

The Church on the Move: Synodality

WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



The theme of the next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.” With this theme, we are reminded of synodality as the essence of the Church. Synodality is “the specific *modus vivendi et operandi* of the Church, the People of God, which reveals and gives substance to her being as communion when all her members journey together, gather in assembly and take an active part in her evangelizing mission” (International Theological Commission (ITC), 2018, 6).

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: “It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.” The synodality of the Church is expressed in three keywords used as the subtitle of this synod. What does this mean to our Society? We have chapters, assemblies, and community meetings. How can we be enriched by the process of synodality and strengthen our existing process? What is the new approach that we can adopt to do our mission in a synodal way?

Synodality is the openness to the Holy Spirit. There cannot be synodality without the Spirit, and without prayer, one cannot understand the promptings of the Spirit. Basically, it leads to personal and community discernment (18th General Chapter, #18-19).

The three subthemes

Communion: Communion is not uniformity, but a unity in diversity, or better, a creative tension of unity and diversity. It is a continuous process of finding what unites and giving space to uniqueness. In this sense, communion is not a synonym for perfect harmony. Unity without giving areas to diversity would lead to uniformity, while diversity that neglects what is common would create chaos.

Amid the creative tension of unity and diversity, communion is not fearful of disagreements. And yet, it does not dwell on them. There must be an openness to wrestle with differences in listening to the Spirit. In this creative tension, we seek the contextual theologies for continuous evaluation of the relationship between the universal and the local churches, between communities of confreres and the local people.

Participation: A synodal church commits itself to accompany, consult and empower each other in fully conscious and active participation in the life and mission of the Church. Participation is the way to use what we receive from the Lord for the good of the community and mission. Everyone is part of the Church. The dominance of one group or one culture is not synodal participation.

Participation requires the proper understanding of interconnection, respect, and giving room for every-

one to express, act and hold responsibility. All of us have something to offer for the community and the mission. Everyone can learn and receive something from others. When someone stands outside making criticism and spreading gossips, this is not communion and participation. Taking the initiative is a sign of being responsible, of being a part of the dialogue.

Mission: The Church exists because God has a mission. The Church is at the service of the mission. A Church that is not a missionary has no meaning of its existence. The mission of the Church is to give witness to the Kingdom of God that embraces all creation to its completion. There is a God constantly reaching out and expanding his love. This mission is to be realized in a world that has been marked by injustice, marginalization, and exploitation of the weak and nature included.

Mission means building bridges among the people and widening the circle of fraternity and friendship, respect, love, and solidarity. A synodal church walks together with others in communion and participation. It shows witness to the Kingdom of God by its life and service. This can earn credibility. This is very much needed because the scandals in the Church have caused much damage to the Church.

In understanding the synodal theme, three essential aspects come to us to think and reflect deeply and what they mean for our Society and our involvement in carrying out God's mission. They are as follows:

Sensus fidelium: A synodal church listens to the Holy Spirit by listening to the *sensus fidelium*, albeit with its great diversity and conflicting perspectives. Pope Francis believes that such listening to the *sensus fidelium* is necessary for two reasons. We could call one "pedagogical" and the other "theological." "Together, all the baptized are the subject of the *sensus fidelium*, the living voice of the People of God," says the synodal Vademecum. "At the same time, to participate fully in the act of discerning, it is important for the baptized to hear the voices of other people in their local context, including people who have left the practice of the faith, people of other faith traditions, people of no religious belief, etc." Here comes the challenge to listen to diverse views and take a decision on what we hear.

Journeying together: The fundamental question that guides the People of God in a synodal way is how we "journey together." In our mission, with whom are we journeying together? What are the methods that we follow in coming together, share and dialogue? How do we make decisions? And how do we implement the decisions together? Thus, journeying to-

gether is a key that we take along. Those on the road and outside, namely, the sick, marginalized, excluded and oppressed can come along. The more inclusive we are, the journeying together becomes more enriching as well as challenging.

Synodality and social Diakonia: We are called to live catholicity with dialogue and free interaction with one another. This is to show our unity and integration with every culture and nation. "This is a significant contribution that the life and synodal conversion of the People of God can make to the promotion of a culture of encounter and solidarity, respect and dialogue, inclusion and integration, gratitude and gift" (ITC, 118). This interaction and encounter are to promote our service to society. "The Church's synodal life presents itself, in particular, as Diakonia in the promotion of a social, economic and political life of all peoples under the banner of justice, solidarity and peace" (ITC, 119). In the present context, the synodal life is to move ahead powerfully in our social service and social action.

Implications of Synodality

The first is our call for active participation in the synodal process. The synodal process is one of the critical elements in the life of religious congregations. Active participation and giving room for everyone to speak and to listen in common meetings are very significant. We notice a few members are continuously absent for common meetings, and others don't talk. This is, in a way blocking the Spirit's voice. Listening to the young members of the congregation is vital to find new avenues. Discern how the Spirit reveals to a community and be open to listening to both positive and negative aspects, unique and challenging ways to live and do our mission.

The second is to promote and practice the sharing of responsibility with our mission partners. Sharing of responsibility is risky, as we cannot always guarantee a good result. It can be painful if we consider that we belong to the higher rank in the church. Especially as religious, we have to learn to share the responsibility with the laity. As religious missionaries, we are called to live in fraternity and to eliminate clericalism. One of the three focuses of our administration is exactly sharing responsibility with our mission partners. For this purpose, we need to learn and help in the formation of our mission partners.

The third is to enhance the quality of our community life as intercultural communities. We declare our interculturality as a reflection of unity and diversity of the Trinity and witness to the richness of

The spirit of synodality calls for more openness and acceptance.

the church. A synodal church is an intercultural church. In these last years, we are more aware of this dimension of our religious missionary life. We are looked at as experts of interculturality because our communities are intercultural in most places. But we also have many challenges in this regard. Ethical tensions are also seen in our communities. For some confreres, ethnic vicinity is still a dominant criterion when choosing the leaders. The Spirit of synodality calls for more openness and acceptance.

The fourth is to improve and consistently practice attentive listening and speaking honestly among us. Synodal dialogue depends on courage and honesty both in speaking and in listening. Listen, listen attentively is very important to promote community life and participation in the mission. We underline the importance of speaking honestly, where we need to talk about the truth even if it hurts. Our community life and mission frequently suffer because we are not honest and open in sharing our minds and feelings. At times, being silent could also mean avoiding responsibility. Gossips are like a deadly virus that cripples our community life and mission.

The fifth is participation in the Laudato Si Action Platform. Listening to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth is a matter of great importance and urgency. Ecological conversion starts with spirituality and the change of mindset. Human beings, with their uncontrolled lifestyle, destroy the earth. Yet, we never imagined that we were part of the solution. There-

fore, every initiative is important towards ecological conversion. We recently launched the Laudato Si Action Platform to join the church in planning and taking concrete actions towards this conversion. What is our community plan to implement this program?

The 19th General Chapter should involve every member of the Society from the very beginning assuming a synodal process. Thus, every PRM finds ways by which all members are in communion. They participate in discerning the future of the mission.

The unfolding of the synodal process at the local level – communities, seminaries, parishes, institutions, social service centers – must involve the following procedures. **Discernment** through listening, to create space for the guidance of the Holy Spirit; **accessibility**, to ensure that as many people as possible can participate, regardless of language, education, socio-economic status, ability/disability, and material resources; **cultural awareness** to celebrate and embrace the diversity within local communities; **inclusion**, making every effort to involve all sections of the society, especially those who feel excluded or marginalized; **Sharing responsibility** with all groups/cultures. How can each SVD or SVD community ensure that we are on the synodal path in the coming years?

Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden and the Leadership Team

Generalate News



General Visitations

The following are the scheduled General Visitations:

09-30 November	Poland Province (POL)
General Visitors:	Bro. Guy Mazola, SVD
	Fr. Marek Vanus, SVD
	General Coordinator Biblical Apostolate
09-30 November	The Irish and British Province (IBP)
General Visitor:	Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva, SVD
09-30 November	Netherlands-Belgium Province (NEB)
General Visitor:	Fr. Anselmo Ribeiro, SVD

General Visitations: Mission Accomplished

General Visitationers Fr. Anselmo Ribeiro SVD, Fr. Stanislaus Lazar SVD, Fr. Timothy Norton SVD, and Fr. Peter Dusicka SVD, accomplished their General Visitations in the Portugal Province (POR), Italy Province (ITA), Spain Province (ESP), and Hungary Province (HUN) respectively. They had the opportunity to visit the different mission places and meet with the confreres, lay collaborators, and Friends of the SVD. In the December 2021 issue of *Arnoldus Nota*, the visitationers will be sharing their insights and reflections.

In the meantime, the visitationers are preparing the Protocol of their visitations. They will be presented, discussed, and approved by the General Council. The Protocol is based on the visitationer's evaluation, results from the districts/communities, the assembly/chapter results, and the meeting with the provincial council.

General Visitations in progress

The General Visitationers in the Provinces of Argentina South (ARS), Argentina East (ARE), and Paraguay Province (PAR) are currently doing their visitations meeting with our confreres. They get to know our commitments and places of mission. Finally, they will wrap up all their programmed visits with an assembly.

Fr. Raymund Festin SVD and Fr. Modeste Munimi SVD are the visitationers of ARS. At the same time, Fr. Eryk Koppa SVD is the visitationer of ARE. Finally, in PAR, Fr. Xavier Thirukudumbam SVD is the visitationer.

Mission Webinar organized by Ishvani Kendra-Pune

Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden participated in the Mission Sunday webinar organized by Ishvani Kendra. The theme of the webinar is Synodality in the Life and the Mission of the Church. Fr. Kleden was the chief guest and speaker. The webinar started at 6:00 PM, Indian time. Fr. Victor Sagayam, SVD, the Director, Ishvani Kendra, spearheaded the event.

Those who participated in the webinar are grateful for the information received regarding Synodality. Fr. Kleden spoke on some ideas related to the theme of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of Synod on Synodality. He also presented some images of the Bible followed by the images used by Pope Francis on the Church. He concluded by suggesting the implications of the Synodality for us SVDs and as a missionary Congregation.

Inter-Congregational JPIC Coordinators visit Domitilla Catacombs

JPIC Rome, part of the USG and the UISG, organized a visit of the JPIC coordinators of the reli-



Bro. Carlos addressing the JPIC Coordinators.

gious congregations present in Rome to the Catacombs of Santa Domitilla, administered by the Society of the Divine Word. The purpose of the visit, which took place on October 20, was to renew the Pact of the Catacombs. The Pact was renewed during the Synod of the Amazon on October 20, 2019.

The meeting brought together about fifty JPIC coordinators. They gathered in the Basilica inside the catacombs. In a prayerful context, they commemorated the Pact of the Catacombs. Furthermore, they ratified their intention to commit themselves once again to fulfill it.

The event was followed by a guided tour of the oldest and largest catacomb in Rome. The visitors were very grateful to the English and Spanish speaking guides, who were very friendly and professional. After the final prayer, the coordinators had a picnic in the garden of the Domitilla Catacombs. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the JPIC coordinators in Rome since the beginning of the pandemic. All present shared the joy of meeting again. We thank Fr. Thomas Kallanchira SVD and the staff of the Domitilla catacombs.

--- Bro. Carlos Ferrada, SVD
General Coordinator JPIC

Seminar on the month of Mission



A seminar about Media and Mission.

On October 23, Collegio del Verbo Divino was the host and the organizer of a seminar on the month of the mission. With its theme of Media and Mission, two speakers gave input and reflections based on their work and ministries.

The first speaker was Monsignor Lucio Ruiz, the Director of the Dicastery for Communications in the Vatican. His topic was "Sviluppo di Media Basati Sulla Missione" (The Development of Mission-based Media). He spoke about the media as a kerygma, a creative means of reflecting reality and sharing knowledge with people looking for change and answers. One has to hit the streets and go to the peripheries to proclaim and create this dialogue. He pointed out Pope Francis as a

man of dialogue, who reaches out, touch, kiss, and embrace. His presence is a message that evokes the company of a loving God.

The second speaker was Sr. Bernadette Reis, FSP, the Assistant Director of the Dicastery for Communications in the Vatican. She presented the topic “Uso efficace dei Social Media per la Missione”. (Effective Use of Social Media for Mission). She spoke about creating a mission online, nothing different from starting a mission on the ground. When making a mission online, it is essential to identify what platform to use and inves-

tigate who the recipients are, what the content is, and the intention and direction of this social platform. To do all these, it needs a teamwork effort.

In attendance at this inspiring and provoking seminar were the Collegio del Verbo Divino Community and SSPS. The meeting was made more interesting because of the participants' awareness and constant use of social media, personal or pastoral work. Undoubtedly, the seminar ignited many motivations to move forward.

World Mission Sunday celebration



On October 24, on the occasion of the World Mission Sunday, Collegio del Verbo Divino (CVD) Community organized a Mission Day event characterized as a moment of convergence of different cultures. The local SVD chaplains and coordinators of migrant communities gathered five or more of their members to participate in the event, sharing their ethnic food, participating in the liturgy and the program.

A concelebrated Mass was presided by the Superior General of the Comboni Missionaries, Fr. Tesfaye Tadesse MCCJ. He was born in Ethiopia. In his homily, Fr. Tesfaye highlighted the inspiring message of the World Mission Sunday “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). He reiterated that the Church’s mission to evangelize does not belong to just a select few but is a “call for all the baptized.” Although he singled out the mission of the SVDs and the Comboni Missionaries, he underlined the common priesthood, the universal call to serve the Church and bring the love of God to others.

The event ended with a potluck lunch of different gastronomies from all the participating countries. Several songs and dances were presented as part of the program. Due to the pandemic, participation from the parishes and institutions was limited. To guarantee the safety of everyone, the wearing of a mask was requested as needed.

We thank Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, SVD, the Mission Secretary, Fr. John Dorborkoe SVD, Fr. Alfonsus Afri Dierger SVD, and other collaborators for putting up this Mission Day.



Doctoral defense



On October 21, 2021, Fr. Jozef Kasimierz Gwozdz SVD successfully defended his doctoral thesis at the Teologia Istituto di Spiritualita di Pontificia Universita Gregoriana entitled: Mons. Jorge Novak SVD, Un Contemplativo en Accion. La Identidad y la Espiritualidad Sacerdotal, Praxis Pastoral y Misionera (Monsignor Jorge Novak SVD, A Contemplative in Action. Priestly Identity and Spirituality, Pastoral and Missionary Praxis).

Prof. Jaime Emilio Gonzales Magana SJ, the moderator, lauded the scholarly investigation and well-documented expositions employed by the doctoral candidate. The candidate presented Monsignor Novak as a contemplative in action. In addition, he convincingly showcased Novak's priestly identity and spiritual dimension as bases of his pastoral and missionary activity.

The examiners were elated with the quality of the doctoral thesis and the affinity and appreciation of the candidate to Monsignor Novak. To the delight of those present, the moderator addressed the doctoral candidate as Fr. Joseph Novak to affirm these close ties.

Scores of confreres and friends came to give their moral support to the doctoral student, including some friends who travelled from Poland. The examining panel praised the original contribution of the thesis compounded with its fluid presentation and concrete realities presented. After all, is said and done, Fr. Jozef has been conferred the doctorate in spirituality. Congratulations.

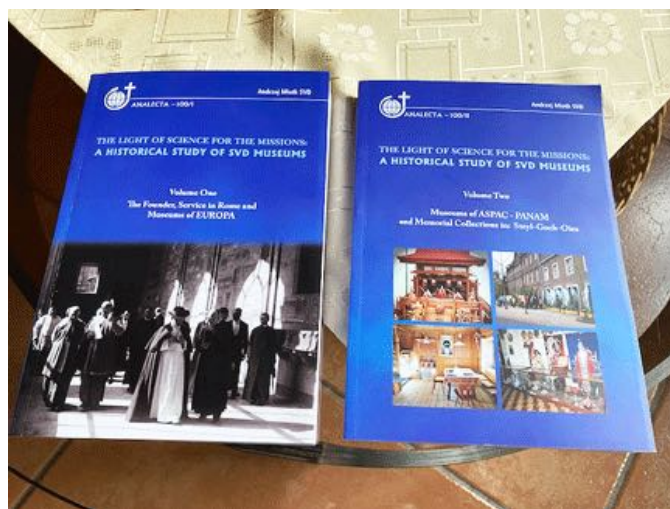
A Historical Study of SVD Museums

The Light of Science for the Missions: a Historical Study of SVD Museums published in "Analecta SVD - 100/I-II" by Andrzej Miotk SVD is a two-volume investigation on the little known history and contents of about 40 SVD collections and Museums. It considers their origins, founders, collectors, curators, scholars, phases of development, collections, numbers of exhibits, concepts, and organization, permanent and temporary exhibitions, etc.

The start of the study is indebted to the questionnaire sent to the SVD Provinces (2014) and archival sources and the help of many confreres and lay people active in this area. Furthermore, as the Society's windows to the world" on five continents, the museums disclose the merits of many, frequently unknown SVD collectors. With great passion and determination, they dedicated their lives to preserving the cultural patrimony of peoples and cultures.

First volume

The author deals with 17 museums within the Europa zone in the first volume, starting with the first Museum at Steyl (1884). The introductory chapter presents the genesis of SVD museum history. It is at the backdrop of the Founder's secondary charism of teaching and promoting the study of human cultures at the service of missionary work. The case study debates the Society's historical role in managing the Lateran-Vatican Missionary and Ethnological Museum (1927-1996) extensively. It focuses purposely on its first Scientific Director, Fr. Wilhelm Schmidt SVD. He played an imminent role in the Vatican Universal Mission Exposition organization for the Jubilee Year 1925.



Second volume

The second volume is dedicated to the Museums in China, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and United States within the ASPAC-PANAM zones. Its place occupies the Memorial Collections of the Founder in Steyl-Goch, Fr. Joseph Freinademetz in Oies, and Fr. Marian Zelazek in Puri/India. In addition, one discovers an impressive variety of SVD museums with such names as Missionary, Memorial, Ethnographic, Anthropological, Natural Sciences, and Natural History, Biblical, Maritime, Archaeological, Yerba Mate, and Roman Catacombs.

This unique museum itinerary uses the thematic, geographic, and chronological approaches to highlight the museums as historically invaluable means of mission research, animation and formation. Overall, the inquiry due to the General Index facilitates the access to a variety of historical insights. Moreover, it can contribute to deepen the self-understanding of the Society and its missionary activities. Besides, it offers a surprisingly enriching encounter with the rich heritage and creativity of the past generations of the Divine Word Missionaries.

--- Fr. Andrzej Miotk
SVD Historian

Challenges and Perspectives of the Vivat Deus Website



The Vivat Deus website will soon complete one year. This milestone event is an important achievement for spreading our spirituality to the members of the three congregations of the Arnoldus Family and lay collaborators, the Catholic Church, and society as a whole. Its content is open to all those interested.

The Vivat Deus website started to make the spiritual heritage of our Congregations accessible through sharing and collection of existing materials. The initiative came from the General Directions of our three congregations as a joint venture. Fr. Arlindo Dias SVD and I, together with the Webmaster, Fr. Piotr Gracz SVD, were invited to create and manage the site. The first stage was one of study, reflection, and planning.

The next step was to design the sections and contents, visual presentation, the structure of operation and navigation, search mechanism, and categorization of the site's contents so that it would constitute an online library. With the help of a graphic designer and much work from each of us, Fr. Piotr gave a dynamic and attractive form to the website's technical structure.

But how to keep it always up to date with new content? An impossible task for three people. For this reason, with the support of the General Leadership Teams, we organized a networking structure involving about 20 people between English and Spanish speaking SSpS and SVD. The Vivat Deus team is organized into five groups: 1) the General Councillors of Reference, 2) the Editorial Team, 3) the Categorization Team, 4) the Translators Team, 5) the Proof readers Team, and also the Webmaster who publishes on the site all the work done by the teams.

It seems to be many people. Practice shows that it is not easy for the translators, proof readers, and categorizers to reserve three hours per week amid their many missionary activities. The Editorial Team meets weekly to select the contents, distribute the work, follow up the publications, make contacts and request content, and solve problems.

For us, it is a constant learning process: how to work online with so many time zones, languages, and cultural differences? How to organize the work and share it in

a practical and accessible way? What are the criteria for selecting content? We use the technological tools, but not all the team is familiar with them, which requires time and training.

We seek in our online meetings, as far as possible, to create a space for interpersonal relationships and spirituality through prayer and sharing of life. It helps us connect more deeply with the site's content and with each other, improving our relationship as a team.

For the site's first anniversary, December 8, we are preparing a survey to understand better our audience's needs and where we need to improve. I believe we have achieved an excellent initial result in terms of audience. However, considering the number of members of our Congregations, there is still much to be done, notably the outreach and greater involvement of members and laypeople related to us.

As a team, we are grateful to all who can publicize the site (vivatdeus.org). We encourage the members to send articles, prayers, photos, reflections for retreats and days of recollection, songs, videos, books, and other materials. These should be of their authorship, and we will publish those following the guidelines of the site. Please contact us: editors@vivatdeus.org.

I believe very much in the potential of the Vivat Deus website. In the future, the website may also be used for courses, webinars, and other events, to facilitate contacts within the 'Arnold Janssen Spirituality Network' (AJSN). Undoubtedly, it is an excellent platform to foster a greater sharing of materials and contents from different countries and even enable personal online meetings for spiritual accompaniment, personalized and group retreats, among others. We do not yet know how it will be. However, we can already take advantage of the significant amount of content already published to enrich our missionary and pastoral work.

--- Ana Elidia Caffer Neves, SSpS

Member Vivat Deus Editorial Team

Congregational Coordinator for Communications in Rome

Global Online Recitation of Rosary

Four lay partners - Sophie Wego, Maria Wego, Susan Noronha, and Mervyn Rodrigues - gathered together and thought of having a global online recitation of Rosary. Their initiative was more on gathering together the lay partners, praying together with PRMs and countries during the month of October. They thought this could also serve as an occasion to invoke special blessings during this pandemic for healing. A simple initiative turned into an extensive network of most of the PRMs in our Society, and all the Zones took keen interest and showed enthusiasm and passion towards reciting Rosary together.

Well, a pandemic does not allow us to come together

physically. Thus the ZOOM platform was a big help. All the Zones discussed, planned, cooperated with one another, and organized this prayer session for the lay partners. A few confreres too joined in this session. The mission secretaries played an excellent role in coordinating and arranging this prayer session.

PANAM zone had the participation of many PRMs in this global meet. Fr. Nevil D'Silva, the Zonal Coordinator, coordinated the lay partners in the Zone, and they recited the Rosary. In AFRAM, some neighboring countries came together and organized this prayer session. In the ASPAC Zone, India, the Philippines, and Indonesia subzones organized the sessions connecting various lay partners groups. In EUROPA, some countries joined together and organized this prayer.

In most places, the first Monday of October was fixed to recite the Rosary. However, some groups found some other day to pray together. Thus, a simple initiative of a few lay partners turned into a worldwide momentum. During this gathering, the lay partners inspired one another to pray for the missions, for the



sick people, and one another's welfare. This is genuinely remarkable coordination and participation of lay partners. We thank all the lay partners who organized and participated in this session. In addition, we appreciate all the mission secretaries for their keen interest in promoting this event.

--- Fr. Stanislaus Lazar SVD
Generalate Mission Secretary

From the Editor

The December 2021 issue, which precedes the double issue of January-February 2022, is slated to be released on December 15 instead of December 1. Please take note.

General Visitation to Slovakia Province (SVK):

Exemplary dedication of confreres to respective ministries



Bro. Guy thanks the confreres.



Members of the SVK Province.

Bro. Guy Mazola conducted the visitation from August 31 until September 16, 2021. Here, he shares with us his impressions and reflections about our presence and commitment in different ministries.

The Slovakia Province consists of Slovakia and the Czech Republic, two countries that experienced the communist regime, which seized power in 1948 in what Czechoslovakia was then. At that time, the government confiscated all the property owned by churches and persecuted many priests. Churches were then allowed to function only under the state's strict control and supervision and priests' salaries paid by the state. Like other religious and church members, our confreres had to work clandestinely until the fall of the Communist regime in 1989. The church properties

were then restituted.

On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia separated peacefully into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The SVD is present in Slovakia in the Archdiocese (Bratislava) and other three dioceses, namely Nitra, Banská Bystrica, and Žilina. On the other hand, in the Czech Republic, we are working in two Archdioceses, namely Praha and Olomouc, and in the diocese of Litoměřice.

At the time of the visitation, the province counted

44 confreres in perpetual vows from five nationalities: India (2), Indonesia (3), Poland (3), Vietnam (2), and Slovakia (34). The oldest confrere is 70 years old, and the youngest one is 32. The age pyramid of the SVK confreres is presented as follows: 70 = 1; 69-60 = 8; 59-50 = 17; 49-40 = 11; 39-30 = 7.

Looking at the statistics, one can say that the Slovakia Province is quite a "young" province in terms of the age of confreres. There are young confreres who are energetic with various talents. They are doing tremendous work to maintain the province actively. I was impressed to see confreres committed to manual work through gardening, poultry, raising rabbits, and maintaining our infrastructures. These activities keep our confreres' life self-sustained and simple to a certain degree.

The province is well committed to the campus ministry with the youth in the University in Mlynska Dolina, Bratislava. Other congregations and the archdiocese well appreciate this ministry. The St. Freinademetz University Pastoral Center (UPeCe), as it is called, is the "mirror" of the SVD in the country. It is a vast space that is rented within the premises of the University. The Center welcomes students from all over the country. Various activities are organized with the youth, namely Eucharistic celebrations, confessions, social and cultural gatherings, and music. In the past and even recently, the Society got some vocations from the Center. Some of our benefactors were formerly connected with the UPeCe.

The Slovakia Province was once blessed with a good number of vocations. Today, the situation has changed drastically. The province needs to find ways of allowing God's call to resound in the hearts of our youth. It

should be the responsibility of all the confreres in their places of work and ministry.

Most of the confreres working in the province have had a missionary experience outside the country. These returning missionaries carried home a wealth of experiences that set the course of their life: a new language competence, an increase of confidence, improvement in their communication skills, etc. These diverse experiences contribute certain credibility and respect the archdioceses/dioceses have toward the SVD members. This is also true with the people we work with who appreciate the work we are doing.

The Slovakia Province is conscientious about the SVD initiatives in the world. It contributes to the different distributions of the SVD worldwide mission. The province has some good sources of income like the photovoltaic project, rental lands, offices, the nursing home, and the retreat center.

I met all the province members in their different places of work. I thank all of them for sharing the joys and the challenges they are facing in their life and mission in Slovakia and Czech Republic. I thank them especially for their active collaboration and participation during the visitation. I sincerely appreciate their dedication to their respective ministries. Finally, I thank God for what has been accomplished in the province. It renews my confidence and trust that God will help our confreres in Slovakia and the Czech Republic through their continued commitment to participate in His mission.

--- Br. Guy Mazola Mido, SVD
General Councilor

General Visitation to URL:

Missionary work positively contributes to the people and the Church



The parishes are lively ecclesial communities.



Migrants and international students are welcomed.

Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva shares his impressions and reflections during his General Visitation to the Ural Region (URL) which took place from September 2-21, 2021. This is what he shares.

The General Visitation was done in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. Unfortunately, because of travel restrictions, it was not possible to visit our confreres in Belarus. In the Russian Federation, al-

though there was no time to visit every SVD parish, I could meet all the confreres in the country at the time of the Visitation.

The URL Region is the largest among the SVD prov-

inces/regions/missions. It covers two countries, Belarus and the Russian Federation. It stretches out from the Baltic Sea (Kaliningrad) to the Russian Far East (Blagoveshchensk) in two continents (Europe and Asia). After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the SVD started working in Belarus (1991) and afterward in Russia. At the visitation, 39 confreres were assigned to URL (30 priests, 6 brothers, 3 in temporary vows).

Our presence is mainly pastoral work in the parishes. I was impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of our confreres. The SVD and our missionary work positively contribute to the people and the Church in those two countries. The SVD's intercultural composition is a witness to the Church and the wider society. The people I met appreciate the missionary service of our confreres very much.

In URL, our Society has been blessed with some vocations. Many of the young men want to know our Congregation and enter a process of vocational discernment with us. From what I heard, the young people interested in the SVD vocation and mission come from our parishes. Our seminarians attend classes at the diocesan major seminary in St. Petersburg.

Some churches during communism were transformed into factories, flats, or dancing halls. Even today, in several of our parishes, there are no church buildings. Instead, the parish church functions in a flat, and parishioners are very few. In some towns, Catholics are considered a sect. However, as one confrere told me, every parishioner is essential and needs to be cared for.

One confrere told me that the most important is not the building but the city's tiny Catholic community's presence and prayer life. Although small in membership, the parishes are lively ecclesial communities. The bishops are very grateful for our presence and work. In Russia, especially, they expect a lot from our Society as we are the largest male religious Congregation in the country. The people I met in our parishes appreciate the missionary service of our confreres very much.

The ad extra priorities of URL region are Primary and New Evangelization, Family and Youth, and Migration. I could see the efforts made to implement these priorities. Our confreres in their respective ministries reach out to non-believers and faith-seekers, design programs for families and the youth, make available our facilities for groups that care for people affected by social problems or addictions.

Migrants, especially Vietnamese workers and international students from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, are welcomed and served with a good pastoral care. They are active members in the parishes, and their

presence is a prophetic sign of the Kingdom of God, which is inclusive and universal.

The Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, and the first generation born after communism is now reaching age 30s. The Catholic Church and the SVD are aware of this situation. Therefore, we reach out to the young generations with a different approach. In this matter, social media is a good platform for evangelization and mission animation.

This visitation was, for me, an enriching experience. What impressed me most was the dedication of our confreres and the faith of the people. The biggest challenges are the long distances, isolation, extreme weather conditions, some difficulties posed by the local municipal authorities and some Orthodox clergy.

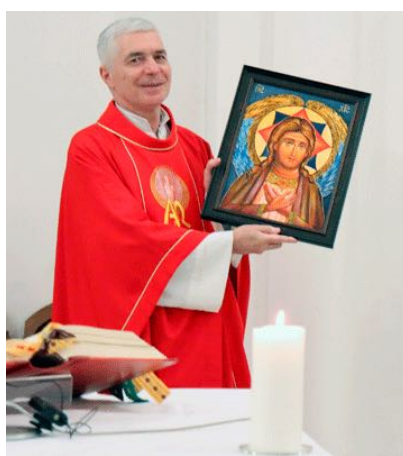
They affect the life and work of our confreres. Nevertheless, it is comforting and encouraging to see how Catholics, being a tiny minority, are dedicated to their Church and proud of their identity in such a challenging context.

Russian icons and mosaics of rare beauty are symbolic platforms to enter an inner journey that could lead us to spiritual renewal and transformation. They also reveal the spiritual depth of the Russian soul. It is undoubtedly an excellent way to trans-

mit the Gospel to the new generations.

When I arrived at the diocesan retreat house in Irkutsk, a priest from another Congregation asked me and the other SVD present if we knew each other. I said: No, we never met before, but we are brothers in the same Society. Three weeks later, I returned to Rome feeling grateful because I felt at home in all our communities and parishes in Russia. I thank our confreres and mission partners for their mission work and witness in Russia and Belarus.

--- Fr. Jose Antunes da Silva, SVD
Vice Superior General



Thoughts and Reflections

Our Name is Our Mission: Biblical Reflections



--- Fr. Naveen Rebello SVD

Doctoral Student

Pontificio Istituto Biblico-Rome

While focusing on the spiritual renewal and transformation during the 18th General Chapter, a catchphrase that became part of the initial discussions and later of the final document is “Our name is our mission”. As we are halfway through this journey of renewal and transformation, the following brief reflections and insights situate the above adage in the biblical context where the names play a pivotal role in relation to one’s mission especially those of the three persons of the Trinity, the basis of our foundational spirituality.

God’s Name is God’s Mission

The authors of the Hebrew Bible employed various names and titles for the God of Israel in order to depict his various character traits and his unique relationship to the people of Israel. Among them, what stands out the most, is the proper name “Yahweh”, derived from the Hebrew root, h-w-h, meaning “to-be”. The revelation of this divine name is part of the objections in the dialogue between Moses and God, which moves from “Who am I?” (Ex 3,11) to “What is his name?” (Ex 3,13). In response, the divine name, “I am who I am” or “I will be who I am” (rather than a noun), emphasizes on God’s actions for Israel instead of his unique being or independent essence (Ex 3,14). In other words, God’s name defines God’s mission that he will be the liberator of Israel whose acts of liberation for the Hebrew slaves especially in Exodus 14 become the foundational events for the future life and identity of Israel.

Jesus’ Name is Jesus’ Mission

Jesus is the protagonist of the Gospels which narrate his life, ministry, and final destiny. In the annunciation scenes of Matthew and Luke, both Joseph and Mary are directed to name the child as “Jesus” (Iēsous) which is the shortened form of the Hebrew Yehoshua or Yeshua meaning “Yahweh saves” (Mt 1,21; Lk 1,31). Matthew is the only evangelist who mentions the significance of Jesus’ name, viz. “for he will save his people from their sins”, thus associating Jesus’ name with his salvific mission. In other words, in the name of Jesus, we encounter his saving work, mission and the purpose of his life that the evangelist progressively unfolds in the Gospel-story showing how Jesus saves humans from their sins. (also, Acts 4,12).

Spirit’s Name is Spirit’s Mission

Holy Spirit is God’s creative power who continues Jesus’ presence in and through the ministry of the Church. In biblical Hebrew, this Spirit is *rûaḥ* and in Greek, it is *pneuma* meaning breath, life and wind. In the Creation account, the Spirit of God overcomes the forces of chaos and brings forth a cosmic order and new life (Gen 1,2). When the Spirit is taken away, life is terminated and it ceases to exist (Gen 6,3). In other words, the mission of the Spiritus Creator is to breathe life into God’s created realities, to vivify and transform them into new creation. In the Gospels, the Spirit is operative in the birth of Jesus, the Spirit-anointed Son of God and instrumental in his kingdom ministry as well as eternally present in the life-giving ministry of the Church, breathing life and making the believers a new creation (cf. Jn 20,22-23).

Church’s Name is Church’s Mission

The Church is the community of the baptized disciples, who are gathered in the name of Jesus, listening to his Word and celebrating faith in the risen Lord through liturgy and sacraments. In Greek, the church is *ekklēsia* which is derived from *ek* (“out of”) and *kaleō* (“to call”), to refer to “those who are called forth”. Also the word “church” comes from the Greek *kyriake* meaning “belonging to the Lord”. The word *ekklēsia* occurring only in Mt 16,18 and 18,17 clearly shows that the foundation of the Church is in Jesus who forms a community of disciples whose mission is to make God present here and now (cf. Mt 28,19-20). In other words, the mission of the church is to call forth people to become Jesus’ disciples and make God present in this world.

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet”, quipped Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet*. There is so much to a name. Names ‘name us! They ‘identify’ us and ‘distinguish’ us! The “Society of the Divine Word” is both a name and a mission. It not only reminds us of our origins and spiritual roots in the “Divine Word” but it also becomes the essence of our missionary life and identity distinctly revealing our belongingness!

From nomadic Abram to father and founder Abraham and from disciple Simon to apostle Peter, what’s not in a name!

SVD presence in Bangladesh: The need for unending hope and perseverance



The "Word of God" is the Center of our Parish Community.



We distributed relief materials.

Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD, the Mission Superior of Bangladesh Mission (BGD), traces the journey that led to our commitment to Bangladesh. The SVD presence, to survive, needs a spirit of unending hope and perseverance. He describes our presence and contribution as a little less than a drop. Perhaps, this is a humble cognizance of the efforts of our missionaries.

Divine Word Missionaries have been working in North East India, mainly in the state of Tripura more than 25 years. The area borders the country of Bangladesh. Fr. Cyprian Pinto worked there exclusively among different tribes of Tripura. They form about 18% of the state population. The indigenous people of Tripura are more open to the message of Jesus, and it was a joy to work among them.

During the British era, the southeastern part of India, now Bangladesh bordering Myanmar and Tripura, was inhabited mainly by indigenous tribes like those indigenous tribes in Tripura. The late Archbishop Moses Costa, Archbishop of Chittagong, invited us to the Chittagong diocese. We were keen to work among the indigenous tribes of Chittagong hill track, bordering Tripura.

Due to our long experience in Tripura, we have formed vibrant Christian communities; we are well acquainted and equipped to work among them. But, unfortunately, due to government regulations, no foreigners are allowed to enter and work among the tribes in Tripura. As a result, the Archbishop instead asked us to work in established parishes. Therefore, we wait for an opportune time with a well-designed strategy to work among the indigenous tribes.

Initially, three of us were appointed, and two more were assigned subsequently. Now, after nearly four years, we cannot commit ourselves to the mission we had envisaged. To make matters worse, none of us

could get a valid visa up to this date and all except Fr. Cyprian, also without a visa, had to leave Bangladesh! On our contract with the Archdiocese, we were given the charge of two parishes, but we could not staff them due to the uncertainty of our visa. Therefore, we administer Immaculate Conception Parish in Chittagong city. However, there is no permanent SVD community except for a few brief periods. Thus, most of the time, Fr. Cyprian lives alone without an SVD community.

Fr. Cyprian described his current situation in his own words: "It is not at all pleasant to be alone, I am a community man, I enjoy myself living in a community. Unfortunately, I had to live alone several times in my 48 years of religious-missionary life; often a price to pay to be a missionary disciple of Christ!. Fortunately, a missionary is never alone. He always lives in a believing community accompanied by many generous people."

Fr. Cyprian has been getting good support from the Society. Fr. General is personally interested in his life and mission. Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, the Mission Secretary, is the contact person between Fr. Cyprian and the Generalate. The social funds are an excellent help for Fr. Cyprian. He could help many people during the pandemic and conduct some pastoral mission programs.

Fr. Cyprian also got the COVID-19 virus! The diocese was very kind to him, and within 24 hours, the best treatment was made available to him. His brother accompanied him along with the prayers of many people for his recovery.

Fr. Cyprian describes his ministry with a tone of unending hope and perseverance. At present, I am fully involved in the parish pastoral activities, but not without SVD nuances! I have nothing to present as our unique contribution to the Catholic Church of Chittagong, with our uncertain existence here and with too

little workforce and recourses. However, we have contributed a little less than a drop!. The parish where I work is mainly of migrant people coming to the city for a better future. The Catholics among them are a divided group consisting of the so-called "Anglos" and "Bengalis". My main task is to unite them in one heart, mind, and spirit, a witnessing missionary Disciples of Christ.

I put up a board in front of our Presbytery. The caption is "Faithful to the Word and One with the People." It reminds everyone that we cannot be a witness to Christ in this Muslim majority country without deeply being rooted in Christ. The "Word of God" is the Center of our Parish Community. For this purpose, I have enthroned the Bible in the Church. I constantly remind our people that the Word of God is the spirit and life in our missionary journey, a lamp to guide us, and a light for our path.

As I see it, the Catholics in Chittagong are a "ghetto" group that considers themselves "elite," and others are children of a lesser god. My challenge is to realize that we are all children of the one God, our Creator and Father. Our origin and destiny are the same to whichever religious or ethnic group we may belong to. We have a heritage and experience of our own, of God's fatherly love in our life, saving us from sin and death. It was handed down to us for centuries. We cannot but joyfully speak and share with our fellow neighbors and fellow citizens.

The last 17 months of the COVID-19 pandemic I had an opportunity to go to the peripheries. With our lay collaborators and religious of the Archdiocese, we interacted with many people. We organized ten interreli-

gious camps and distributed relief materials. We joined the people in their joys and sorrows. We had special programs for children, including classes, sports, and games. Fr. Cyprian made a few attempts to reach out to the 800,000 Rohingya refugees languishing in Bangladesh relief camps but could not succeed due to legal hurdles.

In response to "Laudato Si," the care of our common home is another area of our activity. We have organized a seminar for our parishioners. The topic was "Listen to the cry of the earth and the poor." We wanted the people to be aware that we are responsible for the degradation of our environment, natural recourses, global warming, etc.

Piles of filth are a common sight in Bangladesh. Fr. Cyprian describing the situation, says, "our drains and sewage canals are filled with plastic and other non-degradable hazardous materials due to throwing away culture. Swift action is the need of the hour. This is the most secure way to save us from impending disaster!"

The Catholic community had a cleaning and plantation drive for our youth in the parish compound. This is a sign of our commitment to save the planet, our common home!

Fr. Cyprian speaks of lay collaborators, "the Lay collaborators could be the backbone of our missionary activities. I don't have a formal group till now, but I have a few who actively participate in all our mission endeavors. I hope and pray that many more young people will share our SVD profile and charisma!"

--- Fr. Cyprian Pinto SVD
Mission Superior BGD

A missionary in Cuba patiently maturing for new challenges



Strength and optimism are provided by the people.



We celebrate Sunday Mass and two Masses a week.

Fr. Sylwester Marek Wydra SVD is a missionary in Cuba from Poland. He arrived in Cuba, after many attempts, with one piece of luggage (25kg.) and a hand carry. He says, ". I went to Cuba "traveling lightly." He shares with us his journey as a missionary. Fr. Sylwester says, "It seems that the task of a missionary in these strange times

of distance, closure, and fear is to be able to see the presence of God in the world."

Coming to Cuba, not as a tourist but as a missionary, one is confronted with a different reality. I wouldn't have ever imagined that the phenomenon

of crossing a time tunnel is possible. Structurally, the Cuban capital Havana is exceptionally well-conceived and built. You could say everything is like ours. But not quite so. There are few cars. The brands of cars are similar to those we used to have in Poland, with a predominance of Russian Ladas, Polish Small Fiats, and beautiful old American cars. Delightful. You are amazed that such things are still running. To say that most of these cars have already had their engines replaced, smuggled in from other countries.

In this respect, Cubans are very creative. But, unfortunately, the other things you can see are not that impressive. For example, there are power cuts, empty shelves in shops, endless queues and lots of desperate people looking for the most necessary products. The worst thing is that, in times of the pandemic, people lack essential medicines and vitamins to at least strengthen their bodies a little.

You can get many things on the streets but of course at prices three or four times higher than usual. The Internet, which is there and works, is probably the most expensive in the world. And it is still unfortunately controlled by the authorities. A large part of the society wears uniforms, and another part, already out of their uniform. They faithfully guard the best-known order in the world, that is, communism. It seems that as a child, I have already seen this (in Poland). Not much, but I remember something of those times.

The pandemic situation is dire, mainly due to the lack of medicines and malnutrition among people. That is why, on June 11, the Cuban people decided to say enough and took to the streets. But, unfortunately, the protest was met with massive repression because, after all, the best system must be defended!

I was assigned to the city of Holguín in the diocese of Holguín/Las Tunas in the eastern part of Cuba. I was entrusted with two parishes: one in the district of Ciudad Jardín in Holguín, and the other in Buenaventura, 40 km away. Both parishes have several access chapels around which the community of believers gathers.

In the community, I am with a Slovak confrere, Fr. Michal Vrták SVD. He is responsible for the construction and organization of the local St Joseph Freinademetz Bible Center.

The parish church of St Joachim and St Anne is also to be built on this site. Determination and prayers are needed to accomplish this project because the situation with building materials is also like it used to be with

us, or even worse. When something is available, even cement, it is at exorbitant prices, and you can only buy one bag a day. It is best to have five or ten colleagues, and when each of us buys a bag, well, it goes a bit faster.

Because of the pandemic, I have not yet had the opportunity to know my new parishioners well. Fortunately, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne (founded in Spain) work with us. The sisters do excellent pastoral and social work. They run guarderías (nurseries), or in this case, the centers where they look after children and young people outside of school. They run sewing workshops and offer many other courses to the local community, as well as catechesis. As a missionary in Cuba, thanks to them, I have a starting point for my parish work.



At the moment, we celebrate Sunday Mass and two Masses a week because of the restrictions. When we have fuel for our Lada Niva, we can also visit communities outside the city from time to time. I am very encouraged by the attitude of many Cuban Christians. Despite the lockdown, prevailing restrictions, and the lack of daily Eucharist, many small groups meet regularly for prayer.

As usual, strength and optimism are provided by people who, despite everything, do not lose hope, have the will to live and overcome everyday struggles. According to the Sisters of St. Anne, cooperation between religious communities has increased as far as religious life is concerned. You can count on the help of others. We could experience this ourselves when we, too, we're struggling with COVID-19. The sisters took care of us, and we felt prayerful support from all sides.

It seems that the task of a missionary in these strange times of distance, closure, and fear is to be able to see the presence of God in the world. Especially in those places where it seems that He is no longer there. He is here, and His Spirit transforms people's hearts and lives. He enables us, missionaries, to patiently mature for new challenges.

--- Fr. Sylwester Wydra SVD

*Translated from Polish by
Fr. Krzysztof Kołodyński SVD*

Specific concerns and features of SVD Chad Mission



The middle school is on construction.



The members of the SVD Mission in Chad are very young. Nevertheless, the SVD mission in Chad has high hopes and promises of the future because it boasts of young and vibrant missionaries. Thus, SVD Chad is not only distinguished by harsh missionary conditions; it is also marked by the youthfulness and zeal of young confreres.

There is, however, one thing that SVD Chad lacks. Currently, there is no SVD brother. We hope that shortly, the SVD brothers will join the mission in TCD. The growth of SVD Chad is already at its adolescent stage. The SVD mission in Chad is precisely at the point in its history where it is now establishing its footing firmly and securely in the ground.

Seventeen years have elapsed since the first SVD missionaries started the mission in the country in 2004 and dedicated it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Although SVD Chad is developing and progressing, the main focus of its missionary program and activities remain fixed on the pastoral ministry and care of ecclesial communities. This reality is inevitable because the Church's mission in the country is still characterized by the primary Evangelization of the faithful.

District of Mananjary (MAD):

Becoming an SVD missionary parish

From September 23-26, 2021, the District of Mananjary met to discuss issues concerning the Congregation in general, the Madagascar Region, and the Mananjary District in particular.

During the meeting, members read and discussed chapter 4, «Images of an SVD Parish,» of the booklet «Becoming an SVD Missionary Parish.» The chapter under discussion comes to remind and invite members to reflect and intensify their day-to-day activities in their various parish communities in the District. In the conversation, we encouraged one another to continue to be like caring and attentive mothers when dealing with the members of the various church communities.

In addition, we agreed to encourage the faithful to contribute their part to the Body of Christ. Moreover, we thought it worthy of continuing being a field hospi-

The majority of the people we serve are still in need of basic instruction(s) in the principles and practices of the Christian faith. Therefore, the local Church depends heavily on the help and assistance of religious missionaries. The majority of SVDs in Chad work in three parishes. We are engaged in pastoral ministries like basic faith teachings, the formation of catechists, and sacramental/liturgical services. We are also committed to the social and educational apostolates.

In our educational apostolate, Fr. Khanh Tran Huy SVD reports an initiative of the SVDs. Construction continues on a future Catholic middle school operated by the Divine Word Missionaries in Laramanaye. In addition, the missionaries based at St. Arnold Janssen Parish in Laramanaye have built kindergarten and elementary schools administered by the local diocese.

The middle school, whose building is on construction, will be the first to be supervised by the Divine Word Missionaries. Fr. Tran hopes that the building will be part of a campus that will include a high school in the future.

--- Source: *Protocol of General Visitation of TCD*

tal where particular attention is reserved to wounded members.

More so, we wanted to continue to organize annual parish pilgrimages to present the Church as a pilgrim community. Finally, we decided to try to portray our parishes as a farm wherein we take in both males and females in good numbers. They are our young and old members, rich and poor, performing together diverse but complementary tasks. The youth and young adults will receive formation to be more responsible for the protection of Mother Earth.

The parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul expressed their happiness of having the SVD District of Mananjary members spend days with them despite their busy schedules.

--- Fr. Antonius Maria Klaret No Sewa SVD
District Superior

Vohilava (MAD):

Annual pilgrimage in honor of St. Joseph



Every year, Christians from the seventy-five outstations of Saints Peter and Paul, Vohilava come together for the annual parish pilgrimage. This year was no exception. It took place from October 7-11, 2021. It was a time to deepen one's faith through talks, be with the Lord during the Eucharistic Adoration and pray the Rosary. People have gathered, singing praises to the Lord and his Mother Mary. They received the Sacrament of reconciliation and participated in the celebration of the Eucharistic.

As this year is put aside for St Joseph, the theme for this year was "Surely this is Jesus, son of Joseph." (Jn 6, 42). The participants of this annual pilgrimage came to renew their understanding that Jesus is not only a man but God, human and divine. Teachings on the Catholic faith and the Bible saw participating Christians divided into catechists, children, youth, and adults.

On Saturday evening after the Holy Mass, there was a candlelight procession from Our Lady of the Holy Rosary grotto, 2km to the Church, for the final blessing imparted by the Bishop. During the procession, special intentions were prayed for at vantage points.

As usual, the various Catechists from the central parish and the outstations were blessed and commissioned into the new pastoral year by the Bishop of the diocese, Mgr José Alfredo Caires de Nobrega, at the end of the Holy Mass. In addition, there was a procession with the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday. Finally, on Monday morning, October 11, 2021, the Bishop blessed the newly built Chapel in honor of the Holy Family at Anosy Arivo, an outstation 12km from the central parish in Vohilava.

--- Fr. Emmanuel Mawul Anyomi SVD

Siramanjo (KEN):

Putting up a nursery school

Fr. Lawrence Muthee SVD remembers quite well the desire of the people of Noomoton to have a school where their children can learn. Orkiringo (Noomoton) is a sub-village of Narakawo Village. But, unfortunately, the only primary school in the village is 14 kilometers from Noomokon, across a forest with

wild animals. Therefore, the children from this village could not attend school. It is due to the distance and the danger of traversing the forest. This is his story.

Two years ago, we started a Small Christian Com-



The nursery school ready for the inauguration.

munity in Noomoton. Later, the Christians managed to put up a small mud Church thanks to one older man Mr. Elia Kayam. One day, after the celebration of the Holy Mass, we went to take lunch in the home of Mr. Moses Sanjiro, the Sub-village Head. Some men from the surrounding dwellings joined us for lunch. The men requested me to help them put up a nursery school for their children during the meal. I could see the concern in their faces about the situation of their children.

I told them that if they were earnest about their children's education, they needed to demonstrate by contributing part of the construction materials. They agreed to contribute sand, stones and pay the constructor. On my part, I promised to find benefactors to help buy the rest of the construction materials. Thanks to the Gruppo Cassago from Italy who put up the cost of building materials, including blocks, cement, iron sheets, timber, windows, doors, paint, desks, and table.

On September 18, 2021, the new Nursery School was inaugurated. Fr. Lawrence Muthee, SVD and Bro. Nicodemus Eluka, SVD, joined the hundreds of villagers who came for the occasion. It was a massive celebration with food and drinks for all. We thank all who contributed to make the dream of Noomoton Nursery school come to reality.

--- Fr. Lawrence Muthee, SVD

Tamale (GHA):

Our postulants engaging in mushroom production

Mushroom farming consists of steps like composting, spawning, casing, pinning, and cropping. These steps require work and dedication. The preparation of mushroom compost, for example, even involves the collection of manure.

Our postulants of St. Joseph Freinademetz House in Tamale adheres to the adage, Laborare est orare. They took on the challenge to begin the process of mushroom production. They have started to engage in the bagging and heating of the compost. Very soon, the spawn will be applied, and then the packing and watering of the compost will begin.



Our postulants preparing the mushroom compost.

With hope and facing the challenge of rigorous preparation, the harvested mushroom will be ready for consumption and sale in several weeks. St. Thomas Aquinas once said, "Without Work, it is Impossible to Have Fun." Our postulants are having the best of their times facing the Mushroom Production challenge.

--- St. Joseph Freinademetz Formation House

Democratic Republic of Congo (CNG):

70 years of SVD presence in Congo

The Society of the Divine Word (SVD), Congo province, marks 70 years of missionary service in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Among the activities earmarked to celebrate this outstanding achievement is a day's lecture dubbed "SVD Day." The event was organized by the province at the Biblical Center Liboba in Lemba, Kinshasa, on October 9, 2021

The day's lecture was mainly about the history and work of the Congregation in RDC for the past 70 years. Present at this event were some confreres of the province, the theologians from the Common Formation Center, Friends of the SVD, and other well-wishers.



The participants of the lecture.

Fr Hugo Tewes, SVD, a historian and archivist of the province, presented the history of the SVD since 1903. Together we took a trip down memory lane focusing on the genesis of the SVD mission in Africa, namely Togo, Ghana, Madagascar, among others. Next, Fr Valerian Joseph D'Souza SVD spoke about the spirituality and charism of the Congregation. In contrast, Mr. Nico Luketo, an SVD lay partner, talked about the lay fraternity of the SVD.

--- Frt. Paul Amuzu, SVD, CFC Kinshasa

ASPAC NEWS

Timor Leste Region (TLS):

"Mehi sai Realidade" (A dream came true)



The SVD formation in the Timor Leste region began when it had bifurcated itself from the Indonesia Timor Province and began to function as an SVD region. The formation program started in a rented house in Dili for about six years and later shifted to Batugade. Since the beginning of East Timor as a Re-

gion, SVD missionaries have been nurturing a dream of having a permanent structure for SVD Formation.

This dream began to take shape when Generalate approved funds for constructing the new Formation Building in a piece of land in the vicinity of the capital city Dili. It is about 7 kilometers away from the Region-

al House and two and a half kilometers from the Salesian Philosophical Institute, where our SVD candidates study Philosophy.

In May 2020, the construction work began to progress amidst the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. With many ups and downs, the result was finally finished in September 2021, though delayed due to COVID-19 lockdown and obligatory home confinement. The house is constructed over 827 square meters of land.

The formation complex includes a beautiful chapel and a multi-story building with four floors—there are altogether 38 rooms. Twenty rooms are destined for the formandi. Apart from the rooms, there is also a hall with a capacity of accommodating about 100 people, a classroom for instructions, a computer room, a dining Hall with an attached kitchen, two storerooms, one Laundry room, and a garage.

The house was finally inaugurated on September 29, 2021, on the Feast day of the Archangels. The Archangel Michael is the patron of the SVD formation house, Manleuana Dili. The house was blessed and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Emanuel Lelo Talok, CMF Episcopal Vicar General for Social Issues, and Fr. Yohanes Suban Gapun, SVD, Regional Superior. Despite the COVID-19 threat, more than a thousand people participated in the Eucharist and the inaugural ceremony.

As SVDs, we are short of words to express our gratitude to the benefactors and the Mission Office Techny, USA. We also thank Father General and the council for approving this project. From the inauguration day, the formators and students/candidates for pre-postulants have started living in the new formation house.

--- Fr. Gregory Minz, SVD
Regional Secretary

Melbourne (AUS):

First Online Mission Day



On October 2, 2021, Dorish Maru College, the major seminary in Melbourne, hosted its first online Mission Day with the theme “Exploring Australian Indigenous Culture, Mission and Spiritualities.” Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, the mission conference was a collaborative effort to hold a three-hour Mission Day on-

line formative event between the Australian Association for Mission Studies (AAMS) and the Divine Word Missionaries.

The event was organized by Fr. Albano Da Costa, SVD, and Helen Stewart of the Australian Journal of Mission Studies. The program focused on dialogue with indigenous theologies, country, land, and indigenous languages. A unique feature of Mission Day was the launching of a book, “Unbreakable Rock,” by the late Michael Bowden. He passionately supported the First Nations people of Central Australia, where the SVDs are based.

The conference took place within an ecumenical setting. There were over 374 registrations from participants, and the theme of the conference invited responses and reflection on Exploring Australian Indigenous Culture, Mission, and Spiritualities. The welcome address was delivered by Fr. Asaeli Rass SVD, the AUS Provincial.

This collaborative event was a massive success in building bridges within the ecumenical setting and,

to a great extent, provided an opportunity to engage in a deeper reflection and discernment in listening to Australia’s First Nations peoples. This formative style mission conference within an ecumenical setting has generated much interest from participants within Australia and beyond.

--- Fr. Albano Da Costa SVD
Mission Day conference coordinator

Ambassa, Tripura (ING):

Annual meeting of women

During the month of October 2021, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church organized a two-day annual meeting of women in Naithungul village, the sub-center of the parish. Around 80 mothers participated in reporting their yearly activities and discussing action plans for the following year. The participants stayed in the houses in the village.

The event includes a Rosary prayer and a Bible quiz. The participants reported their activities in twelve months. Many of the women have regular meetings and assessments about their performance in their village churches. Sr. Sushila Xess SSps gave input sessions on ‘Women’s role in the church and family. The participants well appreciated it.

The meeting decided to have the following annual gathering in Kekmachara village in October 2022. Before that, other programs will be held, such as: collecting the clothes for the poor and distribution before Christmas, the celebration of girl child day, formation of SCC groups, and Bible sharing. Also included were Bible procession and enthronement in all the village churches during the Holy Eucharist and regular family prayer and rosaries.

--- Ivan D’Silva, SVD

Kamuning (PHC):**Vaccination drive**

The Sacred Heart Parish and Shrine in a vaccination drive.

The Sacred Heart Parish in Kamuning City has been administered by the Society of the Divine Word ever since, even before its founding as a parish, the Sacred Heart Church on October 3, 1941. It is the first parish to be erected in Quezon City after the city's inception in 1939.

Kamuning Church became officially known as the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on October 1, 2016, the 75th foundation year of the parish. Bishop Honesto Ongtioco declared the Sacred Heart Parish as a diocesan shrine.

The Divine Word Missionaries recently participated in a COVID-19 vaccination drive at Sacred Heart Parish and Shrine in Quezon City. Father Randy Flores SVD, the parish pastor, reported that 400 people were vaccinated. The medical team was spearheaded by Dr. Grace Alferos, a lector at the parish. In addition, staff members from the Arnold Janssen Mission Foundation helped to organize the event.

--- Sacred Heart Shrine Facebook
Wikipedia

San Fernando, La Union (PHC):**When there is a will, there is a way**

Every Wednesday, the SVD PHN Mission Partners gather online for the recitation of the Rosary. But this Wednesday, as the participants fondly coin it, was threatened by a typhoon. There was still no electricity. The internet connection throughout North Luzon was limited. But they managed to pull through despite the limitations.

Mary Geraldine gave an account, "Our Lady of Fatima shines through. We started with Zoom, but we had not enough reserved battery stored in the host device. But a missionary always finds a way. No amount of difficulty would stop us. So our Lady of Fatima shines through our lives. So may the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word. And may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all."

--- SVD PHN Partners Facebook

Indonesia-Java (IDJ):**COVID-19 Humanitarian Aid Program**

We prioritized to help low-income families, elderly, retired etc.

Last June 2021, Indonesia was severely hit by the new variant Delta of COVID-19. As a result, those infected were rising, and critical cases and deaths were unstoppable. As a result, the country was on a red alert. With the siren of ambulances heard all day long and hospitals full, the situation was alarming for many.

With the help from "The Steyler Mission – Sank Augustine," the IDJ Mission Office organized a COVID-19 aid program for those who were physically and economically affected. We collaborated with hospitals and pharmacies to ask for directions on improving the body's immune system. We also sought the help of our SVD parishes and institutions and lay partner groups such as Soverdia.

The Catholic Youth helped in identifying those who needed medical assistance and food packages. We wanted that the recipients of this assistance are the right people in dire need. In extending help, we prioritized low-income families, day workers, elderly, retired, widows, disabled, and sick. In addition, we extended our service to our confreres, students from outside the region (only in Yogyakarta). We also reached out to the transgender communities. We implemented the program in 36 locations in Nias, North Sumatera, Batam, Kalimantan, Jawa, and Bali.

This humanitarian aid program was carried out from the months of July to October 2021. In July and August, we prioritized medical assistance. The government limited social movements in various public facilities and areas. Then, in September-October, we focused on the food package assistance program because the situation had started to improve. More people have been vaccinated. Of course, the health protocols are strictly maintained for our activities.

Once again, we thank our leading donor, "The Steyler Mission-Sank Augustine," and other parties who helped.

--- Fr. A. Eko Juliantoro SVD
IDJ Mission Secretary

District of Thailand (AUS):**An urgent call to reach out**

The SVDs in Thailand have not been able to gather physically since the beginning of the year 2021. Many of our ministries have been postponed, notably, confreres in Bangkok that feel the total weight of the lockdown. With all the restrictions, confreres do find creative ways to minister to God's people.

Fr. Linh Nguyen SVD is still in Bangkok preparing for his further studies in the U.S. In the meantime, Linh does online masses to meet the spiritual needs of Vietnamese migrant workers. With the latest wave of COVID, many refugees and migrant workers are in dire need of assistance.

With the help of Sacred Heart Sisters, Fr. John Le can obtain expiring food products from Tops Market, one of the more affluent grocery stores in Thailand. He gathers expiring food twice a week to give to different refugee communities and migrant workers. The groups of refugees are from the mountainous tribes of Vietnam, who are fleeing harassment and oppression.

Fr. John also cooperates with the local benefactors to raise money to help Vietnamese migrant workers who have been out of a job for 4-5 months. The little food assistance is much appreciated. He also provides funds to migrant workers who are facing hardships in other provinces.

--- AUS Newsletter

Mt. Hagen (PNG):**The Legion of Mary National Conference**

The Legion of Mary National Conference gathered thousands of faithful in Banz Parish, Mt Hagen Archdiocese. The Closing Mass of this significant event was celebrated by Bishop Jozef Roszynski, SVD of the Wewak Diocese. Laity participation is compelling in many organizations. The Legion of Mary is celebrating 100 years this year. The Legion of Mary is one of the

leading devotional groups in the Catholic Church. The motto of the gathering was "To Jesus through Mary" was the motto. There was lots of joy for everyone.

--- Wewak Diocese Facebook

India Sub-zone**Formation Board Meeting**

The Sub-Zonal Formation Board Meeting took place online via zoom on September 16-17, 2021. All the confreres involved in the formation ministry tried their best to participate in this two-day program. Unfortunately, a few confreres due to unavoidable technical reasons could not make it. Nevertheless, there was active participation from the confreres. If it were not for the pandemic situation, it would have been an exceptional opportunity for our formators to meet each other in person.

The agenda had around fifty-two points for discussion. There was very active participation through discussions and deliberations. Our special thanks to the sub-zonal formation secretary and the sub-zonal mission secretary for their efforts to organize the meetings and timely interventions.

--- INE Newsletter

Jharsuguda (INE):**Celebrating the International Girl Child Day**

The INE Social Work Center in Jharsuguda celebrated International Girl Child Day on October 11, 2021. The children from SVD tuition centers were gathered at two places to mark this day. A total of 42 students participated in this program. Sr. Phili SSPs, the Headmistress of Upper Primary Mission School, Jharsuguda, and Mrs. Nilima Toppo, the animator, were the prominent guests in their respective places.

While encouraging children, the speakers highlighted the importance of education, discipline in student's life, and proper usage of digital platforms. Essay Writing and Speech Competitions were conducted for the junior and senior students on the topics, "Importance of Girls Education and Need of Environmental care today." Children also performed programs such as dance and storytelling from each Center. The winners were awarded note copies, compass boxes, and pens as prizes. The program was conducted as an animation of slum children by Fr. Rasal SVD, the JPIC Coordinator of INE Province.

--- INE Newsletter

Khurda (INC):**Welcoming 28 newly professed members**

"God's will is my will" was the theme of the twenty-eight newly professed members. They were inducted into the family of the Society of the Divine Word on October 15, 2021. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Chacko Thottumarickal

SVD, Bishop of Indore Diocese. In his inspiring homily, he exhorted the newly professed members to "let God be the driver on life journey; trust and rely on His skills either on the smooth road or difficult road, but sure of reaching the safe road."



Our twenty-eight newly professed members.

Fr. Joemon James SVD, the INC Provincial Superior, received their vows and urged them to take forward the charism and spirituality of the Society, learned during novitiate time to the next level of formation. He exhorted them not to be caught up or be trapped in the world of consumerist attitude. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Khurda community did not take any chance to aggravate the situation. No invitation was extended to our mission partners. It was a simple yet edifying and colorful event to treasure!

--- Fr. Emmanuel Varghese SVD

India-Mumbai Province (INM):

Vocation Promoters' Meeting

The INM Vocation Promoters' Meeting began at 10:00 AM on September 30, 2021. Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu SVD, the INM Mission Secretary, chaired and opened the session with Quarter Hour Prayer. Fr. Tomy Perumprayil SVD, vice-provincial, gave the welcome message. Fr. Tomy said that the provincial administration acknowledges the willingness of the confreres to shoulder this vital mission. Scandals in the church, fewer children in the families, and the pandemic have caused significant challenges in vocation promotion ministry. However, they have not slackened the efforts in the ministry.

Fr. Jolly then requested the vocation promoters to share their experiences and challenges faced in the ministry, especially in the context of the pandemic. All believed that vocation promotion is not an easy mission at present. In the background of schools and churches remaining closed, it is a considerable challenge to contact students and recruit vocations. Fr. Jolly thanked all individually before concluding the meeting with a prayer for vocations composed by Pope Francis.

--- Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu SVD

Indonesia-Java Province (IDJ):

Activities for the World Mission Sunday 2021



The Gema Soverdia Radio Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we are doing missions in Indonesia. But, unfortunately, at the moment, we cannot organize any activity involving a crowd of people since the virus is still within our path of life. So then, what can we do toward the theme of this World Mission Sunday "we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20)"?

This is the message of hope. We witness and speak out and do something for those who lost their spirit and are in dire need during this pandemic. Thankfully, social media can be a platform to reach them. Therefore, the IDJ Mission Secretary, in collaboration with the IDJ lay-partner group (Soverdia) and confreres, several activities were programmed throughout October.

-Eucharist for Mission (Live Streaming): Every Sunday, we broadcast the Holy Eucharist celebration through our YouTube channel: misi svd Indonesia to reflect on the life-journey of a missionary, starting from the basic formation, Brother vocation, mission work, and finally being an elderly missionary at the retirement home.

-Praying the Mission Rosary (Zoom): The Soverdia, the lay-partner group of the SVD Indonesia-Timor Leste Sub-Zone, gathers to pray the mission rosary every Monday at 6.30 PM, and it is open to the public.

-COVID-19 Humanitarian aid: We have organized humanitarian aid through medical assistance and distribution of food packages for those physically and economically affected by COVID-19 in areas where our confreres are working.

-Gema Soverdia Radio Program: We have a particular program for sharing mission experiences in the "Suara Ratu Rosari" radio station, aired every Tuesday, from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM.

We want to thank everyone involved actively during these activities. Utilizing social media is a way to "speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20) during this pandemic time.

--- Fr. A. Eko Juliantoro SVD

Mumbai (INM):

New Lay partners group in Mumbai

The second SVD lay mission partners group in Mumbai (INM) began on October 15, 2021. They had a Mass and Lunch at the Institute of Indian Culture. Members from St. Theresa's Bandra, Sacred

Heart Church, Santacruz, St. Andrews Church, Bandara, Immaculate Conception Church, Borivali, Good Shepherd Parish, four Bungalows at Andheri West and Malad Church.



A new Lay partners group.

All the members of our SVD community joined the Holy Mass. Fr. Donald D'Souza SVD was the principal celebrant. The members prepared food from their homes to celebrate the occasion. The group is joining every Saturday for the Lay Mission partners' Global Rosary. They plan to meet next month to visit the SVD minor seminary in Vasai to interact with the seminarians.

--- Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu SVD

Ledalero (IDE):

Twenty SVD missionaries received the mission cross



Twenty SVD missionaries received the mission cross.

On October 24, the World Mission Sunday, twenty SVD missionaries received their mission cross during the celebration of the Eucharist at St. Paul Ledalero Major Seminary. The theme of World Mission Sunday is, "We cannot possibly speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). The Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Vice Provincial of Ende Province, Fr. Patris Pa, SVD, accompanied by the Mission Secretary of Ende Province, Fr. Yanus Lobo, SVD.

In his homily, Fr. Patris emphasized that the experience of a personal encounter with God urges us to proclaim the Good News of God and to manifest

His mercy. The experience of the love of Christ overwhelms us. It compels us—the disciples—to be ready to be sent out to proclaim the Gospel.

Directing to the twenty missionaries, Fr. Patris said, "The Mission Cross requires us to remain steadfast in our faith and vocation, to persist in the challenges of missionary service; faithful, patient, steadfast, and always happy to carry the cross that is imposed on us missionary disciples."

Fr. Yanus expressed his gratitude to Fr. Patris, who presided over the Eucharist. Our congratulations to all those who received their mission crosses. We wish them well as they proceed to the mission places they have been assigned.

--- Frt. Kris Ibu SVD

Philippines-South (PHS):

PHS Celebrates SVD Mission Week 2021



Lay partners and the SVDs.

The celebration of SVD Mission Week in PHS this year started on August 31, 2021, with a novena mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The online prayer activities were facilitated by the DYRE, the official radio station of the province.

There was a video-making contest that encouraged SVD communities and institutions within the province to showcase the collaboration between SVDs and lay partners and at the same time promote vocation to the Society.

On the morning of September 4, 2021, Mission Conversations took place. Three missiologists were invited to give their reflections on selected topics. At the same time, four SVDs were chosen to share their missionary experiences based on the shared issues.

Five lay partners participated in the Lay Partners Assembly held on the afternoon of September 4, 2021. They came from Cebu, Bohol, Surigao City, Trento and Veruela. Fr. Roger Bag-ao, provincial superior of PHS, gave input. He encouraged the lay partners and showed them the direction to be further led in helping the SVDs.

The celebration culminated with a family mass wherein the jubilarians of the province were honored then followed by a banquet with a tribute to the SVDs organized by lay partners in Cebu.

--- Fr. Franlou Bardon SVD
Mission Secretary.

EUROPA NEWS

Europe Central Province (ECP):

Celebrating 1587 jubilee years



Nineteen jubilarians were present.



Provincial Father Stephan Dähler SVD with the jubilarians.

This year's celebration of the vows and priestly jubilees of our confreres of the Central European Province covered the years 2020 and 2021. On September 29, at the St. Gabriel Mission House in Maria Enzersdorf, thirty-two Fathers and Brothers from nine countries - Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Argentina, Brazil, India, and the Philippines - celebrated their jubilees.

Many of them can look back on missionary assignments. They have been in Ghana, Congo, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil - or have come to Europe from other continents as missionaries.

At the solemn service on the Feast of the Archangels - at the same time the patronal feast of St. Gabriel Mission House - 19 jubilarians were present. They renewed their vows in the Society of the Divine Word before Provincial Father Stephan Dähler SVD. Thus, Father Alois Biberauer SVD celebrated a double jubilee. Sixty-

five years ago, he made his first vows in the SVD, and he was ordained priest sixty years ago.

Many of the jubilarians were active in parish pastoral care in Austria, Croatia, and Switzerland. In addition, they serve/served as pilgrimage chaplains, chaplains of women's orders and in homes for the elderly, leaders of the Philippine Worship Community, retreat leaders, and spiritual directors. Also, the school service, work in the house and provincial enterprises and workshops, and the mission procures were or still are among the tasks of the celebrated Fathers and Brothers.

Provincial Father Stephan Dähler SVD thanked the religious for their example and for a total of 1587 jubilee years in which they had enriched the Society of the Divine Word with their talents. "Thank you for 1587 years of 'Yes, I am ready for the diversity of the SVD. Because what distinguishes us Steylers is diversity, here in small ways and worldwide in big ways."

www.steyler.at

Spain Province (ESP):

The annual retreat

Fr. Carlos del Valle SVD, the Rector of Collegio San Pietro in Rome, directed the retreat of ESP Province. Those who could not be present in Estella, where the retreat was held, had the opportunity to participate via ZOOM.

These spiritual exercises are based on Carlos's book entitled: "Palate of Beatitudes (Itinerary of Consecrated Life)." In this book, he talks about consecrated life as a protagonist, based on many experiences.

Carlos asked the confreres not to remain under the bush of mediocrity, reciting the book of lamentations. They ought to come down from clericalism, from power, from honors to be fraternal brothers. He said, "May we go from being teachers to disciples."

--- Gervasio Ruiz

Donamon (IBP):

Donamon Castle in the eyes of Fr. Norman Davitt, SVD



In September 1939, Norman Davitt came to Donamon.

Fr. Norman Davitt SVD celebrated his 100 years of life last March 29, 2021. On October 16 he returned to his Creator. In September 1939, Norman Davitt came to Donamon. Since March 1939, the SVD had been in residence, and we're now open to taking

in their first Novices. Fr. Norman penned this article about Donamon Castle.

In 1939 the Divine Word Missionaries came to Ireland and purchased the castle, and it is still their home in Ireland. A German priest had founded the Divine

Word Missionaries. So the first priests and Brothers who were sent to Donamon were German. It was the year and month when war was declared between England and Germany (Ireland remaining neutral). It was a source of wonderment to the neighbors that among the first novices were several Englishmen.

The early days were a difficult time as the community was cut off from help from Germany. However, the clergy and the neighbors were incredibly generous, and the foundation flourished.

In the 60s, when vocations were plentiful, a large College building was built. Many young men were attracted to the missionary vocation. More than a hundred were ordained and sent to mission territories in India, the Far East, and countries of South America. Brother vocations were few but of excellent quality.

Today the College building is rented out to the Irish Wheelchair Association. At the same time, the students are sent to the States or other suitable places of formation. We thank the Most Holy Trinity for the many blessings granted to the Society in Donamon.

--- Fr. Norman Davitt SVD

Varone (ITA):

Permanent Formation: Scrutinize Horizons



Two years ago, in the eighth cycle of "Scrutinize Horizons" No. 8, we left off with a week full of events entitled "Life is Mission." The idea that every life has a purpose, a path, and a project to be realized convinced us. We had reflected together with several lively and significant events.

Immediately afterward, we were struck by an unexpected event, COVID-19, which disturbed the personal and social life, the entire global history of peoples and especially their relationships. Therefore, today, after suffering and limitations, hoping to be on the way to "healing," we would like to propose to reflect together. We do this with many voices, with freedom and dialogue, on the future course of life and history that awaits us. We find a way to look forward to living in a meaningful and positive way during the time of the "post virus."

Many things have changed or have been given different meanings. So it seems necessary to share different horizons, reflections, thoughts, projects. Thinking and understanding, looking ahead with full responsibility and new hope towards a more human, more and fraternal serene personal and social path that everyone dreams of. Here then is the question: "What is mission today"? Together we will seek answers and light for the present and the future, also through these meetings. Thank you, and have a good journey together!

--- Fr. Gianfranco Maronese, SVD

Italy Province (ITA):

The traditional SVD Family Feast

On Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the community of the Verbiti Missionaries in Varone di Riva del Garda (TN), the traditional SVD Family Feast was held in the presence of many relatives of the Italian Verbiti and friends of the Verbiti. On this occasion, the jubilees of the confreres present in the community were celebrated.

The 25th anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Father Francesco Sarego SVD, Bishop Emeritus of Goroka (Papua New Guinea), and the 65 years of vows of Brother Luigi Tarletti SVD, both from the community of Varone, were celebrated.

The Holy Mass was presided by Msgr. Francesco himself and concelebrated by Fr. Lazar Stanislaus Thanzraj SVD, the General Visitor, Fr. Paulino Bumanlag SVD, the ITA Mission Procurator, and other confreres. The other 11 Italian missionaries on the mission were also remembered.

--- ITA website

Italy Province (ITA):

65 years of vows as a faithful SVD Brother



Celebrating 65 years of religious vows of Brother Luigi Giuseppe Tarletti SVD.

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the Divine Word Missionaries of the Varone community celebrated 65 years of religious vows of Brother Luigi Giuseppe Tarletti SVD. Representatives of the different SVD communities, numerous relatives, and many of Brother Luigi's friends were in attendance.

Luigi, born in 1934 in Pederagnaga (province of Brescia), professed his first religious vows in 1956 in Rheineck (Marienburg), Switzerland. He immediately afterward began his service in the community of the missionary house in Varone.

The concelebrated Holy Mass was presided by Monsignor Francesco Sarego SVD, Bishop Emeritus of Goroka (Papua New Guinea), and enlivened by the songs of the parish choir Santa Cecilia of Fivà (Trento).

--- ITA website

Netherlands



No Mask, no Distance in Netherlands!

Our confreres and the SSps are working in parishes and other Catholic institutions. Sister Veronica Lili SSps, who works in the Netherlands,

describes the situation of the Catholic Church as the pandemic subsides. In simple but poignant words, she says, No Mask, no distance in Netherlands.

The pandemic is putting the Catholic Church as well as the other churches to the test. The hope is that once the pandemic is over, people will return to church. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the liturgical celebrations of the Catholic Church worldwide. Not just a medical, social, and economic problem, but also a pastoral issue.

As the pandemic subsided in the Netherlands and face-to-face services discontinued, fears of declining attendance grew. We can't entirely blame it all on COVID. Churches in Amsterdam and elsewhere in the Netherlands suffered a similar fate. Because of a corona policy, the church, which can accommodate more than 100 weekly worshipers, has shrunk to 10 to 30.

Although the transmission rate is still there, it is under control and stable. Therefore the Dutch government announced: starting from September 20, there will be conveniences related to the corona rules; no more 1.5 m distance, no masks, no need to register if you want to join the Eucharistic celebration. But in restaurants and some significant events, we need to show proof of vaccination with the corona check app.

It is a leeway that makes each of us breathless. Activities in the church have almost entirely returned to normal. We can sing together and drink coffee after the celebration of Mass. We will see from further developments whether the faithful will return to church after this pandemic. We believe, if COVID goes away 100%, our community will fully return because people yearn to be together again. --- Sr. Veronika Lili, SSps

Sankt Agustin (GER):

Deacon ordination in Sankt Augustin

On Sunday, October 17, 2021, in Sankt Augustin, Steyl missionaries Edwin Arockiam, Elias Dugimpudi, and Silvano Faria Vipata had made their perpetual profession a week earlier. They were ordained deacons by Auxiliary Bishop Matthias König who had traveled from Paderborn for the occasion.

In his address, Bishop König spoke about how mission consciousness has changed fundamentally in the



past decades. Today we know that in many things, there is a core of divine wisdom. For the three new deacons, the Gospel of Christ was the inner drive to become servants of the Divine Word. He said he was impressed to learn, in conversation, how each of the young Steylers was shaped by the Word in his way in his home country.

With the diaconate ordination, a final stage on the way to the priesthood begins for the three after completing their theological studies. The ordination to the diaconate means a real break in the formation since the new deacons leave the seminary and are assigned to parishes for a practical year. The diaconate also includes further theoretical and practical training, which the candidates will complete with other deacons at the Pallottine Pastoral Institute in Friedberg.

--- Text: Renate Breuer

Photos: Fr. Christian Tauchner SVD

Lisbon (POR):

Ten years at the service of PMS

After ten years at the service of the Pontifical Mission Society (PMS) in Portugal, Fr. Manuel Antonio Lopes Batista SVD handed his position as OMP Director to Fr. José António Rebelo, a Comboni Missionary. The new director took office on September 20, 2021.

On July 12, 2011, Fr. Lopes was named National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies. Mons. Armando Esteves Domingues, auxiliary bishop of Porto and President of the Episcopal Commission for Mission and New Evangelization, expressed his gratitude for the services offered by our confrere. He handed Fr. Lopes a cross in appreciation for the mission he had carried out. Congratulations, Fr. Lopes, for the excellent job.

--- POR Newsletter

Europe Central Province (ECP):

Brother Emanuel renews his vows



In the presence of Fr Dähler, Emanuel renewed his temporary vows.

Brother Emanuel Huemer, SVD, from Upper Austria, renewed his temporary vows in the Society of the Divine Word. A solemn service in the church of St. Michael in Berlin-Kreuzberg on September 26 provided the framework for the renewal of his temporary vows in the Society of the Divine Word.

In the presence of the Provincial of the Central European Province, Fr. Stephan Dähler SVD, Emanuel Huemer extended his temporary vows in the "Society of the Divine Word" for another year.

The celebration was attended by many parishioners and the parents of Brother Emanuel. To celebrate the day, Emanuel Huemer was presented with gifts of a symbolic nature:

Provincial Stephan Dähler gave Brother Emanuel, a bicycle courier in Berlin, a bicycle bell. A bicycle bell for his journey, "to call attention to where the Spirit of God is at work in the here and now." In addition, the church leader gave the Steyl missionary a watering can and hardy perennials on behalf of the congregation for his work in the parish garden. Congratulations.

--- Text: Ursula Mauritz

Photos: SVD

URAL Region

The combined retreat of the Arnoldus Family



The 30th anniversary of SSPS's presence in Russia.

On the 30th anniversary of SSPS's presence in Russia, our Sisters organized a retreat. All our SVD confreres received an invitation. The theme se-

lected for the retreat was "Union in the Holy Spi. The icon of Pentecost became the focal point to present the spirituality of the Arnoldus Family.

The retreat master introduced the icon and explained the spirituality of the SVD and SSPS based on the graphic symbols that Fr. Arnold left us, i.e., the SVD medal, the cross of the SSPS sisters, and the image of the Heart of Jesus in the clouds. The retreat took place in a beautiful retreat house by the beautiful Lake Baikal in Listvyanka. This common retreat of SSPS and SVD is bringing in a new impulse and zeal in our missionary service in post-Soviet countries.

--- Bro. Zbigniew Sulej SVD

Poland Province (POL):

Two Polish SVDs awarded the "Benemerenti" medal

Two SVDs are among the winners of this year's medals "Benemerenti in Opere Evangelizationis" awarded by the Polish Episcopal Commission on Missions. They are Fathers Tadeusz Gruca SVD, a long time missionary in Indonesia and



Fr. Feliks Poćwiardowski SVD

Feliks Poćwiardowski SVD, an evangelizer through the media, and author of many films about mission.

The solemn gala of awarding medals took place on October 21, 2021 at Jasna Góra. This year, medals were awarded to 15 people and institutions. Fr. Tadeusz Gruca was awarded in the category of most deserving in the mission field, while Fr. Poćwiardowski in the category of "Media Promotion of the Mission". Fr. Sylwester Grabowski, the Provincial of the Polish Province, and Fr. Andrzej Danilewicz, the Provincial Secretary for the Missions, received the honours on behalf of the winners.



Fr. Tadeusz Gruca SVD

Fathers Tadeusz Gruca and Feliks Poćwiardowski are the latest SVDs to be awarded this honourable medal. Previously, Fr Antoni Koszorz (2017) and Fr Piotr Nawrot SVD (2019) received it, as well as the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration, founded in Steyl by St Arnold Janssen.

<https://www.werbisci.pl/index.php/pl/wiadomosci-polska/2768-benemerenti2021>

PANAM NEWS

Colchane (CHI):

The migration crisis in the northern part of Chile



Fr. Ronald with the pastoral team in a shelter for migrants.

Father Ronald Aminga SVD, the parish priest of San Andrés de Pica, and the Parish Social Pastoral team visited the shelter set up in the church of Colchane for Venezuelan migrants. These migrants are caught in the middle of a migratory crisis in the northern part of the country. He shares his incredible experience of the migration crisis in Colchane, located at the border between Chile and Bolivia.

Colchane is the area where most Venezuelan migrants cross through unauthorized borders. Upon arriving in Chile, the migrants face hunger. They include

children and nursing mothers. In addition, they experience extreme cold during the nighttime. To get to Huara and other cities in Chile in the hope of finding a better future, they have to walk long distances.

The migratory crisis is a critical reality that requires a timely response. Therefore, Fr. Eduardo Prabhakaran SVD and his team from the Social Pastoral of the Chilean Province are extending the necessary help to these migrants.

--- Father Ronald Aminga SVD

Ecuador Province

The worst Ecuador prison riot and our SVD mission



Saint Arnold Janssen parish in Guayaquil.

On September 28, 2021, the worst inter-prisoner violence in Ecuadorian prison history occurred. The most recent reports are that 118 inmates died in the fighting. In addition, six of them had been beheaded by other inmates. Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, upon learning the situation, communicated with Fr. Kwamevi John Cudjoe, the provincial of ECU. This is what he responded to the Superior General.

I appreciate your concern about knowing how the situation is in Guayaquil and with the confreres and the mission in general. The situation is fragile and very tense. The latest massacres in the prisons have

raised the level of alert. Naturally, the PPLs (Persons Deprived of Liberty) live in constant anxiety. Fear has gripped everyone. Most of the victims are not from the gangs (choneros, lagartos, etc.). A growing and dangerous dispute exist over the control of the interior of the prisons with all the power and manifestations of organized and internationally financed crimes.

The Litoral penitentiary, located northwest of Guayaquil via Duale, is the largest prison in the country, currently with more than 8,000 inmates that left last September 28, 118 dead. It was the worst prison massacre in the country's history and of the prison system in Latin America between rival gangs fighting for power.

St. Arnold Janssen parish in Mount Sinai is located 12 kilometers from this prison center. The last two years have seen many prison riots in the country's prisons, with Guayaquil leading the way.

Historically Guayaquil-Guayas has been notorious for being the most violent city-province in the country. In recent years it has worsened to such an extent that the average number of violent deaths in the city is almost four per day. Assassins and gangs dispute on territories to impose their power. They control the micro drug trafficking and secure the market for the big Narcos.

The political will to confront and change the situation is very significant on the current government due to suspicions of destabilization attempts. But the police and armed forces are facing well-financed and organized groups that shoot, kill and dismember bodies without remorse or respect for human rights. Moreover, to survive in prisons, PPLs have to belong to one gang to avoid being "fichado" or declared an enemy of the system.

What is worrisome is that these groups operate tactically in many sectors or zones of the city. For example, in our parish jurisdiction, there are 23 groups or chapters of the two most frightening gangs of the city. They are effectively organized and trained to disintegrate families, financing their operations at the cost of daily quotas paid by the poor residents of these areas or suburbs of rampant poverty. To the south, we have another parish, Santo Hermano Miguel, where more groups or chapters of these gangs control and rule.

Thank God we are doing well. We have not been violently interfered with. We are prudently carrying out our pastoral work with our people, looking for alternatives for activities so as not to expose too much the parishioners who are afraid because of everything that is happening. We have to help threatened individuals and families to flee or move to new homes to save their lives. This year in the parish of St. Arnold, nine entire families have had to escape in disguise and be escorted by the police to avoid any disgrace.

--- Fr. Kwamevi John Cudjoe SVD

Brazil-Northern Province (BRN):

Project: Extending a welcome that transforms



Rede Verbita
de Educação

A Rede Verbita de Educação (The Verbita Education Network) of BRN was inspired by the Fraternity Campaign 2021: "Fraternity and dialogue: commitment of love." As a result, the Education Network is developing the Project: "Welcome that Transforms" with refugees in partnership with the Humanitarian Organization Refuge 343.

The work began with a live zoom held on June 10, 2021. The event was organized by the Verbita Network of Education with the theme: "Migration: a human, juridical and practical process of the Verbita welcome in Brazil."

The Rede Verbita de Educação with the Humanitarian Organization Refugio 343 provides the migrants and refugees scholarships for graduation. In addition, they find job openings in maintenance, cleaning, reception, and general services. They also promote conversations to exchange experiences between students and beneficiaries and mobilization for the reception of families.

On September 23, the Rede Verbita de Educação and Refúgio 343, through the Arnaldo College's Dentistry course, organized the "Mouth Care Campaign." It aimed at the dental care of refugees and migrants living in Belo Horizonte and its metropolitan region.

The actions aim to promote the human dignity of migrants and refugees, their reinsertion in the labor market, economic autonomy, and contributions to the destination country. The Project makes effective the

commitment to the values of the Kingdom of God and fraternity with people in situations of social vulnerability.

--- Rede Verbita de Educação

Chicago Province (USC):

Newest book by Fr. Roger Schroeder, SVD

Christian Tradition in Global Perspective is the newest book by Roger Schroeder. He worked for ten years to chronicle the story of 2,000 years of Christian tradition (including scripture, liturgy, ministry, spirituality, theology, and mission). As much as possible, he wrote from a non-Western perspective and included the impact and movements of people who traditionally have been excluded from the written histories of Christianity. An artist from Ethiopia did the cover painting. Purchase the book from Orbis Books: [https:// www.orbisbooks.com/christian-tradition-in-global-perspective.html](https://www.orbisbooks.com/christian-tradition-in-global-perspective.html).

--- USC Newsletter

Salto de Agua (MEX):

Armed men's forced entry in an SVD-run shelter

The Casa Betania Santa Martha shelter is a transit shelter that provides lodging, food, and essential health services to people in transit in Salto de Agua Chiapas. The shelter is run by five Divine Word Missionaries and four other Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Mary (FMM), and volunteers who work for the human rights of migrants.

On October 12, 2021, unknown armed men in civilian clothes demanded to enter the shelter because they had come from "the Prosecutor's Office" to verify the presence within the facility of a minor who had alleged-



ly disappeared. However, the individuals did not present any official identification disclosing their agencies of affiliation or documents that authorized their entry to the shelter. Given the refusal of the members and migrant rights defenders from the shelter to let them in, the men threw stones at the door. They threatened to "take" the shelter members, accusing them of the kidnapping and the unlawful detention of minors. The unknown individuals also used guns to intimidate the members, which ultimately opened the doors to the aggressors.

Four armed men then entered the shelter to verify that the alleged missing minor was not there. During the raid, two of the men guarded the door and violently detained the shelter psychologist. One individual who reportedly identified himself as a commander of the Prosecutor's Office later demanded the psychologist give them access to the shelter's database. In addition, a migrant was attacked while holding his cell phone. Again, the armed individuals checked and made him disclose his details.

During the raid, uniformed police officers and elements of Civil Protection arrived at the scene. However, they did not intervene or pledge to investigate the unlawful invasion. The armed men left the shelter when they could not locate the disappeared minor they allegedly searched for.

On three separate occasions in 2021, unknown individuals have attempted to enter the Casa Betania Santa Martha Shelter on the grounds of searching for an alleged missing minor. Previously, in June and July, 2019 similar events also occurred. Moreover, the events happen in a context in which other organizations defending migrant's rights on Mexico's southern border, particularly Chiapas and Tabasco, have also been harassed and attacked for their work in defense of human rights.

Organizations urge that the competent authorities implement the necessary protection measures to prevent the escalation of these attacks against migrant rights defenders, particularly among the staff of the Casa Betania Santa. Furthermore, they urge the Mexi-

can authorities to recognize and not obstruct the humanitarian assistance and accompaniment work by migrant rights defenders in Mexico.

--- Front Line Defenders.org

Oaxaca (MEX):

The profession of final vows



On September 25, 2021, two young men professed their final vows as Divine Word Missionaries. They were ordained as deacons during a ceremony at San Juan Bautista Parish in Chapultepec in the southern state of Oaxaca. The two were José Muelasapi SVD of Angola and Julio Alfredo García Sánchez SVD, who was born in Oaxaca.

The diaconate ordination Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Pedro Vásquez Villalobos of the Antequera-Oaxaca Archdiocese, accompanied by the Mexico provincial, Father Hans Weibel SVD. The Mass was attended by other Divine Word Missionaries, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSpS), and family and friends.

--- Vocaciones Misioneras Arnoldo Janssen Mexico, via Facebook)

Añatuya (ARS):

Diocese of Añatuya turns 60 years

On October 1, the 60th anniversary of the Diocese of Añatuya, its Bishop, José Luis Corral SVD, encouraged to continue carrying out the mission with the same enthusiasm as its promoter, the Servant of God, Bishop Jorge Gottau. In a pastoral letter, Bishop Corral expressed that "time has passed, many things have happened in these years, and today we want to celebrate the road we have traveled and bring to our present all that we have lived."

Bishop Corral recalled the Servant of God and the first Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Jorge Gottau, who "amid a poor and lacking reality, shaped and made

present a Church rich in works and faith." "We all remember his apostolic zeal, the countless works, and initiatives he promoted; but above all, we give thanks to because in him we recognized the presence of the Good Shepherd who accompanies his people to the point of giving his life," he said.

--- *Aciprensa*

Palpalá (ARS):

Launching a book of poems

Fr. Gustavo Aguilera SVD, who currently carries out his ministry in the parish of San Cayetano in the city of Palpalá, province of Jujuy, presented his book of poems "Ojos de Colores" (Colored eyes) on October 8, 2021. Each poem penned by Fr. Gustavo represents a work of craftsmanship, where images, metaphors, characters, and other literary resources are combined. Furthermore, each poem is a game where the author and the reader meet to listen and talk about human love.

Aguilera's poetry is simple. Its expressions are born from the everyday. Its significances engage the reader to operate and inquire about the writings. Without punctuation marks or stanzas, the reader is invited to indicate what is read. The priest and the poet are a single reality that expresses a dreamer surrendered to God.

--- *Silvia Montaña*

Parish Communication Team

Brazil Subzone

In recognition of the commitment of Irish SVD missionaries



Father Patrick Dillon SVD, faithful and dedicated to the mission.

Fr Tony Conry, an Irish diocesan priest who for some time now said: "Our missionaries are the main ambassadors of Irish values in the world". Values that materialize in the affectionate relationship with the Latin American people, in different regions, as an effective expression of solidarity, love, affection, respect, self-esteem, peace, human rights, among so many others, that broaden hope. Ambassadors

who have the recognition of everyone who had the privilege of living with you and receiving valuable contributions as human beings of great passion for the Kingdom of God.

Fr. Jose Boeing and his brother Antonio, a former SVD missionary confirm the words of Fr. Conry that the Irish missionaries are the ambassadors of Irish values in the world. Both of them have had the opportunity to meet, interact and work with the Irish SVD mis-

sionaries in Brazil. For Jose and Antonio it is important to remember that the permanent commitment to the mission of each of our Irish SVD was born from a good human, social, political and theological formation, inherited, especially, from the charism and fidelity of St Patrick to the Gospel, when he announced the Good News of the Kingdom for all Ireland.

The Boeing brothers see the importance of letting the Irish people know that the Irish SVD missionaries were real ambassadors of faith, love and dedication. They are sending this message:

We, simple missionaries, who live with distinguished Irishmen, address a humble word to you. We want you to tell the Irish people that the missionaries they sent are and really were ambassadors of the first magnitude. Missionaries committed to the people, no privileges and personal vanities, but permanent and proactive love for all the people. Among countless numbers, sent by God, we highlight some active in the mission and others already in Eternal Glory.

In full Mission:

Father Joseph Dillon SVD- What a beautiful passion for the full health of the people, how much life was sown in different regions of Brazil by the hands and blessed mind of this missionary.

Father Miguel McGuinness SVD — Tireless in service with love in the formation of new missionaries, as well as in the animation of those who have been in mission for a longer time, with a full commitment to life.

Father Patrick Brennan SVD - Full of humanity in defense of quilombolas and indigenous people, for 42 years witnessing the hope in the Amazon, in an unconditional passion for the frontier mission.

Father Jaime Smith SVD - Committed to the particularities and challenges of each human being in his search for meaning for life, in the midst of turmoil, he rekindles hope.

Father John Feighery SVD— With a human heart and sensitive to all. Affectionate with the confreres and the Brazilian people, witnessing in the actions the spirituality, love of nature and health.

Father Liam Dunne SVD— Defender of social causes, missionary who supports social projects for Justice and Peace, especially VIVAT International, from Ireland working in horizons without borders. At present he is in Ireland.

In the Glory of God:

Father Patrick Ruane SVD— Tireless missionary, walking with his staff and backpack, kneading clay on the roads of India, Paraguay, Paraná and Pará. Always a defender of the Landless and the poor.

Father Thomas Morisson SVD- Missionary passionate for the people, friend at all times, carrying out the mission, centered on the great social issues, justice

and peace, always in solidarity with the poor.

Father Thomas Hughes SVD— Enthusiast of Religious Life, how much good has he done for countless Congregations, especially from a consistent and incarnate reflection of the Bible.

Father Patrick Dillon SVD- Simplicity in the search to better serve the people, captured the spirit of the Brazilian Corinthians fan, lived the mission as a relief in the harshness of daily life. Faithful and dedicated to the mission.

Father Francisco Kom SVD — Chinese descendant, born in South Africa, naturalized and trained in Ireland, he carried out his mission in Paraná and Pará, working in the formation of Christian leaders.

--- Fr. Jose Boeing SVD and Antonio Boeing

Asunción, Paraguay

Supporting the Ava Guarani community

On September 30, 2021, the Holy Spirit Indigenous Pastoral Group of Paraguay, along with the members of VIVAT International, bishops, priests, SVD confreres, SSps Paraguay, anthropologists, and lawyers from Paraguay participated in a zoom meeting. The virtual encounter tackled the current situation affecting the indigenous people of the Avá Guaraní communities in Paraguay. In addition, religious leaders, members of the Ava Guarani people from Paraguay, and members of Misesan Cara from Ireland, and VIVAT International from New York and Geneva joined the virtual meeting actively.

In just two months, six communities of the Ava Guarani were violently evicted from their ancestral lands.



Avá Guaraní communities in Paraguay.

The main problem in the country is non-compliance with the laws. There are enough laws, but they are not followed because there is no political will.

The indigenous people present at the meeting were able to express their concern and suffering on the evictions. The issue of land grabbing with the increasing invasion of cattle ranching and agricultural projects to generate money was raised by many, including the Ava Guarani community.

The VIVAT International and Misesan Cara, with all the participants, including the bishops and priests present, are committed to accompanying the struggle of the Ava Guarani community. The next step is to come together in a smaller group, including representatives from VIVAT International, Misesan Cara, and representatives from Paraguay. This group will begin working together towards an advocacy plan on behalf of the indigenous peoples of Paraguay.

--- Sr. Francisca Florentin Garcete, SSps

OUR DEPARTED

SVD

Name	Province	+ Date-Death	Age	Vows	Year of Orders
Fr. De la Rosa, Rodrigo	PHC	10.10.2021	69	46	43
Fr. Resuena, Ferdinand D. [TLS]	PHS	14.10.2021	51	21	16
Bro. Atitung, Fortunat	CNG	16.10.2021	60	34	**
Fr. Davitt, Norman	IBP	16.10.2021	100	80	74
Fr. Rodríguez, Luis Manuel	CHI	18.10.2021	86	67	62
Fr. Ehmer, Anton	GER	26.10.2021	99	81	68
Fr. Dumas, Ricardo	PHS	28.10.2021	67	47	42

SSps

Sister: Rel. Name and Family Name	Prov/Reg	Date-Death	Age	Yrs. in Vows
Sr. Margareta Maria, Margarete Angenent	GER	11.10.2021	87	46
Sr. Lucía Mercedes, Ofelia Luisa Keiner	ARN	17.10.2021	71	51
Sr. Paularita, Helena Soeprro Sarwan	JAV	21.10.2021	80	55
Sr. Jeanne, June Blie	USA	21.10.2021	97	62

SspSAp

Name	Convent	Date of Death	Age	Years in Vows
Sr. Mary Inmaculada, Consolacion Belisario Mandaue City, PH		02.10.2021	90	61

OBITUARIES

Fr. Norman Davitt (IBP)
16-10-2021; 21-39-41-45-47



Father Norman Davitt SVD, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 29 March, died on Saturday 16 October in Donamon, Co Roscommon, after 80 years in religious life.

Father Davitt possessed an independent and lively spirit as well as his humor and closeness to people. He became well known all over the country for delivering cards and meeting people. He said that he travelled about 200,000 miles, making great friends wherever he went.

According to Father Timothy Lehane SVD, Provincial of the Divine Word Missionaries in Ireland and Great Britain, "Father Norman could trace his Irish roots back to his grandfather Thomas Davitt, who hailed from Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo. He arrived in Ireland the day the Second World War broke out in 1939 to begin his novitiate in the newly opened Divine Word Missionary House, Donamon. Fr Norman used to say, 'While my brothers were fighting the Germans on the battlefields, I was living with fellow priests from Germany, who were serving in Donamon.' He was a much loved and respected priest."

Born in 1921 in Birmingham, to Thomas Davitt and Annie Elizabeth Wolfe, he joined the Divine Word Missionaries in 1933 as a minor seminarian in Droitwich, near Birmingham. After three years in Donamon, he went back to England to study philosophy at the Birmingham Diocesan Seminary in Oscott before studying theology at the Divine Word College, Techny, northeast of Chicago.

He was ordained in Techny on 15 August 1947, before returning to England. However, the pull of Donamon proved irresistible, and in 1952 he returned to work there, visiting diocesan colleges all over the country, in pursuit of vocations for the SVD.

In 1955 he travelled to Rourkela, India. In 1963 he was sent to Papua New Guinea, where he remained until 1997, mostly spent in the remote highlands of the country.

On his 100th birthday, he wrote: "I'm very content and at peace with myself. I wouldn't change a thing; I've enjoyed my life. I've lived here in Donamon for 18 years and when I first returned, I felt immediately at home and love my time here. I don't feel 100... I've lived a good life. I've always been busy, never idle. I've enjoyed life and I avoid stress: I've never got too stressed about anything in life."

catholicnews.ie

Fr. Ferdinand Resuena (TLS)
14-10-2021; 70-99-00-04-05



Ferdinand Resuena was born on April 16, 1970, in Talisay, Cebu, Philippines. Ferdinand was fifth among siblings. He completed his early schooling in his hometown and bachelor's degree in Science in Elementary education at Cebu Normal University by 1991. After that, he worked as a teacher for a few years in the same Talisay Malayan Academy secondary School where he studied.

He entered the seminary in Quezon City in 1997. He joined the novitiate in Calapan on June 1, 1999. He professed his first vows in Quezon City on June 4, 2000. He declared his perpetual vows in Tagaytay City on May 16, 2004. He was ordained a priest in Tagaytay on March 9, 2005, by Most. Rev. Bishop Antonio Tagle. His first assignment was Indonesia-Timor (IDT) for Timor Leste District.

As a new, enthusiastic and zealous missionary, he stepped into the land of Timor Leste to respond to the need of mission on August 23, 2005. He served the mission in different capacities; from 2005-2011 in Uatolari Parish as an assistant and as parish priest, from 2011-2012 as the director of the school in Colegio Maliana and 2013-2015 in Colegio Verbo Divino Palaca, from 2015 -2017 as a teacher in the Institute of Religious Sciences (ICR) in the capital city of Dili.

He went to Rome for a Sabbatical year in 2017. He continued his sabbatical to be with his beloved mother in the Philippines South. Having returned from the Philippines in 2019, he assumed as Dean of Studies in ICR. He also looked after the boarding students till his last days.

From the beginning of his ministry, he nurtured and supported different groups, namely Couples for Christ, Youth for Christ, and Children for Christ. That remained as his legacy. In addition, he brought refined faith in laities, which further boosted the SVD's bond with the local people. He also served as coordinator of JPIC and council member of the region from 2014-2017. He was entrusted with great confidence as Mission Secretary to the region in 2019, and he continued to serve until he was clogged with illness.

Before succumbing to illness, he already showed some symptoms that brought instability to his usual health. Before his admission to Guido Valadares National Hospital, Dili, on July 29, 2021, he was admitted for two weeks at PRR Clinic administered by PRR sisters in Aimutin, Dili. Lack of improvement led him to consult the Motael Clinic.

Fr. Ferdinand was diagnosed with Pleural TB and started on Anti-TB medication. Having consumed these medicines, he developed headaches, fatigue, and decreased appetite. Later, he was admitted to HNGV. According to medical sources, during his stay at the

hospital, his condition somewhat deteriorated. He had been complaining of daily headaches, occasional fever, dyspepsia, and decreased hearing. In his last days at the National Hospital, he was under medication for Immunocompromised stage 4, Cerebral Cryptococcosis, Pleural TB, and Hypertension.

Fr. Ferdinand's ultimate wish to return to his homeland, the Philippines, was actualized with much difficulty and delay. Finally, he was flown to Cebu, Philippines, on September 4, 2021. He showed extraordinary cooperation in his critical condition during the journey. His family and friends received him. Fr. Ferdinand cheered them with big smiles.

On October 14, 2021, Fr. Ferdinand returned to his Creator in the SVD Community of San Carlos University, Cebu, the Philippines, at 10:05 am. He was cremated the same day at 20:00. The funeral mass was held at 14:00 on October 20, 2021. At the same time, the Local Ordinary offered a Funeral Mass in Becora Parish. Finally, his remains were deposited at the SVD Cemetery USC Talamban, Cebu City, Philippines. May his soul rest in eternal peace!

Fr. Rodrigo de la Rosa (PHC)
10-10-2021; 52-73-75-78-78



Rodrigo de la Rosa was born on March 11, 1952, in San Antonio, belonging to the diocese of Cabanatuan, Philippines. In his childhood, he accompanied his grandparents in going to Church. His grandfather was one of the twelve apostles for the Last Supper ritual of washing the feet. He told Rod that when he dies, he will have to take over his role. He could not have imagined then that his grandson would eventually become a priest. However, his parents wanted him to become a doctor. Therefore, they sent him to study in the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City for his high school to have a solid education before taking up medicine. While in the seminary, however, the idea of becoming a priest became a reality.

He entered the minor seminary in Christ the King Seminary in Quezon City in 1967. He began his novitiate on June 3, 1973. He professed his first vows in Quezon City on May 31, 1975. He pronounced his perpetual vows in Tagaytay City on March 31, 1978. He was ordained a priest in Tagaytay City on October 28, 1978. His first mission assignment was in Brazil.

Fr. Rod worked in Brazil for 23 years. During that time, he worked with immigrants (Japanese and Paraguayans) and became Rector of the seminary in Ponta Grossa. After that, he applied for Germany, and after a long time waiting for his visa, he finally got there in 2005. He worked with the Filipino migrants there for a year. Things did not work out as planned, however, and

he returned home to the Philippines.

Back in the Philippines, he was assigned to Christ the King Seminary and became the formator of the seminarians in the Associate Program. Then, in 2009 he was assigned to Australia and worked with the Aboriginal parishes and coal mine workers in the Central highlands of Queensland.

In 2017 he returned to the Philippines and served as Praeses of the Villa Cristo Rey retirement house until 2019. Unfortunately, various medical issues forced him to retire in 2019. In October 2021, his medical condition deteriorated, and he finally breathed his last in the noontime of October 10, 2021, in Lourdes Hospital. He, who served 38 years in the missions, has continuously expressed his gratefulness to the Lord for showing him the right direction in choosing his vocation. May he rest in peace!

Fr. Karl Scholly (IDT)
22-09-2021; 40-61-63-67-67



Karl Scholly was born on July 14, 1940 in Bardenberg, diocese of Aachen, Germany, as the oldest child of Wilhelm Scholly and Gertrud Scholly née Leesmeister. He attended elementary school from 1947 to 1953 in Alsdorf. Then, he entered the SVD minor seminary and high school in Steyl, Netherlands. After graduation, he did his novitiate in St. Gabriel near Vienna, Austria, and professed first vows on May 1, 1963. Next, he studied theology in the SVD major seminary St. Augustin near Bonn, Germany. On May 1, 1967, he professed perpetual vows and was ordained a priest on September 23, 1967. His mission assignment was for Timor, Indonesia.

After attending an English course, he traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1969, then onboarded the mission ship Ratu Rosari to Kupang in Timor. After learning the national language, he was sent to Halilulik, where he served first as an assistant and subsequently as parish priest for twelve years. He served in varying lengths in parishes in Besikama, Kada, Alas, Atambua, Lahurus, Webora.

Fr. Scholly always lived close to the people. He took Indonesian citizenship to continue his service in the country, aware of the inconvenience this might imply. He tried to involve the Christians in building the parish and the Kingdom of God. When any building was going up, every one helped to bring sand and stones from far away. When he was a parish priest in Lahurus, a severe earthquake damaged the church, rectory, and many houses. He narrowly escaped death. Already sixty years old, he was entrusted with the construction of a new parish in Webora. Again, he encouraged the Christians to help in the building of the infrastructure.

He served as secretary to the new bishop. Starting in 2007, he became pastor in Nela, a parish of 16,000 Christians, which he handled with an experienced assistant. In 2017, he celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest with his classmates in St. Augustin. Back in Timor, he made himself useful in the community of the elderly confreres in Nenuk. During Holy Week 2021, he was on duty in an outstation. On Good Friday, after the service, he collapsed and fell unconscious. Medical personnel restored him to his feet, but his strength did not return. He died in Halilulik on September 22, 2021.

We thank Fr. Karl Scholly for his zealous service in the Lord's vineyard in Indonesia. At his side were his local parishioners and many good friends and benefactors back home. So may he now and one day also all those who helped him share "in the joy of our Lord!"

For more than half a century, Fr. Karl Scholly was a dedicated pastor and missionary on Timor, Indonesia, permanently attached to his fellow Christians. Although mainly serving in parishes, he was ready for other tasks: secretary to the new bishop, substitute delegate for social action under the "Flores-Timor plan." He took Indonesian citizenship to continue his service in the country, aware of the inconvenience this might imply.

Fr. Eugen Rucker (GER)
23-08-2021; 29-51-52 54-54



Eugen Ludwig Stephanus Rucker was born on December 26, 1929, in Regensburg, Germany. After elementary school, he attended grammar school (high school) in Regensburg. After graduating, he entered the major seminary of the diocese of Regensburg. He studied philosophy and theology for three years at the Jesuit faculty St. Georgen in Frankfurt, Germany, and Innsbruck, Austria. However, wishing to serve the world mission, he asked the bishop to enter the SVD in St. Augustin in 1951.

After one year of novitiate, he professed his first vows on September 8, 1952. Two years later, on September 8, 1954, he made his perpetual vows and was ordained to the priesthood on December 8, 1954, in St. Augustin. Although he had asked for missionary work in India, Japan or Paraguay, he was assigned to the Southern German Province.

He taught at the SVD minor seminary high school in St. Wendel. After two years, to obtain the government qualification as a secondary school teacher, he went to the University of Münster for geography, biology, and German language and literature studies. He passed the two-state examinations and did his internship before returning to St. Wendel as a teacher. In 1968, he was elected rector of the St. Bernhard Mission House in Mosbach.

In the summer of 1970, he finally received the long-awaited mission assignment to Japan. He spent a year and a half learning the Japanese language and culture. Afterward, he moved to Nagoya to teach the German language, literature, and Christian religion at the SVD-run Catholic Nanzan University. This professorship was his main work in his years in Japan from 1972 to 1999.

In addition, he worked part-time in various mission parishes. He founded two new parishes in the vicinity of the Toyota industrial complex. The great challenge was integrating the many migrant workers (mainly Brazilians, Paraguayans, and Filipinos). Since 1975 he belonged to an all-Japan discussion group of Zen Buddhists and Christians. He published more than a dozen essays on medieval German mysticism and translated or compiled texts of its outstanding authors. For six years, he also served as prefect of the SVD major seminarians.

Fr. Rucker suffered from congenital, latent weakness of the autonomous nervous system. After he retired from teaching in 1998, it became apparent that his nerves were severely affected. As a result, he had to go for a recuperative leave. For this, he went to St. Wendel, Germany, where he had worked formerly. But since there was no significant improvement, Fr. Rucker, now 70 years old, decided to stay in St. Wendel for the rest of his life. Still, after some time, he began writing contributions and sermons for SVD magazines. In addition, he performed the service of a confessor in the house.

In recent years, the condition of his nerves caused him much trouble. After a severe fall in the garden and a resulting cerebral hemorrhage, he needed more and more help. Then, last year, he suffered a stroke that confined him to bed. He bore his suffering with great patience and without complaint.

Finally, on August 23, 2021, the Lord called Fr. Rucker to Himself in the early morning hours. He was almost 92 years old. The resurrection service was held on August 27 in St. Wendel Mission House, followed by burial in the local SVD cemetery.

In his life, Fr. Rucker was always able to experience God's faithful guidance. We must give thanks for this and his long missionary service for the benefit of so many people. May the Lord reward him abundantly.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS**Appointments**

02.06.2021	Fr. Rodrigues, Maxim	ING Z.Chair.execom/ASPAC	tri
11.09.2021	Fr. Xess, Rasal	INE ZA.Coord.JPIC/ASPAC	tri
25.09.2021	Bro. Figueroa, Angel Ernan	COL coord/char. dimensions /Subzona Andinaaft	tri
02.10.2021	Fr. Shinozaki, Edilson	MEX adm/dist Oaxaca District	aft
02.10.2021	Fr. Tali Meta, Martinus	MEX vic/sup/dist C. Central-Morelos-Hidalgo D.	aft
19.10.2021	Fr. Ola Rotok, Siprianus	USS mis/sec	aft
19.10.2021	Fr. Knezovic, Milan	BRN mis/sec	aft
19.10.2021	Fr. Mamonjisoa, Louis Albert	MAD mis/sec	aft
26.10.2021	Fr. Noguiera, Alexandre A.	BRS vic/prov	aft
26.10.2021	Fr. Koko Tolang, Paulus	BRS cons/prov	aft

Transfers

07.10.2021	Fr. Bodego, Joaquin	MEX/ESP
25.10.2021	Fr. Agger, George	USC/IBP for retirement
26.10.2021	Fr. Wasko, Piotr Pawel	PNG/POL

Change of first assignment

08.10.2021	Fr. Wiagolu, Peter	BOT/PNG
------------	--------------------	---------

A day of remembrance

Pope Francis said:

“Remembering “those who walked before us” is not only about the beloved dead, but also about remembering that each person has a history, a family and is part of something larger than themselves. Remembering is what strengthens a people because they feel rooted, they have an identity and history. Memory reminds us that we are not alone. We are part of a people. It is not easy to remember. Often we tire at the thought of looking back, of asking ‘What happened in my life, my family, my people,’ but today is a day for remembering.”