



SVD LAY PARTNERS

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NEWSLETTER OF SVD LAY PARTNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
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To keep authenticity we receive news items only from the authorized contact person.

Getting Started

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Encouraged by our SVD leadership, we embark on a new mission endeavor with the publication of this quarterly newsletter. As the Congregation's mission secretary, Fr. Lazar Thanuzraj Stanislaus, SVD announced to all SVD missionaries, "The objectives of this Newsletter are: (a) to get connected with all the members of SVD lay groups in the world and to know what others are doing; (b) to learn from one another and also to share their experiences and activities; (c) to create unity and disseminate news and views; and (d) to inspire one another."

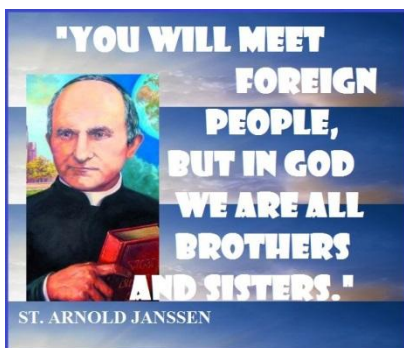
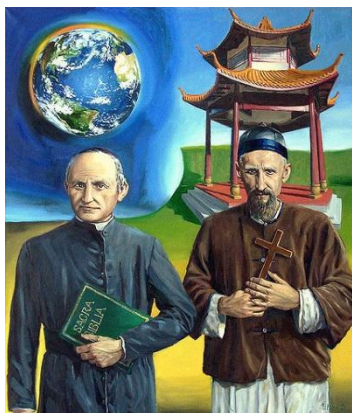
It is our sincere hope this will be a useful and informative instrument of inspiration and encouragement for all of us to share in the blessings of ministry as we strive to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and evangelize the world with the Living Word of God!

Please to be sure to submit information and pictures directly to your group contact person who can forward them to the either of the editors for future publication. We count on your information for publication!

General Introduction from the Editors

Rosa M. Gouveia - (USA) & Susan Noronha - (India)

Wherever you find yourself in the world serving God and sharing in the mission of Christ as an SVD Lay Partner, you do so in the name of the greater Church as an active member of the family of St. Arnold Janssen. Did you know there are 10 Recognized SVD Lay Associations and at least another 40 active groups of SVD lay partners? That's 50 groups of SVD Lay Partners that we are aware of who reveal the light of Christ around the world! It is our hope to begin to get to know one another and discover the gifts of each group through descriptive words, revealing pictures and telling stories. We look forward to being enlightened by your mission efforts as we read what's happening around the world! Whether you find yourself in a group proclaiming the Word in the busy city, rural corners of creation, the heat of the jungle, or any other place where God has called you, know you are prayerfully supported by your brothers and sisters in faith who share the same passion for the Gospel as our spiritual father and inspiring founder, St. Arnold Janssen. Certainly there are many SVD Lay Partners groups are evolving. If you are aware of any new group, please be sure to let us know...we appreciate your contributions.



Friends of the SVD – DANSOMAN/ACCRA/GHANA

Submitted By Helen Daikon

The Friends of the SVD (FOS) at St Margaret Mary Parish Dansoman Accra-Ghana was inaugurated at the August 2009 Ordination of SVD priests, which took place in the parish. The initiative to form the group was taken by the Assistant Parish Priest with the support of the Parish Priest. Members of the parish were encouraged to join this group. Total membership now is 34.



Friends of the SVD- Ghana "share their light" after an April 2016 Vocation Sunday Mass.

The Friends of the SVD in St. Margaret Parish will be seven years old in August 2016. A few other Parishes where the SVD work are now establishing groups. It is our hope that all the different groups in the various parishes will come under one umbrella. The mission secretary of the SVD has the mandate to bring all the groups together under one umbrella with same objectives.

Group Objectives:

- To pray for SVD priests, brothers and seminarians especially SVD Priests and brothers on Mission.
- To support SVD activities in the province.
- To visit priests in SVD mission territories in Ghana

General Activities Include:

- **Prayer:** Monthly meetings with Adoration; Lent & Advent retreat
Spiritual reflections especially on SVD spirituality
- **SVD Support:** Presence & participation at ordination – the group has participated in all ordinations since its inauguration. The group also participated in the ordination of SVD bishops in the Vicariate of Donkorkrom and the Diocese of Ho.
- **SVD Novices Support:** Support of Novices & Seminarians as well as to their families - The group has participated in activities of the Novitiate at Nkwatia Kwahu. Participation in joining every year in the Family visit of Parents of the Novices held in February and in the first vows in July of every year.
- **"Vocation & Mission Sundays":** Visits from the Novices to share the life of the Novitiate with the Parishes and to raise funds.
- **Christmas Visit:** Every Christmas members of the Friends of the SVD visit the SVD communities in Accra to share prayer, song and gifts of "Christmas hampers to the household."
- **SVD Territories:** As part of the objectives Friends of the SVD are to visit rural parishes where the SVD work. A number of visits have been made to a few of the rural parishes in Donkorkrom Vicariate and Koforidua Diocese. Donation of old but usable clothes were sent to rural and poor communities of St. Thomas Parish and Holy Family Rectorate managed by SVD at New Longoro in Sunyani Diocese.



"Join SVD now" Young Members after a performance at Vocation Sunday Mass.

"May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen"

- St Arnold Janssen



Auxiliary Missionaries of the Divine Word (MAVD) - Mexico

Submitted by Elizabeth Villasenor Savala

- ❖ Founded on February 21, 1982 by Father Manuel Myvett, SVD in Guadalajara, Jalisco in Mexico.
- ❖ Inspired by the Gospel, we celebrate faith and feel called to collaborate in the building of the Kingdom of God with the poor
- ❖ Through the living Word, to know, love and serve the Word is our fundamental mission in solidarity with the Divine Word Missionaries, and Missionary Servants of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Inspired by the same spirituality of the Divine Word Missionaries and St. Arnold's prayer, the focus is on the One, Triune God living in the hearts of all humanity and St. Jose Freinademetz' reminder of love being the language everyone understands.
- ❖ Formation includes basic studies of spirituality and of the mission which are complemented with activities of diverse themed such as Bible, Communication, Peace & Justice and Integrity of Creation.
- ❖ The Mission extends to Santiago de Anaya; Huejutla, Hidalgo; Playas de Catazaja; Salto de Agua; Yajavila, Oaxaca; and San Juan Yae.



The 1982 "Misioneros Auxiliares" Founding group in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

Lay Missionaries of the Divine Word (MLVD) USW – USA

Submitted by Sandra Garcia

- ❖ Founded by Fr. Miguel A. Ruiz, SVD in 2005 as an Evangelization team in Riverside, California and has since grown as an established movement recognized by both the SVD Congregation, the Diocese of San Bernardino and as a non-profit organization in the State of California with approximately 80 members, 18 of whom have consecrated a year of their life for the sake of the mission, and all are personally committed to the Proclamation of the Gospel
- ❖ Mission work includes Bible study and Adult Faith formation classes, Childhood Missionaries, Christian Evangelization retreats, prison ministry, and *KAIROS* Catholic Store, as well as various parish ministries at Queen of Angels in Riverside, CA, Our Lady of Lourdes in Los Angeles, CA and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha in Beaumont and Banning, CA;
- ❖ *KAIROS* Catholic Store is a center for Evangelization, where MLVD volunteers serve and provide assistance in the spiritual journey of many who come in search of God, not just the religious articles but for that which brings them closer to God. It is now in its 7th year of active ministry and ever growing. Virtually visit kairosatholicstore.com
- ❖ A woman battling cancer came into *Kairos* looking for "something" with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and found so much more. After sharing her story with Margaret Medeiros, she was invited to ask Fr. Miguel for a blessing and so she did. Since her visit, she has renewed her faith and attends Queen of Angels Parish as she joyfully shares Fr. Miguel's blessing has healed her in body and spirit!



"A Lay Missionary Proclaims in Mission"-
MLVD members in California (USW)



KAIROS CATHOLIC STORE

"A Center of Evangelization where people who seek the presence of God can find inspiration and reminders of the Holy One in our midst."



*Meeting with Fr. Heinz Kuluke SVD,
Superior General of the Society of the
Divine Word*

Our Vision

*Growing in Discipleship
through Fellowship, Service
and Witness.*

Our Mission

*Animated by the Divine
Word, we live a Spirit-filled
life as individuals and as a
group, so that we become
empowered missionaries of
Jesus Christ. We
accomplish this through
Arnoldus Spirituality and
Missionary Activity in our
daily lives, reaching out to
the poor and the needy; and
personal and interpersonal
growth.*



*Interaction with tribal children and Self Help Group
members*

Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) – Mumbai, India

Submitted by Susan Noronha Chettiar

The Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) began in October 1999 as a small group of lay volunteers helping to propagate the programs conducted by Atma-Darshan, a SVD centre that aims to enhance the Psychological and Spiritual wellbeing of people in order to foster values of Love, Peace and Justice. The group was initiated by Fr. Gregory Pinto SVD, the then director of Atma-Darshan. The purpose of the group evolved over the years and today it has a 3-fold purpose: (a) to know, learn and integrate aspects of Arnoldus spirituality relevant to our personal and family lives; (b) to grow as a team, and (c) to reflect over, pray for, and reach out to the poor and marginalized. DDW is recognized as a Lay Associate Group of the Society of the Divine Word functioning under the India Mumbai Province (INM).

Objectives

- ❖ Living a life of prayer marked by simplicity, humility, and the practice of the Gospel teachings in the world by doing ordinary things with extraordinary love, and providing psycho-spiritual and social help to all those who are in need.
- ❖ Deepening the Arnoldus Spirituality. Promoting and supporting Mission Awareness and through prayer, fostering and nurturing Missionary Vocations, in particular, of the Society of the Divine Word.
- ❖ Collaborating in various SVD projects and also actively involved in our local parishes.
- ❖ Generating funds to cater to the needs of the SVD missions and to help in the education for poor children.

Current Projects

- We are actively involved in reaching out to some of the immediate needs of Odisha Mission (INE Province), particularly in the areas of education for children, rectification surgeries for the physically challenged children, sponsoring SVD seminarians for their study, etc. Members help financially to take care of the needs of HIV-infected children of Asha Jyothi, Hyderabad, INH Province.
- We have initiated a support system for SVD mission work at Mangaon & Tala villages (INM Province) for the landless and displaced tribal people. Our members not only contribute their time, talents and resources but also share their expertise by visiting the Self Help Groups (SHGs) regularly.

Besides the social activities, we give our priority to our growth as disciples. Psycho-Spiritual growth sessions are regularly organized for the members. Our regular meetings have not only served us to deepen the interpersonal bond among us, but also have helped members to know each other better, and meaningfully involve in each other's lives whenever needed.

The Mission Exposure not only helps us in reaching out to the less privileged, but, also helps us to see the glimpse of God working in the lives of these people.

Two SVD Lay Partners Groups - Portugal

Submitted by Fr. Joaquim Domingos Luís, SVD

In Portugal, there are two SVD lay partners groups: Friends of the Divine Word (AMIVD) in most of the parishes where the SVD work and *Diálogos* (SVD Lay Missionaries). They have their vision and mission statement as well as systematic plan of action. People with rich experience and commitment are members of these groups, they have done a lot as lay groups to help the missions.

The recent programmes of Friends of the Divine Word (AMIVD):

- An annual pilgrimage of all Friends of the Divine Word (AMIVD) to Fátima took place on the 9th and 10th of April, 2016 and a good participation at this programme was enriching to all of them.
- On the 22nd of May, the annual meeting AMIVD in the Region of Guimarães took place at the SVD Seminary in Guimarães. One of the main programmes was to raise funds to build WC for a School run by the Society in India.

The recent programmes of *Diálogos*:

- A formation programme for the members of *Diálogos* was held on 14-15 May at the SVD House of Formation in Lisbon. Preparation for summer missionary activities in Almodôvar for the SVD parishes, in the south of Portugal were planned during this gathering.
- African Dinner was organized by *Diálogos* at SVD Seminary in Guimarães on 4th June, there were nearly 170 people participated in this dinner. The money raised during this event is to help the victims of floods in Mozambique where the SVD works.

The following programmes are planned by *Diálogos* for summer:

- Voluntary work with physical and mentally handicapped people, in Viseu from the 5th to the 14th of August 2016.
- Mission Week will be celebrated from the 20th to the 28th of August in the south of Portugal in the region of Almodôvar.

"Proclamation of the Good News is the first and most significant expression of love for one's neighbor. He {St. Arnold Janssen} now helps his religious family from Heaven, to continue faithfully along the tracks he marked out that witness to the permanent value of the Church's evangelizing mission.

-Pope Saint John Paul II at the Canonization Mass of St. Arnold Janssen, SVD

Share with us, our fellow SVD Lay Partners, the good works the Lord has begun in you for the sake of the Gospel. *How are you proclaiming the Good News in your part of the world?* Let us know how Saint Arnold is inspiring you to actively participate in the Church's mission of Evangelization.

Submission deadline for next edition: Friday, October 21, 2016



SVD Friends Pilgrimage to Fatima



Members of Diálogos lay group



Fund Raising African Dinner

TO SUBMIT INFORMATION AND PICTURES FOR FUTURE PUBLICATION PLEASE SEND TO EITHER ONE OF THE EDITORS:

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