVD spiritual heritage (devotions, prayers, feasts, and celebrations, etc.) so that it may help us to cultivate an intimate relationship with the Word and to animate us in our mission" (GC 2018, # 25). In this regard, this particular devotion and other spiritual activities may serve as a stimulus for deepening this relationship, or in other words: **our rootedness in the Word.**

The mystery of Incarnation celebrated at Christmas is a missionary event par excellence at its core. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," we read in John 3,16. Through sending His Son, God reached out to humanity to bring it and the whole of creation back. In this event, giving and mission are inseparable, and they cannot exist without each other. Giving means sending or reaching out. Since the life of the Word is our life and his mission is our mission (cf. Prologue), we are to imitate the Word in his sending and reaching out. St. Arnold says in this regard: "The perfect example for us is the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ Our Lord, who surrendered himself in generous love" (Fischer). In this way, Christmas is also a call to **commit ourselves to the mission**, i.e., to reach out. What could be some concrete implications of it?

The mission of generosity. Generosity is an attitude of giving willingly and abundantly, without counting the costs. The Incarnation is the fruit of God's generosity. We may even say that generosity lies in the heart of the Gospel since there we find God's boundless and immense love, which overflows into giving. While the general visitations resumed this year in the fall, we had a chance to experience many good examples of our confreres' generosity and our lay partners. Yet, there is still something more to be done.

The Circular letter of the Superior General P01/2021 is in this regard a call to renew this generous spirit among us. There we read: "In the last few years, we find it more and more difficult to equitably assign and distribute confreres to SVD global missions because hardly anyone now applies for certain PRMs where missionary work is perceived to be tough and difficult." Of course, this is meant for those who apply for their first assignment. Yet, the essential attitude

shall be the same for all confreres: willingness and readiness to go wherever the Society needs us. This could refer to applying for difficult missions and our enthusiasm in assuming various responsibilities in our PRMs.

One of the best examples in this regard is our ministry among Gypsies in Köröm in Hungary. If somebody asked us: 'Why are we there?' one of the answers would be: "Nobody wanted to go there and do this important mission of putting the last first." So Christmas indeed is an invitation to renew in us this generous spirit.

The mission of compassion. Contemplating the profound mystery of Incarnation led our Founder to this knowledge: "The Christ Child is the gift of the compassionate love of the Most Holy Trinity." This aspect is crucial precisely in this time of COVID-19 pandemic, as could be seen from Pope Francis's Message for World Mission Day 2021: "In these days of

the pandemic, when there is a temptation to disguise and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing, there is an urgent need for the mission of compassion, which can make that necessary distancing an opportunity for encounter, care, and promotion... It is important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not immediately part of our 'circle of interests' (cf. Fratelli

Tutti, 97). To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters."

Pope Francis finishes this encouragement with a wish so fitting for Christmas: "May his compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples." Celebration of Christmas could therefore be a call for us to commit ourselves to mission with generosity and compassion.

As we are approaching the end of this calendar year, let us thank you for your efforts in fulfilling the mission entrusted to us. We pray that on the intercession of our Founder St. Arnold Janssen, the celebration of Advent and Christmas may be a time of our spiritual enrichment, inner transformation, and renewed commitment.

Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and the Leadership Team

**Advent and
Christmas: a
time of our spiri-
tual enrichment, inner
transformation, and
renewed com-
mitment.**

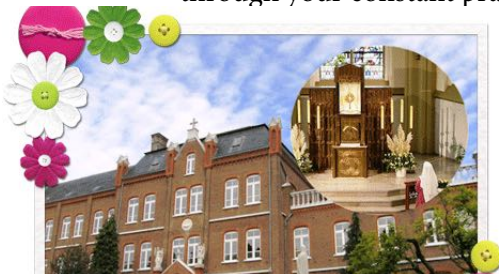
Congratulatory Message on the Occasion of the 125^o Anniversary of the SSpSAP

Dear Mother Maria Magdalena Kruse and all our dear Pink Sisters,

I am delighted to note that you, our Sister-Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration (SSpSAP), are celebrating the 125^o anniversary of the foundation of your Congregation on December 8, 2021.

It is a moment of great joy for the entire Arnoldus Family as we recall your commendable spiritual services to the Church and humanity, a service that God has designed to choose you to render.

At this historic and grace-filled moment, we rejoice with you in Christ our Lord for the unfathomable graces he has showered on your Congregation. We admire you for your unrelenting service of perpetual adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, through which you participate in the Church's missionary activity. We appreciate you for your love for the mission of God and your dedication to supporting the missionaries through your constant prayers.



We acknowledge your spirit of concern for the spiritual welfare of the consecrated persons, particularly for the members of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). We applaud your complete orientation to the contemplative missionary life guided by the Holy Spirit, a very challenging way of life in the contemporary world.

We glorify God for the immeasurable gifts with which He has blessed you and thank Him for blessing us through you. We wish and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to accompany you in your efforts to bring about the renewal as envisaged by your last General Chapter. May the founding generation and our sisters who have gone ahead to eternal bliss intercede for the entire SSpSAP Congregation.

On behalf of the SVD Leadership Team and indeed all your SVD brothers, I wish you all a blessed anniversary and a fruitful and meaningful celebration.

May the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and the hearts of all people.

Your Brother in the Divine Word,

Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD
Superior General

Fr. Kleden is also extending his best wishes on behalf of the Society of the Divine Word to the Holy Spirit Sisters on the occasion of the 132nd year anniversary of their foundation.

The 125th-anniversary Message of Mother M. Magdalena SSpSAP



On December 8, 2021, the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters celebrated their 125th anniversary. With the help of Father Vaclav Mucha SVD, the Sisters prepared a video that was released on December 8, 2021. The video contains the following Message from Mother M. Magdalena.

Iwish you all a happy and blessed feast day. Today, December 8, 2021, our Congregation celebrates its 125th anniversary: 125 years of eventful history, but above all, 125 years of adoration, celebrations of the Liturgy of the Hours, prayer, and intercession in the service of the mission in the Steyl Family. This is truly a reason to look back with gratitude.

Our Congregation would not be conceivable, and we could not fulfill our ministry without our Steyl Family, our SSpS Missionary Sisters, our SVD brothers, our friends and families, our co-workers and partners, benefactors, and those who pray with us. Our sincere thanks go out to all of them today.

Our Congregation has changed in these 125 years. It has grown and is already becoming smaller again and has become more international. As a result, we experience international communities' richness, joy, and challenges.

I invite you all to give thanks together today for God's loving and guiding closeness through 125 years. Let us remain united in prayer and the missionary spirit for the life of the world."

Accompanying our Sisters on their 15th General Chapter

The 15th General Chapter of the Servants of the Holy Spirit will officially begin on January 12-31, 2022, at the Divine Master Retreat House in Ariccia, close to Nemi. The General Chapter has initially been scheduled between April and May 2020 in Steyl.

The theme of this General Chapter is Immersed in the Life of the Trinity, Transforming the World with Compassion. Sister delegates from all corners of the world will gather to discern the following question, "How to live the Trinity, what gift, O Holy Spirit, do you wish to offer to the world through us?"

There is a total of eighty-eight (88) capitulars in the General Chapter: forty-one (41) ex-officio members, forty-seven (47) elected delegates. In addition, there will be ten (10) Sisters for the various Chapter services. Finally, after a rigorous discernment, the capitulars will

elect the new leadership team for the General Administration.

Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and the Leadership team would like to invite you to accompany our SSpS Sisters with our prayers. We pray that their 15th General Chapter will be an opportunity to listen to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit that always invite spiritual renewal and even greater community and missionary commitment.

We ask you to use this prayer in your community prayers.

Most Holy Trinity, we praise and thank you for calling us, the members of Saint Arnold Family, to share in your loving unity and for entrusting us with the mission of widening the circle of Communion.

As our SSpS Sisters are celebrating their 15th General Chapter, send their capitulars your Holy Spirit to guide them in this discernment process, grant that they may be united as they listen with compassion to the longings of their Congregation and the cry of our broken world.



Help the Sisters be attentive to your promptings and inspirations; empower them to renew their commitment joyfully.

Triune God, we all long to be immersed in your life of love and share in your work to transform the world with compassion.

In union with our Founding Generation and the thousands of SSpS who have gone before us, we entrust the 15th General Chapter of the SSpS Sisters into your providential care.

May the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and the hearts of all!

A new SVD Bishop



Bishop-elect Fr. Timothy Norton SVD.

We are pleased to announce that at noon in Rome on November 11, 2021, His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed as Auxiliary Bishop to the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Reverend Father Timothy Norton SVD.

Fr Norton will, early next year, join Auxiliary Bishop Ken Howell in supporting Archbishop Mark Coleridge in serving the Catholics of the Brisbane Archdiocese.

Since June 2020, Fr. Norton has been working full-time with consecrated women and men promoting interculturality. Fr. Norton said ministry to multicultural communities is a meaningful way his order is already involved in Brisbane Archdiocese.

While Fr. Norton was the Provincial of the Australian province, he worked with Archbishop Coleridge to establish a Divine Word Missionary presence in two parishes. As a result, the SVDs are active in the parishes of Inala and Kingston-Marsden, both multicultural and, therefore, places where the SVD confreres do their best work.

"It is indeed difficult to imagine myself as anything other than an SVD," said Fr. Norton. "...I have been trying to think of myself as a member of the ACBC and the Archdiocese of Brisbane, who, as an SVD, will bring a focus on culture and mission that may be helpful." He said he would bring to his ministry in Brisbane "an intense interest in culture, and the mission of God in the world, whatever shape or form that may take."

The date for Fr Norton's ordination to the episcopate is February 22, 2022.

--- Catholic.org.au

First Meeting of the AJSN-ICT in Nemi



From L. to R. Fr. Peter Dusicka, SVD, Sr. Maria Cristiana Avalos, SSpS, Fr. Dennis Manzana, SVD, and Sr. Teresa Sri Wahyuni, SSpS.

After completing the restructuring process of the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Center, the SSpS/SSpSAP/SVD joint General Councils established a new structure for spiritual animation in the Arnoldus Family with the name: Arnold Janssen Spirituality Network (AJSN).

Setting up and coordinating the new structure was given to the International Core Team (ICT). The team comprises four members: Fr. Peter Dusicka, SVD, Fr. Dennis Manzana, SVD, Sr. Maria Cristiana Avalos, SSpS, and Sr. Teresa Sri Wahyuni, SSpS. Unfortunately, since two of the ICT members were working outside Europe at their new appointment, the team could only meet in person this November.

The objective of their meeting, held from 11-25 November 2021 in Nemi, Italy, was team building and planning. Fr. Tim Norton, SVD, the former Director of the Renewal courses, facilitated the process.

The day of arrival to Nemi brought a joyful surprise as Pope Francis appointed Fr. Tim auxiliary bishop in Brisbane, Australia. Thus, the very first action the ICT was to congratulate their facilitator on his new appointment.

The two-week program in Nemi was very focused, intensive, and enriching. The ICT members got to know each other better through various interactions and dynamics like sharing their life stories and experiences, discussing topics related to spirituality, praying, celebrating, and working together. Ample time was spent familiarizing the overall outline of the AJSN structure, developed by two think-tank groups. The team also had a chance to meet with the SVD and SSpS General Council. They also met with representatives of some of the main collaborators and partners of the network.

Some concrete fruits of the planning were: establishing the team's modus operandi and fixing dates for regular meetings, taking responsibility for some future programs, and creating an official domain with the group's email account: ict@ajsnetwork.org.

The ICT also prepared letters to PRM and Zonal/Continental leaders, inviting them for collaboration in animation. One of the immediate tasks of the team

would be the establishment of the AJSN Extended Team. In addition, there is the need to connect with and empower persons who already coordinate/represent spiritual animation at the Zonal/Continental level.

Together we pray that the Holy Triune God may be a constant source of inspiration for us as we serve, collaborate, and create a network for spiritual animation.

--- International Core Team (ICT)

From the Editor

The next issue of *Arnoldus Nota* covers the months of January and February 2022. It will be released on February 1. News and articles from the PRMs must be handed to arnoldusnota@svdcuria.org by January 20, 2022.

Insight and perspective of the SVDs in the Mission of Zambia



With the novices and their formators in Kabwe.



The parishioners and the parish priest in Mwandia.

By Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden SVD

Father Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden SVD, weathering all the challenges of traveling to Africa amid the pandemic, visited the Mission of Zambia from November 5-10, 2021. As he visited our places of mission, met with our confreres and collaborators, he now provides insight and perspective of the SVDs in the Mission of Zambia.

The country profile and the SVD mission

Zambia is a politically stable country. The land is quite fertile, and as a result, the area prides itself on many commercial farms. The country is also rich in minerals. Unfortunately, mining companies account for different environmental and economic issues. The Chinese companies have a strong influence on the government. The Catholic Church is organized in nine dioceses. Around 20% of the 19 million total population of the country are Catholics.

The SVD has been present in the country since 1986. At present, nineteen confreres comprise the SVD Mission of Zambia. Many have come and gone back after some time. Among the pioneers of the Region, none remains.

Fr. Budi met our confreres stationed in Kabwe, Lusaka, and Livingstone. He also took side trips to the neighboring outstations. In these areas, a number of our confreres are working in parishes.

Communion and participation

In general, our confreres enjoy their living and working together despite differences of personalities and cultures. However, amid the challenges of limited facilities and resources, confreres work hand in hand to be creative in their mission.

Our second parish in Kabwe, Saint Charles Lwanga in Chindwin, is an example. Two young confreres from

Brazil and Indonesia took some important initiatives for pastoral and development. They developed the parish school and reassumed the church's construction, which was stopped for some years. They even started different programs to raise funds. Communion and participation are exemplified here.

The members of SVD communities come from different nationalities, and this international character becomes an essential feature of our mission. For instance, the good working partnership of our two confreres in Saint Francis parish in Dambwe is an asset to administer and carry-on pastoral programs in this well-established parish with good facilities.

Leadership

The present mission council is working together and sharing responsibilities. They enjoy the trust of the confreres. The mission superior makes it a point to visit the confreres in their respective places.

The Superior General met with the mission council. They talk about the situation of the confreres and the current opportunities and challenges of the mission.

Formation

The Zambia Mission hosts two formation houses: philosophy and novitiate. The Philosophy house accommodates the students from Zambia and Zimbabwe. There are eight students (two from Zimbabwe and six from Zambia). With the students are the praeses, the prefect, and the house treasurer.

There is also the common novitiate, a project of the AFRAM zone. It is located in Kabwe. We have five novices (two from Ghana and Zimbabwe and one from Kenya). Fr. Georg Angmor SVD, the former novice master and provincial of Ghana, is the novice master, assisted by Fr. Ferdi Selan SVD from Indonesia.

Finance

The Zambia Mission depends on the distribution of the Generalate. Therefore, the mission must start in income-generating projects.

Visiting the confreres and getting to know their mission and commitment in Zambia was worth all the difficulties and challenges in coming up with this trip. Fr.

General is grateful for the occasion to visit and now the privilege to share his insight and perceptions of our mission in Zambia.

In his own words, "I am grateful to Fr. Martin Kawana SVD, the council, and all the confreres for their fraternal sharing of the joys and challenges faced in their life and mission in this country."

Insight and perspective of the SVDs in the Region of Zimbabwe



Our confreres in the Region of ZIM.



An outdoor mass in Harare.

By Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden SVD

Father Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden SVD crossed the border of Livingstone to enter the country of Zimbabwe and started his visit to the SVD Region from November 10-17, 2021. After meeting with our confreres in their places of mission in the Districts of Bulawayo, Plumtree, and Harare, he shares his insight and perspective of the SVDs in the Region.

Country and Church profile

The biggest challenge in Zimbabwe is the economy. The inflation increases day by day. The price of the goods is growing up rapidly. The life of people is getting more difficult. The literacy rate is very high. The current ruling party took power since the country's independence in 1980. The widespread corruption is among the worst in the world. And yet, the country tries to keep its quality education.

There are eight dioceses in the country. Two of the bishops are expatriates. The number of Catholics is going down, mainly because of the emerging groups which combine Christianity and traditional religions. Every day, we can see groups of people worship in the open air at every corner.

The SVD Mission and its challenges

The country has two main languages: Shona, the most widely spoken, including Harare, and Ndebele, spoken in Bulawayo. It is a challenge to learn and master the local languages.

Our confreres are working in ten parishes in three dioceses. In each of these parishes are well-defined contracts. In addition, of course, a few confreres are working in particular ministries. In general, confreres are dedicated to their ministry.

The confreres appreciate their being together. They come from different cultural and national backgrounds. They gather together as district and Region, important occasions to share and nourish each other

from time to time.

In some parishes, our confreres work alone to carry out the parish responsibilities. They visit the different outstations and attend to different pastoral needs. The Bishop of Harare stressed that no priest should be alone in a parish. He shared his experience implementing this policy with the diocesan priests with the Superior General.

The region is working on the Strategic Plan of the Region. The challenge is its successful implementation based on the collaboration of all members.

Perceptions on Leadership, Finances, and Formation

Leadership. The regional council is composed of young confreres. They are full of ideas and initiatives and enjoy the trust of the confreres.

Finances. The Region of Zimbabwe is still dependent on the subsidy of the SVD. However, the Region has some income-generating initiatives. Some more are being planned.

Formation. The Region is hosting the pre-philosophy for candidates from Zimbabwe and Zambia. There is a need to improve the vocation promotion. The vocation promoter has created a group of confreres from every district to organize programs for this purpose.

The seven-day visit of Father Kleden allowed him up close and personal to get to know the variety of our missions and commitments in Zimbabwe. Amid the difficulties and challenges, our confreres continue their mission involving the laypeople and collaborators.

Fr. Kleden says, "I am grateful for the visit to the confreres in Zimbabwe. It was my privilege to listen to their sharing and witness their dedication. My special gratitude goes to Regional Superior, Fr. Vincent Myiwa SVD, and his council and to the confreres of the Region for receiving me."

General Visitation

Fr. Peter Dusicka SVD: General Visitation to the Hungary Province (HUN):

Striving for rootedness in the Word Incarnate



The participants of the Provincial Assembly.



Visiting a Catholic school in Köröm.

The General Visitation of the Hungarian province took place from September 15 until October 2, 2021. Hungary has 9.8 million inhabitants, and Catholics are around 4 million. Serbia has 6.8 million inhabitants with a tiny minority of Catholics - only 5% of the population.

The HUN province, in terms of membership, is the smallest of all SVD provinces! There are twenty-three confreres in perpetual vows and 4 in temporary vows. Yet, in terms of internationality, this province is prosperous. Confreres come from 12 nationalities, namely: Indonesia (6), India (6), Hungary (2), Slovakia (2), Congo (2), Angola (2), Philippines (2), Poland (1), Serbia (1), Romania (1), USA (1), and Brazil (1).

There are two mission houses in the province. The Mission House in Köszeg (1928) serves as a center for retreats, Cursillo, summer mission camps, and missionary animation. In Budapest, there is a formation house which started in 2000. There is also an adjacent retreat house that began in 2006. Confreres are also working in four parishes: Köröm since 2011, Vasvár since 2014, Bicske since 2020 and Köszegszerdahely since 2021.

I would summarize my experience of the visitation with these three images.

The new face of the HUN province

Since the last General visitation in 2014, the membership has changed significantly. Ten confreres passed away from the elderly generation, who after the fall of communism in 1989 returned to Hungary from their missions to start anew. Only one remained. Some other young confreres left the province, too. But, on the other hand, the province was blessed with newcomers.

This change resulted in a lower average age of the confreres, which is now 42 years, and an increase in internationality. It is perceived that in the year 2014, there will be approximately 50% Europeans and 50% non-Europeans. At the current moment, the Europeans form only 27% of all members. Since 2019, Fr. Remis Tete SVD from India, aged 42, is the first non-European provincial in this province. The face of the province is now much younger and more international.

The desire for an experience of a missionary community

The last three years were challenging for the province. Yet, confreres overcame difficulties through their deep spirituality and determination to their mission. Since the COVID-19 restrictions prevented provincial gatherings in 2020, except for a province retreat, there was a great desire to finally get together, see each other, share, and celebrate. So, it was felt during the visitation, especially at the provincial assembly, which almost all confreres attended. The timing of the visitation was, therefore, a very fitting one.

On the path of renewal

I noticed a hunger for spiritual growth and a more substantial commitment to the mission among the confreres. This is evident in the various outreach activities like mission animation, summer mission camps for youth, retreats, and Cursillo. Also included is a collaboration with lay partners, publications, parish ministry, and ministry among Gypsies, which is the concrete example of putting the last first. One of the inputs for renewal also came from the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, with its motto: All My Springs are in You.

This is a call for all believers to refocus their life on Christ. For our confreres, it was a call to strive for rootedness in the Word Incarnate. Finally, there is the challenge of following Christ's example in sacrificing our lives in loving service to others.

This visitation was an enriching experience for me. I thank God for what has been accomplished by our confreres and pray that they will continue to be a blessing and a sign of hope for all they meet and serve.

--- Fr. Peter Dusicka SVD

Fr. Timothy Norton SVD: General Visitation to the Spain Province (ESP):

Enormous potential for mission and ministry



The Tahanan Filipino Ministry.



The members of ESP Province.

The General Visitation of ESP Province took place from September 19 until October 11, 2021. Although the time frame was a little short, the provincial, Fr. Macario Villalon SVD, made sure I could visit all communities and confreres from the south to the north of the province. The majority of the confreres took the opportunity for a personal conversation with me. I talked via zoom with one confrere who was on home leave. I also spoke with some of the confreres ‘*nulli stationi adscripti*’.

I was impressed by both the sincerity and goodwill of the confreres and their enormous potential for mission and ministry within the rapidly changing society of Spain. Young and old confreres talked openly of the increasing secularization in most aspects of the country and the implications for the mission. In the absence of local vocations and personnel trained for formation ministry, the ESP formation house was temporarily closed two years ago.

The theme of secularization was particularly evident in the healthy conversations concerning the SVD presence in parish ministry. An experience that highlighted this was a Saturday night mass I attended with two confreres and 30 parishioners on the town’s feast day. Inside the church, we all wore masks, while thousands of people without masks were listening to music and dancing outside the church.

It is significant that, in a province with 55 members, there are only four confreres between 48 and 69 years of age, and one of those arrived recently. The senior, experienced Spanish-born confreres make up approximately 66% of province membership. They are accompanied in community and ministry by a growing number of younger, enthusiastic, and well-educated confreres from other provinces. The age gap between the two groups is a challenge for ESP.

I was surprised that the senior confreres were historically missioned to Latin America with only a few exceptions. Of course, this makes sense because, except for those who missioned to Brazil, they were not expected to learn another language. However, this means

they are sometimes at a disadvantage when understanding the challenges younger confreres face in their language learning processes.

I enjoyed listening to many of the vivid stories of the senior confreres, both at the table and in personal conversations, about their joys and challenges as young missionaries while adjusting to new realities on other continents, with people for whom they hold enormous respect. For some, the call to readjust to the realities of life in ESP has been exceptionally difficult, primarily because of the significant changes in society and church while they were away. Intentional opportunities for sharing their stories of transition could help to make the process of readapting a little easier. It was inspiring to watch the confreres in Estella care for their sick and disabled confreres in the community.

ESP has a great tradition of accepting confreres from other provinces for higher education at some of the much-respected universities in Spain. ESP communities welcome and host these confreres during their studies.

The ‘Editorial del Verbo Divino’ (EVD) in Estella provides a vibrant service to the church in Spain and Latin America with its extensive production and distribution of bibles and high-quality associated biblical material. However, what captured my attention most was the enormous creativity, professionalism, and teamwork of both the SVDs and lay staff. The province is well-placed to use the resources of EVD to empower a mixed team of confreres and lay associates as an on-the-ground biblical resource for the church in Spain.

The lay associates in ESP are at a moment of crossroads. The vibrant ethnic groups (Filipino, Polish, English-Portuguese-French speaking Africans) with whom the confreres are ministering provide a welcome platform to renew this group using some of the intercultural dynamics that the confreres use in their ministries and communities.

More recently, ESP has shown courage and faith in selecting young confreres for leadership in communities and provincial councilors. A newly formed parish

community in a middle-lower class area of Madrid has four younger confreres involved in various ministry activities and studies. With appropriate accompaniment, this intercultural community has the potential to provide an excellent missionary presence within the Archdiocese.

ESP has also been active in ministry with the urban poor of Seville in the south of Spain. An NGO formed by three religious orders, including the SVD, has offices and a kitchen within the parish premises. Two hundred meals daily are provided to low-income families, along with the support services of a psychologist and a social worker. This has been particularly important for residents during the pandemic. Our confreres are

very active in this activity associated with the parish and minister.

I was warmly welcomed by confreres across the province, as well as by lay associates and our SSsP sisters, and I thank them for their hospitality and openness. While ESP has significant challenges to face in internal demographics and leadership, the confreres are well placed to undertake new initiatives in the biblical apostolate, lay associate formation, ministry with the urban poor, and initial and ongoing formation for younger confreres.

--- Fr. Timothy Norton SVD
Bishop-elect of the Archdiocese of Brisbane

Fr. Eryk Koppa SVD: General Visitation to Argentina Eastern Province (ARE):

Confreres displaying inventiveness in moving forward with the mission



The members of ARE Province.



Visiting the community of Maria de Fatima in the suburb of Posadas.

The general visitation to ARE was initially planned for September 2020. However, due to the pandemic, it was postponed to October 2021. Therefore, after receiving permission from the Argentine Embassy in Rome, I finally arrived in Posadas, Misiones, on October 9, 2021.

We will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the SVD mission work in this part of Argentina in two years. Fr. Frederick Vogt was the first SVD, to arrive in Posadas, Misiones. This milestone event was on December 5, 1898. The Bishop of Paraná offered the territory of Misiones to our Congregation in 1892. Still, Fr. Arnold Janssen thought that the Jesuits should return to where they had once worked so successfully. He finally accepted the invitation when none of the Jesuit provinces showed interest in resuming their work in this area.

There was officially one parish in Posadas in Misiones, covering a territory of 30,000 km² with 30,000 inhabitants. In 1957, the diocese of Posadas was erected, and our confrere Bishop Jorge Kemerer SVD became its first bishop. Today, the area is divided into three dioceses (Posadas Diocese (1957), Puerto Iguazu Diocese (1986), and Obera Diocese (2009), with a total of 79 parishes and 1,200,000 inhabitants.

Today, 61 confreres are coming from 16 nationalities. Among them are 17 Argentinians. The Province comprises four districts, namely, Posadas, Chaco, Alto

Uruguay, and Eldorado. Our confreres work in seventeen parishes, three foundations, one Institute "Roque Gonzalez" in Posadas, Centro de Espiritualidad "Ntra. Sra. de Fatima" in Garupa (Posadas), Centro Biblico Universitario "Dabar" in Eldorado, and a hospital chaplaincy in Posadas. The average age of confreres in the Province is 53 years.

Many of us have probably seen the movie The Mission. It tells the story of the mission to the Guarani Indians, which took place in the area that today encompasses the Misiones. Our confreres who came to the location of the former Jesuit reductions worked mainly among the migrants. They arrived in large numbers from Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, and even Japan. Working among the Indians was not their priority. Today, through a Foundation that continues the work of Father Joseph Marx SVD, our Congregation is trying to support the first inhabitants of this territory - the Guarani Indians.

It was a very enriching experience to see our confreres from different countries and continents working among the descendants of migrants from many other countries. Internationality and multiculturality are characteristics of our communities. It is also true of Misiones.

The pandemic also took its toll on the people's lives, our confreres, and their missionary work. The restric-

tions have reduced many pastoral activities. But some confreres, together with their lay collaborators, have shown extraordinary inventiveness. For example, during the COVID-19 conditions, the Internet is used to broadcast Mass and services. Through this platform, the catechesis and group meetings continued.

In many parishes, we use the method of family catechesis. Fr. Martin Weichs SVD from Germany is the author of many books and manuals on family catechesis. He shares his experience and expertise in involving family members in the program.

The presence of the laity is an excellent resource for the different ministries in ARE. Other groups collaborate in the parishes and the Foundations of Villa Cabello, Jose Marx, and Hogares Guillermo Hayes. In addition, they offer their services for Instituto Roque Gonzalez and the Retreat House in Fatima. Our confreres build partnerships with the laity engaged in missionary work with great enthusiasm.

We continue to pray for more vocations in the Province.

--- Fr. Eryk Koppa. SVD

Fr. Stanislaus Lazar SVD: General Visitation to Italy Province (ITA):

Experiencing growth and vibrant activities



The members of the ITA Province



Visiting our confreres working in Vlorë, Albania.

The ITA province consists of Italy and Albania. The province has 38 members; 34 are present, two confreres are yet to arrive, and two are in excommunication. There are 14 nationalities in the province, and the average age is 54 years. Hence, the province has a richness of interculturality. Furthermore, the province has three languages: Italian, German and Albanian. Thus, the province is challenged to send the confreres to different places and ministries.

I appreciate the commitment and enthusiasm of the confreres, and they are mainly doing pastoral work. Some are involved in other ministries like caring for migrants and youth, taking care of pilgrims, and distributing *Leben Jetzt* magazine. The elderly and the younger confreres serve in the pastoral field and other ministries. The laypeople appreciate our service, and when I met various pastoral council members, they repeatedly praised our contribution to the Church.

The birthplace of St. Joseph Freinademetz - Oies is in this province. This is declared as Centro Missionario by the diocese of Bolzano. The status of Sanctuary is being sought after. The house, the Chapel and rooms for accommodation, and a multipurpose hall are in this place. The Chapel is beautiful, and this is the pilgrimage center for the Society and the people. Although many groups and visitors were coming earlier, the number has decreased due to the pandemic.

The community and the parish in Bolzano are vibrant, and the local Bishop is pleased with the SVDs.

Two confreres also help in the diocesan activities - youth work and the center for missions. The mountains in these areas are beautiful, but it demands a lot to reach out to all the Churches to meet the pastoral needs.

The house in Varone consists of a provincial office, elderly confreres' residence, and a place for meetings and gatherings. There is also a parish with many activities, and laypeople are very involved. The confreres are happy, and their prayer life is edifying. Although many are elderly, they still help out the parish in Varone and other places in the pastoral work.

The house in Vicenza is remarkable - the three confreres work for the migrants. Their involvement with Caritas is outstanding, bringing hope and joy to the migrants.

St. Benedetto di Norcia parish in Rome began one year back. The parish has a good atmosphere. Other than the pastoral work, there are three charitable activities: Listening Center, Parish Caritas, and a place for taking a bath for the homeless people. The lay volunteers carry out all these activities, and they are thrilled to be involved.

We are present in Vlorë, Albania, which has 160,000 people. Nearly 70 known Catholics live in this city. There may be a few more who are not known to us. One Mosque, one Orthodox Church, and one Catholic Church make the religious presence in this city. Most of them are Muslims, but they are not "practicing Muslims." There are four religious congregations in the

parish, each engaged in their specified apostolate. Our confreres are exploring the possibilities to do their best in this mission parish.

During the visitation, I met the confreres, four bishops, religious sisters, and several laypeople. I can see the growth and vigorous activities in all these places. Their service is commendable, and the older people lend their hand wherever possible. Their dedication

and commitment are very much seen in their activities. Italy is known for its Catholicism. There are many challenges to getting involved in the new evangelization in this post-modern era. The pandemic has caused many problems, but we have a mission here. I want to thank all the province members for their sharing, trust, and confidence. May we continue God's mission.

--- Fr. Stanislaus Lazar SVD

Fr. Anselmo Ribeiro SVD: General Visitation to Portugal Province (POR):

SVD mission: many possibilities of connection with the laity



With some confreres of POR Province.



In Almodôvar; with parishioners after Sunday mass.

My visitation in Portugal Province started on September 15 and ended on October 14, 2021. In Portugal, I met with very different realities, like in the Alentejo, with its quiet villages and hamlets, where young people need to leave to study or better conditions. But also with lay people committed to the mission in various places, or even with a church full of children for catechesis.

The general visitation is always very demanding because about every two days we have to move to a new community to meet the confreres and laypeople. For me, it is always important to offer the same attention in every place visited, as if it were the first day of the visitation. I have experienced the gift of hospitality. In some areas, I heard from the confreres that pastoral work and ministries revolve around the idea of first evangelization. It was a surprise to me.

The mission in Portugal has many possibilities of connection with the laity, with other missionary congregations, especially with the Missionary Servants of the Holy Spirit. With them, in particular, we are very close to starting chaplaincy with Chinese migrants. Other missionary animation projects are also carried out jointly.

With the laity, missionary and solidarity promotion activities are carried out. The generosity of many friends and benefactors has supported projects for the mission beyond the Portuguese borders.

The Divine Word Missionaries in Portugal are nearing their 75th anniversary. They have built a beautiful history of formation and sending missionaries to the four corners of the world. Today the province is engaged in renewal and transformation, as the last General Chapter has guided us.

One of the most viable paths for this process is a col-

laboration with the laity, reorganization of community life in small communities and districts, and, whenever possible, missionary formation. They share with other provinces in the EUROPA Zone the challenges of lack of vocations and the decreasing participation of parishioners in the churches. These challenges also move them to new responses, based on the Characteristic Dimensions and our charism and spirituality.

After seeing, hearing, listening, and feeling the pulse of the missionary life of the Church and the Congregation in Portugal, these are the challenges for the province. I will use the biblical when Jesus sent the 72 disciples, two by two, ahead of him. He sent them out with some recommendations, among them, that they should not carry any bag, nor satchel, nor sandals.

Well, I was able to witness your missionary life of simplicity. In every community, personal life is simple. But the mission in Portugal seemed to me to feel the weight of the structure, which is no longer so simple; on the contrary, it weighs a bit heavy for our present era. I am talking about the structure of our old seminaries and how we are used to organizing ourselves around these houses.

The challenge is to balance the simplicity of life with the weight of the structures. It facilitates other services of the mission that we often forget to mention, such as administration, leadership, and the formation of new missionaries. It would be a beautiful project for the jubilee of 75 years of our presence in Portugal if we could find a reasonable balance. The jubilee is very close. It is necessary to accelerate the pace towards this goal.

--- Fr. Anselmo Ribeiro SVD

Fr. Xavier Thirikidumbam SVD: General Visitation to Paraguay Province:

The Paraguayan Paradoxes



Visiting our confreres.



With our lay partners.

The General Visitation of the province of Paraguay last October was an experience not only exciting and educative but also fascinating and heartwarming for me. Therefore, I want to share with the readers of *Arnoldus Nota* six paradoxical developments that captured my attention during the Visitation. I consider them paradoxical because each issue involves a pair of peculiar and apparent opposites, complementing and producing positive vibes.

A poor prosperous nation: There is a general prejudice that Paraguay is poor. With its population numbering just seven million, the nation is considered weak compared to its powerful neighbors. But its economic growth rate and the exchange rate of Guaraní (local currency) to US\$ are better than those strong neighboring countries. Moreover, there is no shortage of food in Paraguay. There aren't many MNCs or large production centers in the country, but it is a leading global producer of soybeans, meat, and electricity. The farmers' cooperative societies manage the production and supply of food grains. Ironically, there are so many land and land disputes and invasions of private properties!

Adversarial advantage: Paraguay fought a bitter war against the 'triple alliance' lasting over six years. Though the impact was devastating for the country, it learned to shrug off its hostility and became more receptive and accommodating to its foreign neighbors, which turned the table in its favor. Today, about 30% of its population consists of foreign nationals having a harmonious coexistence and contributing to its growth. Moreover, thanks to the committed efforts of our confreres, our multicultural parochial communities are becoming increasingly intercultural.

Solid soup: The soup of Paraguay has its brand mark, and it is so popular that you cannot think of a festive meal without this soup. But the only problem is that if you are looking for a traditional soup, you will be disappointed. Paraguayan soup is a solid food item, quite nutritious like a cake. Who said a soup has to be liquid? So the next time you visit Paraguay, don't miss this typical delicacy.

Critical appreciation: What is so heartwarming in the province of Paraguay is that the confreres don't hesitate to appreciate one another, including their leadership, which is an essential ingredient of healthy community life. But they also don't shy away from airing their constrictive criticism, which often epitomizes their concern for the province's life and mission, which is vital for its progress. The receptivity and reciprocity exercised in this process generate contagious positive energy in the environment. This is especially true among the collaborators and the parishioners. They love and appreciate the confreres in their pastoral missionary engagements.

Radicalizing communication with community radios: In an age of digital communication highway, radio broadcasts may be considered outdated and unpopular. But not among our missionaries in Paraguay. One of the most effective ways to reach out to people during the pandemic was through community radio broadcasts. Pretty high on popularity rating, the broadcasts proved to be among the best socio-pastoral and spiritual animation methods. It can be the cost-effective and self-reliant method of evangelization. Are you still waiting for the pandemic to perish?

An uncanny advancement of our Dimensions: One of the common concerns of our confreres, in general, is that we are not doing enough to promote our Characteristic Dimensions, which are hallmarks of our identity. Paraguay is no exception to it. But I must say that there is something exceptional here. Paraguay promotes the Characteristic Dimensions through its laicos verbitas. At least in four of our prominent parishes, the laicos verbitas have organized themselves into four divisions to attend to the four Dimensions.

These vibrant groups have the blessings and guidance of the misioneros verbitas. Though this development doesn't seem to fit into some of the confreres' conceptual framework of promoting the Characteristic Dimensions, they are fostering them. Some good practices to admire and imitate!

--- Fr. Xavier Thirikidumbam SVD

Fr. Raymun J. Festin SVD: General Visitation to Argentina South (ARS):

Mindfulness and graciousness of our confreres

The General Visitation (GV) of SVD Argentina South (ARS) took place from October 2-30, 2021. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the GV of ARS was reduced to two weeks with two Visitators—Fr. Modeste Munimi, the General Coordinator of Communications, and myself—designated to conduct the said activity.

My experience of the GV of ARS is very enriching and memorable. In this sharing, I only would like to focus on what I have personally experienced with the ARS confreres in the course of the GV. Before the GV Visitation, I only knew very few confreres, about (five) 5, in the ARS province. However, when I left Argentina, I had considerably widened my circle of friends. I'm now personally acquainted with about 70 confreres of ARS.

What personally touched me during the GV was the fraternal kindness, hospitality, mindfulness, and graciousness which the SVD confreres feelingly accorded to me—from the moment I set foot in the country to the day I flew back to Rome. It is impressive how confreres warmly welcomed us most attentively. They went out of their way to anticipate our needs and see that everything went well with the scheduled visitation.

I want to thank the ARS Provincial Superior, Fr. Marcelo Cattáneo—along with the members of his Provincial Council—for his warm fraternal attention. One thing that really struck me was how the confreres

showed their patient understanding to me. I do not speak Spanish well. I only speak Spanish in a halting way, and the words that sometimes come out of my mouth are Portuguese words. The spirit is willing, but the grammar is weak.

If the magnificent Miguel de Cervantes heard me speak his mother tongue, he would have charged me before the International Criminal Court (ICC) as the guilty murderer of a great European language and would have justly campaigned for my execution by hanging.

But the ARS confreres showed a formidable measure of patience, politeness, and forbearance in hearing and listening to me. They gently assured me they could somehow understand my thought and locutions. That no one showed irritation and impatience, as I attempted to express myself in Spanish only, revealed the goodness and gentleness of their heart.

Although I felt diffident at times to speak Spanish, I felt reassured that my confreres would understand my predicament. And I never felt insecure or afraid in their presence. After all, I felt at home with them. Feeling secure with and accepted by confreres is what it means to be in an SVD community.

I would like to conclude this sharing by thanking all ARS confreres again for their fraternal kindness and attention. With all the weakness of mere words, I say *Muchas gracias!*



Fr. Festin with the Chinese community in Buenos Aires.

Fr. Modeste Munimi SVD: General Visitation to Argentina South (ARS):

The Province: A Transformative Missionary Discipleship

The General Visitation in Argentina South (ARS) took place from October 2-30, 2021. We were two visitators Father Raymun Festin, the General Councilor, and Father Modeste Munimi, the General Communications Coordinator. Father Raymun made the visitation in the district of Jujuy and in the district of Córdoba-Mendoza. Modeste visited the district of Jorge Novak in Buenos Aires, the district of Neuquén in Patagonia and the district of Santa Fe-Entre Ríos.

The Argentina South Province, as a unified province of Argentina North and South, has existed since 2008. It is one of the largest

provinces of the Congregation in terms of extension. The distance between the district of Neuquén in the south and the district of Jujuy in the north is almost 3000 km. The province has eighteen parishes, seven colleges and schools, one publishing house (Editorial Guadalupe), and two bookstores.



Fr. Modeste with the parishioners in Cutral-Có, Neuquén in Patagonia.

At present, the province is made up of 97 confreres (priests/brothers/brothers in temporary vows) of 18 nationalities, of whom 29% are in the 51-60 age group; 17% belong to the 31-40 age group; 13% are over 80 years old; 12% are between 71-80 years old; 10% are over 30 years old;

10% are in the 41-50 age group, and 9% are between 61-70 years old. The average age of ARS confreres is about 55.6 years.

As for the distribution of personnel, the majority of confreres work in parishes; a good number in educational ministry and others in formation, administration, missionary animation, the Home apostolate (homes for abandoned children/adolescents), and other ministries.

The human and Christian education of children and youth continues to be a priority for the province. Together with the parishes, the schools are privileged spaces to achieve this goal and to reach thousands of children and young people, and families. To this end, the confreres work with the laity, who play an important role in all the pastoral, educational, and formative areas of the province.

The economic inflation of the country and the COVID-19 with its economic, mental, and social consequences are real challenges for the SVD mission in

Argentina. Since the time of the pandemic, first virtually and now in face-to-face meetings, the province has been reflecting on three lines of action for SVD life and mission since the recommendations of the last general chapter and in the current Argentinean context. These are transforming missionary discipleship, synodality, and human promotion.

The three weeks of the general visitation were intense, yet very significant in terms of the hospitality of the confreres, of fraternal encounters and dialogues. We returned to Rome with a backpack full of life and mission experiences, which we learned from each other, especially from our older confreres of Hogar San Rafael.

We are very grateful to the Provincial Marcelo Cattaneo, his council, and all the members of the province for having made the meetings with each of the members of the province light, friendly and fraternal. May God continue to bless the missionary work of the confreres in ARS.

--- Fr. Modeste Munimi, SVD

Thoughts and Reflections

How the Founder dealt with the Roman Curia: A three-part historical review

Part One: The Founder's way and stamina in dealing with authorities in Rome



Arnold Janssen



Pope Leo XIII

Fr. Andrzej Miotk SVD
Generalate SVD Historian

Over time, the Mission House in Steyl grew into a religious congregation under the leadership of Fr. Arnold Janssen, the Superior General for life. He was in command of the Society for 33 years, overseeing the inception of four mission houses, five seminaries, and the unfolding of new SVD missions overseas. He also was responsible for the appointments of hundred priests, Brothers, and Sisters year after year. However, as prevailing Superior General, he was dependent on the higher authorities in Rome, especially on his immediate Superior, the Prefect of the Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide (SCPF), charged with the supreme direction and administration of the missionary activity of the Church.

Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide's initial position on the Society

The SCPF had considered our Society as a missionary and not as religious in principle. The SVD priests were ordained early, according to the Titulus Missionis. Fr. Arnold had to obey the directives of the Curia officials. They did not always overlap with his opinions and the interests of the Society. His main goal was the establishment of the Society on a solid foundation. His obedience is seen in how he interpreted orders sensible and broad-mindedly.

Fr. Arnold reminded his missionaries to consider the demanded statistics for SCPF on "how often the missionaries have dispensed each sacrament, e.g.,

baptisms, anointings, confessions, communions; how many chapels, churches, schools, and pupils there are, etc., and finally, what the total number of Christians is." (*AJ Reader*, No. 182).

Fr. Blume stated, "he (Fr. Arnold) loved the tombs of the martyrs and saints, but not the negotiations with the Curia." That was even more evident as the Founder aged in years. Nevertheless, the Founder's dealing with the Roman authorities, specifically with officials of the Propaganda Fide, provides us with some interesting observations.

The Founder: An Untiring contemplative in action

Arnold Janssen undertook ten tiring business trips to Rome during his lifetime. He was received at six papal audiences: four times by Pope Leo XIII (1878, 1883, 1885, 1893) and two times Pope Pius X (1905, 1907). His Roman trips took place with quite astonishing regularity: 1878, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1891, 1893, 1899, 1900, 1905, 1907 and were of vital importance for the internal and external development of the Society.

These time-consuming and thorny negotiations in Rome concerned: mission territories, papal approval of the Rule, Bishop Anzer's case, and territorial division of the Society. To have some idea of the Founder's busy schedule in Rome, it's insightful to look onto his travel notebook from his Roman stay in 1899. He met with Msgr. Vives y Tutó OFM Cap., an influential theologian and consultor of SCPF (Cardinal since 1899) five times. He had four sessions with Card. Steinhuber SJ, consultant to SCPE, and Card. Cavagna, eminent canonist. In addition, he met and exchanged views with Card. Jacobini, the former secretary of SCPE, Card. Mieczyslaw Halka-Ledochowski, the Prefect of SCPF, and Msgr. Ciasca, secretary of SCPF (also cardinal since 1899).

He had two meetings with Card. Satolli, a renowned professor of neo-scholastic at the Urban College of SCPF. Arnold also met with Card. Rampolla, the Secretary of State once. Besides, he met a bunch of Latin-American bishops assembled at their first Plenary Council in Rome. During his seventh visit to Rome in 1899, he almost went daily to St. Peter's Basilica to pray for all confreres at the Prince of the Apostles' tomb. This spiritual closeness to the apostles and spiritual treasures of the Church reflects his pronounced *Sentire cum Ecclesia*.

Initial contact with Cardinal Alessandro Franchi

The excellent way to bring closer Arnold Janssen's relations to the Propaganda Fide is to characterize his dealing with the four Cardinal Prefects SCPF during his lifetime as Superior General. The first was the brief contact with Card. Alessandro Franchi, Prefect of SCPF for four years (1874-1878). He was considered in a positive sense as a "liberal" and an experienced diplomat from Rome striving for reconciliation and moderation.

Before opening the mission house in Steyl, Fr. Ar-

nold addressed him in a draft letter of February 9, 1875, which was never sent. He wrote: "I have consistently recognized the significance and importance of Rome, and therefore, I strove to establish a foundation in the center of Christianity as soon as I could." At his first Roman visit in 1878, Fr. Arnold wanted to meet Card Franchi. Meanwhile, under the new Pope Leo XIII, Franchi became the new Secretary of State. But the Cardinal was out for dinner, so he left only his card explaining the purpose of his visit to the priest on duty. The Cardinal died suddenly at the end of that month.

Reminiscences from other meetings with Curial officials

Fr. Arnold left some reminiscences of his meetings with the Curial officials. About his second Roman visit in 1881, he wrote: "Yesterday and the day before, I was with various cardinals of the Propaganda, all of whom received me warmly, and most of whom gave me more than half an hour to tell them about our house and the situation in our region," then he added "I still have many visits to make, for instance, to the cardinals and offices attached to the Propaganda. It involves much walking and then very often they may not be in".

Fr. Arnold could be very determined in dealing with the Roman officials. The latter "was often dismayed and upset when he approached them with his counter-proposals" (*Remembering AJ*, 288). Fr. Hilger, his secretary, reported that he could present his reasons in such a humble and proper manner that he usually achieved more than he had hoped; one of the officials just said: "We will let the old man have his way."

Card. Francesco di Paola Satolli (1839-1910), the Prefect in charge of the commission for approving the constitutions, claimed that our General was a holy man, but he couldn't understand him. Card. Satolli showed little understanding of Fr. Arnold's arguments and objected to the name of our Society. Finally, he had been overruled by the sound arguments of the Founder. Despite that, he rejected categorically any modification.

Overall, Fr. Arnold took some heavy blows during the strenuous negotiations on the papal approval of the Rule. Nevertheless, he kept his usual calm composure. He proceeded prudently. Through his unpretentious attitude, Fr. Arnold made an extremely positive impression. He stuck to his deep conviction that "missionaries must bear witness to Christ, first of all in their conduct and lifestyle. Skillful diplomacy and connections with people in high places were secondary matters".

The next part of the series will focus on the Founder's attempts to solicit the approval of the Rule 1899-1905. How did he fare with the Propaganda Fide? Wait for the January-February 2022 issue of *Arnoldus Nota*.

VIVAT International Represented at COP 26

A three-member team from the VIVAT International participated in the Conference of the Parties (COP26) held in Glasgow, Scotland, from October 31-November 12, 2021. The participants included Fr. Liam Dunne SVD, based in Ireland, Bro. Alberto Parise, a Combonian based in Rome, and Sr. Ida Haurand SSPS in Germany. Fr. Liam shares his reflections, observations, and insights on the Conference. He said, "We all have a greater awareness of the damage being caused in many parts of the world as a result of man-made climate damage."

COP26 was a remarkable gathering of Heads of State, Spokespersons for all kinds of citizen groups and businesses in Glasgow, Scotland. It was a United Nations arranged gathering to respond to the challenges arising from the Climate Changes affecting the world, which has devastating and chaotic effects on humanity worldwide today.

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. Parties are the governments and other Bodies participating in the Conference. This was the 26th meeting. They take place every year in a different country. The next one will be in Egypt in 2022. About 190 countries participated through their Heads of State or their Ministers for Energy or similar. Each state also had its negotiators.

There were many Pavilions where businessmen and women could introduce and speak about their inventions to reduce climate change. These Pavilions were spread throughout the large campus of the Scottish Events Centre (SEC) on the banks of the Clyde River. These Pavilions showcased their inventions for healing the climate problems and gave lectures about their work. Good new technology must be shared.

There were also thousands of ordinary citizens, the grassroots, of the world. They were like a floating population at the event. They consisted of Indigenous peoples from every continent, women; young people; actors for Climate Justice, and some Faith delegations. They were trying to get their voices and their messages about the disasters they were facing heard by all means possible. For example, they suffer from hunger; they fear having no rain and thus no gardens or food for their families.

In some cases, people fear annihilation as the seas rise ever higher around their island homes. Then there were those many people, like the Ava Guarani in Paraguay. They have been thrown off their ancestral lands by the army and insensitive and greedy businessmen.

These people want their lands for their own needs, whether for cattle, soya, or whatever.

Among all of them, there were the three representatives of VIVAT International. Our motto is Together for Life, Dignity, and Human Rights. At first, our team in New York and Rome, Srs. Marides and Gretta SSPS and Paul Rahmat SVD wanted seven delegates.

However, the United Nations limited us to three: Bro. Alberto Parise, a Combonian based in Rome, Sr. Ida Haurand SSPS, based in Germany; and myself. Before attending the Conference, we met through Zoom to prepare ourselves for the event. We tried to learn as much as we could during the Conference and meet with people from various groups. We also kept in touch through daily YouTube reports.

It was an extensive learning experience for us. It was the first time that VIVAT International was present at COP. From the beginning, getting orientated to the layout and working method was essential. We soon learned how to choose from the vast range of daily talks and discussions that were on offer in many locations. There was a broad theme for each day, with lectures and discussions based upon those. These were Finance, Women, Indigenous Affairs, Energy, Gender, Nature, Transport, Civil Society, etc.

It was interesting to see and hear many well-known personalities. We heard Teresa May, Al Gore, John Kerry, Antonio Guterres (U.N.), Mary Robinson (Chair of the Elders), many ministers of different countries, and many familiar faces from the media. Al Gore showed a stunning and graphic film about the effects of Climate Change in all parts of the world.

We were disappointed by the lack of cohesion between Catholic participants and Faith groups. Because of this, we did not have meetings to decide better how to operate as a group. This is an issue that must be improved in the future. We also discovered that each group should be affiliated with Constituency groups to hear our voices. We would have a better chance of making our points of view attended by the leaders and negotiators.

What inspired and encouraged us was the literacy of so many indigenous men, women, and young people. They have a voice! It is getting louder! They will be heard. They do have something to campaign for! We were encouraged to discover that many businesses are developing energies and fuels to lessen Climate Change. They include Wind Energy, Hydrogen and ammonium fuels, and solar power. It was also consoling to learn



that rich countries have begun to understand that they must provide funds to assist poor countries with adaptation and loss and damage for those affected by Climate change.

Where to from here? The concerns of COP are ongoing. We all have a greater awareness of the damage caused in many parts of the world due to man-made climate damage. In keeping with the Holy Father's call (See: Laudato Si Action Platform) for us to care for the earth, which is Home to everybody, we must all become more conscious of how our small actions can help or

hinder our progress in living with a holistic spirit of integral ecology. We must join others who are also working for the well-being of our earth and outer space and Eco-Justice.

As members of the Congregations of VIVAT International, we should all reach out to those on the front line of suffering as a result of Climate Injustices. We must find our voice, too, and join the call for Climate Justice and the healing of the earth!

--- Fr. Liam Dunne, SVD

AFRAM NEWS

South Sudan

Meeting the little girl Gisma

Fr. Paul Shiju SVD works at the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in the Maban Region in South Sudan. After celebrating Mass in one of the outstations, he met the little girl Gisma, meaning gift. The encounter was spiritually significant, especially during this Christmas season. Here is his story.

I met Gisma first time after celebrating Mass in one of the outstations with her foster mom. Since then, I have visited her with JRS psychosocial team for support and help on many occasions. This tiny-sized baby and her light complexion captured my attention immediately. Then, her foster mom started narrating her story.

Gisma was abandoned in the bush by her mother. Her cries were overheard by a group of women who went to the bush to bring firewood. She was found lying under the plants, covered in scratches and insect bites on her tiny fingers. She had lost a bit of flesh on some of her toes eaten by ants. She was abandoned in the bush by a Falata mother.

Falatas primarily reside in temporary settlements, far away from the host and refugee communities as they migrate with their cattle. For the most part, the men herd cattle while the women produce and sell fresh milk and sour milk in the local markets. They are nomadic Muslims of local tribes with Arab features. They rear vast herds of cattle and move across a wide territory in Chad, southern Sudan, and South Sudan's Upper Nile state.

Their cousins are known as Fulanis in West Africa. Some JRS staff call me "Falata" because of my dark brown skin that matches the Falatas. I recently cel-

ebrated Mass for patients in a local hospital with bare minimum basic facilities. Interestingly two young Falata mothers were present with their babies for the Mass. The name Gisma means "Gift" and is of Arabic origin. It is usually given to someone beautiful inside and out. And so special.

Only time will answer the yet-to-be-voiced question, "Who were my parents - and why was I left in the bush to die?" There is an ongoing tension between the host community and refugee communities and herders over shrinking pasture lands. But Gisma has found a caring mother and a new home in the host community.

Today Gisma lives in a tukul with her foster mother. Though temporary, Tukuls or tents, the most common sight here, are not just shelters for those who were escaping life-threatening violence. It is more than the unknowns of wandering and uncertain searching for a new destination to belong. It is a home that gives people a sense of normalcy

and regains dignity.

God tented with the Israelites in the wilderness. In Jesus, God pitched God's tent with us. Emperors of the past and present offer a vision of a God of economic mansions and prosperity. But this new vision of God in Jesus, born in a manger, points to a new way of being in the world.

And this God is Gisma, a gift beautiful inside-out dwelling in a tent. It is radical kinship, the ultimate dream of God born again and again, in you, and me living in you and me. Let it be said of each of us that we lived this dream- the radical kinship of God!

--- Fr. Paul Shiju SVD



Fr. Paul met Gisma first time after celebrating Mass in one of the outstations.

Mondou (TCD):**Inauguration of Catholic Chaplaincy program***The inauguration of Catholic Chaplaincy program.*

Mgr. Joachim Kouraleyo Tarounga presided, November 24, at the Eucharistic celebration inaugurating the Catholic Chaplaincy program he wanted the SVDs to organize and run at the State University of Moundou. Concelebrating the Mass with him were the pastors or their assistants of the five Catholic parishes of the town - Saints Peter and Paul, administered by the SVDs. Of the 8.000 student body at the Campus, some 2.000 are Catholics and are part of the five parishes here. In addition, there are four Faculties with nine Departments where these students generally pursue an undergraduate degree.

The Campus Mass went well. Some 1.000 students, professors, and staff filled the 800-seat Aula. The bishop expressed satisfaction at having a Catholic presence finally at the university and briefly presented the chaplaincy program's objectives. He described chaplaincy as an authentic Catholic space for meeting people, reflecting, and exchanging ideas and experiences to become better students and human beings for the good of Chad as a nation. The temporary choir we put in did well. There was indeed a prayerful ambience, and some 300 students received communion.

I was appointed the Chaplain last year, but constant nationwide strikes by the university personnel and the Corona measures kept us outside the Campus more often than not. "Our hope is bold" (#55), as Pope Francis writes in *Fratelli Tutti*, for a better academic world in the city, that things are back to normal again, and that the campus ministry program will subsequently make a difference in the lives of those participating in it.

--- Fr. Joseph Kallanchira, SVD

Beira (MOZ):**Celebrating Mission Day in a meaningful way**

On World Mission Sunday 2021, Pope Francis affirmed the mission of mercy. He stressed that amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to create a compassionate task. He emphasized that life can be difficult in situations like this. But in the book of Acts, he teaches us to remain faithful to bear all hardships by clinging to Christ.

Pope Francis wrote that the situation of Coronavirus exposed and amplified the pain, loneliness, poverty, and injustice that we all experienced. He stressed that there is a temptation to disguise and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing. Instead, there is an urgent need for the mission of compassion that can do what is necessary to meet people.

*We fed more than 200 vulnerable children.*

This message from Pope Francis invites all missionaries to meditate and implement compassionate love in each of our missions. Thus, we, SVD Ministers of the Beira community in Mozambique, have made several programs to celebrate Mission Day in a meaningful way.

We began with the Holy Eucharist and then *Lectio Divina*, a lecture on the importance of the Bible in Christian life, and an address given to young people for raising awareness of today's missions. We fed more than 200 vulnerable children in our parish on this day. Above all. It was a day of grace and great awareness of the current situation of the missions in Mozambique.

--- Bro. Bernardo Fernandes SVD

Battor (GHA):**New Catholic Community established in Mafi-Dove***The first mass celebrated in Mafi Dove.*

"We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20) was the theme of this year's World Mission Sunday. To respond effectively to that, members of the St. Maria Goretti Parish, Battor, embarked on a three-day evangelization and outreach program, which aimed at establishing a Catholic Community in Mafi-Dove in the Volta Region of

Ghana under the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra.

The three-day event started on November 5, 2021. The following day we had a door-to-door evangelization (sending the word to the people's doorstep) during the day and prayer sessions during the evenings of each day. On Sunday, November 7, Fr. Mathias Yao King, SVD, Parish Priest of the St. Maria Goretti Parish celebrated a mass for the first time in Mafi-Dove.

The milestone occasion prompted the parish priest to encourage the new church members to be firm in their faith and propagate it. They should take consolation from the apostles and the early church fathers. Members of other neighboring catholic communities also pledged their support to help grow both in faith and structure of the newly established church.

The Mafi-Dove community is located in the Central Tongu District of the Volta Region, located along the Accra-Aflao road. The village is considered a holy land. Consequently, it has a plethora of customs and traditions that have been upheld throughout its existence. (listwand.com) --- Fr. Anthony Diku-Dery, SVD

Tchitchao (TOG):

A new home for the postulancy program

The project has been in the making for a long time. It has been effective for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year with a new team full of energy. The transfer of the postulancy from Lomé to Tchitchao on September 27, 2021, began with the transportation of heavy equipment as well as the personal effects of the postulants using two trucks. Twelve students and their formator Fr. Emmanuel Adjetei SVD, joined the other four postulants already in Tchitchao. Fr. Georges Kamale SVD, the House Treasurer, is also part of the formation team.

With their diocesan colleagues, the sixteen postulants made their retreat at the beginning of the academic year, from October 7 to 10, 2021. Then, on October 21, Fr. Michel Mama-Betre, Vicar General of the diocese of Sokodé, presided over the solemn Mass at the beginning of the academic year at the inter-diocesan major seminary of philosophy Benedict XVI-Tchitchao-Togo.

In sum, the postulants and their formators express their joy and thanks for their new home. A special thanks to the Provincial Superior and his Council for their propensity towards this new home, serving as a beautiful formation framework for future SVD missionaries.

--- P. Georges Kamale, SVD

Kenya-Tanzania (KEN):

Friends of the SVD resume activities amid the pandemic



Fr. Jerome Olianga SVD commissioning a new member.

We have had lockdown of churches twice in Kenya since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Like in 2020, the churches were closed as we approached the Holy week. Although re-opened, we still strictly observe the health restrictions and government directives.

We are a dedicated group rooted in love for the mission and oriented on the spirituality of St. Arnold.

We participate in various activities throughout the year guided by our calendar of events. However, what has hit us most is that the convention we participated in annually was suspended last year and for this year.

Amidst this challenge of a global crisis brought by the pandemic, we never ceased to play our role. God has been faithful and merciful to us, thus enabling us to engage in activities such as the Final profession, diaconate, and priestly ordinations.

On August 5, 2021, we attended the final vows of three SVD brothers at their formation center in Nairobi, Kenya. The Eucharistic Mass was officiated by the Provincial Superior of Kenya Tanzania Fr. Dr. Tony Amissah SVD later on August 21, 2021. In addition, we participated during their diaconate ordination mass and the priestly ordination of the other two deacons.

Each of our parishes received new members. They were welcomed by the Mission Secretary, Fr. Jerome Olianga Mfute SVD. On October 18, 2021, Fr. Jerome commissioned 18 members in Eldoret, Kenya.

--- Grace Akinyi.

Mozambique (MOZ):

"The Commandments of the Missionary," a new book

The Church in Mozambique had the privilege of seeing the birth of the new book "The Commandments of the Missionary" (Os Mandamentos do Missionário) by Fr. Marcellus Anggo, SVD. The book



dynamically portrays the process of inculturation. It invites us to reflect in the light of the Word of God to the paths of the mission "beyond borders."

In this book, the author talks about his rich experience with the people of Macau. They live in the Province of Nampula, the northern part of Mozambique. The book is recommended for missionaries, Christians, and people of goodwill who want to live their faith entirely.

The author dedicates this book to the 25 years of our SVD missionary presence in Mozambique. He also thanks all those who helped him spiritually and financially make this work come true.

--- Fr. Joseph Sahayaraj SVD

Kinshasa (CNG):

Giving thanks, expressing appreciation

In the annals of the Common Formation Center (CFC), Kinshasa, Fr. Jacob Sibelo SVD, happens to be the first non-Congolese who, after having his theology in the Common Formation Center, returns to the Province as a missionary.



Fr. Sibelo celebrated a thanksgiving Mass at the CFC.

Fr. Sibelo, who heals from Zimbabwe, had his final vows and diaconate ordination on January 15 and February 27, 2021, respectively. He was assigned to the Province of Congo as his first assignment. He was ordained on August 21, 2021, in Zimbabwe. He returned to CNG to begin his missionary in Notre Dame Parish at Lemba as an assistant parish priest. Fr. Sibelo celebrated a thanksgiving Mass at the CFC. He was grateful to the formator and the lay faithful who supported him during his formation days.

We wish him fruitful missionary work in the Province.

--- Fr. Paul Amuzu SVD, CFC Congo

ASPAC NEWS

Manila (PHC):

An SVD receives The Netherlands Human Rights Tulip Award

A Filipino Catholic missionary priest has been honored with the Human Rights Tulip award given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands in Manila for his work as a human rights defender. Divine Word missionary priest Flaviano "Flavie" Lopez Villanueva is recognized for setting up a support group for families of victims of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

Established in 2007, the Human Rights Tulip is given to a human rights defender or organization promoting and supporting human rights in innovative ways. The candidates for the award are selected because of the courage they demonstrate in their work under challenging circumstances and the positive impact their work has on the community.

"The work is most certainly enormous and even life-threatening at times," said Father Villanueva when asked for his reaction. The priest, however, said he is inspired to continue "when I see a homeless person smile and say 'thank you,' whenever I see a homeless sharing

the meal we offer to those who failed to receive, whenever I see and listen to homeless people, saying 'I have never felt so valued as a person.'"

In 2015, with the support of his Congregation, the priest opened Kalinga Center that provides "dignified care for the homeless" in Manila. "It went smoothly until the [administration of President Rodrigo Duterte] came in," he said. "That is when I saw the plight of the widows and orphans, victims of the government's 'war on drugs,'" said the priest in an interview with the Aid to the Church in Need.

Father Villanueva is one of several Catholic Church leaders accused of "sedition" for allegedly conspiring to undermine the government. He has been vocal in his opposition to government-sanctioned extrajudicial killings of drug dealers and drug addicts. He said persecution in the country "takes many forms," including attacks and killings of the poor."

cbcpnews.net

Photo by Vincent Go



India-Mumbai (INM):**The Fourth National Missionary Education and Research (MER) Conference***The participants of the fourth MER Conference.*

The Fourth National Missionary Education and Research (MER) India Conference was organized at St. Arnold's Seva Sadan, Indore, from November 2, 2021, with the theme Envisioning God's Mission in the 2020s: Living the mandate in the changing contexts of India. It was the fourth time over the past 15 years that SVD confreres came together under the banner of the MER-India Subzone.

Discussions were held in the light of various individual researches and contexts with particular reference to SVD Characteristic Dimensions, Papal documents, most recent General Chapters of our Society, Priorities of SVD Inter-provincial meetings, among others. Besides the academic scholars who presented their research papers, confreres and Holy Spirit sisters involved in various specialized ministries and pastoral works participated in the conference. During the three-day meeting, confreres presented scholarly articles on the contemporary mission of the Church in India.

The conference honored the writers among the MER members who recently published their new books. Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal SVD introduced and launched the publications. The New Ph.D. scholars of MER, six confreres and two Holy Spirit sisters finished their Ph.D. in the last two years.

--- Fr. Anthony Swamy SVD
National Communication Coordinator

Indonesia-Java (IDJ):**The urgent call towards Mission Collaboration**

The Provincial Assembly was held from October 18-21. In addition, the IDJ Provincial Leadership Team organized an online provincial assembly via zoom meeting with the theme Mission Collaboration, Walking with the Word.

IDJ Provincial, Fr. Gregorius Genane Kaha SVD acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the leadership process and the pastoral works of the province. In addition, the province's personnel,



programs, and finance have been greatly affected. Thus, the assembly is a strategic opportunity to preserve the spirit of togetherness and to foster a new spirit of mission work.

Fr. Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden addressed all participants at the assembly's opening. He shared inspirational insights on mission collaboration in the light of the Synod of bishops on synodality. According to him, mission collaboration means walking and working together in service as a Society of the Divine Word. It presupposes commitment, mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual support.

During the assembly, the Provincial Leadership Team spoke on mission collaboration, religious leadership, and finance. In addition, the participants heard the reports of the District superiors and the confreres in charge of business units of the province. Finally, the group provided an excellent opportunity for all confreres to share, clarify, and discuss various problems of mission work, including the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Almost all of 135-members in perpetual vows and currently active in various posts joined the three-day event. However, the internet connection problem in some remote areas did not dampen the enthusiasm of some confreres to find a solution to join the assembly.

--- Fr. Dionisius Damis SVD

Tripura (ING):**Small Christian Communities conference***The participants of the Bible seminar.*

On November 4, 2021, Kumarghat Deanery organized SCC (Small Christian Community) gathering in St. Raphael Parish Kamaranga Parish. Out of the eight parishes, there were representatives from 6 parishes and the priests and nuns. Around 48 people assembled in the parish Church. Around the Bible, they

shared the Word of God and listened to one another.

The host parish leaders carried the Bible in procession and enthroned it solemnly. After that, the Word of God was shared with the seven steps method. Fr. Arun Minj SVD, the parish priest of Kamaranga Parish, welcomed everyone. Then, the parishes presented their activities and action plans.

After keenly listening to all the reports, a few suggestions and opinions made Deanery's level gathering more participative. Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD, the coordinator of the SCC in the Deanery level, thanked everyone, especially the host parish, for making all the arrangements.

--- Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD

India-Mumbai (INM):

Ongoing seminars on the various books of the Bible



The participants of the Bible seminar.

The INM Biblical Apostolate Coordinator, Fr. Valerian Pius Fernandes SVD, organized a week-end Biblical Seminar on the Book of Prophet Isaiah. These seminars on the various books of the Bible were initiated under the leadership and vision of Fr. Nazareth Sequeira in 2014, who was then the INM Biblical Coordinator. They were conducted with the help of Fr. Valerian, Fr. Naveen Rebello SVD, Fr. Jose Kollemkunel SVD, Fr. Donald D'Souza SVD, and others.

Over the past 7-8 years, these seminars have been conducted at regular intervals. So far, the entire New Testament and the Wisdom Books have been successfully studied. A committed group of about 30 participants has been attending these seminars in the past. More and more people from various parishes of the Mumbai Archdiocese are joining this group. Those who participated in these seminars in the past were very satisfied with the content and presentation. The same is true with this seminar on the Book of Isaiah.

The participants come from different parishes of the Archdiocese of Mumbai. Unfortunately, due to the prolonged pandemic and lockdown, many could not join the seminar this time. However, there is a genuine request from many, and many are hungry for the Word of God. Therefore, God willing, more people will join

the next seminar on the Book of Jeremiah in February 2022.

--- INM Newsletter

Indonesia- Ruteng (IDR):

SVD lay partners join Marian pilgrimage



The Soverdia/PMSS (lay Partners) of the Indo-Leste sub-zone prayed the Virtual Mission Rosary prayer during the entire month of October. The prayer rally culminated with a Marian Pilgrimage that started at the main house of SVD Ruteng Province towards Labuan Bajo, the final destination of the pilgrimage.

The lay partners and several SVDs stopped at several Marian Grottos on the road to Labuan Bajo. The grottos visited included the one of Rekas Parish, one of the oldest parishes in Ruteng Diocese established on April 16, 1924. The first Parish Priest was the late Fr. Frans Eickmann, SVD. The next stop was at Wae Lia Grotto in Dalong Parish. Wae Lia Grotto was built as a memory of two SVD Missionaries.

On October 31, the participants reached Labuan Bajo and prayed at the Golo Koe Grotto of the Holy Spirit Parish. The Marian Pilgrimage with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by the PMSS Moderator Fr. Vitalis Hiburdin, SVD.

--- Fr. Vitalis Hiburdin SVD
Mission Secretary

Calapan (PHC):

Catholic Trade Manila Inc. now in Calapan



Last November 18, 2021, Catholic Trade Manila, Inc., Calapan City branch was inaugurated and blessed by Divine Word College Calapan President Fr. Cris Cordero, SVD.

The inauguration was attended by the DWCC Calapan Community and some staff. The DWCC Community took charge of the Liturgy through Fr. Ring Malbog, SVD, also the branch manager. A simple lunch was served at DWCC after the blessing.

This is already the third branch since Fr. Carlos Ma-

ria C. de Guzman, Jr., SVD, took over the management of CTMI. The following branches are: Farmer's Plaza, QC, Puerto Princesa Palawan and the City of Calapan. The present pandemic did not prevent the administration from expanding the business to serve the religious needs of the people in some parts of the Philippines, especially on the island of Luzon.

--- Fr. Carlos Maria C. de Guzman, Jr.SVD

Marsfield (AUS):

Launching the book 'A History of Yobai in Pictures'



Fr. Ennio Mantovani SVD launched his latest book - 'A History of Yobai in Pictures.' The book gives a pictorial history of Fr Ennio's many years as a missionary in Yobai, Papua New Guinea. Arriving in 1965, during the Second Vatican Council, he encouraged the Church to go out into the world. Fr. Ennio lived his missionary life believing that mission needs to be carried out in dialogue with the people of their culture.

At the book's launch, SVD Australia Province Mission Secretary, Fr Viet Nguyen SVD said: "This is a precious book for generations to come." Fr. Ennio has asked that the proceeds from the book sale be donated to the SVD's overseas missions.

A History of Yobai in Pictures is available at the SVD office in Marsfield. Fr Ennio also recently published a written account of his missionary life. It is entitled Sixty Years of Priestly and Missionary Life: The History of a Journey - a reflection on his priestly and missionary life and the changes in the understanding of both the priesthood and the missions. You can obtain copies by sending an email to svd.admin@divineword.com.au or phone 02 9868 2666.

--- AUS Newsletter

Mumbai (INM):

500 Days of continuous meetings - Still counting!

Sarva Seva Sangh, Mumbai, India, a JPIC organization under the aegis of India Mumbai Province (INM), created a unique history and record of sorts. It conducted Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) fellowship meetings on all days of the week, starting from June 10, 2020. It continued till today and still counting, at its premises.

The pandemic is at its worst striking mode with the



second wave and is getting nervous about the third wave in India. As a result, all the AA meetings in the metro city of Mumbai and its suburbs are shut. Alcoholics and sober alcoholics are desperate and fretting, or better said, in anguish and agony. Albeit, the Virtual AA meetings are readily available online for alcoholics. But

they are far from imparting any solace and hope for the alcoholics who will miss the three pillars or legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous, viz. recovery, unity, and service.

The COVID-19 Pandemic and the historical mid-night Declaration of Lockdown in India came on March 25, 2020. It must be recalled that all the physical meetings and gatherings were standstills all over the country. Time was far from favorable for any physical gatherings on designated days of once or twice a week that used to be held at scores of venues in and around this cosmopolitan city of Mumbai. Sober alcoholics were pushed to the wall to persevere in sobriety, and their predicaments soared high day by day.

Notwithstanding the grim situation, Sarva Seva Sangh bravely plunged into the risk of opening its premises for physical meetings of the AA groups. All the necessary precautions by strictly adhering to the Pandemic Protocols are implemented. The venue got ready for the first meeting during the Lockdown on June 10, 2020. Hardly anyone perceived that it would mark the beginning of a long journey of unrelenting and uninterrupted daily sessions for 500 days and still counting.

--- Fr. Jose Arayathel SVD

Taiwan (SIN):

Taiwan National Evangelization Congress



Archbishop John Hung SVD and Fr. Attilio Rossi SVD.

Fr. Attilio Rossi, SVD, who works in Taiwan, shares his participation and involvement in the concluded 2019-2021 Taiwan Evangelization Congress. The Congress started at the parish level and continued at the diocesan level. From May to August 2018, a sur-

vey was conducted in all the parishes of Taiwan. This was the preparatory stage of the Congress on Evangelization because it offered a better understanding of the actual situation, resources, problems, and challenges of our parishes and parishioners. However, the analysis of it took until April 2019.

Fr. Attilio says, I went to the various dioceses to explain how they should do it. I had prepared the working document and sent it to the seven dioceses to discuss and amend it during the diocesan phase of the Synod. The restriction of the pandemic complicated the whole process. However, the dioceses managed, more or less, to discuss the working document and to send their suggestions and amendments.

During the National Congress of August, the representatives of all the dioceses were supposed to review all the suggestions and amendments and approve the final text. But since it was canceled, I did with the editing committee what the national Congress was supposed to do. We did the critical elaboration of the suggestions of the dioceses and their inclusion in the working document.

This document is the result of the Taiwan Evange-

lization Congress, which started in 2019 at the parish level and continued in 2020-21 at the diocesan level. The national and final part was scheduled from August 4 to 7, 2021. Unfortunately, restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to hold the last Congress.

The "Pastoral and Missionary guide for the Parishes of the Church in Taiwan" is not meant to be a complete directory of every aspect of pastoral life and mission of the parish. The Canon Law and other documents of the Church already give many norms and indications. This final document is sent to all the dioceses and all the parishes. It is an important step, but not the last one. Every parish

should try to implement it, especially in the parts that, though challenging, could help its community to be alive and missionary.

After two or three years, we suggest that each diocese organize an assembly to discuss the degree of implementation and possible modifications.

--- Source: Fr. Attilio Rossi SVD

Working Document Taiwan Evangelization Congress



EUROPA NEWS

Saint Augustine (GER):

Mission Secretaries of Europe in Sankt Augustin



The participants of the meeting of Mission Secretaries.

European Mission Secretaries meeting was held in Sankt Augustin, Germany, from 25 to 30 October 2021. It was initially supposed to be held a year ago, but this was not possible because of the pandemic.

The meeting was attended by seven Mission Secretaries and two guests from the Generalate: Fr. Stanislaus Lazar SVD, General Mission Secretary, and Fr. Dariusz Garbaciak SVD, General Treasurer. In addition, Fr. Peter Kubik SVD, the Zonal Coordinator, participated via Zoom for some days. Unfortunately, the others could not come for the meeting due to several reasons.

Frs. Stanislaus and Dariusz presented the overall situation of mission, the financial aspects, and the challenges in Europe today. In addition, the participants presented their province reports. The interactions and the exchange of ideas enhanced the participants. Most of the talks strongly emphasized the impact of the current pandemic on our activities in its various aspects.

Fr. Xavier Alangaram SVD presented the very original content in his talk on "Spirituality of Fundraising." The German-speaking Subzone presented a paper on "Project criteria for Fundraising," which was followed

by a fruitful discussion. Another theme that emerged was that of the lay partners, their formation, and future meetings.

Much time was devoted to knowing the functioning of the Mission Office of Sankt Augustin. In addition, the participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with its various departments. This was enriched by Holy Mass with all the staff, followed by a shared lunch.

Poland Province (POL):

Collaboration with Verbo Filmes

On various occasions, we are encouraged to cooperate within the particular SVD Zones or even more widely. An excellent example of this is the recent production of four films for mission animation in Poland.

Last year, Fr. Lukasz Herkt SVD called me from São Paulo with a proposal. He said that Verbo Filmes, where he works, could prepare some films for us about Polish missionaries in Brazil. In subsequent conversations, we agreed on the details of the production. The films were to be in Polish, so the narration texts and dubbing were sent to us.

The recordings with Polish voiceovers were sent back to Verbo Filmes. As a result, Verbo Filmes produced a series of several-minute-long films professionally. The production is titled "Polish Divine Word Missionaries in Brazil Central."

Each short film tells an exciting story about our confreres' vocation and diverse work: the late Fr. Sławomir Rzepka (who died after making the film), Fr. Wojciech Mittelstaedt, Fr. Maciej Suszczyński, and Frs. Łukasz Herkt and Tomasz Gwiazda. At present, different ideas to sustain such fruitful cooperation are already emerging.

--- Andrzej Danilewicz SVD
POL Mission Secretary

St. Gabriel (ECP):

Steyler Fair Invest fund



Steyler Ethik Bank is now launching a new product, especially for customers in Austria who attach importance to investing their money ethically and sustainably. Steyler Fair Invest Vermögensverwaltung invests in selected sustainable funds according to clearly defined ecological and social criteria.

The investment product was developed with the financial services provider TOP TEN Investment Consulting GmbH, which also cooperates with Stey-

ler Ethik Bank in sales. "Experienced asset managers actively manage the funds. As a result, investment is possible from as little as 10,000 euros, unlike what is often usual for asset management companies," emphasizes Andreas Kolde, representative of Steyler Bank in Austria. "Our investment offers to combine a convincing sustainability profile with an orientation toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals," says Kolde.

--- Fr. Andrzej Danilewicz SVD
EUROPE Zone Area Coordinator
for Mission Secretaries

Steyler Fair Invest fund-based asset management combines fair investment according to Christian values with the promotion of Steyler aid projects. A fixed portion of the fees due to Steyler Ethik Bank as sustainability advisor for asset management goes to social projects. To this end, the bank works closely with Mission Prokur St. Gabriel International. "We support projects in which Steyler missionaries and missionary sisters help the local people to help themselves," explains the head of the Mission Prokur, Father Franz Pilz SVD.

As an example, he cites a project in Hyderabad (India) that provided bicycles for girls to feel safer from sexual abuse on their way to school. In Chad, the Mission Procuratorate financed wells, water tanks, and the cultivation of vegetables as part of Corona's emergency aid. "In Rourkela and Haflong (India), we were able to support the construction of solar panels on hospitals owned by the Steyl missionaries and missionary sisters," reports Father Pilz.

www.steyler.at

St. Augustine (GER):

Consultation on Mission in Europe



The participants of the Consultation on Mission in Europe.

A dozen younger Divine Word Missionaries tackled the "SVD mission in Europe" in a two-day Consultation at the invitation of the Missiological Institute in St Augustine (GER). They came from ECP (Paris), ESP, GER, IBP, ITA, NEB, and ROM; three participated virtually. The Generalate Mission Secretary, Lazar Stanislaus SVD, also took part in the Consulta-

tion. Sadly, several missionaries from Eastern European provinces had to cancel their participation due to various reasons.

The leading question for the conversations referred to what each of the participants had learned in the practice of dialogue and encounters in their missions. Thus, the focus was eminently on experience and training. One of the prominent topics along the two days referred differently to "structures": Some Provinces have inherited houses and apostolates, which have played essential roles in the past, but in the meantime, have become more of a burden. They are hard to keep up due to the lack of SVD personnel and their shrinking usefulness under the actual conditions of Europe.

Thus, in some Provinces, such houses and tasks have been shut down. However, when charismatic new steps are taken to accept new mission fields and functions, it appears that new structures and institutions are required for these commitments to be kept. So, there is a lot of letting go and re-inventing for the sake of the mission.

Other vital themes had to do with pastoral work in parishes. Some examples are the capacity of listening as a basis for dialogue, the collaboration in teams, the fluidity of SVD approaches to mission, the importance of charismatic leadership, and firmly rooted flexibility for the task.

The purpose of the Consultation consisted in mapping the experiences as learners in European mission situations. However, this reflection does not mean deeper analyses of some of the themes. Among them are Parish pastoral commitments, nor did the participants suggest plans and options for new approaches to an SVD mission in Europe.

--- Fr. Christian Tauchner SVD

Thal (ECP):

Adieu Marienburg



The solemn service of farewell.

On Mission Sunday, the Steyler Missionaries Switzerland had to say goodbye to the Marienburg in Thal. They did so with a solemn service marked by gratitude and melancholy, led by Provincial Father Stephan Dähler.

More than 200 guests from the region, the circle of friends, and former teachers and students were present

at the farewell in the Marienburg. The Steyler Missionaries Switzerland had been active here since 1929, first with a branch, then with a mission school, later with a high school, and the last years again as a branch with a small community.

Fr. Stephan Dähler had asked the remaining Fathers and the President of the Circle of Friends, Felix Bischofberger, to formulate their thoughts on the farewell to Marienburg. And all of them put the keyword "gratitude" in the center. Father Provincial also said thank you for all the good that had been allowed to arise in this place and given to young people for their lives.

At the same time, the Provincial apologized for mistakes and negative things that people here had done to others, either willingly or maliciously. None of the speakers wanted to stop at the farewell. All of them also spoke of the departure into a new future. Stephan Dähler also expressed his gratitude for the participative decisions concerning the Marienburg and the site's sale. They were discussed and dealt with among the confreres.

In the next few days, the Fathers will leave the Marienburg: Fr. Josef Hegglin to the retirement and nursing home in Menzingen, Fathers Marcel Frei, Rainer Schafhauser, and Stephan Dähler to the Maria Hilf Mission House in Steinhausen. Fathers Othmar Baldegger, Victor Buner, Gregor Cacur, Didier Mungilingi, Justin Mat, Bernhard Raas, and Walter Strassmann (Iddaburg pilgrimage chaplains) will remain in those parishes and pastoral units where they are already active.

www.steyler.ch

Guimarães (POR):

SVD seminary, center for vaccination

On November 27, 2021, the Seminary of Guimarães opened its doors to be the Great Center of Vaccination in Guimarães. Let us not doubt that opening our homes to these social emergencies is one of the best forms of evangelization. One part of the building will also serve as a backup hospital for COVID patients.

The facilities of the Divine Word Seminary are once again at the service of the population of Vimarãense. This time, for the anti-COVID-19 and anti-flu vaccination. The Multipurpose Pavilion has entered its function of events. But, unfortunately, the response in health centers for vaccination is not enough for the needs felt in the County. The Divine Word Seminary helps to meet these needs.

The first floor of the building is used for vaccination, both and the upper part is reserved in case the situation worsens. Therefore, the backup services at Senhora da Oliveira Hospital will operate on the upper floors.

--- POR Newsletter

Netherlands-Belgium (NEB):**Roosendaal, a new community**

The official appointment of Fathers Antony Maniacherry and Renjaan.

In the Dutch part of the NEB province, new development is occurring. In recent years, communities have been started. At the bishop's request, the sixth community was opened in Roosendaal, not far from the border with Belgium. The SVD is now present with two communities in three of the Dutch dioceses with the Roosendaal community.

On Sunday, November 7, it was a happy day in Roosendaal. A packed church witnessed the official appointment of our confreres, Fathers Antony Varghese Maniacherry and Ignasius Renjaan, as priests in the Parish. They were welcomed with great gratitude and happiness. Fr. Bert Wooning SVD was also introduced. With his experience in forming communities, he will be good support for the young missionaries.

It was also the feast of St. Willibrord, honored as the father of the Christian faith in the Netherlands. One thousand three hundred years ago, he left his monastery, country, and culture to set out for a foreign land. He went on peregrination, but not alone, like new apostles in a new time.

Father Antony and Father Ignasius, like Willibrord, are in their early thirties. They have left their country, their culture, their family for a peregrination to a foreign country. This new appointment in a new parish and a new community requires patience. The Provincial, Fr. Avarachan Kunekkadan SVD, heartily welcomed the two new missionaries. He hopes and wishes that together they will discover and pass on the power of faith to others.

It is the program of the province to send new missionaries to one of the intercultural communities linked to a parish. While doing their language study, the newly arrived missionaries come into contact with parishioners, volunteers, and pastors. This is good for language development, integration, and connections with the local church. After two or more years, when the confreres are settled and well-integrated, they are appointed to assume pastoral tasks, like the case of Fathers Ignasius and Anthony.

--- Fr. Hubert Wooning SVD

Rome**SVD Bishop elected Vice President of CCEE**

Bishop Nemet (far right), elected Vice President CCEE.

Archbishop Gintaras Grušas of Vilnius, President of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference, is the new President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE). He was elected by the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe gathered in Rome for their Plenary Assembly. H.E. Monsignor Gintaras Grušas, 60, takes over as President from Italian Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, who led CCEE, from 2016 to 2021.

The two new Vice Presidents were also elected: H.E. Monsignor Ladislav Nemet SVD, President of the International Bishops' Conference of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg and President of COMECE.

--- CCEE Website

PANAM NEWS

Santiago (CHI):

Father Luis Manuel Rodriguez SVD: In the heart of the Mapuche People



Padre Lucho made a private vow to serve the Mapuche tribe.



The funeral in the traditional Mapuche ceremony.

When Father Luis Manuel Rodriguez of the province of Chile (CHI) died at the age of 86, on November 18, 2021, his funeral was celebrated with the traditional Mapuche ceremony at the grounds of La Florida. In this place, he initiated the Mapuche pastoral ministry in Santiago. Therefore, it was no surprise that the Mapuche people he loved would accord him this funeral rite. After all, their Padre Lucho was one of their own.

Fr. Fernando Diaz, SVD, who works in the pastoral ministry of Mapuche, describes Padre Lucho, "He was a man of conservative structure but with a great sensitivity for the indigenous world. His commitment to the Araucanía territory gave way to a whole pastoral work with orientations on the part of the congregation".

Father Lucho was already predestined to be an academic, religious priest. He studied philosophy at the Gregorian University in Rome. He had his stints as a professor in the United States and at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. But a special call made him decide to hang his towels as an academician. He joined the pastoral work for the Mapuches in La Araucanía and later in Santiago from the academic world.

The commitment with the Mapuche people began in 1974 when Fr. Lucho organized summer missions in Araucanía. These missions were intended for the Colegio del Verbo Divino students who recently received the sacrament of confirmation. During that first mission in the environment of the Mapuche world, Padre Lucho's eyes were opened, and he began a growing path of religious commitment to the Mapuche people. Consequently, Padre Lucho made a private vow to serve the Mapuche indigenous tribe.

In a television interview aired in 2015, he said, "I was well into my academic field, but when I came into contact with real Mapuche in Santiago, I began to realize what a challenge it was to have a marginalized and crushed people. I said: 'we have to get involved here'. He initiated the Mapuche Pastoral in Santiago, perma-

nently supporting the Mapuche people.

With his simple lifestyle and predictability, he committed with passion and straightforwardness. Fr. Lucho pointed out the situation of the Mapuche and attending to them with compassion made others uncomfortable. The Mapuche had a sit-in protest at the Metropolitan Cathedral to make their demands known. Fr. Lucho firmly confronted Cardinal Francisco Javier Errázuriz, then Archbishop of Santiago, in a prophetic stand. In addition, he was the first one to have the mass spoken in Mapudungún, here in Santiago", remembers Fr. Díaz, who recognizes himself as his disciple.

His perseverance in the Mapuche pastoral endured for years. Still, his failing health did not stop him from pursuing his commitment to the Mapuche tribe. He celebrated mass sometimes haltingly and moved about with caution. But, as the Mapuche see in their Padre Lucho growing weak and with less energy, the passion and fire in his commitment became more appreciated.

For many of the Mapuche, Fr. Lucho's death was coming. Yet his passing, though painful, had allowed them to appreciate further the journey of an SVD missionary. He was a priest friend who has discovered his call to be with God's people who are downtrodden and treated unjustly. It is a gift that they had their Padre Lucho with them. As he had said, hay que meterse (you have to be involved).

The Centro Misional grounds of La Florida continuously received Mapuche, who came to pay their respects to Padre Lucho. And what an appropriate place to be, with robust pine trees and historical ground. This is the place where the Mapuche gathered together with Padre Lucho. The simple casket was surrounded by grieving Mapuche in their traditional attire. They danced around the coffin and deposited food as they customarily do to their dead loved ones.

An illustrious member of the Mapuche community, Elisa Loncon, president of the constitutional convention, sent her condolences through a letter. She thanked

Padre Lucho's outstanding service to the Mapuche people. In the letter, she expressed: "There are many lives that revealed and brought to light the deepest struggles of the Mapuche people. There are many stories behind the quest to dignify the existence of our people. And among these lives and stories, the journeys and presence of Padre Lucho with our people occupy an ethereal place."

The Provincial Superior of CHI, Yuventus Kota, said

Carmo (BRC):

A new SVD parish



Fathers de Paula, the first parish priest, and Addae Kyei SVD, the vicar.

On October 31, 2021, the diocesan Bishop Dom Manoel Ferreira dos Santos, SMC, solemnly proclaimed the community Nossa Senhora do Carmo to become the Parish Nossa Senhora do Carmo, of Bairro Nosso Teto - Registro. On the inauguration day, guests, visitors, and numerous parishioners graced the milestone event. Fr. Joaquim Rosa de Paula SVD from Brazil was appointed the first parish priest, and Father Clement Addae Kyei SVD from Ghana was appointed the first vicar.

Also present were the Diocesan Bishop Manoel, the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Registro, Bishop José Luiz Bertanha SVD, the Provincial Superior, João Batista de Oliveira, SVD, the Master of Novices, Miguel McGuinness SVD, other SVD and Diocesan priests, novices and seminarians.

This was the fruit of two years of long work together with eight communities in Registro, State of São Paulo. The saga started in 2019 when Bishop Manoel assumed his duties in the Diocese of Registro. He realized the need to create one more community that could meet the pastoral needs of the Nosso Teto neighborhood. The area, until then, belonged to the São José Operário Parish, Registro. Therefore, the visionary bishop contacted the Congregation. As a result, two priests were sent to start this mission in this new pastoral area. After the arrival of Joaquim and Clement, the pandemic hit the whole country. Thus, all activities were suspended. The visits and activities were carefully resumed when the pandemic calmed down.

At the moment, the parish has eight communities. It covers a large area with a large population. Before the inauguration, there were three days of a triduum for the spiritual preparation and the involvement of people. There were also many days of meetings, exchange of ideas, and suggestions for the formalization of the parish.

--- Fr. Clement Addae Kyei SVD

these parting words, "Thank you, Padre Lucho, for your total dedication to the Divine Word, for being a great missionary, much loved for your great testimony, for your wisdom, simplicity, and humility. Infinite thanks for his total commitment to the Word and its mission, always fighting for the dignity and welfare of the Mapuche people. He was a priest of the people and for the people".

--- Sources: www.iglesiadesantiago.cl
www.verbodivino.cl

Mexico-Cuba Province (MEX):

Successful defense and publication of doctoral dissertation



Fr. Ludvík Málek SVD

Last year, Fr. Ludvík Málek SVD successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at the Pontifical University of Mexico. The doctoral thesis title is: "The Responsorial Psalm: Theological link and summary of the liturgy of the Word in the Easter season. The research aims to analyze the responsorial Psalm of the liturgy of the Word on the Sundays of Easter. It covers the three cycles to show their richness and connection with the readings and prayers.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no confreres could attend the defense. However, Fr. Alejandro Maldonado, SVD, accompanied the doctoral candidate and provided fraternal support. The doctoral thesis was published at the Pontifical University of Mexico. On November 20, 2021, Fr. Ludvík presented his doctoral dissertation at the VERBUM Bookstore in Mexico City. We congratulate Fr./Dr. Ludvík for his great effort and success in achieving his doctorate.

--- Fr. Hans Weibel SVD

Diocese of Trenton (USC):

The new parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Hundreds gathered on Mission Sunday in Holy Family Chapel for a Mass inaugurating Our Lady of Guadalupe parish and the installation of pastor Guilherme Andrino. The large multi-cultural, multi-ethnic faith community gathered for this first major parish-wide event since St. Mary of the Lake and St. Anthony Claret parishes officially unified.

Bishop David O'Connell lauded the Divine Word Missionaries. They have served African Americans, immigrants, and minorities in the Diocese of Trenton for 80 years.

--- USC Newsletter

Argentina South (ARS):**Doctoral thesis on "The Ecology in Theology."**

Fr. Saju George Aruvelil SVD.

Fr. Saju George Aruvelil SVD successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on November 30, 2021 entitled "La incorporación de la espiritualidad ecológica en la Teología Espiritual. Una propuesta de la encíclica Laudato si'" ("The incorporation of ecological spirituality in Spiritual Theology. A proposal of the encyclical Laudato si"). The defense took place at the Faculty of Theology of

the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina in Buenos Aires.

The thesis evolves on the idea of new Trinitarian

spirituality from integral Ecology. It is also in tune with the JPIC dimension. A conversion of heart is needed to care for the whole of Creation. Can we say Creation/Nature, my neighbor? The thesis presented theological and biblical grounds to affirm that commitment. We are all God's creatures. We have the vocation to care for it and protect it.

The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor is the new listening for a "Church in Departure" for its action. We can all do something to care for the Earth and all living beings. It is the new theological place for reflection and action. If we take care of the Earth, she will provide our survival. We also have to do it with the noble attitude of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10).

Congratulations, Fr. Saju, for a well-done job and dwelling on a theme that concerns us all.

--- Fr. Saju George Aruvelil SVD

Mexico-Cuba Province (MEX):**Fr. Sergio Bertam SVD: Don't cry for me, Cuba**

Fr. Sergio, the father of the SVD mission in Cuba.



After decades of serving in Cuba, Fr. Sergio Bertam, SVD from Esperanza, Argentina, returned to his beloved homeland. But his heart is Cuban. On his return to Argentina, Fr. Sergio will drink mate, but he will remember the taste of Cuban rum; he will eat his Asado, but he will savor the Puerco en púa (roasted pork) with Cuban congri (rice and black beans); he will accompany his food with chimichurri (Cuban sauce), but he will resonate the mojito (Cocktail) that is put on the yucca (cassava).

Sergio arrived in Cuba in 1988. The SVD opened this mission field with missionaries, namely Fr. German Rodriguez Llamas SVD from Mexico and Fr. Juan Mellato SVD from Brazil. Thanks to the then bishop of Holguin, Bishop Peña, they were welcomed in this beautiful eastern region of Cuba.

Sergio already had experience as a missionary and formator in Argentina. He recalls the spiritual apprenticeship of Monsignor Jorge Novak SVD, Bishop of Quilmes, a tireless defender of human rights during the Argentinean dictatorship.

Sergio says that those were not easy years when he arrived in Cuba: "...there was famine, hunger, persecution, fear... but even with God's grace, little by little the mission grew. They were years of intense work and sac-

rifice: gathering parishioners, visiting house to house, starting catechesis for children and adults, repairing damaged temples, building new ones, celebrating in remote communities. It required a titanic effort, but the Spirit of Jesus always drove him."

In one of his thousands of anecdotes, he tells how the children did not know who Jesus was and were amazed by the Christmas decorations since, in those years, any public manifestation of the Catholic faith was forbidden. When he received the parish of Mayarí, whose temple was plagued by bats, he had to get them out of there as best he could. He recalls his experience as a spiritual director in the diocesan seminary of Havana. He fondly remembers the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1998, which gave a solid boost for the Cuban church.

Sergio is one of those missionaries who are living open books. Always to those who approached him, he has this or that advice. He knows how to listen, and he is a man of prayer. He is very cheerful and passionate, like any good Argentinean, about soccer. With Fr. Sergio, you learn a whole course of Missiology in a coffee chat, which books or written manuals cannot provide. He always says that his mission is not his work but that of God and all his collaborators, benefactors, and missionary confreres. He never takes credit for it.

Sergio is fondly remembered because he will always be the father of the SVD mission in Cuba. It remains for us SVD's on this island to continue the mission Fr. Sergio once started from scratch. Therefore, let us learn

from this beautiful life testimony to encourage us to continue inspired by the Word and the spirit of grace for a better Cuba. Muchas gracias Padre Sergio

svdmexicocuba.com

OUR DEPARTED

SVD

Name	Province + Date-Death	Age	Vows	Year of Orders
Fr. Jones, Raymond	USS 08.11.2021	84	63	54
Fr. D'Mello, Edward	INM 25.11.2021	85	63	55
Fr. Vas, Charles	INM 30.11.2021	77	55	45
Fr. Hager, Johann	ECP 09.12.2021	87	64	58
Fr. Konkol, Edward	POL 12.12.2021	62	41	36

SSpS

Sister: Rel. Name and Family Name	Prov/Reg	Date-Death	Age	Yrs. in Vows
Sr. Clara Hildegard, Hiltrud Waße	GER	03.11.2021	81	57
Sr. Maria Genoveva, Rita Herbst	OES	06.11.2021	78	56
Sr. Eustochia, Monika Nata	FLE	08.11.2021	79	57
Sr. Guitmaris, Emilie Hartl	OES	13.11.2021	88	62
Sr. Irenéia, Maria Idalina Willers	BRS	21.11.2021	95	70
Sr. Zelia Ribeiro dos Santos	BRN	23.11.2021	86	62
Sr. Edelwina, Edith Jüttner	GER	23.11.2021	86	58
Sr. Elsa, Susanna Hungershöfer	JAV	01.12.2021	100	70
Sr. Lusía Weka	KAL	04.12.2021	48	20
Sr. Fátima, Juana Nicacia Vergara	ARN	08.12.2021	85	64

OBITUARIES

Fr. Edward D'Mello (INM) 25-11-2021; 36-56-58-64-66



Edward D'Mello was born on May 29, 1936, in Pajai, Diocese of Mangalore, India. He entered the seminary in Mhow on July 19, 1951. He began his novitiate in Palda on May 31, 1956. He professed his first vows in Khurda on May 3, 1958. He declared his perpetual vows in

Pune on March 15, 1964. He was ordained a priest in Kirem on November 3, 1966.

In 1967, he was assigned to Indore. Later he moved to the then INS province. In 1981 he was transferred to Australia and remained there until 1989. After that, he returned to INS and worked in different capacities in Andheri and Pune. From 2000 until 2008, he worked in the Divine Word Seminary in Pune.

Fr. Edward served the Society in different capacities. He earned the reputation of being religiously devoted to his profession. He struck an informal and intimate relationship with his students and people. Whether he was a Prefect of the students, Procurator, Teacher, Rector, Spiritual Director, Retreat Master, Counselor, or Chaplain set himself as a visible model. He could freely mingle with the young and the old alike, and he felt perfectly at home with all classes of people.

His adaptability to the times and persons is praiseworthy. Once Rev. Fr. Schutte, one of our former Super-

rior Generals, was asked which is the most important quality needed for a Divine Word Missionary. His instant answer was 'adaptability,' and Fr. Eddie had this quality in him.

He was a simple, unassuming priest, committed and loyal to Society and his ministry. The responsibilities entrusted to him were carried out meticulously by him. He taught much through his life, believing that 'life is the best sermon.' He loved his community and gave his best always, and never tolerated those who brought division and destroyed the community spirit. Some are very faithful to the Society and the Community, and Fr. Edward was one such confrere.

He enjoyed reading and writing and has a few books and some articles to his credit. He was undoubtedly a man of integrity, extraordinary missionary zeal, a man of prayer, and deep faith. His simplicity of life endeared him to one and all, especially to the poor. The commitment was the hallmark of his personality. He was a compassionate, loving, self-disciplined, responsible confrere and a good formator.

Fr. Edward passed away on November 25, 2011.

Fr. Ignatius Ibar (IDJ) 03-08-2021; 46-65-67-75-75



On August 18, 1946, Ignatius Ibar was born in Orong, diocese of Ruteng, Indonesia. He began his novitiate in Ledalero on August 14, 1965. He professed his first vows in Ledalero on

August 15, 1967. He declared his final vows in Ledale-ro on January 8, 1975. He was ordained a priest in his home parish Orong on June 29, 1975. His first mission assignment was the then Region of Ende.

After his ordination, he was assigned as Assistant Parish Priest at the Cathedral Parish of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Larantuka from 1976 until 1978. After serving for two years, Fr. Ignas took on a new task as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Yosef Parish in Matraman Jakarta in 1978 – 1979. From 1979 – 1981, He did a course at the Office Training Center course in Jakarta.

Then he was appointed as Provincial Treasurer of SVD Ende from 1981 to 1990. After serving as provincial Treasurer, he served as Director of PT.ANI in Ende

from 1990 to 1997. In 1997, he assumed a new role as Parish Priest of St. Yosef Parish, Onekore, Ende until 2002.

On July 12, 2003, he served as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Yosef Parish, Matraman Jakarta. In 2007, he was assigned as Assistant Parish Priest at Galaxy Parish, Bekasi, until 2014. On March 1, 2014, he decided to retire and enjoy his old age at Domus Arnoldus Batu – Malang. However, Fr. Ignas never stopped making meaningful contributions in life until he passed away. He died on August 31, 2021. He died at Domus Arnoldus, Batu – Malang, East Java Province, and was buried in the Kembang Kuning Cemetery in Surabaya.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Appointments

28.10.2021	Fr. Candia, Sergio	ARS prf/schol Cordoba	aft
02.11.2021	Fr. Soosai, Kulandaisamy	ROM vic/praeses CAG Nemi	aft
03.11.2021	Fr. Manek, Daniel	IDR oecon/prov	aft
03.11.2021	Fr. Gonzales, Ricardo	USW coord/JPIC	aft
05.11.2021	Fr. Toppo, Albert	NEB Praeses Hoofddorp	aft
05.11.2021	Fr. Wooning, Hubert	NEB Praeses Roosendaal	aft
05.11.2021	Fr. Thekkeyil, Mathew	NEB oecon/dom Hoofddorp	aft
05.11.2021	Fr. Owusu, Edmund Effah	NEB oecon/dom Amsterdam (Duivendrecht)	aft
05.11.2021	Fr. Naba Susanto, Agustinus	IDR cons/prov	aft
13.11.2021	Bro. Potyka, Jan	POL adm/dom Community Warsaw	aft
25.11.2021	Fr. Mukinisa, Germain	URL sup/dist Tambov District	aft
25.11.2021	Fr. Milczanowski, Marcin	URL vic/sup/dist Tambov District	aft
25.11.2021	Bro. Babynin, Aleksandr	URL adm/dist Tambov District	aft
28.11.2021	Fr. Doman, Karnisius	IDT mag/nov Nenuk Novitiate	aft
30.11.2021	Fr. Jordache, Gheorge	ITA oecon/dom Community Varone	aft
01.12.2021	Bro. Delucca, Paolo	ROM adm/dom Collegio Verbo Divino	aft
10.12.2021	Fr. Tomaszewski, Michal	PNG mag/nov	
10.12.2021	Fr. Bei, Marsianus Richardus	PNG asst/mag/nov	
10.12.2021	Fr. Senoda, Hadjon Paulus	PNG pfr.al	aft
10.12.2021	Bro. Porwol, Szymon	PNG Praeses Wirui Community, Wewak	aft

Transfers

09.11.2021	Bro. Miszyk, Krzysztof	POL/ECP
12.11.2021	Fr. Madanu, Anthaiah	USW/INH
16.11.2021	Fr. Aguilera, Gustavo Fabian	PHN/ARS
16.11.2021	Bro. Bojanowski, Adam	ITA/POL
23.11.2021	Fr. Perez, Felixberto	ZAM/AUS
23.11.2021	Fr. Kulas, Leszek	USC/BRN
30.11.2021	Bro. Delucca, Paolo	ITA/ROM
03.12.2021	Fr. Nguyen, Thuc Van Peter	ARS/VIE
10.12.2021	Fr. Veigas, Nirvan Roshan	URL/AUS
10.12.2021	Fr. Guawi, Vincent	ARE/PNG
10.12.2021	Fr. Soris Pillai, Antony Vito	CNG/INH