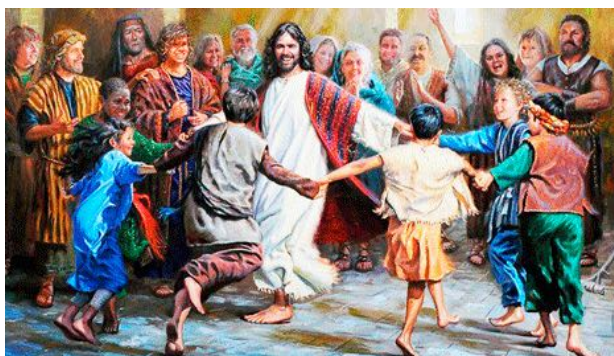


## Identity and Role of the Brothers in the Church and in the SVD Mission Being a Brother – Becoming a Brother

### WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



The essence of our call as religious is to be a Brother and to becoming a brother. Religious Brothers living their vocation remind and invite all of us consistently of our common call to become brothers for one another. Therefore, the following reflection based on the document of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL): Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church, is not only for Brothers but for all of us, brothers and priests, as our fundamental call is to be religious missionaries.

**The primacy of God – being Brother is a gift we receive**

**1. Our religious vocation is a gift from God to us.** Out of his love to the world and the Church, God calls us to be religious and in a special way to be and to become Brother. The document of CICLSAL says: "The vocation of the Brother is part of the answer that God gives to the absence of brotherhood which is wounding the world today. (...) Therefore, the dimension of communion is closely linked in the Brother to a fine sensitivity for everything that affects the least privileged of people." (6)

**2. All of us are equal in our religious vocation.** Because the first Word belongs to God, we all are brothers. The vocation of a Brother does not derive

from the vocation to priesthood. Being Brother as a gift from God is not less important and worthy than the call to be a priest. Pope Paul VI in *Perfectae Caritatis* (PC) writes: "The religious life, undertaken by lay people, either men or women, is a state for the profession of the evangelical counsels which is complete in itself" (PC, 10).

**3. We all are listeners.** Listening is the principal quality of a disciple, of a Christian, of a religious. The permanent call for all of us is to be rooted in the Word of God. It is the source of our commitment to His mission. As brothers, we all are disciples whose primary question should be: what does God want us to do? After exhorting the disciples about not behaving like the master, Jesus said: you all are brothers (Matt 23: 8).

**4. In who we are and what we do, we proclaim the Word of God.** "The task of devoting themselves wholly to "mission" is therefore included in their call... Indeed, more than in external works, the mission consists in making Christ present to the world through personal witness." (28). The proclamation of the Word is not the privilege of the priests. This is the mission that every one of us is, as Pope Francis writes in his Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "I am a mission in this earth" (EG 273).

## Living for one another: the gift we share

Brothers are not just people living together (co-existence) but more than that; they live for one another. Being a brother implies a relationship. There is no brother and brotherhood if there is only one person. This understanding of being and becoming Brother has several consequences.

**1. The community life.** As in the history of our Society, the present reality of many communities still shows that the Brothers play a crucial role in keeping the community life. "The foundation supporting the religious community is, above all, the gift of fraternity that it has received, which is more essential than the efforts and generosity of its members or the tasks they perform. Whenever we lose sight of this mystical and theological dimension which binds religious community to the mystery of divine communion, present and communicated to the community, we inevitably come to forget the profound reasons for making community, for patiently building fraternal life." (21)

**2. The promotion of the spirit of communio in the Church.** As proclaimed by the Second Vatican Council in the document *Lumen Gentium* (LG 4), the Church is essentially a mystery of communion. The Church is a communion of brothers and sisters where their members, receiving different gifts from the Holy Spirit, perform various ministries. Being and becoming Brother is of great importance because it helps the Church to grow as a community. The presence of Brothers in our Congregation helps the de-clericalization of our Society and the Church.

**3. The promotion of fraternity in the world.** LG 1 speaks of the Church as the sacrament of unity between human beings and humans with the Lord. The Church does not exist just for itself, but for the world. So, our religious communities are at the service of realizing the brotherhood among the peoples in the world.

**4. The witnessing to the presence of the Lord in this world.** Brothers are a sign of God's presence in secular realities. Thus, they seek and point to God in the material facts of culture, science, human health, the workplace, and the care of the weak and disadvantaged.

**5. The promotion of the ethics of responsibility.** As a communion of brothers, we all share the same rights and duties to carry out our shared mission. The transparent distribution of tasks is essential, but this does not allow us only to focus on our area of responsibility. Being brothers requires the readiness to live

from and to contribute to the community. There is a temptation we need to be alert of in our religious life, which is the tendency to take from Society as much as possible and give to the Society as little as necessary.

## Witnessing that another world is possible: the gift we proclaim

As Christians, we do not follow an ideology but a person, Jesus, who proclaims that in him the Kingdom of God is at hand, a new era has come. As religious, we consecrate our life not for a project but for a person who demonstrates in his life, in words and deeds, that another way of dealing with one another is possible. Jesus opens our eyes not to follow the structure of power where there are Lords and slaves, the rule of competition that produces winners and losers. We want to mention four dimensions of the prophecy of consecrated life.

**1. The memorative-transformative dimension.** The prophets remind us of our origin and open us for the future. The prophecy of the brother vocation is being a permanent reminder for the world, the Church, and the Congregation of this same origin, dignity, and mission.

**2. The proclamatory-corrective dimension of the prophecy.** The prophets are called to confront the ways people think, judge and act, with the ways of God. We are genuine brothers

to each other if we are honest in helping each other grow in their religious vocation, including making corrections in a gentle way. In the last General Chapter we talk about the importance of fraternal correction among us as brothers.

**3. The dialogical-interpretative dimension of the prophecy.** The vows of consecrated persons shall make the religious sensitive to the history and society and radical openness to the word of God. What is asked here is the prophetic interpretation of the signs of the times based on historical, political, and cultural changes taking place around us. This interpretation of the signs of the times can only be made in the spirit of prophetic dialogue.

**4. The intercultural dimension of prophecy.** Proclaiming the uniqueness of the Lord means presenting Him as God of all peoples and cultures. The Prologue of our constitutions declares who we are as SVDs: brothers from different nations and languages, who are a living symbol of the unity and diversity of the Church. The 17th General Chapter even states that interculturality is a distinguishing feature and an essential part of our identity.

Being  
and becoming  
Brother is of great  
importance because  
it helps the Church  
to grow as a com-  
munity.

## Conclusion

We live in a complex historical time. We observe how our common home is being destroyed due to humanity's sin. All creation is groaning in labor pains, especially nature and the poorest. COVID-19 and the partial paralysis of human activities have exacerbated the suffering of the poorest. Due to their desperation, they have begun to rebel in several countries against the unjust structures that oppress them. We have seen an increase in violence and destruction globally, which threatens peoples' peaceful coexistence.

What is our mission as ambassadors of Christ in this historic moment? As religious missionaries of the Divine Word, we are called to help heal the relationships between people, people and creation, and people and the Creator. For this, it is fundamental to recognize that our religious vocation is fulfilled by being a Brother and becoming a brother to others. The Brothers in our society are a reminder of it. There is a constant decrease in the number of Brothers in

the congregation, which is a source of concern for all of us.

The invitation for us is to be and become brothers to each other. In this way, we can help to heal relationships wounded by human sin. For this, each one must carry out a spiritual process of renewal and transformation that leads us to make flesh the good news of Jesus in our daily lives. We are also called to be good news for the people we meet every day, especially those who most suffer selfishness and abandonment.

Reading and reflecting on the Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church published by CICLSAL in 2015 could help us in this renewal and transformation. Especially for our formation houses, we strongly recommend that this document be used as a resource for our formation.

**Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and the Leadership Team**

## GENERALATE NEWS

### ASPAC Assembly on Brothers' Vocation



ASPAC ASSEMBLY ON BROTHERS' VOCATION: RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION

The ASPAC Assembly on Brothers' Vocation was held from May 12-15, 2021, via zoom. The underlying theme is Renewal and Transformation. The four-day zoom meeting was programmed with different speakers lined up for each day. From the Generalate, Father Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden shared about the Identity and the Role of the Brothers in the Church and SVD Mission.

Fr. Pushpa Anbu Augustine SVD, General Secretary for Formation and Education, talked about the Formation in the SVD. From his part, Bro. Carlos Ferrada, SVD, General Assistant for the Brothers' Formation and Education, presented the Brothers' Vocation in the SVD and other Mixed Institutes. Questions and interventions followed the presentations.

Aside from the key presentations, the participants

listened to the sharing of Brother representatives from AFRAM, EUROPA, and PANAM Zones. Brother Eugene A. Orog SVD and Bro. Irol Torres SVD presented the topics "Wholeness in Becoming a Brother" and "New Professional Skills for SVD Brothers in a Changed Scenario of the World Today," respectively.

The participants had a chance to interact with Bro. Guy Mazola Mido SVD, General Councilor, after hearing the different plans of action and proposals from the different subzones of the ASPAC Zone. The drafting committee spearheaded by Bro. Kalaiman Paulraj SVD was tasked to present the recommendations and action plans for the next three years.

Congratulations to Fr. Gabriel Suban Koten SVD, ASPAC Zonal Coordinator, and Bro. Kalaiman Paulraj SVD, for a job meticulously carried out, which ended with a very positive note.

### ASPAC Zonal Assembly

After several postponements of an in-person Zonal Assembly, it was agreed upon that the ASPAC Zonal Assembly would be carried out from May 24-29, 2021. On May 24, the opening of the Assembly, Father Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden delivered an address to the participants. The ASPAC Zonal Coordinator, Fr. Gabriel Suban Koten SVD, gave his report.

The different PRM Superiors had the opportunity to give their reports with ten minutes allotted for each presentation. The Zonal Coordinators also presented to the participants the programs and activities in their different areas of work. They are the Zonal Coordinators Bible Apostolate, JPIC, Communication, Mission Animation, Formation, and Brother's Formation.



From the Generalate, the Treasurer General Fr. Dariusz Garbaciak SVD and General Procurator Fr. Peter Dikos SVD delivered topics related to their competence areas. The General Mission Secretary, Fr. Stanislaus Lazar SVD, shared about the SVD and the Lay Partners. Father Superior General delivered a timely topic to the participants on the theme: Leadership in the time of Pandemic and Post-pandemic.

The Zonal Assembly wrapped up with the discussions on the Zonal Actions on the Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by the Zonal Area Coordinators. The drafting committee, after pooling the recommendations of the participants, crafted the Assembly Statements. It was followed by the elections of the new ASPAC Zonal Coordinator and Chairman and members of the Executive Committee.

Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva SVD formally ended the ASPAC Zonal Assembly thanking the participants and those behind its realization.

As they say, when there is a will, there is a way. And finally, the ASPAC Zone successfully carried out their zonal assembly.

### Update on SVD and COVID-19

On May 10, 2021, Fr. Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden released an update on the situation of the SVD and the COVID-19. He relayed to the members of the Society of the Divine Word the following information:

In the first months of this year, we have lost 47 confreres. Nineteen of them have passed away due to or with complications related to COVID-19. Young confreres are among those who have lost their lives because of COVID-19. In many countries, the funeral of the COVID-19 patients has to follow the strict protocol with only a small number of attendees during the interment.

I invite all of you to pray for those who are positive of the COVID virus: our confreres, sisters, relatives, lay mission partners, benefactors, and friends, especially for those who are in a critical situation. We offer our special prayers for the eternal repose for those who have lost their lives in these past months, in particular, due to COVID-19. We ask God's special blessings for the healthcare personnel at the frontline in caring for COVID-19 patients.

I want to ask all of you to take care of yourselves because that is also the way to protect others. We continue to be careful and follow the protocols given by the civil authorities and the Church leaders. I would also strongly recommend that you get yourselves vaccinated when an opportunity comes.

### Featuring Collegio San Pietro-Rome



Fr. Carlos del Valle with the student priests.

On May 5, 2021, the noted news agency, Agenzia Fides, interviewed Fr. Carlos del Valle SVD, the Rector of Collegio San Pietro, one of the colleges run by the Propaganda Fide. The institute currently welcomes 104 priests from Africa, Asia, Oceania, and Latin America. They stay in Rome for a cycle of theological studies.

Pope Paul VI, on January 6, 1970, defined the spirit of the institute as follows: "What is this house? How to define this College? ....It is a college, which wants to produce collegiality, that is, a communion, a friendship, a fusion of spirits, initiated here and enjoyed in unity; and then to be remembered and relived, in future years, when you will be dispersed in the world, in catholicity".

Fr. Carlos, referring to the student priests, says, "When priests arrive here from other continents, they usually arrive with a bit of fear. We immediately try to establish a climate of mutual trust. As Rector, I have confidence in each of them. We want them to breathe the Gospel in this house, and I say to them that the Gospel that you breathed here is something you are called to live and proclaim in your Churches of origin."

The administration of Collegio San Pietro was entrusted from the beginning to the Society of the Divine Word. Father Franz Rosenbaum, a missionary in China, was the first Rector of the College (1946). Over the years, the family of Collegio San Pietro has continuously increased. More than 2,700 priests were admitted as students, and many of these became Bishops and Cardinals.

--- Agenzia Fides

### Arnoldus Nota News Service in video, just a click away

The Arnoldus Nota Video News Service (ANS) gives a preview of what to expect from the PDF version of Arnoldus Nota. In short and concise video presentations, ANS presents the headlines and top stories. Since the presentation of the news is limited, further information can be read from the PDF version.

The ANS for the month of June carries, among others, the news on the following:

-Fr. Joseph Durero SVD was named bishop in Papua New Guinea.

-Bishop Sarego SVD celebrated the 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination.

-Parish in Vienna was awarded for its work and commitment to interreligious dialogue.

-The SVD Gardens in Apessito, Togo, grows by leaps and bounds.

-The SVD parish in Lakewood, New Jersey, facilitates vaccination, so no one is left behind

Suppose you are viewing the PDF version of Arnoldus Nota online. In that case, you can watch the ANS video by going to the opening (first) page, and on the top right corner, click the arrow pointing at the box "Watch Online." You can also watch on the link provided to you.



## Rev. Fr. Joseph Tarife Durero, SVD: Appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga

On May 23, 2021, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Rev. Fr. Joseph Tarife Durero, SVD, until now Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Madang, as Bishop of the Diocese of Daru-Kiunga.

### Curriculum vitae

Msgr. Joseph Tarife Durero, SVD, was born on April 13, 1969, in Dapa, Surigao, Philippines. He belongs to the Society of the Divine Word, for which he made his final profession on May 25, 1995. He completed his studies in Philosophy and Theology in the Philippines. He was ordained a priest in Tagaytay on December 12, 1995. He was assigned to Papua New Guinea province (PNG).

Since his ordination, he has held the following positions:

- Assistant Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Bogia (1996 - 1997)
- St. Francis Xavier Parish, Megiar (1997-1998);
- Pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Ulingan (1999 - 2000);
- Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Megiar (1997-1998);
- Pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Ulingan (1999 - 2000);
- Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Mirap (2002 - 2000);
- Pastor of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Ulingan (2000).
- St. Paul Parish, Mirap (2002 - 2009);
- District Superior, Madang (2008 - 2013) (2017 - 2019);

-SVD Vocational Promoter in Papua New Guinea (2009 - 2010);

-Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Yomba (2010 - 2017).

Since 2013 he is the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Madang. In 2018 he was appointed the Administrator of Madang Cathedral. From 2017 to the present, he has been a member of the Provincial Council for the province of PNG.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Daru-Kiunga is a suffragan diocese of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Port Moresby. It was erected Prefecture Apostolic in 1959 and elevated to a diocese in 1966. A 2019 census showcases the diocese with 24.3 % (51,174) Catholics of the total population of 211,000. Interestingly, there is only one diocesan priest in the diocese with 14 male religious and 15 female religious.

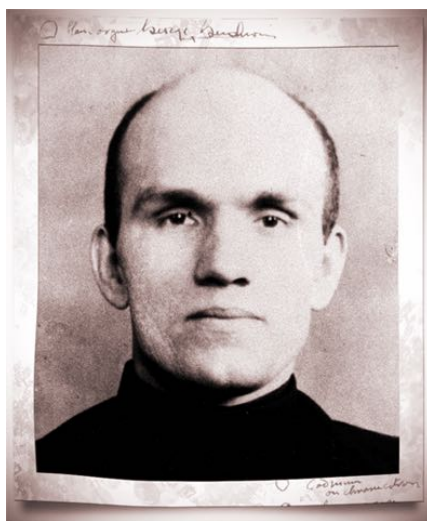
Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden congratulates Msgr. Durero on his appointment as the Bishop of the diocese of Daru-Kiunga. On behalf of the Society of the Divine Word, Father Superior General offers to Msgr. Durero his encouragement towards a transformative gospel witness as Bishop. We extend every good wish to the new Bishop for God's blessings. And with our prayers, congratulations.

### From the Editor

The Arnoldus Nota comes out ten times a year with two double issues, meaning issues covering two months, January-February and August-September. For the double issues Arnoldus Nota is released in the second month, on the first of February and the first of September.

To avoid a long wait from the previous issue before a double issue is released, the previous issue will be released not on the first day of the month but in the middle of the month. **The July 2021 issue of Arnoldus Nota will then be released on July 15, preceding the double issue of August- September.**

## Becoming an image of Christ every day, following the example of Brother Grzegorz Frąckowiak, SVD



--- General Councilor Bro. Guy Mazola, SVD

May and June are two memorable months of the year for the SVD Brothers. During these two months, we commemorate the death of Brother Grzegorz Bolesław Frąckowiak –May 5 – and the celebration of his martyrdom on June 12. These two dates remind us of the life and vocation of our dear Brother Grzegorz, honoring the vital role he played in the life of the Society and of the Catholic Church.

### Brother Grzegorz's life and formation

Grzegorz Bolesław Frąckowiak was born on July 18, 1911 in Łowęcice, near Jarocin (the region of Wielkopolska). His parents, Andrzej and Zofia Płończak, owners of an average size farm, had nine sons and three daughters.

Brother Grzegorz's early life was austere and serene. Despite poverty, this did not hinder him from reaching his aspirations and ambitions in life. His parents wanted to enroll him in the minor seminary. Since he could not afford secondary education, Bolesław did not have a basis good enough for study at the seminary. The seminary authorities advised Bolesław to pursue his vocation as a missionary Brother. He took their advice with humility. He was sent to Gorna Grupa, where the postulancy and the novitiate of the SVD were based. There, he met fellow martyrs Aloysius Liguda and Stanisław Kubista.

After a year of postulancy, he received his new name: Grzegorz, and his habit, on September 8, 1930. He then became the principal bookbinder of the novitiate. He

also wrote the daily spiritual exercises undertaken by his fellow aspiring novices and even took care of the food preparations. People remembered him smiling and being always very helpful. He liked to be a helping hand in the sacristy, especially in decorating altars.

Opting for a life as a religious Brother also means opting for a community life together with others, constantly shaping and redefining our lives as Christians. Brother Grzegorz offered his talents and skills at the service of his community. He lived for his community. In the same way, we are called to grow in the community. We live with other brothers in simple relationships, sharing life and faith, with mutual forgiveness and daily discernment in seeking the will of God.

On the contrary, the opposite attitude prevails in community life and living: indifference, disinterest, and selfishness. Today too, as it was during the time of Grzegorz, the voice of the Lord resounds with strength. He calls each of us to care for the other. Today, too, God asks us to be "guardians" of our brothers, to establish relationships characterized by mutual readiness, by attention to the good of the other, and all his interest. If we cultivate this aspect of brotherhood and solidarity, justice, mercy, and compassion will naturally spring from our hearts.

Faced with a world that demands from Christians a renewed witness of love and fidelity to the Lord, we should feel the urgency of doing everything to participate in charity, in service, and in good works (cf. Heb 6:10).

### The way to martyrdom

In 1940, when the novitiate was invaded, and everyone was gathered for transport to the concentration camps, Grzegorz escaped. At first, he went to his brother's house in Poznań. However, there was no possibility to register him there as a resident, and he had to leave the city. He went to Łowęcice, his birthplace. Later on, he went to Jarocin, participated in underground religious ministry, and created an editorial "For you, Poland." However, the Nazis knew about the secret group, and they were hunted down, and the members were captured. He was later arrested with some members that managed to escape. However, he asked to be the one found solely responsible and taking all the blame to liberate some of the members.

Grzegorz wanted to save the lives of other prisoners, many of whom were family fathers. His martyrdom led through Jarocin, Środa, and Fort VII in Poznań, where he was kept till the end of the year. Dresden was his final stop. His fellow prisoners (Walenty and Antoni Kaczmarek) remembered Brother Grzegorz leading common prayers of the rosary, litanies, and others. In 1943, he was beheaded by guillotine on May 5 at 6.15 p.m. after secretly writing a letter to his family. He was thrown in an unmarked grave.

Brother Grzegorz Frąckowiak, was beatified on June 13, 1999 in Warsaw together with three other members of the Society of the Divine Word, Stanisław Kubista (1898–1940), Alojzy Liguda, and Ludwik Mzyk (1905–1940), by Pope John Paul II. His feast day is May 5. The four SVD Poles blessed martyrs, whose joint day of remembrance is celebrated on June 12, were killed in the concentration camps during World War II.

In his homily during the Beatification Mass of Brother Grzegorz and the other 107 Polish martyrs, Pope John Paul II said, "In the group of Blessed, there are religious brothers and sisters who persevered in the service of charity and in offering their torments for their neighbor... As we carry out this solemn act, there is in a way rekindled in us the certainty that, independently of the circumstances, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (cf. Rom 8:37)".

In this time of crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are called to offer our authenticity and wholeness, shaped by our service and compassion and our devotion to true love. The call of a religious Brother is to provide the gift of our humanity, our gaze upon the cross, and the consciousness of our God-given equality. We offer ourselves.

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis is accompanied by much suffering and loneliness. It also highlights our vulnerability and the limits of our societies. We are expected as Christians in this challenging situation. There is no other way than solidarity and fraternity. This time of crisis invites us to a profound inner change, to care

for others, to put our trust in bonds rather than in goods.

This was Brother Grzegorz's attitude in the concentration camp during his captivity. He is an example of a true disciple of Christ as described in the document of the 18th General Chapter: "A missionary disciple becomes an agent of transforming the world, actualizing the Kingdom of God together with others. As Divine Word Missionaries, we are inspired and compelled to commit ourselves to carry out the work of the *Mis-sio Dei* to become transforming missionary disciples of Christ in each place, among every people, and for all cultures. As transforming missionary disciples, we draw upon Christ's love for us as well as our love of Christ. However, to become effective ambassadors and instruments of Christ, we must know Christ and remain with him" (In Word and Deed n°6, # 13).

Our ministries as Brothers are an essential element that can heal the woundedness of our world today. We pledge to embrace our responsibility as radical ministers of the Gospel actively, to be agents of solidarity, reconciliation, and peace, and to extend hope and welcome the most vulnerable in our midst, our brothers and sisters in Christ, to our common home. In this way, we become an Image of Christ every day of our life, as was Brother Grzegorz.



India- Eastern Province (INE):

## Amidst this dark moment of the pandemic, I felt the powerful presence of God.



--- Fr. Petrus Kullu, SVD  
INE Provincial Superior

*During this whole time of the pandemic, no one has come up so poignant than the Provincial of INE, Fr. Petrus Kullu SVD. He expresses how the COVID-19 pandemic affected his Province and him personally. He openly shares, "Being directly involved with the situation, all these days, I went through psychological trauma, a nightmare and spent few sleepless nights!..... However, amidst this dark moment, I felt the powerful presence of God. It was true that I grieved for the enormous sadness, but it did not break me. I kept my faith and hope alive". The following is his story.*

### India on fire with the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 second wave is much stronger and devastating than the previous one regarding the loss of lives and human suffering. In India, it has now spread all over the country from urban to the most interior villages, taking hundreds and thousands of lives daily. The situation seems to be beyond human control. Since mid-April, it has been reported that India is the worst affected country by this virus. Daily News reports hundreds and thousands of people dying due to lack of beds, oxygen, and other vital medicines in the hospitals. All the hospitals have been crowded with patients both inside and on the corridors.

The ordinary people are dying of improper medical care and untimely attention by the medical personnel. Crematorium and burial grounds have been weighed down with dead bodies. Many poor people cannot meet the expenses for the cremation of their dear ones and are throwing the bodies into the rivers. Many families are having traumatic experiences because of the deaths of their dear ones, losing them one after the other. Today, the country is severely experiencing a tragedy, loss of lives, and human suffering due to inadequate medical care.

### Priests and religious: deaths on the rise

A recent survey in India shows that already 168 Catholic Priests have died from the coronavirus in the religious sphere. They belong to different religious Congregations and Dioceses. A study on the deaths of female religious has so far not been conducted. I am sure their number will be higher than that of the priests.

The most alarming thing to be noted is that the death rate of priests and religious is on the rise. This calls for a deeper reflection and a broader consultation to know the "why" of the situation. As many as other religious congregations have been going through the traumatic experiences of losing their dear ones, INE Province also is experiencing the same.

### What went wrong with the INE province?

The INE Province is on a COVID fire. Recently, we lost three confreres within a short period. At present, four are receiving treatment in the hospital, two are in-home quarantine, and four have returned to their communities. They are recuperating with proper rest and care. One is in critical condition and needs our ardent prayers for his recovery. As we continue to mourn over our confreres' death and feel sad for our infected ones, several questions arise in our minds. What went wrong



with us?

There are a few things to ponder regarding our confreres being infected. First, that we were less careful in following the COVID guidelines, we took it for granted. We got involved in social gatherings as part of the so-called 'priestly ministry to keep our social contacts alive. Second, after having the COVID symptoms, confreres delayed the time in going for the test and failed to receive early treatment.

Third, a significant reason for the death of our confreres could be the pitiable mental health. Once the patient is admitted to the hospital, he/she is kept in isolation. The person is left alone. It leads to the experience of terrible loneliness, helplessness, fear, anxiety, and frustration. It destroys the immune system and other internal organs, gradually leading the person to death. Fourth could be the lack of proper, timely care, concern, and moral support from the responsible persons and the medical staff.

#### **A way out to solve the problem**

Every human tragedy or suffering finds a new path, a way out to solve the problem. We have taken various measures to prevent ourselves from COVID. All the confreres have been guided strictly to remain at home (respective communities) and meticulously follow COVID guidelines. This year's home visit and vacation are called off. All are advised to refrain from any social gatherings, meetings, and the Church Ministries.

In the community, the use of Face Mask and the Social Distance is highly encouraged. Anybody having any symptoms of COVID is requested immediately to go for the test. Each community received an Oximeter. We have appointed a nun (nurse) from the Society of Handmaids of Mary Sisters to look after our infected confreres to attend to their needs. They get psychological support in time of their distress in the hospital.

#### **The worst and painful part as a Provincial facing this pandemic**

Being directly involved with the situation, I went through psychological trauma, a nightmare, and spent a few sleepless nights! Who else will not get disturbed - when one is faced with the death of three confreres within ten days' period. Every day, one or the other confrere is infected and being admitted to the hospital. At times, those who are admitted to the hospitals do not show any improvement!

The worst and the most painful part for me is not being able to give a proper and fitting burial to my deceased confreres in their last journey. It was done in the presence of a handful of confreres without the Holy Mass. I felt it was the most undignified burials that we had for the confreres, who touched many through their

life, through their ministry to the People of God, and in particular through the Holy Eucharist. One, who celebrated the Holy Mass many times in his life and interceded for the souls, is laid to rest without it!

#### **Sufficient reasons to be hopeful and alive**

However, amidst this dark moment, I felt the powerful presence of God. It was true that I grieved for the enormous sadness, but I was not broken. I kept my faith and hope alive and maintained my peace and serenity by constantly telling myself that everything is not over yet. There are sufficient reasons to be hopeful and to stay alive. I felt that the entire Province was with me through their prayers and encouraging words. I was happy to know that each member was well taken care of by their respective community members. All kept supporting the sick confreres through their safe physical presence, moral support, and above all, through intense prayers.

This pandemic has enormously taught us to take care of ourselves and others. Like any other disaster, this will pass away because everything has its time to begin and end. It is just a matter of time. The most important part for us during all this - is to stay alive, stay healthy, and stay safe. Let us be united with one another in our prayers and by our moral support.

I thank the Leadership team for their constant support through phone calls, prayers, and unvarying encouragement.

God Bless Us All!

## The COVID-19 pandemic bringing new challenges and mission



*Sr. Yuliana SSPS, Fr. Klemens Hayon SVD, and Fr. Vincent Wang SVD handing hot meals.*

--- Fr. Avin Kunnekkadan, SVD

*Fr. Avin Kunnekkadan SVD, the Provincial of Netherlands-Belgium (NEB) province, shares some of their experiences during this COVID-19 pandemic. The confreres faced the challenges as an opportunity to be creative missionaries. Fr. Avin says, "As missionaries, we are called to remain vigilant and to do what is possible in our missionary situations in a creative way". This is his reflection.*

In the Netherlands, from the year 2020, the often spoken, read and discussed words in the news are Coronavirus, COVID-19, health protocols, and lockdown. During the outbreak of the coronavirus in China, it was only news to us. When bad events and crises are far away, we do not feel the pain. We forget even to pray and reflect on how to extend much-needed help. In our fast-moving digital world, we do not often pay enough attention to people who need our kindness and support.

The coronavirus crisis has given space and time for personal reflection and community realization that we need the help of each other. We are interconnected and interdependent. The whole world is one family, and we have to take time to think of others and help them in their needs.

The pandemic has brought new challenges, opportunities, and awareness to our missionary situations. We have become aware that we are a part of nature and have caused a lot of damage to nature.

The provincial of NEB and the Province Congregational leader of SSPS came together for a brainstorming session in The Hague international community in Schijderswijk (HIRCOS) to discuss how to work together on a project to respond to the situation. As a result of

the meeting, the SVD and SSPs of the HIRCOS community started a social project on October 7, 2020. The project is to care for the homeless and poor people. We decided to provide hot meals for 40 to 50 homeless people.

Every Wednesday, the SVD and SSPs of the HIRCOS community prepare hot meals and soup for the poor and the needy. After cooking, the meals are brought on a carrier bicycle to Malieveld. Here, the poor and homeless people of the city come together for a social meeting. They all receive a bowl of hot food.

To avoid the spread of the virus, we are very restricted in our social interaction with people. We do not stay too long with them as it is not advisable in this given situation. We strictly follow the protocols like wearing masks and gloves. Homeless people do not often wear masks or gloves. Now and then, we take time to chat and joke with them. We are very patient with them because some are often drunk, and sometimes they cause trouble.

On January 29, 2021, we prepared hot meals for 120 people for the homeless and poor people. This was a joint action with an NGO. With this NGO, SVD and SSPs provide the warm meal on designated Fridays every month for the year 2021.

We are grateful that our migrant communities and the local church support us in our outreach ministry. They become active collaborators in these concrete opportunities to be missionaries in this part of the world. We also receive a contribution from the migrant communities to help the migrants. The Chinese community in The Hague has given us 2000 plastic trays plus cutlery, two large warm bags to carry food, and a new food delivery bicycle. An Indonesian community member helps in preparing the meal twice a month. A couple from the Four Evangelists parish cook with us once a month.

We do not consider the COVID-19 situation a hindrance to our missionary engagements. Instead, it brought us a challenge and opportunity to serve the needy. Everyone knows that it is risky to make physical contact, but it is nice to get in touch with the heart, words, and merciful deeds. This can be done by giving and taking or sharing what we have with others.

From May 2021, since most of the seniors have al-

ready received the vaccination, we are slowly opening the churches. From April 2021, we have restarted our liturgical celebration for 30 to 50 people. However, the YouTube and live stream celebration continues. Though it is not the best solution, we can use digital media to connect with people of the parish who cannot come for the Sunday celebration in this stressful situation.

Positive thinking always shows us a way to continue with our missionary engagements. The pandemic is a challenge and an opportunity. One thing has become apparent that we who are the image and likeness of God must take care of all creation that God has created.

We face difficult and challenging times with much uncertainty. There is confusion about what is allowed and what is to be avoided. It is complicated, and often we need to be flexible and be open to changes in our plans and work. Let us keep in mind that our missionary call and vocation as Divine Word missionaries are to care for the environment, care for each other, and especially care for the poor, sick, and lonely people.

## AFRAM NEWS

*Simanjiro, Tanzania (KEN):*

# The challenge of undoing misconceptions and telling the truth



*The wedding ceremony is only performed with the first wife.*



*Women in the Maasai culture are not allowed to remarry.*

Fr. Lawrence Muthee M'gaiti SVD, the parish priest of Simanjiro Parish, poses this question, *Have you tried to correct something that was wrongly taught or explained? For him, this is always a difficult task. He says, "In our mission in Simanjiro, the people were taught the precepts of the Christian faith wrongly, and they misunderstood them." This is his reflection.*

The parish where I work covers more than 6000 square kilometers and comprises over 20 villages. We have more than 10,000 baptized Christians. However, more than 90% of men are polygamous. These Christians and their wives were baptized and given other sacraments, including Holy Communion, but they were not married in Church.

For many decades these couples became comfortable with their Christian identity. Coming to change that misconception or misrepresentation of the Chris-

tian faith is not an easy task. It is like trying to unteach the norm for decades and replace it with something that seems impossible.

When someone in authority misguides the population, it is very difficult for someone else in the same jurisdiction to correct the mistake. One needs a lot of courage, patience, and constancy to convince the people that the new teaching is the right one. This is our most significant task in the mission with the Maasai community. The people accepted the Christian baptism yet remained polygamous for decades.

It is not justice for the Church to require those with many wives to abandon them and get married to only one. Many are already old. In addition, women in the Maasai Culture are not allowed to remarry when their husbands die or abandon them even if they are young. They are either inherited by the next of kin or live un-



der the shadow of their late husband.

The best remedy is to tell them the truth and phase out the polygamous generation without making them feel rejected. One needs to get the elderly polygamous generation to come on board and help do things the right way. They need to understand why it is not right to get married to more than one wife. Though men marry many wives in the Maasai traditions, the wed-

ding ceremony is only performed with the first wife. The rest are brought in without any rituals.

During significant cultural rites and ceremonies, it is the first wife who has the recognition. This indicates that polygamous relationship was established upon socio-economic reasons that are not necessarily inherent in the initial way of life of the Maasai People.

--- Fr. Lawrence Muthee M'Gaiti, SVD

### Simanjiro, Tanzania (KEN):

#### Marking Labor Day in style

On May 1, Simanjiro Parish, under the helm of the parish priest, Fr. Lawrence Muthee, celebrated International Workers' Day. In most countries, it is termed Labor Day. This day is also the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, who is the patron of all the workers. The parish marked the event in style. Fr. Lawrence relates, "For the first time we had public meetings in Emboreet and Loiborsoit villages. We sensitized our people on the value of work and health".

Those who gave input were the staff of Simanjiro Health Center and Emboreet Secondary School. These health workers educated the villagers on many health issues, including preventing infections and identifying symptoms early to seek treatment in time. The teachers, on the other hand, talked about the importance of educating the children. Fr. Lawrence Muthee, SVD, spoke about the dignity of work in general.

--- Fr. Lawrence Muthee, SVD

### Maputo (MOZ):

#### Reception of new postulants



Three candidates were received for the postulancy.

In the Society of the Divine Word, there are various formation programs for the seminarians. One of them is Postulancy. The postulancy program helps the candidate to judge his disposition and vocation.

In this sense, the SVD formation house of St. Joseph Freinademetz in Maputo, Mozambique, organized the ceremony of postulancy on April 25, 2021. The ceremony was presided by the Regional Superior, Fr. Johnson Furtado SVD. Three candidates who are in their fourth year of philosophy began their period of postulancy.

They were introduced by their formator, Fr. Fabian Kalaluka Mate SVD, at the beginning of the ceremony.

Fr. Furtado highlighted the importance of this formation program to the candidates. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work, dedication, and accompaniment of the formators. They are involved in shaping and molding the formandi in the spirit of our founder St. Arnold Janssen.

--- Fr. Joseph Sahayaraj SVD

### Zimbabwe Region (ZIM):

#### Pioneer SVD in Zimbabwe celebrated 40 years of priesthood



Fr. Krystian Traczyk, SVD

Last April 13, 2021, the ZIM Region celebrated the 40th Priesthood Anniversary of Fr. Krystian Traczyk, SVD. The celebration was held in St. Monica Church in Beatrice, soon to open as a new parish and SVD mission area. He was ordained a priest on April 20, 1980, in Pieniezno. He has been working in Zimbabwe since 1987. That's thirty-four years of grace and mission. He is one of the pioneering SVD missionaries here in Zimbabwe. The others are Fr. Gabriel Sosu SVD, from Ghana, in Zimbabwe, and Fr. Alberto Saco SVD, from the Philippines, now in Zambia.

Fr. Krystian has been into different apostolates here in Zimbabwe. He was into parish apostolates, but he is mainly known for his passion and work in the Biblical Apostolate. He founded the Ilizwil Biblical Center in Plumtree together with the Ilizwi Publications. He printed a lot of prayer books and other materials into the local language. As of the moment, together with the SVD Zimbabwe Region, he is to start another publishing center, the Word Press, in the capital city of Harare.

Currently, Fr. Krystian is the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC) Head for Biblical Pastoral Ministry. He also helps in our parishes in the Harare District. He is fluent in speaking Shona and Ndebele, the two main languages spoken in Zimbabwe. Congratulations.

--- Facebook ZIM Region

**Mandritsara (MAD):****The new SVD mission  
in the outskirts of Mandritsara***A procession was held.*

On May 13, 2021, a Holy Eucharist was celebrated for the first time on the premises of the new mission in the outskirts of Mandritsara, far north of Madagascar. This day was also the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Due to sanitary measures, present for the occasion were only the representatives of the different parishes and communities.

In this new mission, the SVD community pays special tribute to Mary, the Mother of the Word of God. The first project to be carried out will be constructing a grotto dedicated to the Mother of the Word of God. After the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with several SVDs participating, a procession was held leading up to the area where the grotto will be built.

The grotto will be overlooking the villages that lie at the foot of the hill. Seven stones, each in a different color, were offered, symbolizing the fullness of the grace of God through the intercession of Mary. Each surrounded by several people, seven priests laid the stones serving as the foundation for the grotto.

On October 25, 2020, the SVD took over this new mission on the outskirts of Mandritsara. Fr. Zdzislaw Grad shared that SVDs are taking small steps to organize the area. They were able to partially surround the site on which the future house might stand, prepare the area for the garden, plant about 100 different trees, among others.

---- Fr. Zdzislaw Grad, SVD

**Region of Mozambique (MOZ):****Our life and mission is for the people**

It is said that no one will ever understand what hunger is unless one has experienced it. One of the problems that emerging countries face is the problem of hunger. Many are dying of hunger, and Mozambique is no exception, especially in northern Mozambique. In that region, rain is scarce, and the COVID-19 pandemic

provoked hunger in the last two years.

Thus, the SVD communities who work in the northern region, with the help of our Congregation and benefactors, organized and spearheaded the distribution of seeds such as rice, corn, mung bean/green gram, beans, and peanut for plantation. They also distributed corn flour to forty-five communities in St. Francis Xavier Parish, Liupo, and 26 communities in St. Barbara Parish, Mogincual, last February 2021. This project is for all those affected by calamities in Liupo and Mogincual in the province of Nampula.

*Every Saturday, we distribute corn flour.*

Nevertheless, the problem of hunger continues. Many, early in the morning, come knocking at our door to ask for help. Hence, looking at the situation, we decided that every Saturday, we would continue distributing corn flour to the needy. Every Saturday, there are more than six hundred people who come to receive help. Lately, we added a kilo of salt to our distribution.

*Our efforts have lessened the hunger.*

The fact is that we really cannot fully solve the problem of hunger that our people experience. But at least our efforts have lessened their suffering. True enough, our life and mission as SVDs are for the people. I believe that Jesus Christ himself inspires this humble initiative of our community here in Liupo.

We are challenged to do God's mission by giving food to those who are hungry. What we are doing to our people, we do it for the greater glory of God. Along with Fr. Ralph Montalban, our confreres Johanes Meko Hayong, Giang Tien Nguyen, Moacir José Rudnick are so grateful to our Congregation. They appreciate the generous benefactors who helped them in their project. May God bless these benefactors abundantly.

--- Fr. Ralph Montalban SVD

**Apessito (TOG):****Les Jardins du Verbe Divin, after one year**

The SVD farm, located in Apessito, named "Les Jardins du Verbe Divin," is agro-ecological. It is a long-term project in multiple stages. We are in the first phase. We are currently two confreres (Binu Narippara and Hendrikus Bala Wuwur) working on the farm. And we have four employees.



Some existing buildings have been renovated. They were turned into a community house, a kitchen, a refectory, a storeroom, and a chapel in terms of construction. To secure the five hectares of land, we built a fence. This work is completed now. New buildings alongside the renovation of the existing ones have been set up for our animals.



*Our confreres Binu Narippara and Hendrikus Bala Wuwur are working in the farm.*

In our goal to produce some bio-vegetable, we started a market gardening by planting tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, spinach, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants, and gingers. We

use our animal waste to make compost and use them as a natural fertilizer for the garden. Our poultry farm is growing too. We are currently raising local and breed hens, guinea fowl, turkeys, geese, and ducks. We have improved upon our pig's production and have now started rearing sheep, goats, and rabbits.

Given protecting and safeguarding the environment, we planted more than 500 trees to reforest the farm. In addition, we also planted a hundred fruit trees. It will enable us to enjoy green space in the future and make the farm eco-friendly. Being in a country where malaria is a health issue for many, we have engaged ourselves in the gardening of artemisia. A plant that is effective against malaria.



*We planted more than 500 trees to reforest the farm.*

Beyond these, we offer pastoral and spiritual care to those surrounding us. In fact, since November 2020, our chapel opened its door for all those around us. Every day there is a good number of them who come for morning

mass and prayer. Every Sunday, for instance, more than 150 faithful (adults, young people, and children) come for mass in our chapel. We do avail ourselves for the sacrament of reconciliation.

Slowly, we have started home visitation for effective pastoral care for the sick and engaged in interreligious dialogue with the Muslims. This religious involvement and our activities make us known in the area.

For sure, it is a humble beginning, but we are committed to what we are doing here. And the result so far is encouraging. We are still looking for more markets to sell our products. Our parishes in Lome are helpful in that regard. But more opportunities will be of great help.

We plan to make the farm a place of learning and training for the population and an "ecotourism" site in the future.

--- Fr. Hendrikus Bala Wuwur, SVD

## ASPAC NEWS

### Calapan, Oriental Mindoro (PHC):

### Helping families suffering from hunger and anxiety



*The main objective of holding the activity is to help families.*



*The program encourages students and teachers to be part of this campaign.*

Inspired by the Maginhawa Community Pantry, the Divine Word College of Calapan (DWCC) through the Community Extension Services (CES) Office launched its DWCC Kindness Station last April 27, 2021, which benefited 150 individuals.

The main objective of holding the activity is to help families suffering from hunger and anxiety. It also highlights the Care Program – *Bayanihan* (Communal unity, helping others without expecting rewards) and

Relief operation. The program encourages students and teachers to be part of this national and local pro-poor movement campaign.

"My heart is filled with joy, realizing that our Kindness Station is the bridge for the grace of God poured out to the neediest. We can see here the generosity of many people. They, out of their hearts, share willingly and openly", said Fr. Renato L. Malbog, SVD, DWCC Community Extension Services (CES) Director.



The viral community pantries inspire the Kindness Station in the country with the mantra of "Share what you can and get based on your needs," reflecting the Filipinos' *Bayanihan* Spirit. The station is located outside the DWCC Main Campus. The volunteers dis-

tributed food items such as instant noodles, rice, eggs, vegetables, canned goods, vitamins, and bibles. The CES Office is also willing to accept donations to be dropped at the guardhouse and module center.

--- PHC Notes

### Taiwan (SIN):

#### Help from Taiwan to Paraguay



The food packages were delivered and handed to more than 150 families.

Fr. Carlos Cesar Lopez Ysasi SVD, the Mission Secretary of SIN province, organized fund-raising, mostly at his parish - Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sanchung, to help the poor affected by the pandemic. He sent the money to the parish of St. Joseph Church, Limpio, in the archdiocese of Asuncion, Paraguay.

The first installment of the donation was spent organizing meals for people. The second donation was used mainly to buy food packets. Volunteers prepared the packages and distributed them to the needy. The food packages were delivered and handed to more than 150 families. The people of Taiwan are open and willing to share their resources with disadvantaged people. It brought joy and satisfaction to the donors and the receivers.

--- Fr. Carlos Cesar Lopez Ysasi, SVD

### Bangladesh Mission (BGD):

#### Dialogue in action with our Muslim friends



Fr. Cyprian and the Sisters joined the Muslims while breaking their Ramadan fast.

The parish priest Fr. Cyprian Pinto, SVD, and the Sisters of Associates of Mary Queen of Apostles (SMRA) celebrated Holy "Shab-e-Qadr" night, with their Muslim friends, a group of construction workers in the Immaculate Conception Church compound at Jamal Khan, Chittagong, Bangladesh during the COVID-19 second wave lockdown.

For the Muslims, this night is a special night better than the 1000 nights. They say that the Angel Gabriel revealed the Holy Quran to Prophet Mohammad. Muslim worshippers around the world are celebrating the

festival of *Eid al-Fitr*, commonly known as Eid, to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. Many Muslims will be attending Eid prayers at their mosque for ten days.

Fr. Cyprian and the Sisters joined the Muslims in solidarity while breaking their Ramadan fast, thanking God for the Supreme creator and the merciful. They renew their faithfulness to Him as the Patriarch Abraham, who was faithful to "Yahweh" Allah. Fr. Cyprian and the Sisters prayed with them for the dead that He might give them life eternal.

They also prayed, seeking the blessing of God "Allah." They sought a long healthy life for all of them, peace and progress for all their families in Bangladesh and the world, especially during this Pandemic. They shared "Iftar" with the workers (food eaten at sunset after the day's Ramadan fast).

--- Fr. Cyprian Pinto, SVD

### Cebu City (PHS):

#### Determining the catholicity of our educational institution

Our confreres working in the University of San Carlos in different capacities seek to understand their education apostolate role better. Responding to this need, a seminar workshop on San Carlos University (Carolinian) Virtues was organized. Using his research, Fr. Philip Muncada, SVD, allowed the participants to examine the variables that determine the catholicity of the institution, serving as a platform of their current mission to propagate the gospel of Christ in the school.

This endeavor is also made possible through the collaboration of some lay partners, especially Engr. Irish T. Dakay, USC Presidential Assistant for Quality Assurance. She facilitated the workshop. Indeed, the SVD mission in the PHS is a shared mission.

--- PHS Mission Secretary

### Prefecture of Niigata (JPN):

#### Moving through the diocese

Bishop Daisuke Narui, SVD of the Diocese of Niigata, Japan, shared his recent activities in his Facebook account. He has been kept busy visiting communities and attending meetings. Here is a glimpse of Bishop Daisuke's movements. He shares the following:

On May 9, I visited the Tokamachi-kyokai today. Tokamachi is a small but warm and interna-

tional community. There are a good number of Filipinos with their family members. I was happy to see such an intercultural community. Two members received the sacrament of confirmation. Congratulations!

Last April 29, we held the diocesan mission and pastoral council meeting. This council is composed of young and old, women and men, lay, religious, priest and bishop, foreigner and Japanese from all the five districts of the diocese. We discussed the process and the methodology of setting the policy and the priority of the diocese. I thank the council members who participated in person and through Zoom.

On April 25, I went to the Tsuruoka-kyokai. Three people received the sacrament of confirmation. After the Mass, the newly built rectory and the parish hall were blessed. It was indeed a day of great joy for the parish community. Congratulations!

--- Bishop Daisuke Narui, SVD

### Indonesia- Ruteng Province (IDR): Bible Center on the move with scores of activities



The courses being offered were received with enthusiasm.

After the inauguration of the St. Arnold Janssen Bible Center SVD-SSpS-Ruteng, the Bible Center team designed activities and courses. It is for the current year that includes the introductory bible courses. This Center is currently offering several courses to formation houses, parishes, SVD-SSpS communities, also covering the districts. The courses being offered were received with enthusiasm.

So far, Basic Bible courses were given to the SVD Novices in Kuwu, teachers at St. Josepha Junior High School in Labuan Bajo, teachers and employees of Saint Arnold Jansen Labuan Bajo foundation, and SSpS Novices in Leda. It also includes the parents of students who will receive their first communion in St. Arnold Jansen Tambolaka Parish – West Sumba.

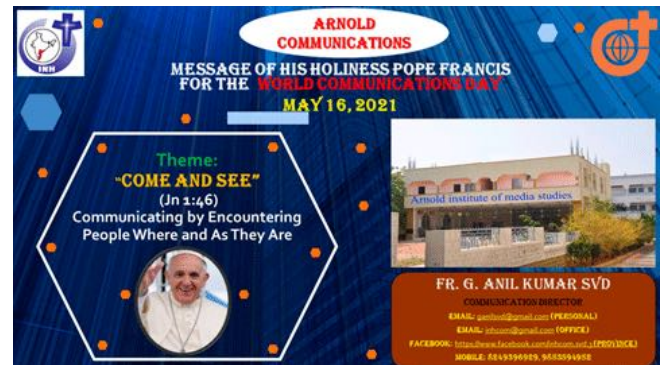
The Bible Center Team presents some modules to the participants: an introductory bible course, how to use the bible, the Bible as a book, and the Bible as the Word of God. The modules also include our response to the Word of God and a suitable method of catechism.

So far, the Bible Center Team has a solid team and great interest in carrying out the programs. The Cen-

ter's pamphlet indicating programs like bible courses, retreats, recollections, bible seminars, among others, were handed to parishes, communities, and districts. Through a daily program called "Sharing daily," the Center shares daily spiritual insights. There is a very positive feedback on this program.

--- Fr. Vitalis Hiburdin, SVD

### India-Hyderabad Province (INH): World Communication Day 2021



Due to the COVID-19, the world is standing still. Most of us are under lockdown. Many are losing jobs, especially the small-scale business people and the daily wage workers. Communication is the means to reach out very effectively to everyone. As part of celebrating World Communication Day 2021 on May 16, Arnold Communication of India-Hyderabad province organized an online Eucharistic celebration with the help of "Arnold Janssen Youth" (AJY) and "Jesus Youth" of the Telugu region.

Fr. G. Anil Kumar SVD, the director of Arnold Communication and Youth director of Telangana, celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Those who participated prayed for those suffering from the coronavirus. They also honored and remembered those who have died. The Arnold Janssen youth participated actively.

Fr. Anil Kumar explained to the youth the importance of media and its practical use. He mainly focused and reflected upon the message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the world communication day 2021. The theme is: "Come and See" (Jn 1: 46), Communicating by Encountering People Where and As they are. It was a meaningful program of sharing and exchanging views. World Communication Day 2021 was celebrated very meaningfully and prayerfully.

--- Fr. G. Anil Kumar SVD

Communication Director of INH province

### Korea Region (KOR):

#### Korea Reaching Out

Due to the Pandemic restrictions of gatherings of more than five persons by the government, we could not have any regular mission activities. The





*A gathering of benefactors with some SVDs.*

usual benefactors/lay associates' meetings/mass on first Mondays, second Tuesdays of the month were canceled for more than a year. Only one meeting/mass of the benefactors/lay associates was held for some months in the city down South of Korea.

There was a movement to collect donations for the suffering people of Myanmar. We could not collect

any assistance from the Korean lay associates since we cannot meet. But, ironically, the migrant workers from Vietnam and Indonesia/Timor Leste came forward to donate money for this cause. From three Vietnamese and Indonesia/Timor Leste communities, we collected a reasonable sum of money. The Mission Office also gave some money to the people of Myanmar.

The other religious/missionary congregations also collected donations for Myanmar. Those who collected money for this cause sent what they collected to Myanmar through the Male Major Religious Superiors of Korea.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the income of the KOR Region has decreased by almost 70%. Hence, the mission office has requested the confreres to gather donations from the lay associates and other means to help the region's finances. Confreres are trying to collect donations from various sources.

--- Fr. Kim Nam Doo John  
Mission Secretary, Korea

### **Madya Pradesh (INC):**

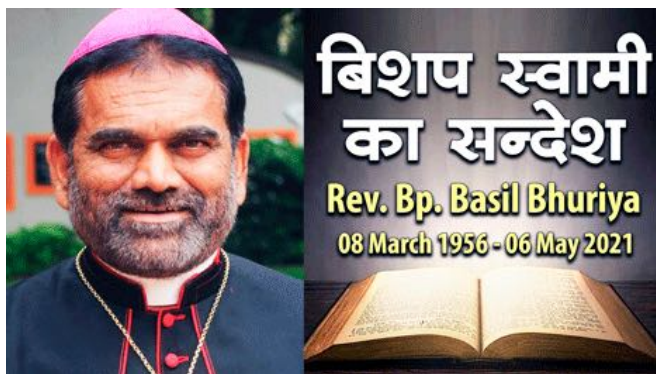
## **Divine Word Bishop Basil Bhuriya of Jhabua Diocese, a victim of COVID-19**

**B**ishop Basil Bhuriya SVD of the diocese of Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh), 65-years old, died on May 6 from cardiac arrest at St Francis Hospital in Indore. He had been hospitalized after testing positive for COVID-19 on April 3. When his condition deteriorated with breathlessness, he suffered a heart attack and died

The SVD prelate hails from the local Bhil tribal community and always wanted to promote tribal culture and lifestyle. He even tried to encourage local vocation to the priesthood. "He was a kind shepherd and will be greatly missed. After treatment, he tested negative, but his oxygen levels were low. We commend his soul to Our Merciful Father and offer our condolences to the people of Jhabua, who lost their compassionate shepherd", said Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal SVD of Indore, speaking to AsiaNews.

Bishop Basil was the person who considered social service to be a service to God. He has done very exemplary work for the upliftment of Jhabua Diocese. Who-

ever came to him for help, he was ready to help them in every way possible. During his tenure of bishop he did his best to uplift local culture. He was ordained a priest on May 2, 1986 and became bishop of Jhabua diocese on Oct 10, 2015. As a bishop he was secretary to different commissions in the region. He was very collaborative in the developmental work of the region.



*Bishop Basil Bhuriya SVD*

Archbishop Leo Cornelio SVD of Bhopal, Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal SVD of Indore, and Superior Provincial Joemon James Alackal SVD led the funeral service in the presence of 20 people, including five family members, in compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

Bishop Bhuriya was laid to rest at a funeral at Meghnagar Cemetery.

--- UCA News  
Asia News  
Dailypioneer.com



## EUROPA NEWS

Italy Province (ITA):

## Auguri Bishop Francesco Sarego, SVD 25th anniversary of Episcopal Ordination



Bishop Sarego with Archbishop Lauro Tisi of the Archdiocese of Trento.



Bishop Sarego, Archbishop Tisi and confreres.

Bishop Francisco Sarego SVD celebrated his 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination in Varone di Riva with Archbishop Lauro Tisi of the Archdiocese of Trento concelebrating. Bishop Sarego was ordained a bishop of the Diocese of Goroka on April 27, 1996.

Bishop Francisco is a native of Cologna Veneta, now 81 years old (August 1, 1939). He carried out his entire ministry in Papua New Guinea, where he arrived in 1969. He was appointed bishop at the age of 56. He was called to lead the diocese of Goroka, where he had previously worked for twenty years as a deacon and then as a priest. First in the parish (Dirima, Yobai, Koge), then in the School for Catechists (Goroka), and later as district superior, vice provincial, and finally Provincial Superior of the almost two hundred SVD missionaries.

In this role as Provincial Superior, he was respected and well-liked by all the missionaries and bishops. He was nominated to Rome when the See of Goroka became vacant. In the more than twenty years of his

episcopate, he was responsible for the liturgical, catechetical, and ecumenical departments of the Episcopal Conference. He was also president of the same episcopal conference. In 2015, he had been awarded a high honor by the Papuan government with the title of Tribal Chief.

At the end of his 20 years of episcopal ministry, the Diocese of Goroka honored him with a big celebration, during which many recalled the qualities they admired in Bishop Sarego: humility, religiosity, perseverance, closeness, patience, compassion, and generosity. Archbishop Lauro also underlined these qualities. He thanked him for his profound evangelical witness. He asked him to continue to accompany with prayer and affection the Trentino diocese that has now welcomed him.

--- News Archdiocese of Trento

### Rome (ROM):

#### A pilgrim's companion book to Santiago de Compostela



2021 is the Compostela Holy Year. Fr. Jose Antunes wrote the book "Os Verbos do Caminho. Notas para uma peregrinação a Santiago de Compostela" (The Verbs of the Way, Notes for a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela). It is meant to provide anyone who set his eyes to visit this prominent place known as Santiago de Compostela with a set of proposals for the proper disposition to make this pilgrimage.

The book offers countless stories about this millennial tradition. Fr. Antunes ferries the reader to compre-

hend what it means "to leave," "to set out," "to walk," "to care for," "to contemplate," "to arrive," and "to return" in the context of this spiritual journey.

In his book, Fr. Antunes provides indispensable advice and not the usual ones you get in travel books. His primary purpose is to provide anyone who makes this pilgrimage a sort of sustenance, justification, and a perspective of a rewarding outcome of such a spiritual undertaking.

"Os Verbos do Caminho. Notas para uma peregrinação a Santiago de Compostela" is a small book, yet the reflections and thoughts are spiritually sufficient to lead any future pilgrim to probe the depths of his/her soul and search for the meaning for life's greatest motivations.

If you want to order your copy please go to [www.paulinas.pt](http://www.paulinas.pt)

## Warsaw (POL):

## 15th Anniversary of Fr. Zelazek's death



*A special liturgical celebration at the National Marian Shrine in Czestochowa.*

April 30 was the 15th anniversary of the death of the Servant of God, Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD. It was an excellent opportunity to remind the Polish people of this outstanding missionary, who worked in India for 56 years and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For this purpose, we prepared press materials and sent them to the media. We gave interviews for TVP Poznan and Radio Jasna Gora. We were also active in social media. We have prepared a five-minute presentation entitled "The Father of the lepers," which will soon be available in 14 language versions. You can find them at: [www.marianzelazek.werbisci.pl/en/](http://www.marianzelazek.werbisci.pl/en/)

We are grateful to Father Dixon D'Souza SVD (INE) for preparing the Polish version and his excellent video "Servant of God Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD. Man of dialogue and Person of life's dignity". The film is available in both languages on Fr. Dixon's YouTube channel.

At our mission house in Michałowice near Warsaw, an open-air photo exhibition titled "Puri - the Holy city of Hinduism and Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD, the father of lepers" is displayed. It can be seen by many passers-by every day.

There were also special liturgical celebrations. On April 29, at the National Marian Shrine in Czestochowa, Fr. Henryk Kaluza SVD, the vice postulator of the beatification process of Fr. Marian Zelazek, conducted a meditation. It was held during an exceptional service that is celebrated there every evening. This popular prayer is broadcasted on radio and television and can be followed on the internet.

The next day, in the same place, Fr. Provincial Sylwester Grabowski SVD presided over the Holy Mass for Fr. Marian's grace of beatification. Fr. Andrzej Danilewicz SVD, Mission Secretary, delivered the homily. The media also broadcasted it.

The stage of the beatification process on the Polish side is well advanced. Most of the witnesses have already been heard by the Rogatory Tribunal in Poznan. The collection of process materials is also nearing completion. The big challenge we face is translating many of the collected materials into English.

--- Fr. Andrzej Danilewicz SVD

## Warsaw (POL):

Father Roman Malek SVD,  
missionary and sinologist

*Father Malek devoted all his heart to Chinese matters and issues.*

On March 13, 2021, Michał Boym SJ "Sinicum" Association organized a webinar on the first death anniversary of Father Roman Malek SVD (+2019). The Polish missionary and, at the same time, a sinologist was the *spiritus movens* of the Association, whose aim is to help the Church in China.

Father Malek was a scientist and a priest who devoted all his heart to Chinese matters and issues. The webinar consisted of lectures that discussed the scientific achievements of Father Malek and the memories of people who knew him in their lives and cooperated with him.

Father Zbigniew Wesołowski SVD, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Oriental Studies Monumenta Serica presented a lecture entitled "Polish SVD missionary and outstanding sinologist Roman Malek SVD (1951–2019): General characteristics of his activity and work and his search for the essence of Chinese religiosity". Father Piotr Adamek SVD, who currently lectures at the Catholic University of Fu Jen in Taiwan, gave a lecture entitled "Roman Malek SVD as a man of dialogue."

The next speaker, Fr. Antoni Koszorz SVD, honorary president of Sinicum, presented a lecture entitled "History of the establishment and activity of the Sinicum Association," illustrated with photos from the history of the Association.

Between the lectures, there was time to present previously recorded video memories and short conversations with each of the speakers and guests by the hosts of the webinar, Fr Jacek Gniadek SVD, the current president of Sinicum and Sr. Aleksandra Huf SpSS, the vice-president of the Association.

The following persons presented the memories: Fr. Dariusz Klejnowski-Różycki, professor at the University of Opole and member of Sinicum; Fr. Edward Michowski SVD, Fr Malek's friend from the priestly and religious formation in the SVD seminar of Pieniężno; Fr. Tomasz Szyszka SVD, lecturer at the Catholic University of Warsaw and co-organizer of the great exhibition "Chinese Faces of Jesus Christ" in Poland.



They also include Fr. Jan Hou from China, who finished his priestly formation in the missionary seminary in Pieniężno; Sr. Jana Zhang CHS, who studied sacred art in Warsaw; Sr. Katarzyna Wu CHS, whom this year will defend his doctoral dissertation in the Holy Scriptures at the Catholic University of Cracow and Sr. Huf. During the webinar, the reminiscences of Weronika and Zdzisław Kreft, Fr Malek's friends from the high school in his hometown of Bytów in Kashubia, were also read out.

During the webinar, a special edition of "China Today" was presented by Maria Sztuka, editor-in-chief. The first editor of the quarterly newsletter on Christianity in China was Fr. Malek.

Before the webinar, a Holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Fr. Malek was celebrated in the chapel of the Mission House of the Holy Spirit in Warsaw. At the end of the webinar, there was a common prayer during which Sr. Zhang sang a Hail Mary in Chinese next to a large statue of Our Lady of Sheshan.

The entire material from the webinar is available on the YouTube channel "Stowarzyszenie Sinicum" and [www.sinicum.pl](http://www.sinicum.pl)

--- Fr. Jacek Gniadek SVD,  
Sinicum Association President

### Vienna (ECP):

### SVD parish recognized for efforts in interreligious dialogue



Fr. Matthias Felber SVD, together with Ibrahim Olgun of Islamic Religious Community.

At its General Assembly on May 10, 2021, the Austrian Conference of Religious Orders awarded the "Prize of Religious Orders" to four outstanding projects. These projects showed the extraordinary commitment of religious congregations to interact with organizations of other religions and civil society. Among those awarded was the "Interreligious Dialogue Group Favoriten" in Vienna, co-sponsored by the SVD-run "Parish of the Divine Word."

The "Interreligious Dialogue Group" is active in the Favoriten district of the city of Vienna. The Favoriten district where the Parish of the Divine Word is located is characterized by cultural diversity. The Interreligious Dialogue Group works for the peaceful coexistence between religions. It includes representatives of different religious communities - Christians, Muslims, Bahá'í. From the beginning, the Parish of the Divine Word was significantly involved in the group's activities.



The "Interreligious Dialogue Group" is active in the Favoriten district.

The representatives meet regularly to get to know each other better, build trust for each other, and hold joint events. Together with the Department of the City of Vienna responsible for Integration and Diversity, they organize meetings. These meetings help people overcome their shyness and meet each other as equals - for example, at the annual peace prayer or commemorations of the "Pogrom Night," a night of Nazi violence against Jews in November 1938.

Marcus Beranek, director of the pastoral office of the Archdiocese of Vienna, lauded the SVD commitment. He considered it as an "impressive example of how a religious congregation today lives its charism with alert eyes for social challenges and brings them to fruition."

Fr. Matthias Felber, the parish priest, explained: "The fact that we have entered into this interreligious dialogue comes from the DNA of our SVD Order. Dialogue, passing over, cultivating interest, even love, for the sisters/brothers of other religions are basic elements." He pointed out that the award is "an incentive for us to constantly and with great commitment carry the concern for dialogue into our parishes, communities and the population."

Sr. Franziska Bruckner, vice-president of the Austrian Conference of Religious, presented the award. On behalf of the dialogue group, it was accepted by Fr. Matthias Felber SVD, the parish priest, together with Ibrahim Olgun of ATIB (Islamic Religious Community) and Stefan Almer of the City of Vienna's Department for Integration and Diversity.

[www.steyler.eu](http://www.steyler.eu)  
Text: Ursula Mauritz



## EUROPA Zone

## The EUROPA Zone Formation board meeting



The Formation board meeting of the EUROPA Zone took place on May 20-21 virtually. The meeting that was planned to be held in Fatima was postponed three times due to the pandemic. This time 11 formators and vocation promoters met by Zoom. The participants shared the state and situation of formation and vocation promotion in their provinces.

The meeting was enriched by the presence of Pushpa Anbu SVD (General Secretary for Studies), Peter Dikoš SVD (Procurator General), Peter Kubik SVD, (EUROPA Zonal Coordinator), Hugo J. Calis SVD, (AFRAM Area Coordinator for Formation), Carlos Ferrada SVD (General secretary for JPIC and Assistant Brothers Formation), and José Maria Cardoso (Provincial POR).

During the zoom meeting that lasted for two days, there was a time for fraternal communion and sharing. The participants also listened to talks that were carefully programmed. The gathering eventually culminated in the creation of an Action plan for the next three years.

Although the formation situation in Europe is complex, our provinces are grateful to have dedicated and committed confreres who work in the formation. I am sure that the new formation board will be a blessing for our zone.

--- Fr. Igor Kral, SVD

*EUROPA Zone Area Coordinator for Formation*

## PANAM NEWS

## Brazil-Amazon Region (BRA):

## Flooding in the Amazon Region



*In Amazonas state, 52 of the 62 towns and cities have sites underwater:*



*Fr. Adventinus Nandus SVD, Coordinator JPIC with Sister Helen SSpS, reaching out to those in need.*

Rivers in the Brazilian Amazon region have risen to near-record levels after heavy rains, flooding small towns, and threatening areas hit hard by COVID-19 with another disaster. In Amazonas state, 52 of the 62 towns and cities have sites underwater, and 25 have declared a state of emergency, including the capital, Manaus. About 410,000 people have been affected, according to the civil defense service. (Report BBC News)

The Regional Superior of BRA, Fr. Leonardus Gade, SVD, shares to Arnoldus Nota the following update.

Like the year 2009, this year, some riverside regions of the Amazon suffer once again with the flooding of the Amazon River and its tributaries. Heavy rains caused the flooding. The most affected states are Acre, Rondônia, Amazonas, and Pará in Brazil. The Federal Government of Brazil declared a state of emergency in some municipalities in the state of Amazonas.

Many affected families were made homeless, besides suffering from the lack of basic food, drinking water, hygiene kits, and medicine. The situation becomes

complex because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Brazilian government, church organizations, and other non-governmental organizations reach out to the affected areas and extend help.

Our three parishes and pastoral areas, namely Santo Antônio Parish in Alenquer, Santo Arnaldo Janssen - Arapiuns, and São Mateus Pastoral Area - Maracanã in the outlying region of Santarem, are affected by the floods.

As Missionaries of the Divine Word in Amazonia, we are attentive and supportive of this humanitarian situation. The JPIC BRA, in partnership with the JPIC Generalate, is reaching out to those affected by distributing food baskets. We are delivering 1300 food baskets to the people in need in all our parishes and pastoral areas.

We realize that the affected population also needs our spiritual and psychological support aside from the material help we are extending. We are always ready to respond in the ways we can to the worrisome situations in our region.

--- Fr. Leonardus Gade, SVD

**Chicago Province (USC):****Reflection on being a missionary amid the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Brother Bernard Spitzley SVD, USC Mission Animation Secretary, reflects on Being a Missionary amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This is his reflection.*



*Brother Bernard Spitzley SVD*

Across the Chicago Province, Coronavirus is still alive and active. Canada has travel restrictions. Parts of the United States are experiencing the fourth wave with increased variant mutations despite millions of people receiving vaccinations.

We in the Caribbean still have stringent curfews that have had minimal effect in stemming the virus. The pandemic has put a damper on our way of life, restricted social contact, overall movement, and, most definitely, how we worship as Church. COVID-19 is with us and, I believe, will be for a long, long time.

I have experienced COVID fatigue. I'm exhausted from viewing virtual church services. The Eucharist, commonly a communal, collective celebration, is boiled down to a private, personal viewing experience. God help me if I have to endure another Zoom meeting, or worse, present a Zoom meeting without receiving actual, immediate visual feedback.

We often use images such as "being present with people" or "journeying with people" when we speak about ministry. Even amid the pandemic, we as missionaries have to continue providing pastoral care for our sheep. Pope Francis' metaphor of the Church as a "field hospital" is a rich one that should speak to us in this time of Coronavirus.

More than ever amid this pandemic, there will be opportunities for God to use us to make a difference in the lives of others. Let us be open to the Spirit in new ways of serving and being present to others. We are to create something new: a new way of being Church. Let us find ways to bring the Spirit alive amid the pandemic!

--- Bro. Bernard Spitzley, SVD

**Santiago (CHI):****Presentation of the book on the spirituality of our Founder**

In a ceremony held on March 24, 2021, in the Colegio del Verbo Divino premises, the book *Estudios de las Fuentes Escritas de Arnold Janssen* (Study of the written sources of Arnold Janssen) was presented. Sister Anneliese Meis SSPS did the presentation along with SVD priests Roberto Diaz and Sebastian Go; Deacon Felipe Hermosilla SVD and Saide Cortes, a lay-

woman close to the spirituality of the Founder. Due to the health measures in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago and the country, the ceremony was only attended by the speakers. However, it was transmitted simultaneously on Facebook and Zoom.



*Presentation of the book on the spirituality of our Founder.*

In her presentation, Sister Anneliese Meiss, promoter of the research work, recalled the text's origin that arose. This came about after the interest shown by the current generation of religious men and women about the Founder's legacy. She said, "There I found a potential of an unprecedented spiritual, theological depth, a real treasure in the field that was revealed to me in-depth...."

A Study Group of written sources of Father Arnold Janssen was formed that included Sister Anneliese, the SVD Fathers Roberto, and Sebastian and SVD Deacon Felipe. Joining the team was Saide Cortes, distinguished lay professor of linguistics at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

This group undertook an investigative search that soon became a real feat, full of surprises and impediments, to go back to the theological origin of our Spirituality. The resulting work pleased the authors namely Fr. Roberto Díaz, Sister Anneliese Meis, Miss Saide Cortés, Fr. Sebastián Go and Deacon Felipe Hermosilla.

How to get the book?

Those interested in acquiring the text can write to our Facebook page or email :

[comunicaciones@verbodivino.cl](mailto:comunicaciones@verbodivino.cl)

This research work will continue with the II and III volumes. To acquire the book, a minimum contribution of 10,000 Chilean pesos, around 14 US dollars, is requested. Shipments within the national territory will be charged to the recipient.

The transmission of the presentation can be watched on:

<https://www.facebook.com/verbitasenChile/videos/272622987725996/?t=1196>

--- CHI website



**Rafael Calzada (ARS):**

## Brother Martín Baader, SVD, is training people in various trades



*Brother Martín Baader SVD with a graduate.*

Brother Martín Baader SVD started the Adolf Kolping School of Trades in 1988, an initiative aimed at providing job training to the adult population of Santísima Trinidad Parish of Rafael Calzada.

The School is currently recognized as the Alte Brown Professional Training Center No. 404. Through these more than 30 years, thousands of people have graduated with various trades recognized by the Directorate of Professional Training of the Province of Buenos Aires.

The workshops are fully equipped to teach courses in various specialties: Home Electricity, Automation, Industrial Electricity, Dressmaking, Solar Energy, Refrigeration, English, Computing, Porcelain Crafts cold, among others.

The registration requirements are accessible, and the workshops permit a large number of people to join. The great challenge is the perseverance and visibility of the various trades and specialties. The qualification they receive is translated into job offers. Training in trades contributes to providing opportunities to the population which aspires to enter the labor market based on their abilities on their account.

--- VIVAT Argentina



*Wordnet celebrated a live-streamed Memorial Mass.*

recitation of the rosary for the dead.

Besides the online participants, the Mass was attended by the Wordnet staff and six others. In his sharing, Fr. Soney said, "Every departure is painful, especially when it happens through death as we cannot meet again in person in physical form. But our faith allows us to hope for another meeting together." Everyone acknowledged their appreciation for having this excellent opportunity to remember their loved ones.

--- USW Website

**USA-Western Province (USW):**

## Remembering those who have died during the pandemic

Jennifer Rodrigues is one of the "Wordnet Champions." She initiated the idea of having a special celebration at Wordnet to remember the thousands who have died during the pandemic. A remembrance Mass would offer a needed opportunity to mourn and celebrate the passing of our loved ones.

Following up on this suggestion, on March 18, Wordnet celebrated a live-streamed Memorial Mass in our Studio to remember those who have passed away during the pandemic. A total of 220 persons were named and presented with photographs. Fr Soney Sebastian, SVD, celebrated the Mass and Fr Pavol Sochulák, SVD, and Deeban Yonas, SVD concelebrated.

It was attended by almost 400 participants worldwide in two languages—Spanish and English. They joined with us to remember and pray for their departed loved ones using the media of YouTube and Facebook. The Mass was followed by an eight-day novena with the



## Lakewood (USC):

## Helping the community to get the COVID-19 vaccine

Fr. Guilherme Andrino, our confrere from Brazil and working in the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lakewood, New Jersey, shares a milestone event. On May 1, 2021, the gymnasium of the Holy Family Chapel served as the venue for mass vaccinations. Around 170 people came to receive their first shot of Moderna Vaccine. The event was provided for by the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in partnership with the Ocean County Health Department.

Keeping in mind the situation going on with COVID-19, the parish decided to take part in helping the community to get the vaccine as soon as possible. The parish provided three days for people to register. Those who could

not come to those dates could leave their names and phone numbers after each mass on that weekend. The parish office contacted each person and made the arrangement. No one was left behind just because they could not come to register.



*The Health Department sent some of its staff to administer the vaccine.*

The Health Department sent some of their staff to administer the vaccine. In conjunction with some volunteers of our Parish, the vaccine was administered with no problem. Some walk-ins were welcomed. The vaccine was provided at no cost to those who received it.

The second shot was scheduled for the last week of May.

--- Fr. Guilherme Andrino, SVD

### OUR DEPARTED

#### SVD

Name	Province + Date-Death	Age	Vows	Year of Orders
Fr. Kanher, Surendra Kumar	ING 02.05.2021	47	24	19
Fr. Barla, Ranjeet	INE 03.05.2021	44	17	10
Fr. Suni, Simon	IDT 06.05.2021	57	34	28
Bishop Bhuriya, Basil	INC 06.05.2021	65	41	35 (6)
Fr. Kerketta, Ranjit	INE 08.05.2021	57	32	27
Fr. Balbuena, Pedro	PAR 08.05.2022	72	41	36
Fr. Sakite, Joseph Nene	PNG 10.05.2021	65	39	33
Fr. Bura Luli, Yakobus	IDT 12.05.2021	74	52	44
Fr. Topno, Joseph	INE 13.05.2021	67	42	35
Fr. Mendes dos Santos, Aroldo	BRS 18.05.2021	93	72	65
Fr. A., Antony Samy	INC 18.05.2021	54	31	26
Fr. Panackalody, Thomas,	INE 20.05.2021	81	56	49
Fr. Barla, Binit Kumar [ZIM]	INE 22.05.2021	31	7	0
Fr. Waryadi, Yosef	IDJ 27.05.2021	56	33	26
Fr. David, John	INE 28.05.2021	68	47	39
Fr. Arackal, James	INE 28.05.2021	94	68	62
Fr. Krajza, John	PAR 29.05.2021	61	39	30

#### SSpS

Sister: Rel. Name and Family Name	Prov/Reg	Date-Death	Age	Yrs. in Vows
Sr. Pauletta, Johanna Urban	GER	01.05.2021	94	69
Sr. Mathilde Steffens	USA	11.05.2021	94	69
Sr. Obdulia, María Salomé Riveros F.	PAR	11.05.2021	96	75
Sr. Tarcildis, Maria Westerhoff	GER	20.05.2021	87	63

## OBITUARIES

**Fr. A. Antony Samy (INC)**  
**18-05-2021; 67-89-90-94-95**


**A**. Antony Samy was born on May 15, 1967, at Alavanthankulam of Tirunnaveli District in Tamil Nadu. After completing his schooling at his native place, he joined the Society at St Charles' seminary at Trichy in 1982 and went through the formation program. He pronounced his final vows in 1994. On May 4, 1995, he was ordained a priest.

Fr. Antony Samy first appointment in the India Central province was to the Pipri Mission of the Indore diocese. He was the assistant parish priest, and there he developed a lasting taste for social development. Being convinced of his unique call to serve the poor, he desired to hone his knowledge in the field of development. He took for post-graduate studies in social work at the Indore School of Social Work. In 2000 he completed his MSW studies successfully and was appointed to Jhalod in Gujarat as assistant parish priest and social work project coordinator.

In 2002, he was transferred to Muvalia, also in Gujarat, to take up full-time social development work. In 2006 Fr. Antony Samy was appointed as parish priest in Jhalod, where he shouldered excellently a dual responsibility of a pastor and social worker. And in the same year, he was also appointed as the Panchmahal District Superior. During his service in Jhalod, he made successful efforts to mobilize resources both from India and abroad for the development works he had undertaken in the same area.

In 2014, he was appointed the INC social development projects coordinator and the secretary of the Land Development Committee at Palda. After three years of service at Palda, he was appointed in 2017 to St Arnold's Parish at Vijaynagar as assistant pastor and counselor in the school for two years. After that, in 2019, he returned to the Baria mission in Gujarat for one year. His services were once again sought in Palda. In 2020, he was appointed as the procurator in Catholic Ashram Palda and the manager of St Arnold's School in Palda.

Fr. Antony Samy was rendering a commendable service at Palda when he was struck with the COVID-19 virus. Initially, the investigations showed negligible damage to his lungs. However, not to take a chance, he decided to get admitted on April 17 in St Francis's Hospital, Indore. He responded well to treatment, and all those who visited him and attended to him were confident that he would come out of the illness. But the Lord had his plans for him; his health deteriorated as he was unable to reach the required oxygen saturation level and was put on a ventilator. He remained in that

condition for a few days fighting for life but finally succumbed to it at 5.50 pm on May 18.

He was laid to rest at the 'Garden of Resurrection,' the SVD cemetery at Palda following the Covid 19 norms. A concelebrated Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of Fr. Antonysamy. It was presided over by Most Rev Chacko Thottumarickal SVD, the Bishop of Indore, and assisted by the Provincial Fr. Joemon James SVD and some confreres.

Fr. A. Antony Samy SVD was a man of few words but always on the move with uncanny energy and a solid commitment to his mission, particularly to the down-trodden and the marginalized. That he spent most of his priestly and religious life tending to the needs of the poor showed his deep love for the integral development of the people he served.

**Fr. Aroldo Mendes dos Santos (BRS)**  
**18-05-2021; 28 47 49 55 56**


**A**roldo Mendes dos Santos was born on September 15, 1928, in Guarapuava, Brazil. He entered the seminary in Ponta Grossa on February 6, 1943. He began his novitiate in Santo Amaro on February 2, 1947. He professed his first vows in Holy Spirit Seminary (HSS) in Santo Amaro on March 1, 1949. He declared his final vows in HSS in Santo Amaro on March 1, 1955. He was ordained a priest on August 5, 1956, by Dom Paulo Rolim Loureiro - Auxiliary Bishop of São Paulo.

Fr. Aroldo received his first missionary assignment in Fatima - Portugal. He also worked in Guimarães and Tortozendo, when in April 1970, he was asked to return to the mission here in Brazil.

Between 1964 and 1965, he studied Vocational Psychopedagogy at the Pontifical Salesian Athenaeum in Rome. From 1971 to 1974, he attended UEPG (Ponta Grossa) and graduated in Pedagogy and Educational Guidance. Then he was transferred to Toledo-PR, where he stayed 16 years as an educator and administrator of the Divine Word Minor Seminary. The students always admired him for his presence and dynamism.

After leaving his position as an educator, he collaborated in the parishes of Naviraí-MS and São José dos Pinhais-PR as parochial vicar. In January 1995, he was named parish priest of Nossa Senhora do Rosário Parish in Ponta Grossa-PR. In January 1996 he took over, as parish priest of Nossa Senhora das Graças Parish, Mundo Novo - MS.

In 2006 he went to the Nossa Senhora Auxiliadora Parish, Amambaí-MS. He then went to the parishes of Dourados - MS (2009) and Eldorado - MS (2015). In the last three parishes, he took on the role of Parish Vicar.

Due to his age and having accomplished his mission in the parish communities, he returned to Mundo

Novo - MS. In the last years, he was in the house of a family of that city by personal option.

He was operated on for appendicitis, but the intervention took a toll on him. He died at the age of 92 on May 18, 2021. May he rest in peace.

### **Fr. Joseph Topno (INE)**

**13-05-2021; 54-78-79-85-86**



Joseph Topno was born on February 1, 1954, in Kansbahal, India. Having completed his high school at New Orissa High School (NOHS) and pre-university at Gangadhar Meher College, Sambalpur joined the Society of the Divine Word.

He entered the seminary in Gaibira on June 26, 1969. He began his novitiate in Khurda on July 1, 1978. He professed his first vows in Khurda on June 8, 1979. He declared his perpetual vows in Poona on June 12, 1985. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Alphonse Bilung, SVD, in his home parish Kanshabal on April 5, 1986. His first mission assignment was India-Eastern province.

He has been entrusted with many essential assignments and many distinguished mission posts in his priestly career. In his thirty-five years of priestly-missionary life, he has been put in four various apostolates: Pastoral, Formation, Educational, and Administration.

From 1986-1987, he was Asst. Parish Priest, Birmitrapur, from 1987-1989, Head Master, St. Arnold School, Turbunga, from 1990-1991 Prefect, Jyoti Bhavan, Sambalpur, from 1991-1995 Hostel Superintendent, Gaibira High School and 1995-2002, he was the Secretary, NOHS High School, and College, Gaibira. In 2001, he took the Tertiate in Nemi, Italy. From 2002-2005, Rector, Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda, from 2003-2006 Vice Provincial, from 2005-2006 Parish Priest, Jharsuguda, and 2006-2011, Provincial Superior.

After his term as Provincial, he was in the parish mission, one that he longed for, and now is putting his dreams to practice. From 2011-2013, he was the Parish Priest in Bondamunda, from 2013-2015 Praeses of SVD House and Secretary of NOHS, Gaibira. He was the parish priest in Gaibira at the time of his passing.

As a person, he is trustworthy and lovable. He has been a trusted friend to many. He is creative and courageous. Most of his perceptions are simple, straightforward, and profound, something that perhaps only he has. He is a patient listener. He is a spiritual man. He prays a lot and has a firm spiritual conviction. Fr. Joseph Topno is an outstanding missionary who, despite undergoing angioplasty twice and high blood sugar levels, actively involved himself in the pastoral ministry.

His zeal and enthusiasm for the mission won many souls to Christ. While on assignment, he contracted COVID and was admitted to CWS Hospital, Rourkela. He was there from April 25 to May 8, 2021. Then due

to the advancement of the disease, he was shifted to Jai Prakash Hospital, Panposh, Rourkela. In the process of receiving treatment for COVID, he had a cardiac arrest and died on May 13, 2021, at 7:35 a.m. in the same hospital.

His mortal body was laid to rest at Kesramal, Rourkela Diocesan Cemetery, by Fr. Petrus Kullu, SVD, Provincial Superior, and in the presence of our confreres from Shanti Bhavan, Gaibira,

Upaya, Lungai, Jhartarang, along with a few of his family members, following the COVID Protocol.

### **Fr. Ranjit Kerketta (INE)**

**08-05-2021; 64-88-89-93-94**



Ranjit Kerketta was born on August 16, 1964, in Andla, India. He entered the St. Thomas seminary in Mhow on June 29, 1983. He started his novitiate in Khurda on June 15, 1988. He professed his first vows in Khurda on June 10, 1989.

He pronounced his perpetual vows in Pune on January 15, 1993. He was ordained a priest by Rev. Victor Kindo, the then bishop of Raigarh, on May 20, 1994, in Ambakona Parish.

His first mission assignment was India-Eastern province. He served the province as assistant priest and as parish priest at various mission stations. Fr. Ranjit's Services in the Province: 1993-1994 Deacon, Pallahara; 1994-1996 Asst. Priest, Pallahara, 1996-1998 Asst. Priest, Duburi; 1998-2007 In-Charge of Gopinathpur Parish; 2007-2013 Priest-In-charge, Santragachi; 2013-2015 Parish Priest, Bondamunda; 2015-2018 Parish Priest, Jharsuguda and 2018-2021 Parish Priest of St. Roque parish in Bagdehi, his last assignment.

Fr. Marianus Ekka SVD, in charge of Kusumbera Mission, shares, "Ranjit was the wonderful classmate of our batch. We are classmates from the time we joined St. Thomas Seminary, Mhow. He was a very hardworking, loving, caring, and community-oriented person, ever ready to help anyone in need. Lately, he had expressed his wish to come to Kusumbera to learn more about the BCC prayer meeting.

Fr. Ranjit developed mild COVID-19 symptoms and took medication by himself for few days. When the Provincial Superior came to know about it, he got Ranjit admitted at St. Mary's Hospital, Jharsuguda, on May 6, 2021, in the morning. Since the complications grew, the doctor referred him to Vikash Hospital, Bargarh.

The confreres who accompanied him tried their level best to get an ICU bed. However, all efforts failed due to the unavailability of an ICU bed in the hospital. After having waited for three hours, they took him to the close by Mission Hospital, Bargarh. He was there for a day and showed signs of improvement. On May 8, 2021, he developed other internal complications due to his high blood sugar levels and breathed his last at 7:30 am.



Adhering strictly to COVID-19 protocol, his burial service was at Shanti Bhavan, Jharsuguda, in the presence of a few confreres of the community at 4:00 pm on May 8, 2021.

**Fr. Joseph Timmermann (GER)**  
**07-05-2021; 32-53-55-59-59**



Joseph Timmermann was born on June 2, 1932, in Hauset, Belgium. He says of himself that he was a challenging child, strong-willed and finding subordination difficult. In World War II, he suffered under the German occupation of Belgium. After secondary education at the SVD Mission College (grammar school) in Overijse, he entered the novitiate in St. Augustin, Germany, in 1953. He professed his first vows on May 1, 1955, and then studied philosophy and theology in St. Augustin. On May 1, 1959, he made his perpetual vows and was ordained a priest on December 8, 1959.

As a Belgian, he volunteered for and was appointed to the mission in the then Belgian Congo. He became involved mainly in the school but also parish pastoral work. As a teacher, he was able to take home leave every two years, paid for by the state. Medical examinations on these occasions revealed that his health was not good. In 1968, doctors advised him to stay in Europe. So he took over the job of an educator in a youth home in Spa, Belgium.

In 1971 he was transferred to the Northern German Province. He became an assistant in a parish in the city of Aachen. In 1979 he was entrusted with pastoral care in the Aachen city prison, which he carried out till 2003. In addition, he helped in a parish. In 2003 he became a chaplain in a sanatorium in Aachen.

In the pastoral care in prison, he found a great and fulfilling task. Often he had to deal with immigrants. His language skills and experience in the Congo proved helpful. Time and again, he was able to mediate. Fr. Timmermann was very committed and courageous when it came to an understanding and defending the rights of Africans. He earned great appreciation and friendship for his work. In 1982 he received an award from the regional government of North-Rhine-Westphalia for his social commitment to drug-addicted youths and persons in the red-light milieu. His concern was to bring the message of the Gospel to people in an understandable way.

In 2013, his strength began to wane, and he had reached 80. He moved to the retirement facility of the province, the Wendelinus Home in St. Wendel, where he received the care he needed. He constantly maintained his numerous contacts with people whose life he had influenced. Although suffering from progressive visual impairment, he regularly went to the Lourdes Grotto, rain or shine. There he met people who came

to pray and friends and took time for them.

In the early morning of May 7, 2021, he passed away in the Wendelinus Home at 88. Until his old age Fr. Joseph Timmermann remained true to himself, always a seeker. On May 15, due to the prevailing Coronavirus conditions, the SVD house community of St. Wendel celebrated the Resurrection Eucharist for him. By the deceased's wishes, the burial took place in his hometown Hauset in Belgium, on May 22.

**Fr. Ranjeet Barla (INE)**  
**03-05-2021; 77-03-04-10-11**



Ranjeet Barla was born on September 3, 1977, in Sahebdera, India. He entered the seminary in Lungai on June 18, 1998. He began his novitiate in Khurda on June 16, 2003. He did his Philosophical Studies at SVD Vidya Bhavan, Bhopal. His Exposure Immersion Program (EIP/Regency) was in ING Region at Nari Camp, Arunachal Pradesh, during 2006-2007. He professed his first vows in Khurda on June 10, 2004. He pronounced his perpetual vows on January 2, 2010, in Pune. He was ordained a priest in Sikajore on January 27, 2011.

Fr. Ranjeet Barla, SVD, after his ordination, served as assistant parish priest at Dubri from 2011-2014. He was then appointed as the assistant parish priest and hostel in charge at Masih Mandir, Pallahara, for 2014-2017.

On April 5, 2017, he had a severe road accident near Khamar and was admitted to AMRI Hospital, Bhubaneswar. His right hand, right thigh, and right hip bone were fractured. He suffered a deep cut on his right eyebrow. He had scratches and bruises all over his body. After being in the ICU till April 15, he was shifted to a room. All his surgeries were successful due to the able and renowned work of the doctors and through the prayers of many.

Due to the accident, his appointment to Saunamara Parish was withheld. He was transferred from Pallahara to Shanti Bhavan for his medical care, assistance, and recovery. In 2019, he was appointed the assistant director of St. Arnold Vikas Sanchar, Jharsuguda, the Regional Communication Center for Odisha.

Recently he had undergone another surgery at AMRI Hospital to remove the steel bars used to rebuild the fractures he suffered from the accident. Later, he continued his activities at Vikas Sanchar. On April 26, 2021, since he was not keeping well, he was taken to the Community Welfare Society Hospital, Jagda, and was admitted there. He was asked to undergo a COVID-19 test and was tested negative. But he developed respiratory distress and breathed his last by noon on May 3, 2021.

The funeral took place immediately under strict COVID-19 Protocol in the presence of a few of his

family members and confreres from Shanti Bhavan. May he Rest in Peace!

**Fr. Surendra Kumar Kahner (ING)**  
**02-05-2021; 74-96-97-01-02**



**S**urendra Kumar Kanher was born on March 2, 1974, in Balangir, India. He began his novitiate on June 15, 1996, in Khurda. He professed his first vows in Khurda on June 10, 1997. He pronounced his perpetual vows in Pune on January 2, 2001. He was ordained a priest in his home parish Bhadra on February 9, 2002, by Most Rev. Lucas Kerketta SVD, Bishop of Sambalpur.

His first assignment was India-Eastern province. He was assigned to the Tripura missions in 2002 and was appointed assistant parish priest at St. Arnold's Church, Gandacherra. In 2005 he was at Holy Spirit Church, Ambassa, as an assistant Parish Priest. In 2006 he did his B.Ed. Studies from St. Mary's College, Shillong, where he secured the second rank in the College. In 2007 he was an assistant priest in Changsary under Guwahati Archdiocese. After a year, he was appointed as parish priest and principal till 2011. In 2010 he was also appointed as district superior of Brahmaputra district under SVD Guwahati Region (ING).

In 2011 he was appointed as an assistant parish priest of Baganpara in the diocese of Bongaigaon, where he became the parish priest in the year 2012. In 2014 he was the vice district superior of the Brahmaputra district for the triennium, 2014-2017. In the year 2015, he participated in the Nemi Renewal course.

In 2016 he was an assistant priest at Holy Trinity Church, Banderdewa, in Itanagar diocese, Arunachal Pradesh. In 2019, he was assistant parish priest, vice-principal, and assistant hostel in Charge at Divine Word Mission at Model Village, Seppa, Arunachal Pradesh. Since 2020 he was the assistant parish priest, principal, and assistant hostel in charge at Visitation parish, Lumshnong, Meghalaya.

Fr. Surendra was good at English. Being the communication coordinator of ING, he has edited the Regional Newsletter (ING News) for two years. He was also an outstanding composer of Hindi devotional hymns. He has also helped revise some of the recent volumes published by SVD Anthropological Institute – Sanskriti, including some manuscripts for the book by Mission Education and Research.

Fr. Surendra was a dedicated and committed missionary. He has taken great interest in the education ministry, which was shown in the creativity of his work and systematically organizing the official matters in the office.

On May 1, he complained of diarrhea and feeling fatigued. Immediately he was rushed to the Civil Hospital at Khliehriat for treatment. On arrival, he was asked to

undergo the mandatory COVID-19 test. He was tested positive and was admitted to the isolation ward. By evening his oxygen level was slowly dropping. Therefore he was referred to Nazareth hospital in Shillong. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Later at 12.30 am, he was declared dead by the hospital authorities.

His last moments were of silence and serenity. Due to the prevailing situation and lockdown restrictions in Meghalaya, the confreres in the Region and the family members couldn't participate in the last rites, yet offered requiem mass and prayed for the departed soul of Fr. Surendra in their respective places. May his soul rest in peace!

**Fr. Reinaldo Cardozo (BRS)**  
**30-04-2021; 65-99-00-05-06**



**R**einaldo Cardozo was born on January 14, 1965, in Guarapuava, Brazil. He entered the seminary in 1989. He started his novitiate in Juquia on January 22, 1999. He pronounced his first vows in Juquia on January 9, 2000. In 2000 and 2001, he began his theology course at ITESP (Theological Institute of São Paulo), interrupting them in 2002 and 2003 for his OTP experience in the Province of Mexico.

He professed his perpetual vows in Sao Paulo on April 2, 2005. His priestly ordination took place in Guarapuava, at Santa Terezinha Parish, on May 14, 2006, by the imposition of hands of Bishop Getúlio Teixeira Guimarães, SVD.

His first missionary destination was the Province of Brazil South (BRS). In the Province, he exercised his priestly ministry as parochial vicar at the Parish of Nossa Senhora Auxiliadora - Amambá - MS, from August 2006 to December 2008. From 2009 to 2011 he was parochial vicar at the Nossa Senhora do Perpétuo Socorro Parish - Itaquiraí - MS.

As a parish priest, he exercised his ministry in two parishes: from 2012 to 2013 in Our Lady of Aparecida Parish - Dourados - MS. From 2014 to 2020 in Our Lady of Aparecida Parish, in Campina do Simão - PR.

In February 2021, he took over as parochial vicar at Santa Terezinha Parish in Guarapuava. He held this position for only two months until he contracted COVID-19, an illness that caused his death on April 30, 2021.

Father Reinaldo always left a beautiful example of faith, simplicity, and contagious joy everywhere he went. We pray that God will welcome him to the eternal dwelling prepared for all those who served Him on earth in his infinite goodness.

**Fr. Josef Groß (BRA)****30-04-2021; 31 54 56 60 61**

Josef Groß was born on November 19, 1931, in Langenwiese, in Poland. On April 6, 1948, at the age of seventeen, he entered the SVD late vocation seminary of St. Josef, Geilenkirchen, to become a missionary. After completing his secondary studies, he joined the novitiate in Sankt Augustin on May 1, 1954. Two years later, he pronounced his first vows on May 1, 1956. After completing philosophy, he volunteered for Brazil. He studied theology at the Santo Amaro Seminary in São Paulo. There, he professed his perpetual vows on March 1, 1960. He was ordained a priest on August 15, 1961.

His missionary destination was Brazil. And that was where he was to spend all of his life as a missionary. From the beginning, he had settled well with his very positive approach to people. After his introduction to practical pastoral work, schools and seminaries became his field of work in the first part of his active life. He was a prefect in Toledo (1963-1972) while also serving as an assistant in the parish. Subsequently, he was prefect and teacher in Penha-Corbélia, then in Ponta Grossa. He loved the natural sciences and specialized in botany and medicinal herbs. An avid botanist, he taught, researched, and established biological collections with his students.

In the early 1980s, when his province was looking for confreres for the Amazon region, Fr. Groß was among the first four volunteers for this frontier work. The four began in the young diocese of Obidós. After being a pastor in two parishes for ten years, he retired to the SVD Amazon regional house in Santarém. But actually, he became a river-missionary visiting the jungle villages with his boat. He was always on the move. With his calm character, he enjoyed the fellowship of his confreres. They appreciated him!

Being an expert in herbal plants, he found some natural remedies and tried them. Fr. Groß would have been 90 years old in November of 2021. But God took him home to his eternal peace on April 30, 2021. He died in Santarém, Amazonas, Brazil. He had spent the last week of his earthly life in the Hospital, São Camilo. The funeral was held on May 1 in the circle of his confreres.

His long, zealous life as a missionary priest has ended. He was a servant of God and a servant of the people. The SVD confreres in Brazil and Germany thank God for giving Fr. Joseph Groß to the Congregation.

**Fr. Yosef Bukubala Kewuta (IDJ)****27-04-2021; 57-78-80-85-86**

Yosef Bukubala Kewuta was born on December 12, 1957, in Lewouran, Indonesia. After graduating from Junior High School, he continued his senior secondary school at the Hokeng Seminary from 1974-1977. He began his novitiate in Ledalero on January 6, 1978. He professed his first vows on January 8, 1980. His perpetual vows were held in Ledalero on August 1, 1985. He was ordained a priest at the Hokeng Minor Seminary by Most Rev. Bishop Cherubim Parera, SVD, on September 19, 1986.

He received his first assignment in the SVD of Java Province. He spent his pastoral activities in several dioceses, namely Banjarmasin, Medan, Surabaya, among others. He worked at the Diocese of Surabaya for the longest time because of health issues.

He was an assistant parish priest in Palangka Raya parish of Banjarmasin Diocese from 1986-1993. He joined as a pioneer missionary on the banks of the Kahayan and Katingan rivers, Central Kalimantan. During seven years in the interior of East Kalimantan, he had never returned home for a holiday break.

Fr. Yosef was also assigned as parish priest in Mojokerto, Surabaya Diocese. He prepared the transfer of the parish from the SVD to the diocese. Later, in Martubung Parish, Medan Archdiocese, he served as an assistant parish priest for five years, from 1996-2001. After that, he took another appointment as an assistant parish priest at Dolok Sanggul Parish, Medan Archdiocese, from 2001-2005.

After serving in the Medan Archdiocese, he became the assistant parish priest at the Holy Spirit Rungkut Quasi Parish. Then he moved to a neighboring parish, the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Surabaya, on June 3, 2007. Fr. Yosef had a chance to take a tertiary year. He also used this unique opportunity to visit his younger brother, Fr. Markus Solo Kewuta, SVD, who serves at the Vatican, Rome.

On his return, he was appointed assistant parish priest at the St. Paul Parish, Juanda, Diocese of Surabaya. When the diocese took over the parish, he moved again to Good Shepherd Parish on January 14, 2015. On May 4, 2019, he was appointed to the Holy Cross Parish, Tropodo, Diocese of Surabaya.

Fr. Yosef celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood on September 19, 2011. On April 27, 2021, he was unconscious in his room found by a fellow priest and a rectory employee. The cardiologist who had examined pronounced him dead of a heart attack. He had a long history of heart issues. May he rest in peace.



**Bro. Pius Kerketta (INC)****22-04-2021; 32-59-61-82-\*\***

Pius Kerketta was born on October 18, 1932 in Karchuan, India. He entered the seminary in Palda on June 26, 1958. He began his novitiate as a Bother candidate on September 8, 1959, in Palda. He pronounced his first vows in Palda on September 8, 1961. Before professing perpetual vows, he left the seminary. During his years away from the Congregation, he worked at Sanawad in the Khandwa diocese, helping out in the parish farm by taking care of its farm.

In 1980, he expressed his desire to rejoin Society. The Society permitted him. After going through all the required formalities, he pronounced his final vows on September 8, 1982, at Catholic Ashram Palda. He was appointed to the farm in Sendhwa, of Khandwa diocese. For the next two years, Bro. Pius was taking care of the farm on the Seva Sadan campus in Indore. Later, he was assigned to Satprachar Press, a job that was new to him. But he accepted the assignment and did his best there.

However, since his heart was always in farming, he continued to work for nearly 20 years on the farms of Catholic Ashram, Palda, and St. Thomas Seminary, Mhow, respectively. During his stay at St. Thomas Seminary, he also served for two years as spiritual director to the seminarians. He continued to live at the seminary until he retired in 2019.

Bro Pius was indeed a true example of a religious missionary who believed and lived the age-old maxim – Ora et labora. He was profoundly spiritual-minded, and he radiated that spiritual joy wherever he lived and worked. His first love was farming, which was well reflected in the dedicated work on the farms for over thirty long years.

Bro Pius Kerketta, SVD, a gentle and kind confrere, breathed his last in the wee hours of April 22, 2021. He was 89 years of age. The immediate reason for his death was that he suffered from a severe cardiac arrest. When he passed away, he was already leading a retired life at St Joseph's home in Indore.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at the Seva Sadan Chapel, presided over by Most Rev Chacko Thottumarickal, SVD, Bishop of Indore with Fr Joemon James, the Provincial Superior INC, and confreres concelebrating. Since it was the pandemic time, many who knew Brother Pius could not participate in his last journey with all its restrictions. His mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Palda, Indore. May his soul rest in Peace!

**Fr. Rayappan Chinnappan****17-04-2021; 58-81-82-87-88**

Rayappan Chinappan was born on October 9, 1958, in Vettavallam, India. He entered the seminary in Palda on July 4, 1977. He started his novitiate in Khurda on June 16, 1981. He professed his first vows in Khurda on June 9, 1982.

He professed perpetually in Pune on June 12, 1987. He was ordained a priest in his hometown, Vettavallam, on May 29, 1988. His first mission assignment was the India-Central Province (INC). On his ordination, he was appointed to Catholic Church, Chanera, Khandwa Diocese and later at Ishgarh in Jhabua District 1988-89.

During his formation, he completed B.Sc from Gujarati Science College, Indore and Msc in Chemistry from Gujarat. He became further qualified by completing his Bachelor of Education from Palayamkottai, Tamilnadu in 1989-90. In 1990 to 95, he served as a Science teacher at St. Stephen's School, Dohad, Gujarat. In 1995 to 2004, he served the same institution as its principal. During this period, he did the renewal course in Nemi. And then, in 2008 onwards, he also served as the superior of Dohad community and from 2011 District Superior of Panchmahals District.

In 2004 he was transferred for a year as principal of St. Arnold's Higher Secondary School, Vijayanagar, Indore. He also served as assistant parish priest during his tenure here. He went back to Dohad as the principal of St. Stephen's School in 2005. He served St. Stephen's as its principal until he retired in 2016. Then, he was transferred to Meghnagar, Jhabua as the manager teacher of St. Arnold English Medium School in 2017. In June 2020, he was also appointed the superior of Khrist Jyoti Kendra, Meghnagar.

Presently, he is also the District Superior of Jhabua District. For the last several years Fr. Rayappan suffered from heart problems and high blood sugar. He regularly visited the doctors in Indore for check ups to maintain his health. Though he had multiple complications still, there was some hope that he would overcome the attack of coronavirus.

Fr. Rayappan Chinnappan passed away in St. Francis Hospital, Indore on the morning hours of April 17 at 6:28 a.m. of massive heart attack. Fr. Rayappan was suffering from heart related problem and high blood sugar for several years. Lately, he became a victim to Coronavirus. Initially, he showed considerable improvement, however, suddenly, his health deteriorated due to breathing difficulties.

Some relations of Fr. Rayappan turned up to pay their last respects. His last rites were celebrated at Catholic Ashram Palda presided over by Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal SVD and Fr. Joemon, INC Provincial on April 17. The last rites was conducted in the garden of Resurrection. The INC province has lost a great educationist, administrator and pastor! May he rest in peace!

**Bro. Chi-Hsiung Raphael Fan-Chiang (SIN)**  
**12-04-2021; 42-75-76-82-\*\***



**C**hi-Hsiung Raphael Fan-Chiang was born on October 2, 1942, in Hsinwu Township of Taoyuan County, Taiwan. Though coming from non-Catholic family background, he had some contact in his childhood with the Catholic

Church through the neighboring Catholic parish of his hometown. He was baptized on May 20, 1961, at the parish of his hometown at age 19.

He did not continue his studies after he graduated from junior high school. He joined the compulsory military service of the Air Force at the age of 21 in 1963. After completing the mandatory three-year service, he then opted for volunteer military service for another two years. He retired from the military service as a sergeant at the age of 26 in 1968. He worked in some of the factories in the Xindian District of New Taipei City for some years.

In September 1974, he began his formal association with the SVD. On June 29, 1975, he started his novitiate in Chiayi City and professed first vows in Chiayi City on September 8, 1976. For some time, he did some clerical work in the office of the Taiwan Bishops' Conference. He professed final vows at the Campus Chapel of Fu Jen Catholic University on September 8, 1982. From October 1, 1983, to March 30, 1984, he helped with maintenance, plumbing, and electricity at Fu Jen Catholic University. He was assigned to take care of the St. Freinademetz Service Center in the Alisshan National Scenic Area of Chiayi County from 1987 to 2007.

In December 2007, Bro. Fan-Chiang applied for and was granted a one-year sabbatical in Mainland China. In December 2008, after finishing his one-year sab-

batical, he then used to continue his pastoral care and apostolate in Mainland China. While he was in contact with SVD in China, he lived and worked alone for most of the time. His being a layperson, without clerical status, and his being of Chinese ethnicity gave him some advantages and convenience to move freely around Mainland China, including Gansu, Qinghai, Shandong (including Qingdao), Henan, Beijing, etc.

Bro. Fan-Chiang was able to locate the home town of Fr. Wei-Huo Joseph Liu in Shandong, who left his hometown as a teenager, joined the SVD, fled to the Philippines, and finally came to work in Taiwan. Fr. Joseph visited his hometown after a separation of more than 70 years.

During his time in China, Bro. Fan-Chiang hoped to contribute to healing the rift between the above-ground and below-ground Church. He was also interested in the Catholic Church history in China, and especially the work of the SVD. He wrote several reports based on his travels and interviews, which he handed over to the provincial superior. Due to his age and being alone by himself most of the time, he was called back from Mainland China to Taiwan to fully retire at our mission house in Chiayi City in 2019.

Bro. Fan-Chiang was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with a tumor on his pancreas on February 1, 2021. With his consent, the complicated surgery took place on February 8, 2021. His situation was not very stable. Having received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick several times during his illness, Bro. Fan-Chiang breathed his last on the afternoon of April 12, 2021. May the Risen Lord reward him with eternal rest in peace.



**APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS****Appointments**

26.04.2021	Fr. Yonas, Deebbar	USW sup/dist District of San Bernardino(SB) East	tri
26.04.2021	Fr. Nguyen, Vinh Daniel	USW vic/sup/dist District of SB East	tri
26.04.2021	Fr. Thomas, Biju Mandapathil	USW cons/dist District of SB East	tri
26.04.2021	Fr. Flores, Roberto Cristobal	USW sup/dist District of SB West	tri
26.04.2021	Fr. Sathiyathan, Predheep	USW vic/sup/dist District of SB West	tri
26.04.2021	Fr. Pham, Hien Van Peter	USW cons/dist District of SB West	tri
03.05.2021	Bro. Hirsch, Victor	ARS oecon/prov	aft
03.05.2021	Fr. Likulano, Lawrence Mbapolo	ZAM sup/dist North District	tri
03.05.2021	Fr. Gatefe, Godwin Valentine K.	ZAM vic/sup/dist North District	tri
03.05.2021	Fr. Mauk, Timoteus Titus	ZAM adm/dist North District	tri
03.05.2021	Fr. Natun, Wendefredus	ZAM sup/dist South District	tri
03.05.2021	Fr. Afanyedey, Theodore Atsu	ZAM vic/sup/dist South District	tri
03.05.2021	Fr. Amaunut, Klemens	ZAM adm/dist South District	tri
07.05.2021	Fr. Angmor, George Clement	ZAM mag/nov	2 canonical years
18.05.2021	Fr. Alphonse, Jesu Raj	ARS cons/prov	aft

**Transfers**

21.04.2021	Fr. Angmor, George Clement	GHA/ZAM for formation
05.05.2021	Fr. Jessing, Ludger Josef	GER/US\$
18.05.2021	Fr. Nguyen, Leo Bao Louis	ROM/VIE effective July 1, 2021
19.05.2021	Fr. Olea, Maria Roberto	USW/ARS for retirement
25.05.2021	Fr. Huller Luli Yan, Laurensius	MOZ/USC

