



Society of the Divine Word (SVD)

SVD Lay Partners

Newsletter - from Around the World

Issue 11, December 2019

Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019



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Editorial

Incarnation and Mission



The opening verse of the prologue of the Gospel of John says: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And continues to read, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full

of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father".

The celebration of Christmas focuses our attention on the greatest of God's interventions - the incarnation. God makes visible his own self. He becomes one with us to share our joys and our struggles, our sorrows and also our hopes. Christmas celebrates the incarnation, the ultimate experience of God's love for us.

The angels came to the shepherds. People who were doing what they did every day and every night. People going through the routine of life. People living their ordinary lives. The birth of this child is about God coming to us in our everyday lives and saying to us, "Don't be afraid, look, I proclaim to you good news." It's about God meeting us in our pain and loneliness. It's about God meeting us in our frustration and anger. It's about God meeting us on Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays. It's about God wanting to be a part of our lives every day. I think that's why God sent the angels to the shepherds - to let us know that this child was for all people, even the most ordinary.

The birth of Jesus is a living narrative about being called by God to participate in his mission - to make himself known among the nations. Just as Jesus was sent out on mission by the Father, he sends us. The incarnation informs our method of mission.

Christmas is an invitation that you and I don't want to miss. This invitation is for more than just a brief visit or a seasonal celebration. Jesus is inviting us to make our home in him, to truly enter in to all he is, and all he has for us. Accepting this invitation, helps us to continue the living narrative, where the love of God manifests in our lives for our brothers and sisters, and the whole of creation.

Our Advent waiting prepares us for all the joys and wonders that await us if we open our doors to the Saviour. "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!" Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year!

Susan Noronha
(Editor-in-chief)

Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World

Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019

Every October is a missionary month with World Mission Sunday on the penultimate Sunday or in Germany on the fourth Sunday in October, but for 2019 Pope Francis had called for an Extraordinary Missionary Month and had put it under the motto "Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on Mission in the World". With this motto the Pope made clear that mission

is not bound to ordained ministries or religious vows, but the task of every Christian. So it was a matter of course for the SVD Lay Partners to intensify their activities this month. A small selection of reports of the diverse, worldwide activities is the main topic of this newsletter.

Indonesia (IDJ)

SOVERDIA - Activities during Extraordinary Missionary Month



Extraordinary Missionary Month in Indonesia - Java Province was celebrated in every SVD Parish with various activities, to encourage people to be actively involved in the SVD mission works. SOVERDIA, as SVD Lay Partners group, collaborated with the Province endeavors in their missionary activities.

SOVERDIA Bali-Lombok District celebrated the Extraordinary Mission Month by celebrating special Holy Mass and distributing fundraising envelopes for SVD mission work. This



event was held in all SVD Parishes - on October 22, 2019 at Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish and on 26 and 27 October, at St. Joseph's Parish. The Bali-Lombok District fundraising collected total funds of around IDR 235.000.000 (US\$ 20,000).

SOVERDIA Jakarta District also celebrated the Extraordinary Mission Month by celebrating special Holy Mass on a Sunday followed by a fundraising bazaar for the SVD mission work.

SOVERDIA Surabaya District celebrated the Extraordinary Mission Month with special Holy Mass during the first weekend, October 5 and 6, 2019 at the Holy Spirit Parish, Surabaya. After the Mass there was Mission Expo and Seminar. There was also an entertainment programme organized by the Arnold Janssen Family (priests, brothers, sisters and seminarians).

Soon to be SOVERDIA of West Kalimantan District, also celebrated Extraordinary Mission Month with a special Holy Mass. They invited children to dress like priests and nuns, to promote for Jesus' mission in the world. This activity was centered at the Tayan Parish. This was followed by Mission Expo and Mission Talk Shows.



Paulina Suharsi

India (INM)

Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) - Celebrating the Extraordinary Missionary Month



The initiative of Pope Francis to celebrate the month of October 2019 as the Extraordinary Missionary Month aims to awaken the awareness of the meaning of mission and reinvigorate the sense of responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm. The theme chosen for the month was "Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World."

To bring awareness of what it means to be **baptized and sent**, Sacred Heart Parish, Mumbai invited the Divine Word Missionaries from different Indian Provinces during this month. SVD Lay Partners from the Parish collaborated in this Parish project.

The Fathers arrived from India Mumbai (INM), Eastern (INE), Central (INC) Provinces and India Guwahati Region (ING). They shared with the parishioners their missionary life experience during all Masses, on all the 4 weekends of October. They brought along with them artefacts, handwoven fabric, and things crafted by villagers and tribal people. All items were sold out, thus showing our solidarity towards the mission of Christ.



Amid tough challenges and opportunities, Divine Word Missionaries are engaged in education, health care, socio-economic development, welfare programs for women and children, evangelization and many more, in some of the remote tribal and poor villages in India.

Fr. Anuranjan Dungdung, SVD from INE Province remarks, "The extraordinary missionary month was realized and actualized in the true sense of the word by the SVD confreres, SVD Lay Partners and the Parishioners. The whole-hearted celebration, participation in the mission and overwhelming generosity is very much appreciated. We, as missionaries, felt welcomed, respected and appreciated. Thank you and may God richly bless you."

It was an enriching opportunity for our parishioners to get in touch with the rural and tribal realities of India. We assure our prayers and support to the missionaries working all over the world.

Susan Noronha



Ghana (GHA)

Friends of SVD - Extraordinary Missionary Month observed in Ghana



The Extraordinary Missionary Month in the Accra Archdiocese was launched on October 01, 2019 at Christ the King Parish, Accra, by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Accra, Most Rev. John Bonaventure Kwofie, CSSp. This was in collaboration with Pontifical Mission Societies of the Archdiocese, SVD Characteristic Dimension, SSPS sisters and SVD Lay Partners.

The young missionary group of Friends of SVD performed a drama at the launching, with the song "Baptized and Sent" composed by the Mission Secretary, Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, SVD.

Mission animation

In preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, the National President of the Lay Partners, Madam Helen Dzikunu and the Mission Secretary, Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, SVD visited the Holy Trinity Church in Kintampo to animate people who wish to become SVD Lay Partners. This was made possible through the effort of Fr. Gregory Boss, SVD.

They visited the Formation Houses in Tamale and addressed the seminarians about SVD Lay Partners and Extraordinary Missionary Month activities. They taught them a song for the mission month. A video clip prepared during orientation programme was used to advertise the celebration.

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church

The Extraordinary Mission Month was observed at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, New Aplaku, Accra with daily rosary devotion and mission market every Sunday after the Holy Mass.

With the Parish evangelization team, they visited Awutu Prisons Camp and shared the Word of God, and presented the prisoners bibles, rosaries and food items.

The SSPS led by Sr. Mary Nyako, SSPS, were invited to share with the congregation their vocation and mission, wherein they sold some items produced in their convent to support their mission.



A day at the SVD retirement home

Celebrating the Extraordinary Mission Month, the SVD Lay Partners of St. Arnold Janssen Brother Formation Chapel Community Tesano, Accra, led by Br. Pius Agyemang, SVD, Fr. Paul Narippaka, SVD, from Togo and Daniel Lamptey, joined the retired confreres at McCarthy Hill, Accra on October 26, 2019. They shared their missionary experiences in Ghana.

St. Margaret Mary and Christ the King Parish

As a part of activities of the Extraordinary Mission Month, Lay Partners of the St. Margaret Mary Parish in Dansoman, Accra took their turn to lead the Rosary devotion on October 22 and prayed for all missionaries, the poor and the marginalized. Fr. Francis Bakilatob, SVD gave a short reflection on "Our call as Lay Missionaries in our day to day life". The members visited sick and home bound parishioners and shared the Word.

At Christ the King Parish, the Lay Partners sold stationeries and a book written by Fr. Gabriel Sosu, SVD, a Ghanaian missionary working in Zimbabwe. Proceeds from the sale will support his mission in Zimbabwe.

Martin Kumedzro



Angola (ANG)

Associação de Leigos Missionários do Verbo Divino - Activities during the Extraordinary Mission Month



The Associação de Leigos Missionários do Verbo Divino in Angola undertook various activities to mark the special occasion of the Extraordinary Missionary Month declared by Pope Francis for October 2019. The occasion, carried out in two phases, involved mainly spiritual, formative, recreational and charitable activities.

In September, the Association participated in the celebration of the 145th anniversary of the foundation of the congregation and the 25th priestly anniversary of Fr. Kaike Chivanja, SVD and Fr. José Luis Rodríguez Lopez, SVD.

In October, the association marked the mission month with mission animation activities, with the aim of bringing together lay partners and associates, to reflect on the message of the mission month: "Baptized and sent: The Church of Christ on mission in the world". Also, to share their experiences and create favourable conditions of dynamism that would render the lay associations active in 5 parishes, administered by the congregation in the Archdiocese of Luanda.

On October 13th, the celebration was opened with a theme: The lay faithful as the instrument of the continuation of the mission of Christ on earth facilitated by brother Fernando Castelo, an ex-seminarian. On October 19th, with the help of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, members visited 13 bed-ridden old and sick people and held short outdoor recreational activities. On the 20th, we participated in the Pontifical-Mass of Mission Sunday in the Diocese of Viana. And on Octo-



ber 26-27, we organized our first gathering, during which we reflected on the main theme of Mission Sunday, having SVD Deacon, Rev. Garcia de Sousa Kiangala, as the facilitator.

Fr. Kaike Chivanja, SVD with the support of two novices took us through the history and challenges of the congregation in Angola, with the input on the identity and mission of the lay faithful, the family as the domestic Church. Missionary rosary was presented by our brother José Miguel, SVD lay partner and Octavio, a speaker from the IAM Movement and the Young Missionary League.

The climax of the celebration was the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Daniel Fernando Zoza, SVD, Assistant Priest, *Santa Madalena Church*. More than 53 lay associates and members of IAM Movement and the Young Missionary League took part in the activities.

José Miguel Mateus



Germany (GER)

SVD-Partner - #himmelsleuchten - Extraordinary Missionary Months in Düsseldorf*

God and the World – World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

1. September 2019
#himmelsleuchten-English
Care of Creation
Schreibe einen Kommentar

Today, on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, it is worth pointing out that cities are not just concrete and stone deserts. This can be seen in many places in Düsseldorf. There are plants and flowers and you can harvest in public spaces. Here is an example from the wedding meadow in the water protection area in the city district Gerresheim.
By the way: The #himmelsleuchten backpack was also used for the apple harvest. Maria



Gott und die Welt
God and the World

SVD-Partner in Düsseldorf



Rosaries for Stella Maris

The Catholic mission for seafarers *Stella Maris* collects rosaries to give them to seafarers. In collaboration with the Daughters of Saint Paul, SVD-Partner have asked people in Düsseldorf to give unused rosaries for *Stella Maris*. Up to now, two packages have already been sent to Hamburg. Everybody likes the idea that the rosary is no longer somewhere in a box, but in a seafarer's praying hand somewhere in the ocean.

Resume: #himmelsleuchten

The campaign is very inspiring. The Good News is told in so many ways and connects people who had never met without the campaign. It is good to be a part of it!

The column „God and the World“

Good news must be told and it is done in a column on the blog *Düssel-Post*. It reports in German and English about #himmelsleuchten and about the SVD-world. There is a lot to tell. Meanwhile more than 50 reports are published - just take a look yourself www.duessel-post.de (German/English).

My Angel and Me – A Time of Rest and Silence

On 2nd October (Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels) people were invited to come together in the Chapel of St. Rochus in the evening. Everybody had time to listen to his/her heart and think about their own relationship with angels. Additionally, they could read some short articles about the angels for a better understanding. Before going home everybody got a little angel with a biblical quotation.

Maria Wego

*In German „Himmel“ means sky and heaven. The motto can be understood as sky light or celestial glow.





AFRAM ZONE



Tanzania (KEN)

Friends of SVD – Relationship of SVD and Lay Partners in Tanzania

We all value friendship and our lives become more meaningful with the friends. It is rightly said, "Tell me who are your friends, and I will tell you what kind of person you are". The digital and internet platform like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram etc. have helped us to reconnect with many of our old friends.

SVD missionaries arrived in Tanzania in the year 2000, with the invitation of Late Bishop Lukanima. SVDs assumed the responsibilities of administering in different Parishes and currently are working in 5 Parishes in Archdiocese of Arusha.

In 2013, Fr. Peddy Castelino, SVD and Fr. Michael Taneo, SVD dreamt of having Lay Partners for this mission. After gathering the information from Kenya and other countries as to how these lay groups work, we worked together on the criteria for membership. Almost all the families we approached were willing to become members. We began with basic orientation and formation, and also worked on the Statutes. We

named the group *Friends of SVD*. The group has leadership team at Parish and National level.

The *Friends of SVD* meet every month on third Monday in the homes of members. Once in three months, the members from all Parishes come together in one Parish for prayer. They have a yearly membership contribution. New members are commissioned after a period of formation. When there is a death in a family, members contribute to support the family. They travel to Parishes in the rural mission to support the Parish and to strengthen the people in faith.

At present The *Friends of SVD* in Tanzania have 55 families as members. They live SVD spirituality and charism, and support our mission with their prayers. Every day they pray for SVD missionaries. They are great and significant partners in our mission.

Fr. Peter Pinto, SVD



Democratic Republic of Congo (CNG)

Fraternité SVD - I Faced with a Silence like that of a Cemetery...



It has been more than 11 years since I started working for children's right to education in western Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Even though the challenges in this part of the country are immense, nothing could disrupt my work. However, in December 2017, the Kasai region plunged into a terrible, deadly crisis of great magnitude and untold violence that forced tens of thousands of people, including children, to flee into neighbouring areas.

Education is crucial because it allows children to look toward the future, especially in the context of crisis. Faced with the mass arrival of displaced children in the Kwilu province, we started establishing emergency programs. More than 10,000 displaced children found school benches again and more than half of them received psychosocial support.

At the end of 2018, the situation for children and women newly settled in the Kwilu province began to improve, but for those who found refuge in the Maï-Ndombe province, this was not the case ... deadly clashes had transformed the city of Yumbi into a ghost town.

I was part of the first team deployed to the location to evaluate the humanitarian situation. When we arrived there, we



were faced with a silence like that of a cemetery - not the slightest sign of life, not a single noise, not even the call of a bird. The desolation was absolute. Everything was destroyed and burned. It was like the sun had ceased to shed light on life at Yumbi.

With our partners, the UNICEF emergency team provided school kits to more than 6,000 students and provided tents and benches to 17 schools, that were destroyed during the clashes so that they could function again. We further provided teacher-training, and psychosocial support to tens of thousands of children.

UNICEF supports safe spaces for learning and play for children affected by the crisis in Yumbi. For children in emergency situations, education represents a real lifeline. Education cannot wait!

Source: UNICEF Connect and Jean Paul Nico Luketo
(Education Specialist at UNICEF)

Jean Paul Nico Luketo





ASPAC ZONE



India (INM)

Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) - Feed the Hungry



It was no coincidence that the foundation day of the Society of the Divine Word was also the feast of the Nativity of Mary. Saint Arnold Janssen, in his personal devotion, recognized Mary as the chosen one: "She is our model of faithful attentiveness and ready response to God's word; she will help us to bring the Divine Word to others". On this welcome note, we launched our new project "Feed the Hungry" on September 08, 2019 at Atma-Darshan on the 144th Anniversary of SVD Foundation Day.

The colours white, blue, red, green and yellow, used for launching this project and they were meant to remind us of our missionary calling. They stand for diversity and interculturality. At a global level, they represent the continents where the SVDs work. At our own micro level, they represent all of us who are from different ethnic, cultural, linguistic and lifestyle backgrounds.



Our belief is very simple: cooking a little extra food in our homes and move in small groups to feed the hungry. A smile, a conversation, a simple hot meal is enough to make a difference in someone's day. We see them every day. Around street corners, at traffic signals, in the slums and in the neighbourhood. Sometimes, it is the battered face of an old woman, it is the tired eyes of people outside hospitals, a bunch of street children eager for a meal, we meet them all. When we meet them and listen to their struggles, we are convinced that God is with them. It gives us an opportunity to encounter God and to be faithful to the Gospel values.

In the short span of two months, a simple idea has gained immense acceptance. It is the combined efforts of our little actions that will lead to a world where this goal becomes possible.

Susan Noronha



India (INC)

INC Lay Partners - First Meeting

The India Central Province (INC) is in the process of forming the INC SVD Lay Partners group in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Their first meeting took place on September 1, 2019 at Seva Sadan. Fifteen lay people participated in the meeting. They expressed their joy and happiness to be part of Arnold's family in carrying forward the vision of St. Arnold Janssen in the mission of the Church. Fr. Jomon James, SVD is the convener of the SVD Lay Partners group.

Lourdu Swamy, one of the members of INC Lay Partners, has been nominated by the INC Provincial Council to participate in the first ASPAC Zonal Workshop for SVD Lay Partners which will be held in Tagaytay, Philippines, from 18 November until 25 November 2019.

Source: INC Newsletter



Hong Kong & Macau (SIN)

St. Joseph Freinademetz Musical Film Honored in Poland



Produced by SVD Hong Kong & Macau, musical film "St. Joseph Freinademetz - The First Saint to Ever Serve in Hong Kong" received 2nd Prize of the "Best TV and Multimedia Program" award at the 34th International Catholic Film and Multimedia Festival "KSF Niepokalana 2019" in Warsaw, Poland. On September 22, 2019, Dr. Anthony Cheng, the film's music director, attended festival's closing ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of SVD and our film crew of 180 people at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel and St. Florian the Martyr, a historic landmark in eastern Warsaw. This is the film's second award after being named "Honorable Mention" in 2019 Gabriel Awards organized by the United States and Canada Catholic Press Association in June.

Fr. Joseph Lei-Tao Tan, SVD, the producer of the film, said "We are very happy to have received this honor and would like to share our happiness with every SVD. With subtitled versions of over 15 languages, now we are more confident to share this musical film with the whole world. Indeed, our act-



ing team was mostly made up of beginning actors and actresses. 95 percent of them were performing for the first time. As this is a staged musical recording, they had no opportunity to retake scenes. Completing a musical at this level, on the first try, with so little experience, is truly a miracle from the Lord. Also, most of our crew learnt about the St. Joseph Freinademetz through participating in this project, as his story in China really touched many of their hearts. Therefore, I hope this film can be screened in many more countries, so that people around the world can have the opportunity to understand the importance of evangelization."

Fr. Joseph Lei-Tao Tan, SVD

Fr. Joseph Lei-Tao Tan, SVD is the producer of the musical and the founder of St. Joseph Freinademetz's Family, SVD Lay Partners Group. Players in the musical are SVD Lay Partners and others.

Indonesia (IDJ)

SOVERDIA – Overview of the Last Months Activities



Attending the Vows

Every August, SOVERDIA at Saint Yoseph's Parish, Denpasar – Bali, visits the SVD Seminary and Novitiate in Malang, East Java. This visit is to support the brothers who profess their vows on August 14, 2019, and also those who make their first and final vows on August 15. These visits are very meaningful for the seminarians because they feel cared for and loved. We believe, that our visit also strengthens them to live their vocation faithfully till the time of their ordination.

First Meeting of SOVERDIA IDJ (Indonesia-Java) Province

For the first time, SOVERDIA IDJ Province meeting was held with the participation of representatives from, the Tenggara-rong District, Surabaya District, Jakarta District and Bali-Lombok District. This meeting was intended to foster fraternity and fellowship among SVD Lay Partners. On this occasion, Fr. Hendrikus Meko, SVD gave the members guidance, and encouraged us to continue to support SVD mission work



worldwide. While we sang the hymn of SOVERDIA, we felt such meetings are fulfilling and can mutually strengthen SOVERDIA members.

Opening and Closing Mass of the Rosary Month at the Kerobokan – Bali Prison

In order to answer the spiritual longing of Catholic prisoners in the Kerobokan-Bali prison, we visited the prison and had Masses during the Rosary Month. On October 1, 2019 the Mass was celebrated by Fr. Paskalis Widastra, SVD along with the recitation of the rosary in the Maria Cave, located next to the Chapel in the prison. The closing Mass was on October 31, 2019, celebrated by Fr. Yosef Wora, SVD. We also donated devotional prayer books and rosaries.

Currently we are also working on a 'special project' so that we can distribute Holy Communion once a week and also hold a "Receive the Sacrament of Penance" for this coming Advent.

Paulina Suharsi



SOVERDIA - St. Mikael Parish, Kranji - West Java, Jakarta District



Brief history

On September 24, 2000, SOVERDIA was formed at St. Mikael, Kranji Parish by the initiative of Fr. Damianus Weru, SVD who was then the Parish Priest, and was inaugurated by Fr. Bien Prado, SVD. Currently, we are 24 members of SOVERDIA, Kranji. Of the five SVD Parishes in Jakarta District, 3 Parishes have SOVERDIA community, St. Arnoldus - Bekasi, St. Mikael - Kranji, West Bekasi and St. Bartolomeus - Taman Galaxi, South Bekasi.

Activities and mission work

Every first and third Tuesdays of the month, we gather together to pray and participate in the Adoration and Holy Eucharist. We work with other prayer groups and take part in the Parish Liturgical services. We also collect coins and donate to SVD missions. Savings from generous donations from members is used to ease recreational activities or spiritual pilgrimage. Some of our activities –

- Decent used clothes sold during mission weeks and proceeds donated to SVD Seminaries. Provided food for flood victims.
- Visited Lawang Uru and Tumbang Mahuroi, Kuala Kurun in Palangkaraya, with SOVERDIA Central Kalimantan to discuss renovation of the Chapel at Lawang uru and construction of the Chapel at Mahuroi station. Visited Bali Wacana SVD Monastery - Denpasar and homes of SVDs in Palasari - Bali, Dharma Wacana Monastery, Yogyakarta and Simeon Hannah Monastery, Jakarta.



- Donated funds for implementation of Faith of Men and Women of the Legion of Maria, St. Hilarius Parish, Batam. Procured transport to one of the Parishes in Atambua, East Timor border.
- Assisted with a laptop to one of the lecturers in Malang Seminary and a Projector to Long Bentuk Parish.
- Donated funds for the construction of St. Maria Parish Cave Markus, Melak-Samarinda, and for Altar renovation and Grotto in Sanggau - West Kalimantan Parish.
- Support to priests who work overseas.

Amid challenges there is hope

It is not easy to convince members to join SOVERDIA. The motivation and assistance from the Priest in charge of SOVERDIA is important for the formation of new groups or sustaining the groups. Hopefully, our presence will become a blessing for many people, especially in bringing awareness of the Church to our children.

Maria Novena Djuniasih (Maria Djatmiko)



EUROPA ZONE

Germany (GER)

SVD-Partner - Renewal of the Commitment on a Very Special Day



The whole group of SVD-Partner renewed their commitment on September 08, 2019, in Steyl. To renew our commitment on the founding day at the founding place of SVD is something very special. This time the anniversaries of ten SVD-Missionaries were celebrated too. Looking into the faces of these missionaries, gives courage and humility. It is good to know that they accompany us on our way.

Maria Wego

Pledge

Filled with the boundless love of God, the Father, sent from the Word Incarnate, my brother and Lord Jesus, the Christ strengthened through the succor of the Holy Spirit, I will go together with all people worldwide through time.

Jesus, through His death and resurrection, opened the way to eternal life for all people of all cultures. With this assurance, I will share this life in the joy of Easter with them.



By way of my trade, I will take part in the joys, hopes and sorrows of the people of this world. I will especially commit myself to action for peace, justice and the preservation of the Creation.

I will meet my fellow man with respect, understanding, compassion and love. I see in every man and woman a brother, a sister.

Prayer and lecture of the Holy Scripture excite, help and strengthen me.

With everything I do the holy Arnold Janssen, the founding generation and the community of the Divine Word Missionaries, their witness of faith and life's work will be example and inspiration.

I pledge this to live as SVD-Partner for the next three years.





PANAM ZONE



Chile (CHI)

ALMA Verbita - Trust and Wait



Perhaps this phrase "Trust and wait" reflects and interprets what happens in our mission on the Mount.

Our friends expect us every month for our visit. This sharing of God, this sharing of our faith, this door that opens to rejoice in the LOVE of GOD.

It is surprising to feel and realize how much we are awaited to be visited, heard and attended to.

In the face of the pain, we experience so much poverty and difficulties in so many brothers and sisters of ours who suffer



day by day. We can be surprised at their resilience and their ability to get up every day, and trust that something good holds for them every day.

They wait for a friendly response that reaches out to them, and that they certainly receive it from the "Fraternal Dining Room" that welcomes them every day. They await the visit of the missionaries to open the doors of their houses and their hearts, simply to be LISTENED.

Elena Ortiz

ALMA Verbita - Chile, an Injured Country

Chile lives these days, a social crisis, unthinkable and devastating. A country ruled by chaos, violence, destruction, uncertainty, confusion. Fear has taken hold and fitted in the heart of many Chileans. Amid the peaceful demonstrations, Chileans demand for a more just and equal country.

A true outbreak of violence emerges in the middle of nowhere, which has brought out the worst of human beings. Hate, anger and hardness has blinded us, and has no regard for anything and anyone.

In the midst of this pain and destruction, we urgently need to recover the lost spaces of dialogue, unity, understanding, empathy and collaboration of all Chileans.

In this bitter, but provocative hour, what awakens us and moves us to build is, the love of the history of our people, forged in the face of so much adversity, in which hope has always prevailed.

"Love is stronger". They have marked our memory on fire: love for the neighbour, love for the common good, for justice,

for the truth, love for the human being in their need, in their dignity, in their pain until they reach everywhere.

As brothers and sisters, for a better Chile in unity and peace, let's raise our flag.

Elena Ortiz



Mexico (MEX)

Misioneros Auxiliares del Verbo Divino (MAVD) - Our Hearts Beat Stronger



We, the *Misioneros Auxiliares del Verbo Divino* (MAVD), Mexico, celebrated our XXXV National Encounter this year on September 13, 14 and 15, 2019, in Santiago de Anaya Hidalgo. On this beautiful occasion, the hosts were the missionaries of the *MAHETS'I DE SANTIAGO* base group. With much love and dedication, they did an excellent job. In this National Encounter, all the MAVD members met as Arnoldous family in moments of prayer and harmony. We meditated to deepen our experience in the charism and the spirituality of Saint Arnold Janssen. We participated in the cultural activities of every regional group and analyzed some situations in our base groups. On the whole, we encouraged ourselves in the walk as missionaries.

On Sunday October 20, 2019, we participated with great enthusiasm and joy, in the celebration of the World Mission Sunday. On this occasion, we carried out activities in each of the Parishes where *Misioneros Auxiliares del Verbo Divino*



are actively present. As MAVD members, one of the activities we carried out was our annual missionary commitment, which commits and encourages us to prepare ourselves for our Year 2020 Mission.

From July 21 to August 4, 2019, we were assigned to summer mission. We attended communities of San Juan Yae in Oaxaca and communities of Huejutla and Tianguistengo in Hidalgo.

God our Father, may your challenge be stronger and stronger, so that we can achieve more exceptional things in your name.

“YOUR LIFE IS OUR LIFE; YOUR MISSION IS OUR MISSION”

José Manuel Contreras Bautista

Vocation Promotion Experience by a Family

We, my wife Marcela and I, gladly share our experience of our last mission, since we have been integrated into the vocational pastoral team in the Province Mexico, Cuba, and that we accept to contribute with our experience for the last 25 years serving the congregation. Taking the experience of the Workshop for Lay Partners in Nemi, Roma, I realized that vocation

is something essential for the survival and functioning of a Congregation, and we have accepted to work in this vocational promotion team. Our task in the Holy Week was to accompany our young men and women who are anxious to discover their vocation together with the parents and Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit.

The mission was to discern or discover their vocation for the priestly, religious or matrimonial life.

In the mornings, we had workshops with vocational themes and in the afternoon, we practiced the mission in visiting the biblical groups and the sick, with the young men and women in the indigenous communities that was assigned to us.

The experience was very enriching for everyone in the Arnoldus family, since we all work together for the first time. I feel very proud to belong to the SVD and to contribute directly to the work assigned to us.

Marcela and Angel Cobian Galvan



Paraguay (PAR)

Laicos Verbitas - Biblical Activities



On July 13 and 14, the Biblical Formation of the Southern Zone of our Province was organized, where members of the Biblical Apostolate of *San Roque* Parish, *San Isidro*, *Corazón Inmaculado de María*, *San Cayetano* and *Espíritu Santo* participated. It was an evaluation of the activities carried out in the different Parishes, and teaching on the Gospel of Saint Mathew.

Bible competition was organized during the last week of September between different SVD Parishes in San Isidro.

Congress for the young people was held on September 13-15, 2019, at the Church of *Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación*, Asunción City. Around 120 youth participated in the meeting.



Sixth Congress of *Laico Verbitas*

the Sixth Congress of *Laico Verbitas*, Paraguay Province, was held with the motto "The lay missionary - heart of the Church in the world", on October 18-20, 2019, the weekend of world mission Sunday. About 50 lay missionaries from different SVD Parishes participated in the meeting. The meeting was organized by Fr. Alfredo Hauron, SVD and was held at Saint Arnold Janssen retirement home. Fr. Maximiliano Kolbe, SVD, Fr. Antonio Baez, SVD and *Laico Verbitas* of the Parish of *San Roque González* of Santa Cruz participated in the congress. It was truly a very rich experience with issues concerning the mission.

Froilan Armoa González



Panama (CAM)

Misioneros Laicos del Verbo Divino – EXPO-VERBITA 2019: Receiving the Mission with Great Joy



Participating in their missionary slogan during the weekends of October, the Lay Missionaries of the Divine Word were cheering, working, cooperating, sharing in the EXPO-VERBITA, which corresponds to celebrating the Extraordinary Missionary Month, October 2019.

Moment of mission, Dolega

The mission to Dolega was short, since it takes 7 hours of road trip, and we returned home on Sunday night. While at Dolega, after the Eucharistic Celebration we shared our mission experience with people of 30 communities, which are part of the San Francisco de Asis Parish. Food and religious items were sold during the weekend.

The Dolega community has more than 70 missionaries (lay people), but they are not committed lay partners as their statutes and missionary dynamics are different from the Verbitas. Their Spiritual Director is a Deacon, who asked us to share



with each other our work for a better understanding of the groups.

We spoke about our missionary work from its inception to date. We answered questions about our congregation and the experience we had during our workshops in Nemi, Mexico and in other parts of Panama City. We also spoke about the interculturality among the SVDs in the different continents and communicated to them about our founder St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz.

Chapel San Oscar Arnulfo Romero, in Montería, Pedregal

On October 27, we visited Chapel San Oscar Arnulfo Romero. The community was very receptive and attentive and we shared the Gospel of the day.

Rogelio Rodriguez



United States (USW)

Misioneros Laicos del Verbo Divino (MLVD) - Public Dedication Renewal



This year we had the public dedication renewal Mass for the Misioneros Laicos del Verbo Divino on September 6th for 8 members in Our Lady of Lourdes in Los Angeles, CA and on September 7th for 18 members at Queen of Angels in Riverside, CA. This public dedication is lived out in response to the call from the Lord to serve and imitate Him as is stated in the SVD Constitutions "His life is our life; his mission is our mission." What this dedication entails is a stronger commitment to the mission by means of supporting all activities that help promote and strengthen the faith of those who seek God in their lives. In our missionary discipleship we seek to enter into dialogue with those who have lost the faith, help those who desire to grow in their relationship with God and accompany them all in their journey of Faith.

of God in their lives so that the heart of Jesus may live in their hearts. Our mission activities this year included three Initiation Retreats with a total of 225 participants, two retreats for our confirmation students with 110 participants, six Bible Study classes every week with 150 participants in total. We were also very blessed with a time of renewal and a time to refocus our vision in the presence of God in a retreat for our team members. It is our desire that we continue to grow, mature and expand for the glory of our Triune God and for the good of His people whom we seek to serve.

Mariana Flores

The proclamation of the Good News of our Lord is of vital importance to our movement because we have come to understand that we are co-responsible evangelizing missionary disciples. It is our mission to help others to experience the love



United States (USS)

SVD Associates - Introduction



SVD Associates of Holy Ghost Catholic Church began with bible studies and promotion of SVD Associates; spirituality, vision and mission. The response was good from the members.

SVD Associates was formed on May 1, 2017 beginning with 40 members and eventually now grown to 85 members. The members are very active and committed.

On May 13, 2017, an initial meeting was held regarding the Vision and Mission Statement of the group. We also had an election of the officers.

The office bearers are:

Chair - Christenia Ventress, Co-Chair - Jeannette Dourousseau, Secretary - Rose Sam, Treasurer - Destiney Babineaux, and Spiritual Director - Fr. Rofinus Jas, SVD.

Following are the SVD Associates' programmes:

- Turn out once a month during Sunday Mass

- SVD youth day conference
- Praise and worship
- Recollection and retreat
- A day of reflection and workshop
- Meeting and community service
- A day of prayer for all missionaries and their missions around the globe
- Novena and Holy Hour/Benediction.
- Bible sharing, Lectio Divina and Bible studies
- Mission trips (Lay Missionaries overseas is not done yet)
- Pray for SVD, SSPS, SSPSAP and SVD laity vocations
- Volunteer to feed the poor and homeless
- Family visiting and SVD Blue Night
- SVD spiritual studies

Fr. Rofinus Jas, SVD



~ Last but not Least ~

Faithful To The Word, One With The People

SVD Motto Prayer

Merciful Father,
you offer us the gift of your Word,
an expression of your love reaching out to us.
We want to remain open and faithful to the Word
that flows from within you,
so that it soaks into our hearts, is reflected in our lives
and we turn ourselves to others in selfless service.

We listen to hear your Son, Word made flesh,
who overcomes the darkness of despair and heals the
wounds of injustice.
Bound to the Word, with our whole mind and our whole heart,
we let Him take the initiative in our life and
guide us in our path.
We want to be faithful disciples of the Word,
that questions and challenges us,
helps us to discern and moves us to conversion.

We also want to hear the life of the people we serve
and the events of our time to offer mercy and solidarity.
We look primarily to the poor, oppressed and disconsolate,
putting the last one first to restore dignity,
to liberate and reconcile,
and to promote the integrity of creation.

Driven by the Spirit of Love
we are sent to all peoples and nations.
The Word announced and expressed in different
languages and cultures,
encourages us to promote inculturation and
to live interculturality.
We want to discern and dialogue, witness and transform,
united to the people and in collaboration with everyone.

Mother of the Divine Word,
model of attentive listening and generous response,
Help us to communicate with joy and strength
the Word that nourishes our fidelity and commitment
to be united with others in the mission.

SVD Missionhouses

Dom Misyjny św. Wojciecha, Pieniężno (Poland)

św. Wojciecha was founded in 1920.

św. Wojciecha = St. Adalbert



Statue in the garden



Missionhouse św. Wojciecha



The church during Christmas time



Statue in the garden



Impulse

You, God
 A child!
 A child in the crib!
 You are on the side of the little ones.
 You take sides for all
 which will not be accepted.
 So let me you not seek in splendour and glory
 but where the children scream,
 where man and animal live together
 in the caves and on the roadside.
 Give me the simplicity of the shepherds
 and the humility of the wise men
 so that I may be aware of you
 as a child in the crib today.

**Merry Christmas
 and
 Happy New Year**

Susan *Matilda*
Laura *Fabian*
Sophie *Gianini*

Imprint

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