



IMITATING ST. JOSEPH'S VIRTUES AND ZEAL

WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

1. St. Joseph has a special place in the SVD devotional tradition. Already in the 1876 Rule, St. Joseph is mentioned as the first of our secondary patrons and referred to as «the foster father of Jesus and his servant, protector of the Church and national patron of China.»

In his memoirs, Fr. John Peil, who entered Steyl in 1880, wrote: «Father Janssen's trust in God and St. Joseph was great, something that he zealously endeavored to instill into his people. This was occasionally imitated somewhat exaggeratedly by students who had little success in certain school subjects, for example, mathematics and history. When examination time came, the worried students could be seen flocking to the picture of St. Joseph, innocently carrying under their arms the book that caused them so much distress, but no one was deceived as to why they went to St. Joseph and why they carried the book.» Fr. Peil also recalls that later the picture of St. Joseph was hung in the large refectory of the students to remind him of his duties as breadwinner.

In 1870, five years before the foundation of the SVD, Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph «Patron of the Catholic Church.» Probably, this event strengthened Arnold Janssen's devotion to St. Joseph. Several people who knew him remember that he had an intense personal devotion to St. Joseph and had recourse to him in all his needs. Arnold considered St. Joseph to be a helper of the afflicted specially and, often, recommended him to his missionaries as a protector. In a letter to a benefactor, he wrote: «With special thanks to our loving advocate and future provider, the holy patriarch Joseph.» So great was Janssen's trust in St.

Joseph's protection that he decided to start the construction of the house in St. Gabriel on his feast day.

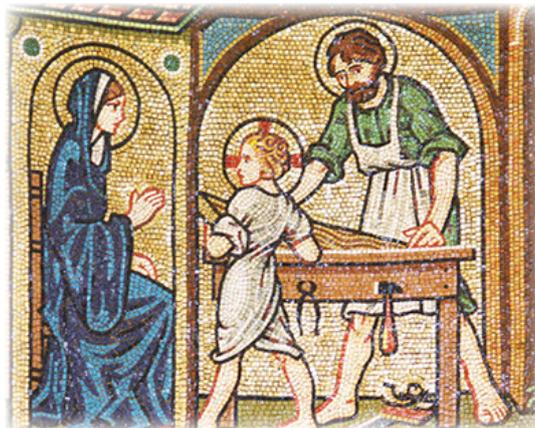
2. To celebrate the one hundred and fifty years of St. Joseph's proclamation as Patron of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis wrote an apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, «to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.» From this apostolic letter we would like to highlight some points and raise some questions that are relevant to our life and mission.

A tender and loving father

Pope Francis writes that «as the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: Joseph taught Jesus to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him.»

A French illumination from the 15th century unusually depicts the Nativity scene. Mary rests on the bed, reading a book. Joseph is sitting on the floor holding the infant Jesus in his arms, rocking him. We may never know what message the author of that drawing wanted to convey. Yet, we can see the husband, who does not neglect his family responsibilities and shares household chores. In this tender and loving father who cares for his newborn child, we can sense the maternal side of God.

Our last General Chapter says that when we are united with Christ, his love transforms us and leads us to commit ourselves to the loving service of others in mission (cf. §10). How do we translate this statement into our daily lives? Do we live as persons whom God loves? Are we instruments of God's love and mercy in our pastoral activities?



An accepting father

«Joseph set aside his ideas to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history,» writes Pope Francis.

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally and believed the unbelievable news that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit's power because he loved her. In a Christmas story, the Italian writer, Erri de Luca, puts the following words in the mouth of Mary: «No, my dear Joseph, you are not guilty, you did not run away, and now you are here. The angel guided you one night, but then the day came, and he wasn't there when you went against the whole community of Nazareth, against your family, against the law that condemned me. You are the most righteous of men on earth.»

Our last Chapter invites us to follow the example of Christ who emptied himself, even unto death on the cross, and to deny ourselves to carry out our mission of proclaiming the good news and witnessing to our faith (cf. §10). Following the example of St. Joseph, are we open to accept what we do not understand, trusting in God's grace? Are we willing to take risks even though we do not control the events?

A working father

Pope Francis writes that from Joseph, «Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor.» St. Joseph is the patron saint of carpenters and builders, and the liturgy celebrates him as St. Joseph, the Worker. In the SVD, he has been a patron and an inspiration for the Brothers. They have dedicated their lives tirelessly to a wide range of jobs that improve people's lives.

Jesus, following the steps of St. Joseph, was a carpenter for most of his adult life. Unfortunately, in some circles, clerics tend to avoid or downplay the importance and dignity of work, mostly manual labor. As Pope Francis writes, «Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work.» How do we value manual labor? Are we open to participate willingly in the daily chores of our communities? Are we aware of the problems faced by the workers in our parishes and countries? Do we show solidarity with those who are unemployed and the workers who are exploited?

A father in the shadows

Pope Francis argues that a father realizes that he is most a father and educator «when he becomes "useless" when he sees that his child has become inde-

pendent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care».

In St. Joseph, we find a model for leaders and formators. One of the goals of our formation programs is to help the formandi to grow in human, psychological and spiritual dimensions that they will become mature, committed, and responsible missionaries. For its part, leadership, as a commitment to service, is also expressed in involving others, with their gifts and skills, in the processes of discernment and decision-making.

We might ask how we exercise our leadership and how we exercise our role as formators. Do we control everybody as if they were little children, or do we promote ways and processes to help them to grow and become full partners in our common mission?

3. Pope Francis wishes that this Year of St. Joseph will help each of us to «discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and gratitude is due to them all.»

The scriptures do not record any words that Joseph, the carpenter, has spoken. He passes through the scriptures wrapped in silence. However, he was a man with an extraordinary mission: caring for the Son of God.

In this pandemic, some people seem invisible, whom nobody notices or recognizes. But they are doing a great job. Among others we can mention the nurses, doctors and other front-liners that take care of the sick; those who do the daily routine of cleaning the streets and the houses; those who keep running the public transport system; those who work in supermarkets and pharmacies, etc.

In this pandemic, we could ask who the invisible ones in our parishes and communities are. And, inspired by St. Joseph, open our eyes and hearts to acknowledge, recognize, and value the beautiful but sometimes unnoticed work done by them.

Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and the Leadership Team

**In St. Joseph,
we find a model for
leaders and formators.**

GENERALATE NEWS

Dialogue and sharing with the departments/offices of the General Administration

The General Council already started the dialogue and sharing with the personnel/confreres working in different offices/departments in the Generalate in the 2018-2024 sexennium. The meeting's objectives are: (1) To share the joys, challenges, and difficulties experienced at work during the past two years and a half; (2) To share the expectations for the coming years and suggestions for the betterment of the work and service.

The different groups that will be meeting with the General Council are the Finance Department, Office of the Procurator General, Communication Department, Computer Department, Secretariat Team, Generalate Archives, Characteristic Dimensions, and Spiritual Animation.

The current General Council did a similar dialogue in 2018. To date, four departments have already met the Superior General and his Council. The dialogue and conversation were fruitful and engaging.

SVD Generalate Media Department

After a series of meetings and discussions, the General Council created the SVD Generalate Media Department (GMD) to promote institutional communication providing effective communication mechanisms in the Generalate. In fostering excellent and internal communication, the GMD encourages teamwork among the different offices. It comprises the Office of the Generalate Coordinator for Communications, Editor of *Arnoldus Nota*, Webmaster, and Generalate Publications.

Fr. Modeste Munimi, SVD, the Generalate Coordinator for communications, has been appointed by Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and his council Director of the SVD Generalate Media Department effective January 2021 ad finem sexennium (2018-2024).

The GMD's duties and responsibilities are stipulated in the document "Structure of the SVD Generalate Media Department". We welcome Fr. Munimi, who recently joined *Collegio del Verbo Divino's* community, to hold office in the Generalate as Director of GMD.

The members of the GMD, namely Fr. Munimi, Fr. Crescente Antonio de Rivera (Editor *Arnoldus Nota*), Fr. Piotr Gracz (Webmaster), and Bro. Sandy Ashadi (Publications) already started meeting as a group.

Board of Director of VIVAT International

Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSpS, President of VIVAT International, appointed Bro. Carlos Ferrada Montero, the Board of Director of VIVAT International. He now carries the authorization to discharge

the duties and responsibilities of the office. Bro. Carlos is also the Generalate Coordinator for JPIC of the Society of the Divine Word. Following the rotation practice in the VIVAT International Presidency, the SVD Superior General, Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, has assumed the Presidency of VIVAT for the 2021-2024 triennium.

Cancellation of the Workshop for the new SVD PRM Superiors

The General Council discussed the workshop for the new Superiors of the PRMs in the Society of the Divine Word. Last year, the COVID-19 situation forced us to postpone the workshop to this year 2021. Unfortunately, the pandemic situation does not allow us to have the security to conduct the onsite workshop. Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and his Council decided to cancel the Nemi workshop, which was scheduled from June 18 to July 3, 2021, at the Ad Gentes Center-Nemi.

Therefore, after consulting the Zonal Coordinators, with the Council's consent, Fr. Superior General decided to conduct a new round of online sessions by Zones following those organized earlier.

The dates proposed are as follows:

1. ASPAC 21-22 June 2021
2. AFRAM 24-25 June 2021
3. EUROPE 28-29 June 2021
4. PANAM 1-2 July 2021

General Visitations for the years 2021-2023

The General Visitations of the PRMs for the 2018-2024 sexennium had to be abruptly discontinued due to the constraints of COVID-19. The Visitations of ASPAC, EUROPA, and PANAM Zones are yet to be completed. Given the shortage of time and the pandemic's persistence, it would not be easy to complete the Visitation as we carried it out traditionally unless its method and schedule are redesigned.

Therefore, the General Council is in the process of consulting the PRMs in the Zones to revise the program of the General Visitations for the years 2021-2023. We hope that the situation will improve and that the General Visitations can resume by the second half of 2021.

The impact of COVID-19 on the Society

To date, more than 300 confreres worldwide were infected with the coronavirus. Fortunately, most of our confreres infected were either asymptomatic or with mild symptoms. Some of them were in critical conditions. The sad news is that 17 of them have lost their lives. This was mainly due to complications because of underlying conditions.

The second wave of the virus hit Society worse than the first. Some PRM Superiors have shared that some

confreres were having difficulty coping with the lockdowns or the extended quarantines. We continue to pray for the entire Society and all our confreres in this pandemic time. Remember, we are all in this together.

Why a UISG course on Interculturality and Leadership?

Two Divine Word Missionaries, Frs. Roger Schroeder and Tim Norton shared briefly about their experiences on Interculturality and Leadership. They were invited by the worldwide, canonically approved Superiors General of Institutes of Catholic Women Religious (UISG). The online course gathered 230 participants comprising almost 60 different countries and coming from 90 Congregations.

--- Posted in SVD Brothers International

Make a Virtual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Saint Arnold Janssen

In this time of COVID pandemic, our movement is restricted. We cannot go to places we would like to visit. Yet, no restrictions will hinder us from making a virtual pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Arnold Janssen. Fr. Peter Dusicka, SVD, General Coordinator for Spiritual Animation, believes that our Founder hears us. When we come to him, our spiritual father will not leave us disappointed. Fr. Dusicka invites us to visit the shrine. Click on this link: <https://onlinekapelle.de>.

Celebration for the Jubilarians 2020

On January 29, 2021, the Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz, members of the Collegio del Verbo Divino (CVD), celebrated the priestly and religious



The jubilarians: Fr. James Raj Yesudoss, Fr. Sylwester Pajak, Bro. Roman Prcuch, and Bro. Reinhard Niesel.

profession jubilees of four confreres. Three jubilarians for the year 2020 were slated to celebrate their jubilees on the Feast of Christ the King as was customary here in the Collegio. During that time, the CVD community was exposed to someone who tested positive for the virus. Following protocols and health measures, it was impossible to proceed with the joint celebration for the three SVD Roman communities. The celebration was attended only by the members of the CVD.

The three confreres who celebrated their jubilees for the year 2020 were:

Fr. James Raj Yesudoss, SVD-25 years of priestly ordination

Bro. Reinhard Niesel, SVD-60 years of religious profession

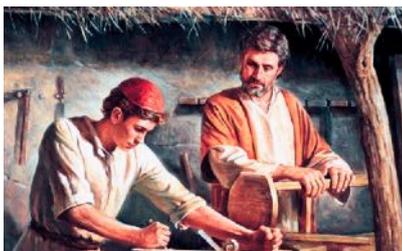
Bro. Roman Prcuch, SVD, 25 years of religious profession

The solemn Eucharist was presided by Fr. Sylwester Pajak, SVD, who was celebrating his 60th priestly ordination jubilee that day. Fr. Superior General Paulus Budi Kleden and Fr. Wladyslaw Madziar SVD, the Rector of CVD, greeted the jubilarians and thanked them for their presence and contribution to the community and the Society.

Special Report

In Joseph lies the true spirit of missionary service

Alessandro de Carolis wrote, "Every day for 40 years, Pope Francis has challenged St. Joseph. After saying Morning Prayer, Pope Francis writes in *Patris Corde*; he recites a nineteenth-century prayer from a French prayerbook. Through this prayer, the Pope entrusts both "serious and troubling situations" to St. Joseph. The prayer ends thus: "Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain."



At the initial stage of the foundation of the Society of the Divine Word, Arnold Janssen wrote in the July 1875 issue of the *Kleiner Herz Jesu Bote* about the new mission house: "We want to note that with the purchase (of the old inn in Steyl), our means are exhausted, and so Saint Joseph, whom we asked to be our kind foster father, must continue to help us through good people."

Arnold Janssen and Pope Francis rely on Saint Joseph as their "protector." They both share the sentiments that Joseph can hear God's voice and be guided by his will. He is sensitive, but he takes to heart his responsibility to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. As Pope Francis said, Joseph is in touch with his surroundings. He can make sage decisions.

In him lies the true spirit of missionary service.

My Devotion to St. Joseph



The national Sanctuary of St. Joseph in Kalisz.



The religious house of Gorna Gruppya, whose patron saint is St. Joseph.

Our Polish confrere, Bro. Włodzimierz Józef Fijałkowski, SVD begins his sharing, "My devotion to St. Joseph does not manifest itself in any particular fondness or outward veneration. However, it results from external circumstances beyond my control." He shares these circumstances leading to his utmost devotion to St. Joseph. Here is his story.

My parents chose the name "Joseph" as my middle name, and therefore St. Joseph is my natural second Patron Saint. Considering that my first Patron, St. Vladimir, is not very popular or well known in Poland and Poles have rather negative associations with this name, the name Joseph evokes much more sympathy and is known all over the world. During my stay in Argentina I used the name Józef (Jose) and those who knew me at that time remember me instead as Józef (Jose).

The second important element concerning my devotion to St. Joseph is my birthplace, whose patron saint is St. Joseph. I come from Kalisz, where the cult of St. Joseph was established in the 17th century and developed significantly in the next century. It was quenched during the partitions of Poland and world wars and developed again after World War II. The diocese of my birth was the Diocese of Włocławek, whose patron saint, due to the earlier presence of the shrine of St. Joseph in Kalisz, is St. Joseph.

During World War II, some priests prisoners of the concentration camps in Sachsenhausen and Dachau entrusted their lives to St. Joseph of Kalisz. The motivators were priests from the Diocese of Włocławek. As Allied forces approached the Dachau concentration camp, the prisoners were aware that the Germans would try to kill them before American troops' arrival. Therefore, about eight hundred priests and lay prisoners began a novena to St. Joseph of Kalisz. They asked Saint Joseph to save the lives of the Dachau camp prisoners. Their novena ended with a solemn act of dedication to St. Joseph on April 22, 1945, a week before the liberation of the camp by American troops. The American troops liberated the Dachau concentration camp a few hours before Himmler planned to murder the prisoners.

These priests interpreted the circumstances of the Dachau concentration camp's liberation as a miracu-

lous intervention by St. Joseph, which others might call a coincidence. Along with the act of dedication to St. Joseph they made promises, one of which was to make an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Joseph in Kalisz, which they started in 1948. The Sanctuary of St. Joseph in Kalisz naturally became the national sanctuary. Thanks to the establishment of the Polish Josephological Studies in Kalisz in 1969 and St. John Paul II's pilgrimage in 1997. These occasions raised the status of this sanctuary and contributed to its development. The above circumstances are a cause of joy and pride for me and contribute to my greater veneration for St. Joseph.

Providentially, St. Joseph is the patron saint of the SVD Polish Province. I have lived for nineteen years in the religious house of Gorna Gruppya, whose patron saint is also St. Joseph. Therefore, St. Joseph's cult is continuously present in our community life.

Our congregation's spirituality is also connected with St. Joseph as the foster father, protector and guardian of the Son of God to whom our Constitutions' prologue refers to the Word of God. The continually growing veneration of St. Joseph in the Church creates a good atmosphere. It motivates us to venerate him more and reflect on his life and role in the history of salvation. As a religious brother, Saint Joseph is also remarkably close to me as the patron saint of artisans or workers, with whom the life and ministry of religious brothers are also identified. His hidden and silent life is very much associated with the reality of our life as Religious Brothers.

Certainly, St. Joseph, meek, humble, and obedient to the will of God, can also be an excellent model in the search for ways and means to proclaim the Gospel in the modern world, which does not necessarily have to be expressed in significant initiatives, highly publicized and described, but rather in the quiet search for God's will and fulfilling it through daily fidelity to one's duties.

There is no need for grandiose and costly initiatives, which often fail to produce tangible religious benefits in practice. However, it is usually enough to build on what is contained in the Gospels and what emerges from the spirituality and history of the Church. To seek and do God's will as a means of salvation for ourselves and others refers the teaching of many saints, including our Saint Arnold Janssen's life and teaching.

Like St. Joseph, Arnold was above all humble and submitted himself to God's will. He persevered in realizing his lofty plans, which turned out to be following God's design. We, too, should clearly show our attitude that we are believers and authentic worshippers of God. We care about the growth of God's glory and the salvation of those among whom Divine Providence has placed us. Such an attitude is required of us by our religious vows. But also among us exists the attitude of

entitlement, seeking comfortable living conditions and independence from superiors.

Commitment to man's material and intellectual development, to equality and justice in the world should be the only means leading to God, who is our ultimate goal. For "our light may shine truly before others," we need to look to the example of St. Joseph. We seek his intercession in our concern for the growth of the Kingdom of God. It is like the "seed thrown into the ground" so that it may have favorable conditions for growth, often independent of our efforts. Indeed, it would help us return to a greater love for the Eucharist. Our Constitutions say, "Eucharist should be celebrated daily and in common," and which, as the Church teaches, "is the source and summit of the whole Christian life."

--- Bro. Włodzimierz Józef Fijałkowski, SVD

St. Joseph and Vietnamese People



A Vietnamese parish in Tacoma, USA celebrates the feast of St. Joseph.



Many Vietnamese men have a very personal relationship with St. Joseph.

Fr. Brandon Hiep Nguyen, SVD, arrived in the United States as a refugee. And because of this, his sharing on St. Joseph is more compelling. He personally and inspiringly shares St. Joseph's significance among the Vietnamese Catholics and in our Congregation in Vietnam. He proudly confesses, "As a Vietnamese SVD, I am always inspired by Saint Joseph." This is his story.

The early missionaries and the Catholic Church's devotion to St. Joseph

The first Catholic missionaries coming from Portugal and Spain visited Vietnam in the 16th century. The earliest missions did not bring awe-inspiring results. Only after the arrival of Jesuits in the first decades of the 17th century did Christianity begin to establish its positions in both regions of Đàng Ngoài (Tonkin) and Đàng Trong (Cochinchina or Quinan). These missionaries were mainly Italians, Portuguese, and Japanese. They faced all kinds of challenges politically, socially, and culturally. They also encountered a callous life adjusting to the tropical weather and all that comes with it.

However, with their strong faith in God and unquestionable desire to serve God's people, these noteworthy missionaries never gave up. They fervently invoked the name of St. Joseph as protector whenever they needed him. St. Joseph seemed to play a significant role by interceding to their need miraculously. Therefore, at an early stage, a great devotion to St. Joseph became very popular in the Vietnamese Church.

The Catholic Church in Vietnam officially declared Saint Joseph as the patron saint. It promoted the devotion of St. Joseph considerably among the faithful. Many dioceses, parishes, and communities have proudly accepted St. Joseph as their patron saint. Many catholic men have also been baptized with the name of Joseph. Culturally, Vietnamese people do not have the custom to put their Christian name before their local name on any documents. However, they still use their Christian name faithfully on the baptismal certificate and other religious documents. Many parents love to name their male children with Joseph's name entrusting their lives under St. Joseph's protection. So, do not be surprised if you find many Vietnamese confreres carrying the name Joseph.

The Province of Vietnam and its relation to St. Joseph

With the grace of God, a religious group of St. Joseph founded by Bishop Jean Sion officially joined the Society of the Divine Word in 1998. Eventually, in 2008, it became the SVD province in Vietnam. According to Fr. Vu Do, SVD (VIE), all the members of the St. Joseph

congregation, now SVDs, continue to live their charism following the example of St. Joseph, a man whose life was righteous, humble, and serving. With their great devotion to St. Joseph, our confreres pray to St. Joseph every day. They faithfully recite the novena before the feast of St. Joseph on March 19.

Every Wednesday of the week, St. Joseph's mass is celebrated in the province to pray for the leadership and its mission. Especially during this year, the year of St. Joseph, every SVD member in the province is highly encouraged to reflect regularly on the Apostolic letter *Patris Corde* of Pope Francis. The Catholic Bishop's Conference of Vietnam provides a guide for reflection and prayer.

Reflecting on the life of St. Joseph and his labor as a carpenter, we acknowledge his vocation as the protector. First, he protected his betrothed wife, Mary, from being stoned to death according to the Jewish law for pregnant women before living together with her husband (Mt 1, 18). Joseph was also taking care of Mary and her newborn baby Jesus.

The deep-seated Vietnamese relationship with St. Joseph

As a refugee, I still can imagine the danger of Joseph's trip to Judea from Galilee with his pregnant wife, Mary. This was a horrible flight to Egypt during the night with the newborn baby and the fragile Mary. This is the reason why many Vietnamese people, especially those who escaped from the communist regime in Vietnam after 1975, appreciate the solidarity of St. Joseph. Just like him, our people have experienced danger and suffering in their search for freedom. When the Vietnamese refugees arrived safely in the countries that received them, they honored St. Joseph as their protector. Many Vietnamese communities and parishes outside Vietnam built shrines of St. Joseph and made him their patron saint. Forever, St. Joseph protects and intercedes with God for our Vietnamese people.

Many Vietnamese men have a very personal relationship with St. Joseph. They find inspiration in his example as a family man and working-class man. It is interesting to see that St. Joseph never appears by himself alone. Looking at images, paintings and statues, we see St. Joseph always with either the infant Jesus on his arm or with Mary and Jesus as a Holy Family. He is also seen with a Lily Flower or a tool on his hand. You can always find a group of men, called the "group of St. Joseph" in every Vietnamese parish, whether in or outside of Vietnam. They are very active members and contribute a lot to the life of the parish.

My inspiration for St. Joseph as a Vietnamese SVD

As a Vietnamese SVD, I am always inspired by Saint Joseph, who possesses a great love for God. He does not say a word in the Scripture, but his action speaks loudly throughout the story of the nativity of the Lord. St. Mathew describes that after Joseph was told by the angel of the Lord about the pregnancy of Mary, he "woke up, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Mt 1, 24) Then, after the visit of three wise men, the angel of the Lord once again appeared to Joseph in a dream. Joseph "rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod. . ." (Mt 2, 14-15). The promptness in doing the will of God in St. Joseph teaches us that we must strive to follow the commandments of God in the ordinary things of daily life.

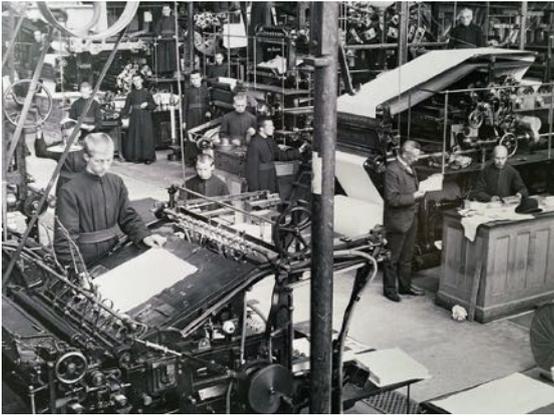
I genuinely believe that God indeed bestowed abundant blessings on the Vietnamese Church and our entire Church. Under the protection of St. Joseph, things impossible will become possible. May the Glory of God through the intercession of St. Joseph protect us all.

---- Fr. Brandon Hiep Nguyen, SVD



“Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.” (Favorite Prayer of Pope Francis to Saint Joseph)

St. Joseph, natural patron saint of the SVD Brothers



During the time of the Founder the Brothers performed manual or technical work.



Our confreres (priests and Brothers) work side by side in the Brazil subzone.

Bro. Carlos José Ferrada Montero, SVD, the General Assistant for Brothers' Formation, presents St. Joseph as the natural patron saint of SVD Brothers. He not only traces the affinity and trust of the Founder to the foster father of Jesus. Bro. Carlos convincingly shows how the Founder desired that the Brothers resemble St. Joseph and take him as their natural patron saint.

St. Arnold Janssen was a man of many devotions, and one of those he invoked most in times of financial difficulties was St. Joseph, the chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary. As the foster father of Jesus, he always obeyed God's will, caring for his family with great responsibility and working with his hands so that they would lack nothing. For Fr. Arnold, St. Joseph was a father, provider, and protector of the mission house in Steyl and the subsequent foundations.

One of the Sisters of Providence (who worked in the kitchen in the beginning) once asked Fr. Arnold, "Where do you get all the money you need?" He replied, "St. Joseph always sends me everything I need." It was a generous donation attributed by Fr. Arnold to St. Joseph's intervention that made it possible to buy the land and house in Steyl. Every time Fr. Arnold began a new building project, he would ask for the help of St. Joseph, his treasurer, through long prayers.

When the left wing of the Mission House in Steyl was under construction, Fr. Arnold found himself in financial strain to pay the workers. After two hours on his knees praying at the statue of St. Joseph, an unexpected donation came, and the problem was solved. Clerical students assiduously visited that statue of St. Joseph at exam time. They used to put their books in the hands of the saint. So much was their devotion to the statue of St. Joseph that it was taken to their dining room. Fr. Arnold incorporated St. Joseph into the daily prayers and devotions of the community, especially on Wednesdays and during the month of March. We all still pray: "Saints Joseph, Joachim, and Anne, pray for the ministers of the Gospel."

St. Joseph, from the beginning, was considered one of the patrons of the Mission House. Numerous foundations and printing presses in the mission countries bear his name. Fr. Arnold saw in St. Joseph the natural patron of the SVD Brothers. Therefore, he chose his feast day, March 19, for the novices to be invested and pronounce their vows. The humble carpenter, the husband of the Virgin Mary, a man of great faith and prayer, lived the three vows faithfully that all religious profess: poverty, chastity, and obedience, placing himself entirely in the hands of God to do his will.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the Brothers professed religious vows before the clerics in the incipient congregation. On the other hand, it should be remembered that the Brothers performed manual or technical work. A more significant number of them worked in the printing press, the workshops, the kitchen, the fields, and services such as gardening, cleaning, porters, mailing, selling Steyl's publications, etc.

Thus, the Brothers identified themselves without difficulty with the carpenter of Nazareth, the foster father of the Incarnate Word. Fr. Arnold wanted the Brothers to resemble St. Joseph. He invited them to pray daily to their patron saint. For St. Arnold, the Brothers needed to be men of prayer, diligent in their work, and above all humble. Humility was a virtue dear to St. Arnold, who practiced it in his own life.

After the Second Vatican Council, the understanding of the Brother has changed. He is no longer considered an assistant to the priest but as a good missionary who collaborates on equal terms with his confrere priests, having the same rights and obligations. Despite

these advances in the Brothers' rights and obligations and the tendency towards the professionalization of their services, we observe a pronounced decline of the Brother vocation in all mixed orders or congregations. This begs the question of why young people are not attracted to the Brother vocation.

The answer is complicated, but undoubtedly issues such as the lack of knowledge of the Brother vocation, the secularization of society in certain regions, the social and economic expectations of young people's fami-

lies, and the clericalism present in some confreres and also in the laity are involved. In this month of March, I invite you to pray to St. Joseph and ask him to help us to acquire his virtues and to revitalize our religious life and our community life. You ask him to urge us with determination to commit ourselves to the pressing realities of the people we accompany; and, finally, to arouse in generous young people the desire to be SVD religious missionaries, whether priests or Brothers.

--- Bro. Carlos José Ferrada Montero, SVD

AFRAM NEWS

Beira (MOZ)

SVD Beira reached out to victims of cyclone



The torrential rain horrified and devastated many families and houses.



Following the disaster, people were salvaging what they can from their flooded homes.

Fr. Philander Pinalgan, SVD, is one of the three Divine Word Missionaries working in Paróquia São Francisco Xavier, Ndunda in Beira. He gives an account of the landfall of cyclone Eloise and the devastation it caused. He relates the response of the SVD to the urgent needs of the families.

On January 22, 2021, cyclone Eloise, with a wind speed of up to 160 kilometers per hour, hit Beira bringing ten inches of rain in 24 hours. The torrential rain horrified and devastated many families, houses, health centers, and schools and left the large area of the city underwater.

According to the National Institute for Disaster Management and Reduction in Mozambique, more than 1,000 houses have been destroyed and another 3,000 badly damaged. One hundred sixty thousand people have been directly affected out of a population of 500,000. Following the disaster, people were salvaging what they can from their flooded homes.

On day one, after the landfall, the SVDs got to know the situation and looked for their parishioners. During these visits, our confreres listened to the people. They talked to the community leaders to understand what safety measures and considerations have been carried out.

The SVD Beira, together with local volunteers, responded to the families' urgent needs, especially the most vulnerable and those whom the government and non-government agencies did not help. Aside from maintaining our connection with them, we are providing food, clothing, and medicines. We also sought assistance from the government agency (INGC) and the Organization for Migration, and the World Food Program.

Fr. Philander relates, "In the two evacuation centers that we visited, the local government, some non-government organizations, and volunteers were providing to the victims of the cyclone tents, rooms, food and water. Some families were worried that they do not have a place to go since their houses were destroyed. Currently no one is in sight to help them rebuild their homes. Much more so, some of them are single mothers, widows, and the elderly who are taking care of their orphaned grandchildren."

We look forward to the reality that these families who lost their homes are provided with decent homes. We continue to journey with the people with love, faith, hope, charity, compassion, and solidarity.

--- Fr. Philander Pinalgan SVD

Tanzania (KEN):

Justified lamentations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 has enormously changed how we relate and carry out our day-to-day activities. It has marked our lives with an indelible mark forever. Some of the things we have been forced to do, like wearing face masks, will remain a visible mark in the world's history.

We used to do some things, such as greetings with hands and hugging, which are now deemed dangerous. Recently we had the ordination of Fr. Antony Muchui SVD, and we had to write captions on the photos before sharing them to identify the people.

Here in our country, many economic activities that were tied even remotely to tourism have collapsed. Traveling across borders has become a costly venture. The COVID-19 test has turned out as the new income-generating project for governments and private hospitals. Costs have tripled.

We may not know for sure where the virus will get us but what we know is that it has changed our lives. All we can do is pray and hope that this situation may come to an end soon.

--- Fr. Lawrence Muthee, SVD

Simanjiro, Tanzania (KEN):

St. Augustine Parish celebrates ten years of SVD presence



Fr. Anthony Amissah Borkey, Provincial Superior of KEN presided the Holy Mass.

During the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, the parishioners of St. Augustine Parish in Orkesumet, Simanjiro in Tanzania, marked ten years since the it was handed over to Divine Word Missionaries in 2010.

The occasion was graced by Fr. Anthony Amissah Borkey SVD, Provincial Superior of Kenya-Tanzania Province, who also presided the Holy Mass. He was accompanied from Nairobi by Fr. James Mailady, who once served as a parish Priest in this parish. Present also were confreres from Arusha SVD District. Fr. Benedict Ole Kashe, a Diocesan priest who started the

parish and handed it over to SVD missionaries, was also present.

The Carmelite Sisters community working in the parish school, as well as the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph from Emboret Parish, also joined the celebration. Many parishioners from our SVD parishes and other parishes around came to witness the grand occasion. We thank God for these years of blessings.

--- Fr. Lawrence Muthee, SVD

Viana (ANG):

A significant transition



Bro. Sebastião joins the formation team.

Our Brazilian confrere, Bro. Sebastião Tenório a Silva shares his joy on a significant transition he experienced in his religious ministry. After four years of commitment at the Associação Centro de Acolhimento de Crianças Arnaldo Janssen (Arnold Janssen Center for Children), he was transferred to the seminary in Viana.

He joins the formation team along with the propaedeutic and philosophy students. All of the candidates are from Angola. A Frater from Vietnam studying theology forms part of the community.

Bro. Sebastião shares, "This is a new experience given to me. I consider this a new challenge to contribute to forming our candidates to assume their roles in Society's future. I will be around to help the candidates develop their skills as good religious priests and Brothers. My specific job is to oversee the economy of the seminary."

--- Bro. Sebastião Tenório Da Silva, SVD

Plumtree (ZIM):

Celebrating the Sunday of the Word of God in lockdown



Fr. Bhoka blessed the logo of the Biblical Center Ilizwi.

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the government banned public gatherings, including Church activities, in January 2021. However, the Word of God could not be put under lockdown as SVDs in the Zimbabwe region found creative ways to celebrate the newly instituted Sunday of the Word of God.

Our parishioners were encouraged to prepare Bible corners in their homes and celebrate Bible Enthronement services as a family. This was much received by many of the faithful, even outside SVD parishes. Lectio Divina and Bible Enthronement materials in local languages were prepared by Ilizwi Biblical Centre and Fr. Krystian Traczyk, SVD, and Fr. Kamil Kocan SVD. Many families testified their communion with the universal Church. They were encouraged to read the Scriptures as they are enthroned in their living rooms.

To mark this particular Sunday, Ilizwi Biblical Center unveiled and blessed its logo at the Center's entrance. The service was led by Fr. Fransiskus Bhoka SVD, who in his homily explained the meaning of the logo designed by Fr. Joe Ncube SVD and artwork by Fr Leo:

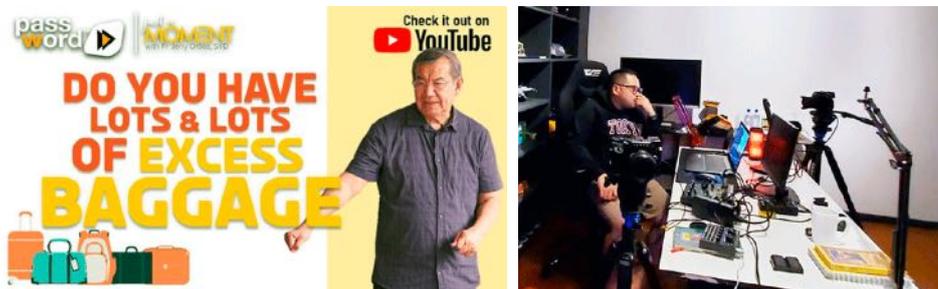
"Ilizwi is a Ndebele translation for "the word." The logo is made up of an open Bible which invites people to read and proclaim it. It is the fire source (symbol of the Spirit's action) that transforms contents, that is, us, in the African pot (our socio-cultural context). Encircling this is the emblem of the Divine Word Missionaries. The logo reveals the mission of the Center, which is to transform people of God and society through the power of the Word of God. The Center, administered by the SVD, finds its motivation in the story of the disciples of Emmaus, "Were our hearts not on fire within us ... as he opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24: 13-35)

--- Fr. Joe Ncube, SVD
Biblical Pastoral Ministry Coordinator ZIM

ASPAC NEWS

Philippine Central Province (PHC):

The success of online platform Passwordtv



Fr. Sedfrey William Nebres, SVD is one of the creators of the trending online platform Passwordtv.

Fr. Sedfrey William Nebres, SVD, is the Communications Coordinator of PHC and one of the creators of the trending online platform Passwordtv. He shares the story behind the success of Passwordtv that achieves an average of 1.4 million hits per day. He says, "The potential we are projecting for the coming years is very optimistic."

The Communications apostolate in the PHC has always been a vibrant and adequate means and missionary engagement field. Several confreres are very active in their respective fields, such as through television programs and radio broadcasting. However, our presence through digital media has been scarce. So much so that there was no consolidated apostolate to address the sprawling online domain for evangelization.

Thus, at the onset of the previous year, 2020, the province embarked on an aggressive campaign to address this particular need by launching our very own online platform called PassWordtv. The province began to invest in developing the platform by allotting personnel and resources to involve media professionals engaged in the field. And at writing, it has grown to be recognized as one of the growing Catholic media channels online in the Philippines.

PassWordtv's approach is wrapped around producing quality content such as static online posts, documentaries, reflections, and short films. The success behind this multiplatform channel's growth is made manifest by the increasing number of subscribers and engagements (hits) per post. On Facebook, for example, we achieve an average of 1.4 million hits per day. Our presence is slowly being felt even by other well-established catholic pages such as TV Maria and other channels. They have, in one way or another, engaged with us in various levels of collaboration.

We have been very aggressive in producing professional quality content that is planned and geared towards a targeted audience: the enthusiastic crowd of

millennials and younger. Likewise, this is also a dimension where we can still improve since the competition to sell out contents online is very tight. Contents, as such, need to be competitive in comparison to those commercially produced ones. And in a way, we have been successful in doing so for the past months with generous support from the leadership of the province.

COVID-19 has, in a way, opened the full potential of this form of apostolate. With the strict implementation of lockdowns and the limitations to movement, people are pushed to look for everything online. And we have been catering to that need since the start of the pandemic. This platform, however, is not merely limited to these dire times.

The potential we are projecting for the coming years is very optimistic. With the further digitalization of contents and the consolidation of media consumption through the internet, it leads us to the inevitable future of its relevance to our work of evangelization. Thus the need to invest more for the development of this apostolate is tantamount.

Please check out our content on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to support our channel.

--- Fr. Sedfrey William Nebres, SVD

Indore City (INC):**Hindi activists terrorize Indian Christians in SVD Media Center**

In the context of a new anti-conversion law, more than 100 activists barged into the SVD Media Center located in Indore City on January 26. They shouted slogans hailing Hindu god Ram and Bharat Mata Ki jai (Victory to Mother India). The mob accused the Center of holding mass religious conversion and sought action against its SVD administrators. They were held in custody at the nearby police station for more than three hours. Among them were Fr. Joemon James Alackal SVD, the INC Provincial, Fr. Babu Karakombil SVD, the Media Center director, and Fr. Muthu Selvam Arockiasamy SVD, the Secretary for Formation and Education.

Our confreres denied the allegations and described it as an organized attack to terrorize Christians who had peacefully gathered for their routine prayers. The Director of the Center, Fr. Babu, said: "We used to allow different Christian denominations groups, including Pentecostal groups, to use our facilities at the Center for prayer meetings. On January 26, we gave it to a Pentecostal group for holding their prayer service.

Let us pray for our SVD confreres, Catholics, and Christians in India, who are being persecuted because of their faith."

--- Posted at SVD Brothers International

Gumine District (PNG):**Golden Jubilee Celebration**

The Golden Jubilee celebration in Yuri Parish in Gumine District, Chimbu Province, was celebrated on December 29-30, 2020. The Archbishop of Madang and the CBCSI President, Rt. Reverend Anton Bal, DD, presided over the Jubilee mass. Fr. Ryszard Wajda, SVD, Administrator of the Diocese of Kundiawa, also attended the event. Bishop Anton asked the people to be grateful with all their hearts for God's many blessings and to be responsible citizens. Fr. Ryszard gave some excellent words of encouragement.

With the weather cooperating, the church was filled in attendance. People were standing outside. The whole liturgical celebration was lively and meaningful. The procession was led by traditional singing groups dressed in traditional attires. The celebration ended with a sumptuous traditional meal. For the occasion, two cows were slaughtered, including several pigs. People brought fruits and vegetables.

It has been 50 years since the first SVD missionaries came. They established schools, health centers, and other essential services. The people of Yuri appreciate the great work of the SVD Missionaries. Our Korean confrere, Fr. Peter Kim, SVD, is the current parish priest.

--- Frt. John Sine, SVD

Tacloban City (PHS):**Joint SVD-SSPs venture to help those in need**

There is a very inspiring initiative from our SVD confreres and SSPs at Tacloban City to help those in need. The project is called "Piso mo, kabuwason ko." This is a project of the students, teachers, staff, and Liceo del Verbo Divino administrators. The idea is to save peso coins to buy school materials for the children in need of Tacloban City. School supplies have been distributed to a community in Caibaan, Tacloban City, last January 29, 2021. The distribution coincided with the feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz. Around one hundred students were recipients of the school supplies.

--- PHS Facebook

Province of Papua New Guinea (PNG):**Investigation on witchcraft and sorcery**

Our confrere, Fr. Phil Gibbs SVD, has worked a lot on witchcraft and sorcery. He has contributed over the years quite a lot of good reflections. Recently, Missio Aachen has published a booklet by Fr. Gibbs, both in English and German, in a series on human rights. The material is available also online:

In English:

<https://www.missio-hilft.de/missio/informieren/wofuer-wir-uns-einsetzen/religionsfreiheit-menschenrechte/menschenrechtsstudien/mr-studie-076-hexenwahn-in-papua-neuguinea-en.pdf>

In German:

<https://www.missio-hilft.de/missio/informieren/wofuer-wir-uns-einsetzen/religionsfreiheit-menschenrechte/menschenrechtsstudien/mr-studie-076-hexenwahn-in-papua-neuguinea-de.pdf>

Fr. Gibbs gives a cultural and religious background from his PNG situation, which is also helpful for others.

--- Fr. Christian Tauchner, SVD

Cebu City (PHS):**A police raid of USC retreat house condemned**

Rights and church groups in the Philippines have condemned a police raid on a Catholic university during which 25 teachers and young students were taken into custody. Police say the charge at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City on February 15 was a "rescue operation" to save students undergoing training as "future terrorists."

According to reports, those detained included seven adults and 19 minors. The raid took place at a retreat house on the university's campus that indigenous people known as Lumads had turned into an educational center. The government often accuses the Lumads of being members of the outlawed Communist Party, whose armed wing has led a decades-old insurgency.

"These students detained were being housed in the Catholic school's grounds to undergo revolutionary training as future armed combatants," police said. The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) congregation that runs the university hit back by saying the teachers and students were part of a Catholic Church education program. "They were at the SVD-owned retreat house to complete their modular schooling on April 3, 2020, after which they would have returned to their respective indigenous communities," the congregation said in a statement. They were staying on campus due to pandemic restrictions in the province, the statement added.

Human rights groups said the raid was an example of how state forces implemented a controversial anti-terror law. The authorities came with more extraordinary powers of arrest and detention that came into force last year.

--- From UCA News

Khurda (INC):**Workshop on Interculturality for SVD -SSpS Novices**

A family is where we can find our roots, however tall or wide we may grow. One of the three-day workshop goals held from January 24-26 on 'Interculturality' was to re-emphasize our identity and get back to our roots as members of the Arnoldus family. The program was benefited by 40 SVD novices and 10 SSpS novices at St. Michael's novitiate, Khurda.

The workshop commenced with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Joemon James SVD, Provincial of INC. In his homily, he aptly emphasized the significance of learning to live healthily in intercultural communities. Fr. Emmanuel Varghese SVD, the Novice Master, and Sr. Jessy Paul SSpS, the Novice Directress, were the resource persons.

The participants delved into topics like Introduction to the concept of Interculturality, Interculturality in our



founding generation's lives, Dealing with difficult people, among others. Various activities were also organized for the novices to encourage gender and cultural sensitivity, appreciation, and respect for other cultures.

Fr. Pushpa Anbu SVD, the General Formation/Education Secretary, enlightened the participants on themes like Religious life today, challenges faced, goals of formation, the importance of collaboration between SVDs and SSpS, etc. Fr. Roque Diaz SVD, the Assistant Novice Master and Sr. Pulcharia Minz SSpS, the Assistant Novice Directress were ever ready and willing to accompany the novices during this time and make their unique contribution. All the fifty novices highly esteemed the whole program as they evaluated its goals, content, and process.

--- Fr. Emma SVD and Sr. Jessy SSpS

Sason (INE):**KJM celebrates annual day 2021**

Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyaloyo (KJM), the Regional Theologate at Sason, Sambalpur, celebrated the Annual Day 2021 as "KJM Day" with fervor on January 30, 2021. Fr. Petrus Kullu SVD, the INE Provincial Superior and Vice-Patron of KJM were the Chief Guest for the celebration. He presided over the Eucharistic celebration. In his homily, he highlighted the significance of the Talents' parable in the context of seminary formation.

The day was marked with various competitions, both outdoor and indoor games. The cultural evening was mesmerizing with different music and dances. The highlight of the cultural evening was the presentation of the one-act play titled Adam's Apple. Fr. Provincial Superior appreciated and congratulated the artists and thanked KJM staff, especially Fr. Rabi Ranasingh SVD, the Principal, and Fr. Lancy Rodrigues, SVD, the Rector.

--- IDE Newsletter

Indonesia-Ruteng Province (IDR): SVD-SSpS Bible Center inaugurated



The blessing of the Bible Center was officiated by the Bishop of Ruteng Diocese.

On the occasion of the Feast of St. Arnold Janssen last January 15, 2021, the Arnoldus Family joined the Bible Center's inauguration, a joint project of the SVD Ruteng Province (IDR) and SSpS West Flores Province. The blessing of the Bible Center, located at the Provincial House, was officiated by the Bishop of Ruteng Diocese, Msgr. Siprianus Hormat.

According to Fr. Paulus Tolo, the Provincial of IDR, the Bible Center responds to the theme of the 18th General Chapter, "Rooted in the Word, Committed to his mission." He regarded the creation of a Bible Center as a milestone in the province's history and a concrete implementation of the 18th General Chapter summons.

Bishop Siprianus Hormat encouraged the SVD and SSpS to establish a Bible Center in Ruteng Diocese.

On September 17, 2020, the two congregations started to discuss the possibility of establishing the Bible Center. On November 30, 2020, the two Provincials with their council held a meeting in Kuwu and decided to proceed with the project.

During the inauguration, the Bishop reminded those present on the preaching of the Word of God. To preach the Word means to preach the commandments of love. He also emphasized the Biblical Center's role in giving life to lost biblical narratives and making the Bible more familiar and alive to everyone.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, the number of guests for the inauguration was limited. The SVD and SSpS members around the city of Ruteng joined. The Bishop expressed his appreciation to the SVD and SSpS in starting the Bible Center. He promised that the Diocese of Ruteng would support the Center in its programs.

--- From the article of Fr. Vitalis Hiburdin, SVD

Bogo Bay, Cebu (PHS):

Turn-over of equipment for marine reserve

On December 4, 2020, Justice and Peace and Integrity of Creation-Integrated Development Center (JPIC-IDC Inc) spearheaded the facility's blessing and turn-over ceremony and equipment for the effective management of the 500-hectare TICAD marine reserve in Bogo Bay, Cebu, at the Bantayan Resort in Tindog, Medellin. The blessing ceremony was officiated by Fr. Daniel Mata, Tindog parish priest.

A patrol boat, seaborne patrol equipment, fiberglass bancas (small boats), and a guardhouse were among the facilities turned over by JPIC-IDC. For the past three years, the project Adaptation to Climate Change and Enhancement of Resilience of the Small-Scale Fishers from 15 Villages along Bogo Bay, Cebu, Philippines, funded by our partners – the Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, has been operating its goals in the Bogo Bay area.

Through this project, several objectives were implemented. These included the rehabilitation of marine protected areas composed of barangays Tindog, Canhabagat, Don Virgilio, and mangroves and corals' reforestation. After two years of collaboration among JPIC-IDC and its benefactors, the LGUs, NGOs, and the fisher folks' cooperation, this project has finally been realized. With the responsible committees and institutions, the sustainability of the project is guaranteed to take place.

--- JPIC-IDC Website

West Kalimantan (IDJ):

The Training Center serving its purpose



All the courses in our Center are free of charge!

The Training Center "St. Fransiskus" Tayan in West Kalimantan accommodates and receives young people who drop out of school. The Center offers courses in computers, carpentry, and agriculture. At the beginning of 2021, the Center opened a sewing course.

Currently, the sewing course is under the helm and guidance of Bro. Alexander Heri Irwanto SVD. The participants come from the surrounding villages. Apart from giving the participants sewing skills, the Center prepares them to produce products related to their rich culture. The goods arrive in the form of traditional clothes, handbags, and other local and ethnic merchandise.

All the courses in our Center are free of charge! Fr. Eko Yuliantoro, SVD, explains, "It is our charitable

work and commitment to reach out "those who suffer and have their lives and hopes cut off."

The problem of young people in the surrounding area of West Kalimantan is complex. Many are unskilled laborers. There is also a high rate of unemployment because of the pandemic. This has resulted in some social problems in varying degrees. Fr. Eko added, "It is our hope in this challenging time of COVID-19 pandemic that the courses in the Center provides these young people a possibility for economic empowerment and better life in the future.

EUROPA NEWS

Mission Focus:



Fr. Ommerborn with Congregational leader of SSps Maria Theresia. (worldssps.org)

Fr. Juergen Ommerborn SVD, Director of the Arnold Janssen in Steyl.

THE ARNOLD JANSSEN SECRETARIAT

Fr. Juergen Ommerborn SVD, Director of the Arnold Janssen, was interviewed by Renate Breuer for Steyler Aktuell. The Arnold Janssen Secretariat (AJS) is located in St. Michael Mission House in Steyl. It was set up to make Arnold Janssen known to a broader public, given his beatification and later canonization. Fr. Juergen Ommerborn SVD, took the helm of the AJS since 2003.

Here are some salient points of the interview.

Fr. Ommerborn, what is your work all about?

I made it my task to study the life and spirituality of Arnold Janssen and the founding generation from 1875 until the death of the Founder in 1909. I focused on the development of the entire Steyl missionary organization, which comprises not only the history of the SVD but also that of the Missionary Sisters SSps and the Adoration Sisters SSsAP.

What materials from the past do you use in your work?

The letters of Arnold Janssen, published by Josef Alt with valuable footnotes, are my most important source. I also studied the "Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart", published by Arnold Janssen in 1874, the Arnold Janssen biographies of Hermann Fischer, Fritz Bornemann, and Josef Alt, as well as the Chronicles of the Missionary and Adoration Sisters.

How did the missionary understanding of St. Arnold Janssen develop?

Arnold Janssen expanded his understanding of mission over the years. One example is in founding the mission house in Steyl in 1875. Arnold Janssen was thinking of the "heathen mission," though not exclusively. Fifteen years later, at the laying of the foundation

stone of St. Gabriel Mission House in 1889, he made it clear that the Mission House was not only for mission among the non-Christian peoples but also for the Austrian population.

His understanding of mission had broadened. He was concerned not only about the conversion of the non-Christian peoples such as China, Togo, Papua New Guinea but also about strengthening the faith in Europe, Latin America, the USA, and the Philippines.

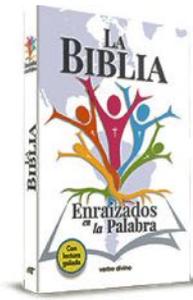
What would Arnold Janssen tell us today?

I am often asked what Arnold Janssen would have to say on current issues. Arnold Janssen would tell, "Never stop at one point. Recognize the signs of the time and respond to them." His strength was never to be restrictive in the understanding of mission but to broaden it. He responded to the challenges that came his way.

What is your outlook for the future of the Arnold Janssen Secretariat?

Spirituality has developed, the SVD has developed. I dream that there will be an institute for the Steyl missionary organization's history and its spirituality. I am very much interested in the question: "How did the generation immediately following Arnold Janssen remain faithful to him?" After all, that generation did not slavishly copy him. They did what had to be done and remained creatively faithful to him. This is also true for us: To remain creatively loyal to him.

--- Interview: Renate Breuer

Estella (ESP):**Launching of the Bible “Enraizados en la Palabra”**

On the occasion of the Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz, Editorial Verbo Divino (EVD) in Estella, Spain, launched the first edition of the Bible “Enraizados en la Palabra” (Rooted in the Word). This new project of evangelization of EVD aims at biblical diffusion by offering a quality biblical translation—the biblical text of La Biblia

Hispanoamericana.

What makes this edition of the bible “Enraizados en la Palabra” is its assurance of concise understanding and reflection with a reading guide by sections at each page’s foot. There are also several notes to elucidate further the context and meaning of the verses.

The congregation’s superior general, Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, promotes the bible “Enraizados en la Palabra”. The Bible motivates us to embark on the exciting adventure of taking root in the Word of God. This motivation is based on the reflections and decisions of the XVIII General Chapter (Rome 2018) celebrated under the theme: “The love of Christ urges us” (2 Cor 5:14): rooted in the Word, committed to the Mission”.

--- Elias Perez

Editorial Verbo Divino

Tortosendo (POR):**SVD receives recovering COVID-19 patients**

The Divine Word Seminary in Tortosendo.

The Divine Word Seminary in Tortosendo, in Covilhã, Diocese of Guarda, will open its doors as a “back-up structure” for the recovering COVID-19 patients. Father Devendra Bhuriya, SVD, the Rector of Tortosendo, expressed that this is a substantial gesture to “show solidarity” in the face of the pandemic.

He added, “We are available for any help, and we must be in solidarity. We must be more sensitive and collaborators to the human cause, to the social cause, we have already done in Guimarães, and now in Tortosendo”.

The seminary, with its two floors, can receive thirty patients. This infrastructure will be equipped with all the amenities and logistical conditions. The University

Hospital Center Cova da Beira (CHUCB) is asking for volunteers and contacting retired professionals who can help in the service of this back-up hospital structure. It will be a Post-Discharge Support Unit.

Seven Divine Word priests live in the Tortosendo seminary, including a missionary preparing to leave for the Amazon. Our confreres are motivated and hopeful that better times will come to overcome this pandemic with everyone’s collaboration.

--- Ecclesia News Agency

Hamburg-Neugraben (GER):**How the coronavirus pandemic shaped my mission**

Our task is to be an anchor for the people.

Bro. Stefan Würth SVD is a master gardener with an additional qualification as a special educator. He belongs to the SVD parish community in Hamburg-Neugraben and works with drug dependents and long-term unemployed. He looks back at the year 2020, when the Coronavirus pandemic changed all our lives and work. Here is his story.

In the middle of March 2020, the lockdown in Germany suddenly stopped our work and ministry. We faced many questions, but unfortunately, there were few answers. As an SVD community in Hamburg, we got together and implemented a new order according to the government guidelines.

For two months, I was not allowed to work actively with the participants in my program. I used the time for repair work and meetings with our new socio-pedagogical specialist. I was also in frequent phone contact with some participants. In the middle of May 2020, the work started again. We had clear rules for hygiene and introduced two distinct work shifts. Some started working at 7 a.m. The others start at 8 a.m., with each group working for five hours. We were swamped.

From the middle of July 2020, we were able to return to our regular daily routine. Of course, the rules of hygiene had now become an important part. We have also been fortunate since we had no infections. As an instructor, I am the first one at the site, arriving at 5

a.m. The first participant arrives at 5:30 a.m. They know I am there, and that gives them security.

Once a participant asked me where do I get the strength and security to do this. I answered, "My belief gives me the strength to remain calm and patient during this time. With this as the foundation in life, I have found an inner balance." Retorting back, the participant commented that I was sort of an anchor for him and others.

Bro. Stephan ends his sharing, "I think this is a new task for us in pastoral work today: to be an anchor for the people around us. And from this, new ways can open up for us to reach out to people again despite the restrictions on social contact imposed by Coronavirus".

--- Bro. Stefan Würth SVD

St. Wendel (GER):

Maintaining and sharing good memories



Maintaining and sharing good memories.

About eighty confreres, priests, and brothers live in the Wendelinus Home, the retirement and nursing home of the German province in St. Wendel. The idea of putting up a mission exhibit was born from the realization that the confreres know very little about the individuals' lives and their missionary activity in their various places of work. As if they had lost sight of each other during years of active work.

As a first step, there were "mission afternoons" where the memories came alive again when they were recounted. Then followed so-called thematic days like a China-day, Congo-day, or a Ghana-day. Many residents were grateful for these journeys into the past. An excellent and enriching togetherness was created.

Due to the Corona-pandemic social contacts had to be limited. However, a small group decided to do something against loneliness and began planning and organizing the mission exhibit, which successfully turned out well.

A mission exhibit was put up in the secondary school's media hall, which was part of the mission house until a few years ago. In olden times it had been the dining room of the minor seminarians. The confreres were asked to present a few souvenirs and memorabilia of their missionary days. The exhibit's structure followed the four zones of the SVD (AFRAM, ASPAC,

EUROPA, PANAM). A very colorful picture emerged. The result was a rich mosaic of memories of life.

The exhibit opened on December 14, 2020. The residents of the Wendelinus Home, the community, and the employees have an opportunity to see and admire the works of art that have been created for the exhibit.

--- Steyl Aktuell January 2021

Text and photos: Sandra Kuhn and the planning team

Bratislava (SVK):

Pastoral work during the lockdown in the University Pastoral Center



Fr. Stanislav Krajnak SVD and Fr. Martin Stefanec SVD, are working in an empty University Pastoral Center.

For almost a year, two confreres, Fr. Stanislav Krajnak SVD and Fr. Martin Stefanec SVD, are working in an empty University Pastoral Center in Bratislava. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, the Pastoral Center faces a situation that has not happened since its opening in 1997 thanks to Fr. Milan Bubák SVD.

Hundreds of university students who generally come to the center every day are now at home engaging in distance learning. If it had been a typical Sunday, the three masses would have gathered 1,200 students. However, our confreres who are in charge of the center continue to do viable activities using the online platforms, particularly YouTube and Zoom. Prevalent is the streaming of the Holy Masses every Wednesday and Sunday attended virtually by hundreds of students.

The students join and pray the Morning Prayer of the Breviary at 6:30 AM. They also participate in the Adoration online. During this Lenten season, they pray together the Way of the Cross. Online participants come from all the corners of Slovakia. They are involved in its preparation and broadcasting—what a way for these students to be in communion in prayer.

The students continue to pin their hopes that soon they can return to everyday university life. Then the University Pastoral Center can capture the face-to-face vibrancy anew in expressions of faith.

--- Fr. Martin Štefanec SVD

Warsaw (POL):

Internet at the service of evangelization

Due to the limitations imposed on us by the coronavirus pandemic, many of our activities have moved to the Internet. We decided to use this platform to introduce people to our Founder's figure, whose feast we celebrated on January 15. It was not, however, to present his biography and achievements. We wanted to put St. Arnold in the context of the current crisis related to the pandemic, which has affected the entire world. The result is a series of six short films, entitled "Finding a way in crisis. Let us learn from St. Arnold".

Our confreres and SSPS sisters tried to discover what the present situation has in common with our Founder's reality. At the same time, they wanted to show that the crisis can be an opportunity for growth. Every day, starting on January 13, a new video was posted. A total of several thousand people watched them on various platforms where they were available.

Enriched by the experience gained, we decided to record short films for each Sunday of Lent and all days of Holy Week. A missionary content will be included



in the biblical reflections. Besides, video conferences on Lenten topics will appear on the Internet every Thursday. This time laypeople will join our confreres and sisters. The entire series is called "Lent 2021 with Missionaries".

--- Fr. Andrzej Danilewicz, SVD
Mission Secretary

PANAM NEWS

Fontana (USW):

The parish where the wind and solidarity blow

The St. George Parish in Fontana, California is an SVD parish since 2013. The parish has 2251 registered families. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parish is affected by either the lockdown or strict measures and protocols to guarantee the parishioners' safety.

Fr. Deeban Yonas SVD, who works in the parish, says, "Our inter-connectedness has been broken by social distancing. Our support systems, the economy, health-care, and everything we used to depend upon in normal times, have been fractured by the lockdown. Worst of all, the pandemic has shaken our faith."

But in the midst of it all, Fr. Deeban and the parishioners are trying to get into the new rhythm and find new ways to live a "new normal."

The worship services are now in the open air under make-shift canopies. A family generously donated them for the services. But here, in Fontana, we need more than one such donation. As you may know, Fontana is famous for one big thing—its forceful "Santa Ana" winds. From November right on through to February, at any time, you can expect the "big blows" to come rushing on down at 60 miles per hour through the El Cajon pass onto Sierra Avenue, the main street of Fontana.



The worship services are now in the open air under make-shift canopies.

Not an excellent town to set up make-shift canopies! Fortunately, this year, only a couple of times have the nasty Santa Ana's winds sent the parish's canopies, altar cloths, trash cans, and everything else that is not nailed down, flying off to somewhere in Riverside County. In between the big blows, we have put up new canopies, and we continue to hold our outside services as if nothing ever happened.

On January 10, 2021, we were blessed to receive the first visit of our new bishop, Alberto Rojas. While presiding over Mass in English and Spanish, he encouraged us with a very hope-filled message, much appreciated.

Over the past two months, many of our parishioners have tested positive for COVID. Many are still battling the illness in hospitals, and, sadly, some have died. Fr. Deeban visits affected families to console them and, whenever possible, to help them with needed supplies. It has been a challenging time for us—there are grief-stricken families. The people are struggling to survive. Most of them live "hand-to-mouth" and have no backup or security outside of what they can get from their equally low extended family members.

Despite the virus or the Santa Ana's winds, it is the people's faith that allows our ministry to continue. We

don't know when the next "big blow" will come or how long the virus will be with us. But we do know how to be sensible about it and what we must do to adapt. We know that we need to continue in a spirit of solidarity to support one another through acts of kindness and

love. But most of all, we know that we need to keep faith and pray that God will continue to look after us.

--- Fr. Deebbar Yonas, SVD

Diocese of San Bernardino (USW): SVDs conducting the Syro-Malabar rite



Fr. Soney Sebastian, SVD, and Fr Biju Thomas, SVD celebrating mass of the Syro-Malabar rite.

Since May 2017, a community of about 30 families of the Syro-Malabar rite has been gathering to celebrate Mass with Fr. Soney Sebastian, SVD, and Fr. Biju Thomas, SVD, at Christ the Redeemer Church in Grand Terrace. It is the latest Eastern Rite Catholic Community to be welcomed in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

For many years, the community celebrated its services at St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Forane Church in Santa Ana. They were commuting great distances, often more than 100 miles each way, from as far as Palm Springs and Victorville. Others commuted from Redlands, San Bernardino, and Ontario. At the request of these families, and with the Bishop of San Bernardino Diocese's approval and recognition, the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago established St. Jude Syro-Malabar Mission in San Bernardino.

Fr. Soney and Fr. Biju belonged to this rite. They were assigned as Director and Associate Director of the Mission with Christ the Redeemer Church, Grand Terrace as its center. One of the community. In June 2020, Fr. Biju became the new Director of the Mission, and Fr. Soney now serves as the Associate Director. You are all invited to join their Sunday Syro-Malabar liturgy. Be prepared for lots of incense and spending a little more time before the altar.

--- Fr. Biju Thomas, SVD
Fr. Soney Sebastian, SVD

Techny(USC):

Vaccinations at Techny

The Divine Word Residence members at Techny, along with the nursing staff and employees, received the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday afternoon, February 18. While this is excellent news and a tremendous sign of hope, the community will continue to observe the Center for Disease Control (CDC) health directives. They will wear masks and maintain physical distancing, hand washing, and similar preventative measures. The second dose of the vaccine will be administered in about three weeks as prescribed by the CDC.

--- USC Provincial

Techny (USC):

Remembering 125 Years of Divine Word Missionaries

Fr. Mark Weber SVD, Rector of the Theologate, was interviewed on the Archdiocese of Chicago media program Mission Matters on Thursday, February 18. He shared stories and memories of the Society of the Divine Word at Techny and in Chicago parishes. He also talked about how priests and brothers from the United States have served all over the globe. Listen to the 28-minute interview and view the photo collage at <https://youtu.be/NFD3922dieQ>.

--- USC Provincial

Province of Argentina (ARS/ARE):

VIVAT 2021 Planning Calendar

Vivat Argentina 2021 Planning Calendar, for the first time, was published in the digital version only. This is mainly due to logistical and distribution difficulties in reaching its usual audience. It is hoped that it can get a more extensive and broader number of people through social networks. We make visible and share our shared commitment to "caring for our common home" and "caring for life".

2021 online calendar is published in A4 landscape format, full color, 24 pages, and an introduction to each quarter, with a proposal to reflect on each of the axes of animation. It references each date of the UN and Catholic Church calendar related to pastoral and social themes.

It is a valuable tool for pastoral and educational animation, with numerous references to guide activities



Vivat 2021 Planning Calendar

related to the care of creation, communities, peoples, and individuals' rights, and references to the Challenges of the Development Goals proposed by the UN.

Vivat will animate its activities during this triennium under the slogan "Vivat is us. We care for life". It assumes the commitment to accompany initiatives and projects linked to the care and protection of life in all its forms.

--- Bro. Víctor Hirsch, SVD
Executive Secretary Vivat Argentina

Santiago (CHI):

A new Central house and provincial offices

The former Central House, which also housed the Provincialate, was located at Dardignac 51 Street in Providencia. The property was sold. The Central House moved to Santa Delia 8883 Street at the corner of the Divine Word Retreat House in La Florida's municipality.

The current Central House also houses the offices of the Provincialate and the Provincial Administration. Soon, the headquarters of some of the characteristic dimensions will be located in the same area, among them: Missionary Animation, Biblical Pastoral Ministry, and Communications.

-- CHI Website

Houston (USC):

Ash Wednesday with rectory in ashes

Last February 16, 2021, an afternoon fire destroyed the rectory, garage, and parish offices at Holy Name Catholic Church in Houston. Thanks to the quick action of the fire department, the church was spared. Divine Word Pastor Anil Thomas was uninjured, although his car and possessions were all destroyed.

While millions of Houston residents endured ice-related power outages and little to no water pressure, the blaze further complicated life at Holy Name Catholic Church, a cornerstone of Houston's Near Northside community for a century.

While the church appeared untouched, that building was not safe on Wednesday for services. Even so, more than 30 parishioners braved the frigid temperatures for an abbreviated Ash Wednesday service in the nearby cafeteria, where they sang hymns over the hum of a generator. "What a coincidence," Fr. Anil said. "Today is Ash Wednesday, and we are in ashes."



Fr. Anil looks at the damages caused by the fire. (Photo from Houston Chronicle)

Fr. Anil was left with only a small supply of salvaged clothing and his ID. He is living across the street, in a now powerless home reserved for church members. Thomas plans to hold services again this Sunday or the next, depending on when the building is safe. He has reached out to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to coordinate insurance payments. He is hopeful they can rebuild.

julian.gill@chron.com
Houston Chronicle

OUR DEPARTED

| SVD | Name | Province | + Date-Death | Age | Vows | Year of Orders |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------|--------------|-----|------|----------------|
| | Fr. Isaak, Servulus | IDR | 01.02.2021 | 77 | 55 | 47 |
| | Fr. Skerry, Donald | USC | 03.02.2021 | 86 | 67 | 59 |
| | Fr. Fertal, Joseph | USC | 08.02.2021 | 90 | 70 | 62 |
| | Fr. Gootee, Paul | USC | 10.02.2021 | 94 | 73 | 66 |
| | Fr. Cooney, Xavier | USC | 11.02.2021 | 80 | 59 | 38 |
| | Fr. Detig, Joseph | USC | 12.02.2021 | 86 | 66 | 59 |
| | Bro. Faz, Edgardo | PHS | 14.02.2021 | 61 | 34 | ** |
| | Bro. Romer, Jakob,<Franz Xaver> | ECP | 26.02.2021 | 91 | 58 | ** |
| | Fr. Leones, Victor | GHA | 26.02.2021 | 75 | 54 | 49 |
| | Fr. Sareng, Dionisius | IDT | 27.02.2021 | 33 | 12 | 03 |

SSpS

| Sister: Rel. Name and Family Name | Prov/Reg | Date-Death | Age | Yrs. in Vows |
|--|----------|------------|-----|--------------|
| Sr. Pilarmaria, Eli Navarro | PHN | 02.02.2021 | 92 | 64 |
| Sr. Antonia de Fatima da Silva | TLE | 14.02.2021 | 40 | 15 |
| Sr. Ermetis Luisa Isabel Wendler | ARN | 15.02.2021 | 96 | 76 |
| Sr. Karolina, Irena Teresa Pogrzebapol | POL | 17.02.2021 | 58 | 30 |

OBITUARIES

Fr. Xavier Cooney (USC)
11-02-2021; 41-60-62-68-83


Xavier Cooney was born on July 16, 1941, in Pittsburgh, USA. He entered the seminary in Conesus on September 9, 1959. He began his novitiate on May 1, 1960, in Conesus. On May 1, 1962, he professed his first vows in Conesus.

For his first assignment, Brother Xavier was sent to Papua New Guinea to work in the Alexishafen carpentry shop. Three years later, he traveled up the coast to begin training as a pilot. Over the decades, Divine Word Missionaries had developed Wirui Air Service (WAS) to transport supplies and people to missions that were difficult to reach by land.

After a year, Brother Xavier attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., to complete his aviation education. With an FAA Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanic license in hand, he went back to Wewak, Papua New Guinea. He worked at WAS from 1975 to 1979. During that time, he again put his carpentry skills to use. In addition to work as an aviation mechanic, he helped construct a new hangar.

Many years later, when the Society of the Divine Word sold the airport, an official assessor inspected the hangar and declared it the best-built airport hangar in Papua New Guinea. By the end of the 1970s, Brother Xavier began to hear the call to the missionary priesthood. He was assigned to the Papua New Guinea Highlands for pastoral experience before beginning studies at St. Paul's Seminary in Kensington, Australia.

He was ordained in 1983 and was assigned to Kundawa town parish in Papua New Guinea's central, moun-

tainous region, where he provided pastoral care until he was transferred to the Chicago Province in 1989. In the United States, Father Cooney offered pastoral care in Webster Springs, Welch, and Summersville, W. Vir. He spent 18 years at St. John the Evangelist in Summersville, traveling a 100-mile radius to care for residents throughout Nicholas County.

With more than 100 registered parishioners, St. John the Evangelist is the largest West Virginia parish staffed by Divine Word Missionaries. This rural parish is the spiritual home of many young families. While there, Father Cooney worked closely with the Knights of Columbus to prepare food baskets for the poor and with the Ladies of St. John's to collect winter coats.

Each spring, the parish youth group would conduct community fundraisers to earn money to pay for trips to Catholic youth conferences. Throughout the year, the parish would sponsor pro-life billboards and support Special Olympics. Father Cooney also labored to bring Catholic radio to Nicholas County and the surrounding area.

Because of health issues, Father Cooney moved to Techny in 2020. He died on February 11, 2021.

Fr. Paul Gootee (USC)
10-02-2021; 27-46-48-54-55


Paul Gootee was born on December 3, 1927, in Loogootee, USA. He entered the seminary in East Troy on September 2, 1941. He began his novitiate in Techny on September 8, 1946. He professed his first vows in Techny on September 8, 1948. He professed his per-

petual vows in Techny on September 8, 1954. He was ordained a priest in Techny on August 15, 1955.

For his first assignment, he was sent to Kefamenanu on Timor. He found that he was called upon to be a doctor, lawyer, merchant, and priest. For six years, he served the people of this mountainous

region. He traveled hundreds of miles by horseback and on foot—some trips to mission chapels requiring four hours in the saddle one way—and sometimes encountering harsh weather.

Father Gootee carried in his heart a deep concern for the sick and the poor. He was a true shepherd, one who was down-to-earth and would mingle with his people. Father Gootee's heart and love have been deeply rooted in the land of Timor. During Father Gootee's 55 years on the island, he provided pastoral care throughout the Diocese of Atambua. He worked with farmer's unions and a consumer cooperative to foster economic justice in the region.

In the early 1960s, Father Gootee was assigned to the Maubesi parish. He served approximately 13,000 Catholics in a 200 square mile territory. The parish, which primarily ministered to the Malay people, consisted of 14-grade schools with a total enrollment of 3,500 students, a vocational high school, and a technical school specializing in carpentry.

As outreach on the island grew and Timor economically prospered, Father Gootee was assigned to Manumea in 1973. By 1976, he and his confreres had been so successful in fostering the faith that they and the people had established enough churches that Church leaders saw the wisdom in dividing the region. After the reorganization, he was assigned to Ponu on the northern shore of the island. Here, he established another parish and tended to Catholics' needs in a 400-square-mile region that contained 18 mission stations, nine Catholic grade schools, and a high school.

In 1981, Father Gootee was assigned to the Parish of Nurobo. During his first year there, he oversaw the installation of electricity and a P.A. system in the new church building, built two dormitories to accommodate 230 schoolchildren, constructed three additional classrooms in the parish school, erected two chapels in neighboring villages, and started two more. Father Gootee himself worked well past the standard retirement age. In his early 80s, he was approached by religious sisters who asked him to be chaplain of the Center of Rehabilitation, a new leprosarium in Naob, North Central Timor. He could not say no.

Father Gootee returned to the United States and was assigned to Techny in retirement in 2011.

He died at Techny on February 10. For more than half of the century, Father Gootee, 93, worked among the Dawan-speaking people of Timor, a southeastern island of Indonesia.

Fr. Donald Skerry (USC)
03-02-2021; 35-52-54-60-62



Donald Skerry was born on March 15, 1935, in Brighton, USA. He entered the seminary in Miramar on September 8, 1948. He began his novitiate in Conesus on September 8, 1952. Two years later, he professed his first vows in Conesus on September 8, 1954. On September 8, 1960, he pronounced his perpetual vows in Techny. He was ordained a priest in Techny on February 2, 1962. Recognizing his academic gifts, Divine Word leadership sent Father Skerry to the Collegio del Verbo Divino in Rome after his ordination in 1962. In 1966, he successfully defended his dissertation, entitled "The Theology of Preaching," and received his doctorate in Sacred Theology.

When Father Skerry returned to the United States, he undertook assignments in education, formation, and administration. Changes initiated by the Second Vatican Council colored the late 1960s and early 1970s; the times ushered in many changes in the Catholic Church. Father Skerry was at the forefront of updating and giving a new focus to Divine Word education and formation.

From 1966 to 1969, he served as director of studies at St. Mary's Seminary at Techny. When the Society of the Divine Word joined the Catholic Theological Union's academic collaborative, he and the Divine Word seminarians moved to Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. He served as rector at Divine Word Theologate for five years before being assigned to Divine Word College's faculty in Epworth, Iowa.

In the late 1970s, the Society of the Divine Word began discussing new ways to use the magnificent, large building of St. Mary's Seminary. It is now Techny Towers Conference and Retreat Center. Father Skerry was brought back to Techny to be a part of the renovation process. In addition to being the conference and retreat center director, he oversaw the conception of the World Alive Exhibit.

In 1979, he was appointed vice provincial of what was then the Northern Province based at Techny. When the Northern Province merged with the Eastern Province to form the Chicago Province, he became the provincial administrator. After five years as a provincial administrator, he once again was appointed vice provincial.

In addition to administration and pastoral ministry, Father Skerry was a member of the Marriage Encounter Leadership team. He also served as director of Miramar Retreat Center and worked in retreat ministry there.

Father Donald Skerry, SVD, died at Techny on February 3 at the age of 85 years. For more than 50 years, he helped lead the Society of the Divine Word in North America through changing times.

Fr. Isaak Servulus (IDR)
01-02-2021; 44-64-66-74-74



Fr. Servulus Isaak was born on December 23, 1944, in Lambaleda, Ruteng, Indonesia. After successfully passing his secondary school, he entered Kisol and Mataloko Minor Seminary. His desire to enter religious life had begun when he was still in elementary school. He joined the novitiate in Ledalero on August 14, 1964. He professed his first vows in Ledalero on August 15, 1966. He professed his perpetual vows in Ledalero on April 27, 1974. He was ordained a priest in Mborong on June 20, 1974. His first assignment was Indonesia-Ende Province.

After his ordination, he was assigned to a parish in Jakarta for two years. In 1976, he went to Rome for his scripture studies and completed it in 1980. After that, he was assigned to St. Paul Major Seminary and in Ledalero (STFK) to teach Scriptures. In 1994-2003 he was the dean of studies at STFK. In 2000 – 2003 he was elected the vice-rector of the Major Seminary and at the same time as a Provincial Council member.

In 2005 Fr. Servulus was asked by Bishop Eduardus Sangsun, SVD Bishop of Ruteng Diocese, for Fr. Isaak to be the head of the educational institute St. Paulus Ruteng. He held this post until 2011. In 2011, he was elected Provincial of Indonesia Ruteng Province for one term (2011-2014).

Finishing his term as Provincial and lecturer at St. Paulus Ruteng, Fr. Servulus, was devoted to serving the sick. There were so many who came to ask for his prayers to be healed. Because of his love for this prayer apostolate, he often forgets to eat lunch and rest. He noted that he prayed for the healing of around three thousand sick persons.

Fr. Servulus started getting seriously sick on January 12, 2021. His injured toe caused by diabetes had brought him tremendous pain and discomfort. In the hospital, the doctors planned to have his toe amputated. Before the operation, the doctors discovered that he was positive for the COVID-19 virus.

He was immediately taken to Komodo Hospital Labuan Bajo. He was there until his death on February 1, at 5.30 AM. Fr. Servulus Isaak dedicated a great deal of his priesthood to the education ministry. He was a good person, humble, committed, pious, discipline. He lived a simple life.

Fr. Aloisius I Wayan Supriyadi (IDJ)
30-01-2021; 74-94-96-02-04



Fr. Aloisius I Wayan Supriyadi was born on September 15, 1974, in Paluan, Indonesia. He began his novitiate in Batu on August 15, 1994. He professed his first vows in Malang on September 1, 1996. He pronounced his perpetual vows in Malang on September 1, 2002. In 2002, he had exposure and pastoral work in Chile. He was ordained a priest in Palasari, Bali, on January 15, 2004.

In 2005, he worked in Parroquia San Jose Obrero in Rancagua, Chile. In 2010, he returned to IDJ and worked in Lawe Desky, Tenggarong, and the District of Bali Lombok. He was an excellent confrere. At the time of his death, he was the parish priest of St. Peter in Monang Maning, Denpasar, Bali.

On January 19, Fr. Aloisius had a fever after an appointment with the dentist. On January 23, Fr. Aloisius had himself tested for COVID-19, and he tested positive. He was immediately taken into isolation in Garbamed Hospital, in Kerobokan. On January 25, he had difficulties breathing, so he was transferred to Sanglah Hospital in Denpasar. In the hospital, they wanted to put a ventilator on him, but he refused. On January 30, Fr. Aloisius breathed his last.

Fr. Yusuf Halim (IDJ)
29-01-2021; 56-83-85-90-91



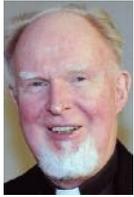
Fr. Yusuf Halim was born on October 12, 1956, in Palembang, Indonesia. He entered the novitiate in Batu on July 27, 1983. Two years later, on July 18, 1985, he pronounced his first vows. His perpetual vows were pronounced in Malang on July 18, 1990. He was ordained a priest in Wonokromo on July 6, 1991. His first assignment was the province of IDJ.

From 1993-2002, he was the provincial treasurer. He skillfully took care of the finance office of the province. Having been an accountant and an auditor, he knew the steps to be carried out to improve the province's financial situation. From 2020-2021, he was the praeses Biara St. Yosef in Jakarta.

He was a very good confrere, and very charismatic. Catholics and non-Catholics knew him well. He started spiritual groups like "Tulang Rusuk" (Ribs and Bones), "Mutiara Dalam Doa" (Pearls in Prayer), "Wanita Diurapi" (Anointed Women), "Pria Diberkati" (Blessed Man); and "Mutiara Berharga" (Precious Pearls). These groups catered to the families. Fr. Halim, through retreats, helped many families who were experiencing different constraints and issues. He united broken families and helped them become devoted Christians. Many of them became outstanding supporters of the SVD.

On January 29, Fr. Halim suffered a heart attack. He also had difficulties breathing. Due to the fluid in his lungs. He was brought immediately to Carolus Summarecon Hospital in Serpong, Tangerang. He was tested for COVID-19, and it resulted in positive. After a short time in the Hospital, Fr. Halim passed away on the feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz on January 29. On January 30, his body was cremated.

Fr. Charles Heskamp (USC)
28-01-2021; 27-48-50-56-58



Charles Heskamp was born on September 1, 1927, in Cincinnati, USA. After graduating from Elder High School in 1945, he worked at Aufdemkampe's Hardware in downtown Cincinnati. When he was not drafted to serve in World War II, he took this to sign that God was calling him to live a life of service. He entered the seminary in Conesus on September 5, 1946. He began his novitiate in Techny on September 8, 1948. Two years later, he professed his first vows in Techny on September 8, 1948. He professed his perpetual vows in Techny on September 8, 1956. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1958, in Techny.

Even though he requested to be assigned overseas after his priestly ordination, he cheerfully accepted his assignment to remain in the United States. During his academic career, Father Heskamp served as principal of Divine Word seminaries in Perrysburg; East Troy, Wis.; and Bordentown. He left a lasting legacy when he oversaw Divine Word seminary's accreditation process at Perrysburg in the 1960s.

Father Heskamp was one of the most popular of all our teachers at the minor seminary at Perrysburg. He was a role model for friendliness, patience, and painstaking exactitude to learn a bit of a second language. He was a man of dignity who walked in a way that befits someone who respected himself and treated others as more important than he was. He also had dry humor—a beautiful, kind sense of laughter at the human condition's ordinary foibles.

In addition to teaching and administrative work, he also served as St. Joseph's pastor in Maurice, Louisiana, and Good Shepherd in Glenville, West Virginia. Father Heskamp held a master's degree in Catholic Social Teaching from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree in Education in School Management from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Father Charles Heskamp SVD, whose work formed a generation of Divine Word students, died at Techny on January 28 at 94.



APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS**Appointments**

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
| 29.01.2021 | Fr. Cabral, Vijay Pradeep | MEX Praeses Casa Centrala CDMX | aft |
| 29.01.2021 | Fr. Duk, Konrad | POL Rector Gorna Gruppy | tri |
| 29.01.2021 | Fr. Kupisinski, Zdzislaw | POL adm/dom Lublin | tri |
| 29.01.2021 | Fr. Goryjowski, Mariusz | POL adm/dom Pieniezno | tri |
| 01.02.2021 | Bro. Tigga, Sudhir | PNG oecon/prov | aft |
| 01.02.2021 | Fr. Yadao, Romeo | PNG sec/prov | aft |
| 01.02.2021 | Fr. Agbeyome-Akpah, Vincent | PNG Chaplain DWU | aft |
| 01.02.2021 | Fr. Jayakira, Yosafat | PNG vic/sup/dist Mt. Hagen District | aft |
| 01.02.2021 | Fr. Aiyako, Elias | PNG Director Postulants | aft |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Joseph, Anthony | ING sup/dist Agartala District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Thumma, Lourdu Marreddy | ING vic/sup/dist Agartala District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Bro. Vechupadinjarathil, Jacob | ING adm/dist Agartala District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Elamthuruthipadavil, Joby Joseph | ING sup/dist Brahmaputra District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Kuzhikkattuthazhe, Jose | ING vic/sup/dist Brahmaputra District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Elavunkal, Sunny Abraham | ING adm/dist Brahmaputra District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Kujur, Roshan | ING sup/dist Itanagar District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Puthuparambil, Joshy Abraham | ING vic/sup/dist Itanagar District | tri |
| 02.02.2021 | Fr. Pulickeel, Soby Joseph | ING adm/dist Itanagar District | tri |
| 04.02.2021 | Fr. Nagothu, Sunil Paul | AUS Director AJS Center, Boronia | tri |
| 04.02.2021 | Fr. Kommareddy, Rajasekhar Reddy | AUS Rector Marsfiel community | tri |
| 05.02.2021 | Fr. Irudayasamy, Joseph Sahayaraj | MOZ sup/dist Distrito Sul-Maputo | tri |
| 05.02.2021 | Fr. Klich, Konrad Jozef | MOZ vic/sup/dist Distrito Sul-Maputo | tri |
| 05.02.2021 | Fr. Pinalgan, Philander | MOZ adm/dist Distrito Sul-Maputo | tri |
| 05.02.2021 | Fr. Meko Hayong, Yohanes | MOZ sup/dist Distrito Norte-Nacala | tri |
| 05.02.2021 | Fr. Nguyen, Giang Tien | MOZ vic/sup/dist Distrito Norte-Nacala | tri |
| 05.02.2021 | Fr. Kallanchira, Sebin Mathew | MOZ adm/dist Distrito Norte-Nacala | tri |

Transfers

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 29.01.2021 | Bro. Knaofmone, Vinsentius Oki | SSD/IDT |
| 29.01.2021 | Fr. Taliauli, Akuila | ARS/AUS |
| 01.02.2021 | Fr. Yator, Venerando | PHN/PHC |
| 09.02.2021 | Fr. Puthenpurackal, Shiju Paul | USC/SSD |
| 23.02.2021 | Bro. Delucca, Paolo | BRC/ITA |
| 23.02.2021 | Fr. Dhogo, Petrus Cristologus | ROM/IDE |

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM JOURNAL
VERBUM SVD**

The missiological journal Verbum SVD has seen problems for distribution due to COVID-related limitations. The German mail system is demanding exorbitant fees for certain countries. Therefore, distribution to these places has been halted.

You are welcome to get in touch with us: mission-swissenschaft@steyley.eu We are deeply sorry for any inconvenience.

Fr. Christian Tauchner, SVD