



Societas Verbi Divini (SVD)

SVD Laici



EX GREGE

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First PANAM Zonal Meeting, 2025

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Editorial

The Gift of Presence

Christmas always has a way of touching something deep within us, doesn't it? No matter how busy or uncertain life feels, this season gently invites us to look beyond the rush of lights, greetings, and celebrations. Somewhere in that gaze, we rediscover what it's truly about: God choosing to be with us. In a humble manger, surrounded by simplicity, Love was born. Emmanuel – God with us – not from afar, but right here, among us.

We live in times when peace can seem fragile and hope easily shaken. Yet it is precisely here that God chooses to dwell. His presence reminds us that even amid confusion and struggle, love has not left the world.

As Divine Word Missionaries, we've seen this truth unfold in many small and beautiful ways. We see it in simple acts of kindness; in someone giving up time to visit the sick, in meals shared with those who have little, in the patient listening to another's pain. These may seem like ordinary gestures, but through them, God continues to make His dwelling among us.

This year, as we journeyed through the SVD Jubilee celebrations, we've been reminded that mission isn't only about great works or distant places. It's about being present where we are - in our families, parishes, and communities. Sometimes the most powerful gift we can offer is not what we give, but how we are with others.

Christmas calls us back to that simple truth. To pause. To notice. To let our hearts be filled again with gratitude for the God who comes close, in silence, in simplicity, and in every human encounter.

May this Christmas renew in us the joy of giving and the peace of being. May our presence bring light where there is loneliness, hope where there is struggle, and warmth where there is need.

From all of us in the SVD Lay Partner family – thank you for being part of this journey of faith and compassion.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with grace, joy, and light.

Susan Noronha
 Editor-in-Chief

Have you noticed? – The front page has been changed slightly.

In order to simplify the layout and to have only one template for both languages, it was decided to use the Latin name for the SVD and the laity. But what to do with 'newsletter' or 'bolétin'? A short, memorable name similar to 'Arnoldus Nota' would be good. The newsletter contains information from the groups, i.e. 'Notitiae ex grege'. It's a bit cumbersome, but 'Ex grege' is short and easy to quote. Enjoy reading the new issue of the newsletter, or rather the first issue of 'EX GREGE'.

The Editorial Team

First Zonal Meeting of the SVD Lay Partners of the PANAM Zone

Guadalajara (Mexico), September 2025



I greet you all and would like to share a summary of the First Pan-American Assembly of the SVD Lay Partners. The gathering was held at the Nazaret Retreat House in Guadalajara, Mexico, and was officially inaugurated by Fr. Juan Weibel, Provincial Superior of the Mexico Province. A total of 30 lay partners from 16 Provinces and Regions participated, along with nine SVDs, including Fr. Navil D'Silva, PANAM Zone Coordinator. Fr. Marcelo Cattáneo, Generalate Mission Secretary, attended and offered a reflection on the Assembly's guiding theme from Mk 3:13–14:

“He called those whom He wanted, that they might be with Him and be sent out to preach.”

The assembly began with welcome remarks from the Provincial of Mexico and presentations from the various subzone groups. Formation sessions followed the next day, addressing continental reality, the spirituality and charism of the SVD, faithful and creative discipleship, and Our Lady of Guadalupe as Queen of Evangelization in the Americas. Each topic was presented with depth and creativity, offering rich personal and spiritual insights for all participants.

We shared meaningful moments of prayer led by the various groups. A vibrant cultural evening brought together traditional food, drinks, attire, dances, and songs, celebrating the richness of each country. A group visit to Tequila, Jalisco, strengthened our sense of fraternity and friendship.

A significant highlight of the assembly was the election of the new Zonal Coordinating Team for the SVD Lay Partners.

- Coordinator: Aurora Galarza (ARE)
- Vice Coordinator: Arturo Meneses (MEX)
- Treasurer: Pedro Rodríguez de Souza (BRA)
- Secretary: Joselin Pin (ECU)
- Councilor: Rosario Corona (USW)

The assembly approved the “PANAM Lay Partners Declaration and Guidelines,” a key document for our shared mission. We express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Ignacio Migoya and the MAVD Lay Partners of Mexico, who, with 43 years of dedicated service, graciously supported and hosted us. Thank you.

We thank God for each participant and entrust the newly elected Zonal Coordinating Team – our first, serving for the next three years – to His guidance. May our Holy Founders inspire us to carry the light of hope and love wherever God sends us in the PANAM Zone.

Aurora Galarza
Coordinator – PANAM Zone



Official Statement and Points of Action

Dear Arnoldus Family,

Rooted in the love of the One and Triune God, the participants of the First Meeting of Lay Partners Zone PANAM – September 2025, gathered in Guadalajara, Mexico, want to send you a message of hope, communion, and commitment, inspired by the motto: “He called those he wanted to be with him and to send them out to preach...” (Mk 3:13-19). This call, which we have also received from Jesus, is at the heart of our lay missionary vocation: “Precious is the life given for the mission.”

The five subzones of the PANAM Zone participated in this first meeting, accompanied by the General Secretary of Mission, the President of the PANAM Zone, and the Coordinator of the PANAM Zone, as well as some Mission Secretaries; it was an enriching encounter in interculturality, fraternity, and formation, developing: Analysis of the Continental reality, Lay vocation and identity, Spirituality and Charism, Creative disciples and missionaries, and Our Lady of Guadalupe as a model of Evangelization on the Continent.

Jesus lived a spirituality deeply rooted in his intimate and constant relationship with God the Father, always seeking to fulfill His will; thus, we are called to convey, under the guidance of SVD spirituality and charism, our union with Christ through God's mission, of which we are all a part, rekindling hope from a synodal environment.

As lay partners committed to the mission of the Divine Word, we take on the commitment to reach out to our brothers and sisters, being joyful and creative disciples, highlighting the gifts and talents put at the service of God, deepening our lay vocation in the accompaniment of listening, training ourselves as joyful missionaries to respond with responsibility and creativity to the challenges of our time, knowing that the Holy Spirit guides, accompanies, and helps us discern and act according to the will of God.

Action Guidelines Lay Partners PANAM Zone

1. Management and Coordination
 - Form coordinating/facilitating teams in each PRM and subzone.
 - The coordinating team will seek to maintain fluid communication with the Mission Secretary of the Generalate and the Zonal coordinator.
 - Promote financial and legal alternatives for the healthy and integral development of missionary projects according to the reality of each PRM.
 - Request support from each PRM for the formation and consolidation of lay partners, always aiming to walk in a synodal manner.
 - Collaborate as a team with the Mission Secretary, in the preparation of the Statutes to achieve official recognition from the provincial/regional leaders and their councils.
2. Communication
 - Organize clear, timely, systematic, and methodological communication channels that allow us to reach every SVD Lay Partner in the PANAM zone.
 - Share documents and experiences between PRMs and the PANAM zone.
3. Formation
 - Establish an annual calendar, virtual or in-person, for training on spirituality, charism, and SVD mission, coordinated by the lay partners' team.
 - Study and appropriation of the official documents of the Congregation in all lay partner communities of each PRM.
 - Share materials for ongoing formation and promote specialized studies accessible to the laity in the PANAM Zone.
 - Encourage instances of prayer, reflection, and sharing of the Word for greater identification with the Divine Word.
4. Missionary Pastoral Commitment
 - Encourage commitment to collaborate in Youth and Family Pastoral care, thus promoting lay and religious vocations in the PRM.
 - Exchange missionary experiences among the provinces of the PANAM zone.
 - Strengthen the identity of each group through knowledge of our charism and the joint celebration of the Arnoldus family feasts.







GROUP REPORTS





AFRAM ZONE



Botswana (BOT) – SVD Lay Partners

Witnessing to the Light: Lay Partners in Mission



From Botswana and South Africa

What joy it is to celebrate 150 years of “Witnessing to the Light – From Everywhere for Everyone”. As the Divine Word Missionary Lay Partners of Botswana and South Africa, we look back with gratitude and move forward with renewed commitment to the mission entrusted to us.

From its foundation, the Society of the Divine Word has been a beacon of faith and hope. St. Arnold Janssen believed that mission belongs to the whole Church and cannot be carried out by priests and brothers alone. Today, his vision continues to shine through the work of lay partners who bring the SVD charism into families, workplaces, and communities. As teachers, caregivers, community workers, and bridge-builders among cultures, we strive to be the hands and feet of Christ wherever we serve.

Mission in Botswana

In Botswana, lay partners support inculturation, pastoral care, and community development. On 19th October, we visited Pabalelong hospice, praying with patients and offering comfort to the sick. During October, we also participated in tree-

planting initiatives, affirming our commitment to JPIC and environmental care. Additionally, we shared a warm meal with orphaned children and an accident survivor, reminding them that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Mission in South Africa

In South Africa, the mission takes on a prophetic dimension in the face of inequality and social challenges. Lay partners accompany refugees and migrants, advocate for dignity and justice, and actively support parish outreach programs that bring hope and healing.

As we mark 150 years of the SVD mission, we thank the Divine Word Missionaries for their trust and guidance. United as the Arnoldus Family, may we continue to be pilgrims of hope, carrying Christ’s Light to the world, everywhere and for everyone.

Mpho Phatshwe



Ghana (GHA) – SVD Lay Partners

From Pilgrimage to Jubilee Celebration



Pilgrimage to Kpando

On 16th July 2025, the SVD Lay Partners joined the priests and religious on a memorable pilgrimage to Kpando, in the Volta Region of Ghana, one of the earliest mission centres of the SVDs in Ghana. Pilgrims prayed the Rosary at the grotto, listened to the history of the SVD's missionary journey in Ghana, learning how the first missionaries, through faith and perseverance, laid the foundation for today's vibrant SVD mission. The pilgrimage culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Visit by the Editor-in-chief of the SVDLP Newsletter

On 30th July, the Lay Partners joyfully welcomed Susan Noronha, editor-in-chief of the SVD Lay Partners Newsletter, and her husband, who were in Ghana for a short holiday and to attend the 25th Priestly Ordination Anniversary of Fr. George Clement Angmor, SVD. The gathering began with Eucharist at the Tesano Community, followed by breakfast and friendly conversations. Agnes Cobbinah, National President, presented gifts to the visitors on behalf of the Ghana Lay Partners.



Priestly Ordination in Kintampo

On 9th August, five new priests were ordained at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Kintampo, by Most Rev. Dominic Yeboah Nyarko, Bishop of Techiman. The celebration was filled with joy, music, and thanksgiving, witnessed by SVD priests, religious, Lay Partners, family, and friends.

Climax of 150th Anniversary Celebration

The climax of the SVD 150th Jubilee was celebrated on 7th September, at St. Charles Lwanga Catholic Church, Abeka-Accra, under the theme: "Witnessing to the Light: From Everywhere for Everyone". Presided over by Most Rev. Julien Kaboré, Apostolic Nuncio to Ghana, the event reflected the unity, faith, and cultural richness of the SVD family in Ghana and Liberia.

joyful celebrations reminded us that the mission continues to be light and hope wherever the Divine Word leads us.

Irene Atignongo



Mozambique (MOZ) – Leigos Associados a Congregação do Verbo Divino (LACVERDI)

The Experience as SVD Lay Partners



A Space for Sharing and Formation

Through LACVERDI, we continue to grow as a community of sharing, formation, and missionary commitment. This space strengthens our unity and deepens our connection with SVD spirituality and its call to serve.

As SVD lay partners, we strive to live the missionary values of faith, compassion, and fraternity within our communities. Our collaboration includes pastoral involvement, social outreach, and participation in key congregational events that enrich our sense of belonging to the SVD family.

Highlights of Our 2025 Missionary Activities

In 2025, LACVERDI played an active role in several significant celebrations. We participated in the inauguration of the new Holy Spirit Sisters (SSpS) religious house in Maputo, an event marked by joy and renewed commitment to collaborative mission. We also took part in the Jubilee celebration of the 150 years of the SVD and joined the priestly ordination of Fr. Albertino Monde, SVD, beautiful moments that highlighted our shared vocation to serve God's people.

Acts of Solidarity and Compassion

Our missionary engagement continues through concrete acts of compassion. Together with Susan Noronha, representative



of the SVD Lay Partners from India, we visited the „Home for the Abandoned Elderly“ in Maputo, offering presence, prayer, and support. We also met with the Generalate Visitor, Fr. Erik Koppa, SVD, who encouraged us to keep nurturing our missionary identity. In addition, LACVERDI members prepared and distributed food to vulnerable individuals and visited bereaved families to offer condolences and fraternal accompaniment.

These experiences reveal the heart of our mission: to be instruments of Christ's love. Being a lay partner means answering God's call with simplicity and courage – walking together as a missionary family and bringing the Word and compassion of Jesus to those who need it most.

Paula Novela
Imbwanga Mapoko



Zambia Mission (ZAM) – SVD Lay Partners, Kabwe

New Group in Livingstone



An Initiative of Lusaka and Kabwe SVD Lay Partners

The SVD Lay Partners from Lusaka and Kabwe took the initiative to introduce a new group in the Diocese of Livingstone at St. Francis Parish, Dambwa. The visit, held on 11th and 12th October 2025, aimed to share the vision, spirituality, and mission of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) with interested lay faithful and to invite them to participate in the Divine Word mission as Lay Partners.

Commitment of Twenty-five Members

During the visit, participants attended sessions on the identity, history, and mission of the SVD and the role of lay partners. Members from Lusaka and Kabwe shared their experiences, followed by a Q&A session on membership, formation, and responsibilities. The event concluded with a commitment ceremony, during which twenty-five participants registered as founding members of the Livingstone SVD Lay Partners group.

Growing the Mission

The group will be under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Lawrence Likulano, SVD, Parish Priest of St. Francis, Dambwa. This milestone marks another significant step in expanding the mission of the Divine Word among the laity in Zambia and strengthens collaboration between the SVD and lay partners in proclaiming God's Word. The gathering concluded with a prayer and blessing from Fr. Lawrence.

Independence Day at the Novitiate

The Kabwe SVD Lay Partners visited the Novitiate Community on 24th October 2025, Zambia's Independence Day. Celebrating this national day together felt like a meeting of two refreshing breezes: one carrying the story of a nation's freedom, hope, and heritage, and the other bearing the quiet courage of young hearts saying "yes" to God's call. The visit aimed to inspire the novices to see their vocation as a personal and vital response to building the Church of tomorrow.

Ndalia Chileshe





ASPAC ZONE



Indonesia Ende (IDE) – SVD Lay Partners of Lembata

Rooted, Growing, and Sent



Inauguration of SVD Lay Partners in Lembata

On Sunday, 19th September 2025, the St. Arnold Janssen Church in Waikomo, Lembata, was filled with joy. Fr. Daniel Naragere, SVD, Rector of the SVD District of Larantuka–Lembata, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and inauguration of thirty-one members and leaders of the SVD Lay Partners of Lembata District.

In a solemn atmosphere, the new members professed their commitment, received blessings and symbols of membership, and were warmly applauded by the faithful; an expression of gratitude for their call to share in the SVD mission in Lembata.

Strengthened by Spirit and Fellowship

In his address, a representative of the SVD Lay Partners Provincial Council of Ende emphasized the theme “Rooted, Growing, and Sent”. The District Chairperson of Lembata expressed hope that St. Arnold Janssen Parish in Waikomo would become a centre of missionary zeal for both the SVD and Lay Partners on the island. Fr. Eman Wero, SVD, Parish Vicar, conveyed his appreciation to the newly inaugurated members.



A Time for Reflection and Renewal

The day before the inauguration, 18th September, the members participated in a Spiritual Recollection led by Fr. Hubert Tenga, SVD, Vice Secretary for Mission of Ende Province. Through prayer and reflection, they deepened their understanding of the spirituality of St. Arnold Janssen, realizing anew that to be an SVD Lay Partner is to share in God’s living mission.

A simple reception at the parish hall followed the Eucharistic celebration, marking the beginning of a renewed journey of faith, fellowship, and mission.

Yoseph Yoneta Motong Wuwur



Indonesia Ende (IDE) – Soverdia Nagekeo

Bible Quiz to Celebrate SVD 150 Years

Joyful Celebration

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word, the SVD Lay Partners of Nagekeo District organized a Bible Quiz competition on Saturday, 30th August 2025, at the SVD House Hall in Danga, Nagekeo.

Rejoicing in the Word

The event was not only part of the joyful commemoration of the SVD's 150th anniversary but also aimed to deepen the members' knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and to strengthen teamwork and fellowship among SVD Lay Partners.

The competition took place in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and brotherhood. Five passionate teams participated in a quiz session covering topics related to the National Bible Month theme in Indonesia, Catholic faith teachings, and general knowledge about the SVD. The lively yet joyful atmosphere throughout the event reflected the distinctive spirit of the SVD Lay Partners – rejoicing in the Word and in mission.

Living in the Mission

Through this activity, the SVD Lay Partners of Nagekeo District hope that the spirit of "Our name is our mission" will continue to be lived out by all members, especially in embracing and proclaiming the Word of God in their daily lives.

Elfrin Hurek Making



Indonesia (IDJ) – Soverdia, Bali Lombok District

Celebrating SVD 150th Anniversary



A Joyful Gathering of Faith and Fellowship

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word, the SVD Lay Partners Bali Lombok District came together for a day of celebration and gratitude on Saturday, 23rd August 2025, from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event was inaugurated by Fr. Laurensius Ketut Supriyanto, SVD, Rector of the Bali Lombok District. The celebration featured a lively group exercise, a fun walk retracing the SVD's historic journey through Tuka and Babakan, and a charity bazaar that brought together parishioners from all four SVD-served parishes in Bali. Over 1,000 participants joined in this joyful day of faith, unity, and mission.

Thanksgiving Mass and Fellowship

The celebrations continued on 29th September with a Thanksgiving Mass, presided over by Bishop Dr. Silvester San. The Eucharist was attended by SVD members, Soverdia, lay partners from the Bali Lombok District, and representatives from six SVD-served parishes in the Diocese of Bali.

Following the Mass, participants shared a joyful thanksgiving feast – a moment of communion and gratitude, honouring 150 years of Divine Word mission and renewing the shared commitment to proclaim God's Word through love and service.

Paulina Suharsi



Indonesia (IDJ) – Soverdia

Celebrating SVD 150th Anniversary



To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word, the SVD Lay Partners of the IDJ Province organized several activities to renew our commitment as members of the St. Arnold Janssen Family, journeying together with the SVD in mission.

Pilgrimage to SVD Holy Sites and Porta Sancta

With gratitude to the Most Holy Trinity, 25 members and auxiliaries of Soverdia IDJ, together with Fr. Sigit Pawanta, SVD (Jakarta) and Fr. Agateus, SVD (Germany), undertook a meaningful pilgrimage to Europe.

We were deeply moved visiting St. Arnold Janssen's birthplace in Goch, the first SVD Mission House in Steyl, his tomb, and praying at the SVD Mission House in Sankt Augustin, as well as the SSps and SSsP convents, honouring Blessed Maria Helena and Blessed Josepha Stenmanns.

Our journey took us to Oies, the home of St. Joseph Freinademetz, and to the SVD Generalate in Rome. We were warmly welcomed by the Superior General, Fr. Anselmo Ribeiro, SVD. We also visited the Porta Sancta and the major basilicas of Rome, giving thanks for 150 years of Divine Word Mission.

This pilgrimage renewed our faith, deepened our connection with the SVD family, and strengthened our call to live as joyful witnesses of God's Word.

Virtual Recollection Series

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the SVD, the Soverdia members of IDJ Province held a Virtual Recollection Series via Zoom with Fr. Aurelius Pati Soge, SVD from the SVD Bible Centre, Batam. With the theme “Witnessing to the Light – From Everywhere for Everyone”, the three sessions – Knowing the Light (John 1:11), Ignited by the Light (John 1:12), and Bringing the Light (John 1:8) – inspired participants to deepen their faith and share the light of Christ in everyday life. May this recollection session inspire us to bring the Light into our lives.

Paulina Suharsi



Indonesia (IDJ) – Soverdia, Surabaya-Malang District

Celebrating SVD 150th Anniversary

Visit to SVD Formation Houses

As part of their ongoing mission to live out the spirit of service and solidarity, the SVD Lay Partners of the Surabaya-Malang District organized a social service visit to three SVD Formation Houses: The Holy Spirit Novitiate in Batu, the Surya Wacana Major Seminary in Malang, and the Stella Maris Postulate in Malang.

During the visits, the lay partners spent time in prayer and fellowship with the SVD formators and students, sharing

stories, encouragement, and the joy of being part of one missionary family. They also extended their support through various donations, offered with love and gratitude.

This meaningful encounter strengthened the bond between the lay partners and the young SVD missionaries in formation. It was a reminder that the mission of St. Arnold Janssen continues to grow through collaboration, compassion, and faith, where both laity and religious walk together in proclaiming the Divine Word.

Paulina Suharsi



Indonesia Ruteng (IDR) – Persaudaraan Misioner Sang Sabda (PMSS)

SVD Jubilee Celebration 150 Years



Theme: Being Together is the Key to Success

In recent months, our lay group has reflected on the theme of unity, recognizing how our togetherness strengthens our mission. This year, as we celebrate the 150th SVD Jubilee worldwide and 111 years of the SVD in Ruteng Province, every member participated with commitment and joy.

Journey through the Jubilee Year

We began our jubilee preparations last year, taking part in every activity leading up to the peak celebration on 8th September 2025. As part of the SVD family, we joined mission events such as visiting the sick on World Day of the Sick (11 February), a Marian pilgrimage in May, and a seven-day Bible procession with parishioners from seven Ruteng parishes.

Each activity was carried out with dedication and love, a true sign of our deep affection for the SVD.

The jubilee climax was truly extraordinary. Despite heavy rain, thousands participated, including around 100 diocesan priests, SVD, and religious. The Mass was presided over by Fr. Sebastian Hobahana, SVD, Vicar General of the Ruteng Diocese. After the Mass, the celebration continued joyfully with a community gathering. Our SVD Lay Partner group was represented by nearly 50 members.



Continuing the Mission

After the jubilee celebrations, I encouraged our members to remain faithful, dedicated, and active in service, while continuing to welcome new members into our lay group.

Marian Grotto Visits

As part of our annual program, we visited the grottos of Torong Besi (May) and Golo Curu (October), joined this year by children from the Inviolata Kindergarten (SSpS). These pilgrimages deepen our devotion to Mary and strengthen our faith.

In Memory of Fr. Pora

On 20th October, we mourned the passing of Fr. Pora Udjan Fransiskus, SVD, founder of our lay group (est. 29th December 1990). On 2nd November, we visited his grave in Kuwu to honour his memory. May he rest in peace.

Fr. Vitalis Hibrudin, SVD



India (INE) – Disciples of Light, Lungai

Renewal of Promises



A Year of Faithful Commitment

The fourteen members of the Disciples of Light, Lay Associate Group of Lungai, joyfully completed one year of their commitment to the Lord and to the mission of the Church through the Society of the Divine Word. Their first solemn promises were made on 1st September 2024, marking a milestone in their journey as lay partners.

Spiritual Renewal and Promise Ceremony

In preparation for the renewal of their promises, the group organized a two-day retreat preached by Fr. Avinash Jadhav, SVD, who emphasized the importance of the Word of God in the life of every lay partner. On 31st August 2025, during the solemn Sunday Mass, the members renewed their promises to recommit themselves to the Church's mission through collaboration with the SVD.

The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira, SVD, INE Mission Secretary, and concelebrated by Fr. Sebastian Mangalathil, SVD (Rector of Vidya Jyoti),

Fr. Avinash Jadhav, SVD, and Fr. Pradeep Mohato, SVD, Treasurer of the seminary. A short felicitation ceremony followed the Mass, with flowers, a song of congratulations, and words of appreciation.

Witnesses of the Word

The Disciples of Light meet every Thursday evening for adoration at the Vidya Jyoti Chapel, hold monthly meetings, and engage in missionary outreach – visiting the sick, organizing Masses for them, distributing Holy Communion, helping poor children, supporting the seminary, and visiting parishes.

The INE Mission Office appreciates the group's dedication and the guidance of their spiritual director, Fr. Sebastian Mangalathil, SVD, and congratulates all members.

Hearty Congratulations and God's abundant blessings!

Fr. Luvis Ronald Pereira, SVD
INE Mission Secretary



India (ING) – Apostles of the Divine Word (ADW)

Health Camps: Compassion in Action



In line with the ADW mission to serve the poor, two health camps with the Maria Sanga women's group brought healthcare, awareness, and hope to underserved communities.

Health Camp at Ambassa Parish

On 31st October 2025, the ADW and the Maria Sanga women's group organized a free health camp at Ambassa Parish. The program began with a session on health and hygiene, highlighting cleanliness, nutrition, and preventive care. Rural women and youth participated actively, asking questions and seeking practical guidance.

Following the session, Dr. Karuna Debbarma and Dr. Helena Debbarma provided free medical check-ups and blood tests. Many villagers, long without access to healthcare, came forward gratefully. Free medicines were distributed to the poor, ensuring that no one was deprived of treatment due to financial hardship.

The event reflected a genuine spirit of service and collaboration among the ADW team, the Maria Sanga group, and the medical professionals.



Health Camp at Ganganagar Mission

A second camp was held on 2nd November, at Ganganagar Mission under Ambassa Parish. Led by the Maria Sanga women's group, it extended the same compassionate service to another community in need. Dr. Asok Debbarma provided dedicated medical care, attending to many patients with kindness.

The camp focused on free check-ups and medicine distribution for poor and marginalized families. With limited healthcare in the area, villagers expressed deep gratitude. The program also encouraged preventive health practices and early medical consultation.

Conclusion

Both health camps addressed urgent medical needs while promoting hygiene, prevention, and well-being. They reflect ADW's commitment to holistic care and stand as testimonies of compassionate outreach, bringing hope to the most vulnerable.

Anjana Bongcher



India (INH) – SVD Fraternity

Celebrating 10th Anniversary



The SVD Fraternity celebrated its 10th anniversary at St. Charles Seminary, Trichy, on 2nd October 2025. The theme “Rejoice! Retrospect! Reinvigorate!” marked the beginning of the celebrations. Members gathered with their children and grandchildren, and the campus was decorated with fliers and festoons.

Campus Visit and General Body Meeting

The guests were taken on a campus visit while members attended a general body meeting, where suggestions were received for the fraternity's future growth and development. The members paid floral homage to Fr. Karl Ritz, SVD, the founder of St. Charles Seminary.

A Journey Down Memory Lane

Back at Ritz Hall, Dominic Roche highlighted the SVD Fraternity's steadfast support for the seminaries in Trichy and Chennai through cooperation, collaboration, and financial assistance. The fraternity has shared Christmas joy with the marginalized by providing food and new clothes, supporting SVD initiatives with generosity and commitment.



Keynote Addresses

Fr. G. Lazar congratulated the fraternity on its growth and achievements, urging members to continue doing good without complacency. Fr. Bali Reddy emphasized that lay partners are missionaries, and their families are missionary families. Fr. James Raj urged members to serve others wholeheartedly, while Fr. Lawrence Bose shared a three-point mantra: uphold SVD identity, foster good relationships, and nurture family.

Historic Moments

The tenth-anniversary cake was cut by Chief Guest Fr. Lawrence Bose and shared by all, alongside the release of six publications, the Fraternity Directory, and the launch of its website.

[Link to Video](#)

Celebrations and Games

A concelebrated High Mass was offered for SVD Missionaries and members' families, followed by lunch, games for all ages, and anniversary gifts, including laptop bags for members.

Conclusion

The 10th Anniversary Celebrations of the SVD Fraternity concluded with prayers and blessings, reaffirming its commitment to mission and continued support for SVD initiatives.

Dominic Roche



India (INM) – Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Andheri

Activities



DDW Andheri Retreat: 19th–20th July 2025

Ten members of DDW Andheri participated in a two-day retreat in Karjat, near Mumbai, beginning with prayers for peace and protection.

We began our retreat with a Holy Eucharist led by Fr. Gregory Pinto, SVD, who spoke about God as our “Abba Father” and His unconditional love during our struggles. His reflections encouraged us to connect with the divine, using a breathing exercise that helped many feel grounded.

Scripture-based games by Jayesh George encouraged teamwork and reflection. Adoration brought deep peace, and a nature walk strengthened our connection with God’s creation. Reflections on the Eucharist focused on the Altar and the sacred transformation of bread and wine. The retreat concluded, leaving everyone spiritually nourished and renewed. Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Anthony, Fr. Gregory, Jayesh, and the staff for making the retreat meaningful.

DDW Meeting: 21st September

Fr. Gregory Pinto began the day with a mindfulness exercise to calm the mind and remain present. An audiovisual created by the Indo-Bangla SVD team highlighted 150 years of SVD history and Arnoldus Spirituality.



Following the presentation, members formed small groups to reflect on how they can become “Witnesses to the Light” and cultivate this Light in their personal and community lives. Reflections and insights were noted to be offered later during the Eucharistic celebration.

These experiences, through retreat, reflection, and group discussion, allowed members to deepen their faith, strengthen bonds of community, and renew their commitment to living as witnesses to Christ’s light in their daily lives.

Hazel Mendonza
Susan Noronha



India (INM) – Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Bandra

Fourth Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass



On 2nd October 2025, the DDW, Bandra joyfully celebrated their 4th Anniversary Thanksgiving Holy Mass at the Chapel of UCDC SVD Centre, Bandra.



Eucharistic Celebration

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Stanislaus Thanuzraj Lazar, SVD, Former Generalate Mission Secretary, now serving in the IIC Community, INM Province, Mumbai, and concelebrated by Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu, SVD, and Fr. Lawrance Correa, SVD. The melodious hymns, led by Maria and Kevin, lifted the liturgy to a higher spiritual experience.

In his inspiring homily, Fr. Stanislaus invited the members to reflect deeply on their mission as lay partners of the Society of the Divine Word. His words left the congregation thoughtful and renewed in commitment. The President extended a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Fr. Stanislaus and all participants.



Games and Fellowship

Following the Eucharist, members gathered at the 5th-floor Hall of UCDC for a warm fellowship evening. The Secretary presented the Annual Report (2024–2025) through a well-prepared presentation, narrating the many activities, milestones, and blessings experienced during the year.

The evening was made lively with interactive games and a round of 'housie' themed on the life of St. Arnold Janssen and the SVD Society, creatively organized by Munira and Kevin. The priests joined in the fun, creating a joyful family atmosphere.

The fellowship concluded with a delicious potluck dinner, lovingly prepared by the members. The highlight of the spread was Fr. Jolly's roasted pork chops, beautifully garnished and savoured by all. Conversation gave way to silent enjoyment as everyone relished the meal together.

The celebration ended at 9:30 p.m., leaving hearts full of gratitude, joy, and cherished memories at UCDC.



The Philippines (PHC) – The Lay Society of St. Arnold Janssen (LSSAJ)

Rallies and Demonstrations



Good Governance

Recent revelations of widespread anomalies in Philippine infrastructure projects have cast a shadow over the nation's social, political, and moral life. Many projects remain substandard, unfinished, or entirely “ghost” projects, leaving communities vulnerable to constant flooding. As floods destroy farms and homes, more Filipinos are pushed into poverty and displacement. Exposed by President Marcos, this betrayal of trust reveals a deeper moral decay—where power is used for self-interest instead of the common good.

The Role of the Church and the Laity

The Church now has a chance to regain moral leadership by awakening conscience and promoting renewal. In its pastoral letter “Beyond Survival: Rising Above the Floods of Corruption”, the CBCP calls on Filipinos to reject fraud, demand accountability, and rebuild the nation on truth and justice.

Lay Engagement and Civic Action

The CBCP's call inspired and mobilized many lay organizations into action. LSSAJ, committed to social justice and good governance, rallied its members to join the “Trillion Peso



March” on 21st September 2025. Led by Chairman Charlie Avila and President Tony Alvarado, LSSAJ marched alongside youth groups, civil society organizations, church leaders, and a newly awakened sector of the military.

Trillion March

Young SVD seminarians joined the Trillion March, together with Fr. Erik Lacandula, SVD, Fr. Glenn Paul Gomez, SVD, Fr. Ferdinand Antione Bajao, SVD, and the SSPS sisters. United in purpose, they demanded accountability and an end to corruption, a powerful sign that moral renewal begins when citizens and the Church stand together to defend the common good. Despite differing political beliefs, the event became a rare display of unity among Filipinos, declaring with one voice: Enough is enough. For its part, LSSAJ, in demanding good governance, simply proclaimed anew its message of faith-transforming life.

Daisy A. Leones



The Philippines (PHN) – SVD Friends, Abra and Cagayan

Medical Mission, Laudato Si Action and Jubilee Celebrations



Medical Mission in Abra

In an uplifting display of love, care, and service, the SVD Friends of Abra organized a Medical Mission on 26th September 2025 at St. John High School in San Juan, providing medical check-ups with free medicines and supplements, optical services with free eyeglasses, and dental care. On 4th October, they further extended their support by donating medicines and medical supplies to Saint Joseph the Worker Quasi Parish in Dalit Pilar for distribution during the Indigenous Peoples' Sunday Medical Mission.

Celebrating SVD 150 and Laudato Si in Action in Cagayan

With the theme “Witnessing to the Light: From Everywhere, For Everyone”, the Academy of St. Joseph in Claveria, Cagayan District, joined the global celebration of the SVD's 150th founding anniversary from 5th to 8th September. The event



opened with the Eucharist and featured cultural presentations, mission talks, sports activities, and fellowship — a joyful reminder of our shared call to be bearers of light to the world. Highlights are available at:

[Facebook](#)

As a response to Pope Francis's care for creation in Laudato Si, the school's Campus Ministry organized clean-up and planting activities in the homes and surroundings of students during the 1st week of October. Through these simple yet meaningful acts, young people of our schools who are youth mission partners are encouraged and formed to be stewards in our common home – protecting and nurturing God's creation with love and responsibility.

Rose Ramos
Raffy del Rosario

The Philippines (PHN) – SVD-PHN Mission Partners

The Prayer Concert: Rambak Misyon Celebrating SVD 150 Years

The SVD Philippine Northern Province, through the initiative of the SVD Mission Office and the SVD-PHN Mission Partners, staged Rambak Dagiti Amin a Rambak Misyon: A Prayer Concert on 11th October 2025 at the Divine Word College of Laoag gymnasium. Now in its 5th edition since its launch in August 2022, the two-hour concert celebrated “All Mission Celebrations”, revolving around the Mission Mysteries and showcasing local and international cultures. Songs, dances, and visual presentations highlighted the four characteristic dimensions of the SVD.

The Prayer Concert, themed “Witnessing to the Light: From Everywhere for Everyone”, opened with the traditional Pallook Dance of the Tinguians of Abra (cradle of SVD Philippines) for the Bible Enthronement, followed by the chanting of the Prologue of St. John by representatives from the Cordilleras. The Mission Mysteries were recited in various languages and dialects, including English, Swahili, Ilocano, and Tinguian.

The celebration expressed countless reasons to thank God for 150 years of SVD grace. Performers and guests prayed, sang,





and danced together, sharing joy and gratitude for God's enduring faithfulness. For 150 years, the SVD has journeyed in mission, proclaiming the Good News and witnessing to the Divine Word – the true Light – across cultures, peoples, and every corner of the world.

Proceeds from the concert, which generated nearly one million pesos through the generous support of mission partners, benefactors, friends, and ticket sales, will benefit the SVD World Mission Fund, the repair of damages caused by Super Typhoon Emong at the Provincialate Compound in San Fernando, La Union, and the SVD-PHN Retirement House. The concert was also livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Mike and GeeO Paderon

[Facebook](#)

[Youtube](#)

The Philippines (PHN) – Youth Mission Partner, Divine Word College, Laoag

Together: We Serve, We Shine, We Witness to the Light

The eve of 11th October 2025 was a beautiful celebration of faith, music, and mission. *Rambak Dagiti Amin a Rambak Mision* – a prayer concert marking 150 years of the SVD – reminded us that mission begins with simple acts of love, unity, and dedicated service.

Nagragasak ken naragsak ti puso dagiti agserbi iti mision ni Apo Dios!

(It is a joy, and the heart rejoices when we give ourselves to God's mission.)

The Divine Word truly lives in us as we share the joy of service, the spirit of togetherness, and the desire to offer our time and talents for God's glory. Each smile, movement, and gesture became a small reflection of Christ's light.

We, the usherettes, ushers, and dancers from SASE and IT of Divine Word College of Laoag, are grateful to have been part of this beautiful celebration – a moment of prayer, praise, and purpose. Through every movement, smile, and act of service, we hoped to reflect the light of Christ to everyone present.

May this experience remind us that God's mission calls us to share His love not only within our school but throughout the community. It was truly a celebration of His mission – an experience of His light shining among us. From everywhere, for everyone, we continue to serve, to shine, and to witness to the Light.

Mark James Eder



The Philippines (PHN) – Youth Mission Partner, San Fernando, La Union

Rally Against Corruption



In solidarity with the Filipino people who joined the nationwide “Trillion Peso March” protest against massive corruption, the SVD Pindangan Community – together with Mission Partners in San Fernando, La Union – gathered for a series of activities. The protest called for accountability from the government and private individuals believed to have amassed trillions of pesos through irregular flood-control projects.

The activities started with the Eucharistic Celebration at 6:30 a.m., officiated by Fr. Leonardo Hiquiana, SVD, who reminded us about our accountability as God’s stewards. SVD-PHN Mission Partner Mary Geraldine Paderon then shared a brief reflection on the community’s stand against corruption.

From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., several SVD-PHN Mission Partners joined the bishop, religious groups, and civic organizations at the San Fernando City Plaza for the protest rally.

Later, at 5:30 p.m., Fr. Rector Emmanuel de Leon, SVD, led a Rosary Walk and Prayer at the SVD Provincialate Compound with the community, retirees, and mission partners. Despite light rain, they continued—raising a humble but firm call: “No to corruption. Stop corruption. We seek accountability and pray for healing in our country”.

“May the darkness of sin and the 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.”

Marc Paderon



Papua New Guinea (PNG) – SVD Friends PNG

A Joyful Celebration in Papua New Guinea



150 Anniversary Celebrations in Madang (SW)

In light of the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), Papua New Guinea joined the global celebration with joyful festivities in Madang. Catholic faithful, religious communities, and SVD Friends gathered to mark this milestone, a moment rich in meaning for the nation's faith, history, and people.

Arrival

The SVD missionaries first arrived in PNG in the late 1800s, bringing not only the message of the Gospel but also a strong commitment to education, health, and community development. Despite facing rough seas, rugged terrain, and unfamiliar cultures, their mission was clear: to walk alongside the people of PNG in faith and friendship.

Education & Health

SVD missionaries were among the pioneers of schools in remote areas, giving thousands of Papua New Guineans the chance to read, write, and dream of brighter futures. They established clinics and hospitals where there were none, caring for the sick and advocating for better health services long before modern infrastructure reached our villages.



Faith & Cultures

The missionaries encouraged local languages and traditions in worship, helping shape a local expression of Christianity. They trained local priests and religious leaders, ensuring the Church took root in our own soil. Generally, this celebration is not just about history, but a reminder of how faith, education, and service can transform a nation.

Beyond 150 Years

As the SVD moves beyond 150 years, the focus shifts to strengthening collaboration with lay partners and friends in mission.

In the Diocese of Kundiawa, the Melanesian Institute and JPIC coordinators are working closely with SVD Friends to raise awareness on issues such as substance abuse and gender-based violence. These programs help the SVD Lay Partners understand and live out the Church's social teachings, empowering them to bring faith and justice into their communities.

Gregory Yule



EUROPA ZONE

Austria (ECP) – Steyler Freundeskreis

150 Years of SVD



St. Gabriel Pentecost Festival 2025

The Divine Word Missionaries celebrated the 150th anniversary of their founding with a grand festival on Pentecost Sunday, 8th June 2025, in St. Gabriel.

Workshop and Agape

Morning workshops on the theme “Bearing Witness to the Light” focused on the four SVD characteristic dimensions, engaging many members of the Steyler Freunde in lively and inspiring discussions. After a shared agape meal with food brought by participants, everyone visited the exhibition “150 Jahre Steyler Missionare”, (150 Years of SVD) which offered a meaningful glimpse into the congregation’s rich missionary history.

Festive Eucharist with Superior General

Around 500 friends and companions joined the festive Eucharistic celebration with Fr. Anselmo Ribeiro, SVD, Superior General, who reminded everyone that “celebrating Pentecost



means opening ourselves to the Spirit that unites us in diversity”.

During the offertory, parishes served by the SVDs presented symbolic gifts – a sheet of music, a bag of seeds, a ladder to heaven, a compass, and the Rupertus Cross*, reflecting their shared commitment to mission. The SSps Sisters added joy to the occasion with a serenade and a colourful SVD birthday cake. The celebration continued with music, food, and fellowship, honouring 150 years of faith and mission.

Steyler Freundeskreis Meeting in St. Gabriel

On 4th October 25 Steyler Freundeskreis members gathered at St. Gabriel for reflection and fellowship on “Thy Kingdom Come”. Fr. Michael Kreuzer, SVD, guided Scripture discussions, highlighting the Kingdom of God as central to Jesus’ mission and humanity’s call to continue His work. The meeting concluded with vespers, dinner with the community, and an organ concert as part of the 29th International Organ Days at the Church of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Stephan Dähler, SVD
Missionsprokur St. Gabriel



* The Rupertus Cross, associated with St. Rupert of Salzburg in Austria, symbolizes faith, missionary zeal, and the call to spread the Gospel.

Switzerland (ECP) – Freundeskreis der Schweizer Steyler Missionare

150 Years of SVD – Celebration with the Auxiliary Bishop and the Federal Councillor

In bright weather, the SVD community celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word in the park on the Schlossberg in Steinhausen. The festive Mass was presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Josef Stübi, with Federal Councillor Martin Pfister among the many participants.

“With great gratitude and joy, the Steyl religious family looks back this year on 150 years since the founding of the Society of the Divine Word (Steyler Missionare) in 1875”, read the invitation from Father Provincial Christian Stranz and Father Präses Albert Nampara. As with the 100th anniversary of the Maria Hilf House, many friends and dignitaries from both church and public life gathered once again in the park.

The choir of the Philippine community in Switzerland beautifully enhanced the celebration. Surrounded by SVD priests, brothers, and members of other religious communities, Auxiliary Bishop Josef Stübi presided over the Eucharist. In his homily, he praised the courageous vision of St. Arnold Janssen and expressed gratitude for the worldwide missionary commitment of the Steyl missionaries.

Special highlights of the celebration included a moment of reflection and a meditation inspired by the jubilee logo. A collection was also taken for the anniversary project “150 Fountains”. Each guest received an SVD anniversary cup and shared a sip of pure water—symbolizing both the project’s mission and the call to become sources of faith for others.

A moment of particular joy was the presence of Federal Councillor Martin Pfister, who had visited the community earlier as a member of the Zug government and had promised to return for the jubilee. His fulfilment of that promise in his new national role brought great happiness to the SVD and all who attended.

Philipp Hautle

Looking Back, Reflection and Future Plans



Germany (GER) – SVD-Partner

SVD-Partner Meeting in Steyl



From 2nd to 5th October, SVD Partner met in Steyl. The meeting was dominated by three themes: looking back, reflection, and making new plans.

Looking Back

2025 was an eventful year for »SVD-Partner«, and not only because of the SVD jubilee. Individual group members took part in the celebrations in 2025 at various locations, such as Pentecost in Steyl, »Steyl Day«, and the closing ceremonies in Goch, Sankt Augustin, and St. Wendel. In addition, the group set its own accents with the »Rosary of the Divine Word« and the jubilee novena. The meeting of SVD lay people from the EUROPE zone in June in Sankt Augustin brought movement to networking at the European level. The participants of the zone meeting reported on their experiences. Everyone spoke in favour of further exchange between all group members at the zone level.

Reflection

The day of reflection focused on the three small crosses made before the Gospel. How do I prepare myself to hear the Gospel? How do I hear the Good News, and how do I bring it to people? These were the core questions that were reflected upon in

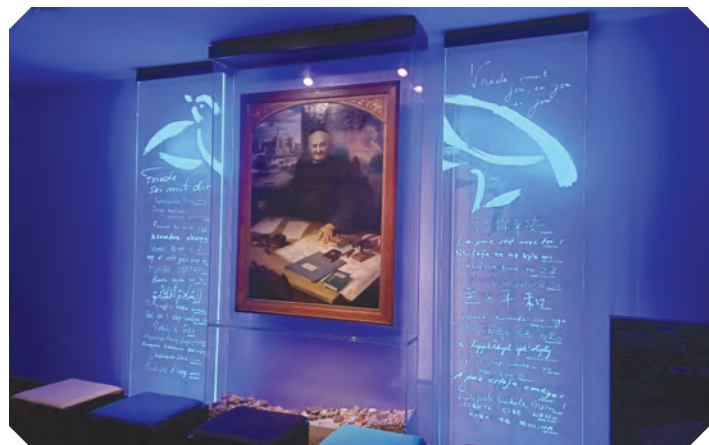
three sessions. The day ended with a celebration of the Word of God organised by everyone.

On Sunday, the blessing ceremony for »SVD -Partner« Petra Linchet and her husband took place in the Lower Church – an extraordinary, solemn, and heartfelt close to the meeting.

Future Plans

Among the plans forged at the meeting is a social project in 2026. Currently, an initiative in a retirement home or for truck drivers is being examined. As the group is also committed to »Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation«, it decided to join the ecumenical Netzwerk Eine Erde. The group's goal is also to visit SVD communities and get to know them better. A visit to St. Gabriel in Mödling near Vienna is planned for 2026. This will take place in addition to the three group meetings in Sankt Augustin (1x) and Steyl (2x).

Maria Wego



Hungary (HUN) – Verbita Barátok

Together with the SVD: Some Moments from our Activities



Catholic Light Music Youth Festival

The AcCordis Band, the praise band of Divine Word Parish in Bicske, organized the 4th Cordis Festival under the motto “On the Way of Hope with the Virgin Mary”. For the fourth time, brothers and sisters gathered to celebrate Jesus, listening to His teachings and praising God through music and song.



Let's Open our Gates Wide

In July, the 2nd Verbita Festival was held with the aim of helping people get to know the SVD Missionaries as widely as possible. The festival offered a colourful program for all who were interested. There was a joint prayer and Holy Mass, testimonies, and performances of Hungarian, Gypsy, Latin, and Philippine folk dances, as well as an opera concert. Participants had the opportunity to try horseback riding and to taste Hungarian, Indonesian, and Philippine dishes. Civil supporters, collaborators, and members of the laity for the SVD Mission Association played a significant role in organizing the event, both financially and actively.



Pass it on!

The Hungarian *Verbita barátok* gather for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Mass on the last Sunday of every month. Afterwards, we listen to a presentation or testimony, and the evening concludes with agape. At our September meeting, we reported on the SVD Lay Partners Meeting held at St. Augustine, Germany, in June. We shared our experiences with the group and spoke about togetherness – that we are one in Christ and share the same mission. The spirit of the workshop was also presented in a short video. The key messages from the lectures can be read in the autumn issue of Világposta, the SVD Newsletter, Hungary.

Zsuzsa Seregely



The Netherlands (NEB) – SVD NEB Lekenpartners, Hoofddorp

A Jubilee of Mission and Gratitude

SVD Marks 150 Years of Faith and Global Mission

The year 2025 marks the 150th anniversary, a historic milestone for the founding of Societas Verbi Divini (SVD). On 8th September 1875, in Steyl, St. Arnold Janssen established the first SVD mission house, igniting a missionary movement that continues to spread the Word of God across continents. From its humble roots in the Netherlands, the SVD now thrives in over 80 countries, united by one mission and one spirit.

Thanksgiving and Tribute

To honour this jubilee, a special Provincial Day celebration was held on 8th September at Bieenkorf Hall, Park Zuiderhout, Teteringen, the Netherlands. The celebration began with a concelebrated Eucharist led by Bishop Johannes Liesen of Breda, with Bishop Johannes van den Hende of Rotterdam, Fr. Avin Kunnekkadan, SVD, NEB Provincial, and Fr. Kees Maas, SVD. The Mass, held at the mission house chapel, expressed deep gratitude for 150 years of divine guidance and missionary dedication. It was followed by the unveiling of the renovated cemetery, a tribute to the early missionaries who built the SVD's enduring legacy.



Joyful Celebration

The celebration continued in a joyful and multicultural spirit as the SVD-NEB Lekenpartners (Hoofddorp), led by Fr. Albert Toppo, SVD, presented two traditional Filipino folk dances. The graceful Aliptaptap (firefly) dance by Benny van Lochen-Vidal, Leah Flora D. Kleijn-Sanchez, Rose Valino-Perez, and Luz Bijker, and Bailes de Antano (Dance of Yesteryear) by Howard and Rose Valino delighted all present.

Fellowship and Gratitude

A sumptuous dinner concluded the celebration, filling hearts with gratitude and joy for 150 years of mission and faith. "We were deeply honoured to be part of this historic event, keeping alive the missionary spirit of St. Arnold Janssen", shared one participant

Leah Flora D. Kleijn-Sanchez



Slovakia (SVK) – Misijná Rodina

Joint Celebrations in the Society of the Divine Word Family in Slovakia



SVD Lay Partners Celebrate 150 Years of Mission

From 5th to 8th September, SVD Lay Partners gathered in Nitra to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word and to strengthen their faith and missionary calling. Lay people, collaborators, and friends from across Slovakia came together under the guidance of Fr. Pavol Baláž to reflect on the four characteristic dimensions of SVD missionary life.

A Creative Celebration of our Founder's Vision

In collaboration with SVD priests and seminarians, the lay partners presented a musical-dramatic performance titled "All it takes is a spark", portraying the charism of St. Arnold Janssen and the missionary vocation of SVD members. The play premiered on 7th September at the Mission House of the Mother of God in Nitra Calvary.

Eucharistic Celebration

The gathering culminated in a solemn Mass commemorating 150 years since the founding of the Society, presided over by Bishop Viliam Judák of Nitra. He invited everyone to renew their trust in God and rekindle their missionary zeal, following the

example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Arnold Janssen. During the liturgy, SVD seminarians and theology students from Slovakia, Madagascar, and Angola renewed their religious vows.

Ordination and Mission Sunday

A highlight of the celebrations was the diaconal ordination of Peter Nguyen Van Luong on 11th October, conferred by Bishop Jozef Hal'ko. The event concluded with an agape meal at the Arnold Janssen Mission House.

The festivities closed with Mission Sunday on 19th October, beginning with Adoration on the theme "Blossom". Lay partners then shared about their involvement in the SVD mission, followed by a repeat performance of "All it takes is a Spark", bringing the celebration to a joyful close.

Matej Kopecký





PANAM ZONE



Argentina (ARE) – Misioneros Socios Laicos Amigos del Verbo

Activities

With great joy, we share the activities carried out in the ARE Province, where the SVD Lay Partners continue to live their mission with faith, enthusiasm, and commitment.

Alto Uruguay District

During Bible Month, we celebrated Mission 2025 – Lay Partners in action with St. Thérèse Parish, Aristóbulo del Valle. Thanks to Fr. Fernando Reis, Fr. Antonio Adanlessossi, Provincial Superior Fr. Héctor Maldonado, and the team. Children, youth, and adults joyfully shared God's love with families. Workshops on SVD spirituality and charism followed. Aurora Galarza, Coordinator of ARE Lay Partners, spoke on lay partnership. The day ended with Holy Mass at Plaza Libertad, concelebrated by several priests in a spirit of prayer and gratitude.

In October, we celebrated a mission in honour of our Holy Founders, St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz, visiting homes with their images, praying the Missionary Rosary, and concluding with Holy Mass.

Posadas District

The Posadas District held its annual meeting with the participation of priests – Fr. Héctor, Fr. Mario, and Fr. Gilberto – and lay partners from the following groups: Instituto Roque González, Fátima, La Morenita, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, and Fundación Villa Cabello Misiones.

The gathering began with a prayer, followed by a formation session focused on the transformative spirituality of the Cross, concluded with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a fraternal meal. Each group shared its experiences and activities.

Chaco District

The communities of Pampa del Indio, Presidencia Roca, and Resistencia continue their house-to-house missions, praying the Holy Rosary and sharing the history of the Congregation in this jubilee year. They also conducted workshops on the four SVD characteristic dimensions.

Eldorado District

Lay Partners accompany Fr. Agustín K., their spiritual adviser, in various missionary activities.

Aurora Galarza



Panama (CAM) - Misioneros Laicos del Verbo Divino (MLVD)

Walking in Mission: Activities



In 2025, our community experienced moments of faith, service, and fellowship that strengthened our missionary commitment.

Social Outreach – 26th July 2025

We continued our mission of service with a day of social outreach at the Central House, offering time, care, and support to those most in need, reaffirming our call to be a living presence of the Divine Word.

Thanksgiving Mass – 8th August 2025

From the Parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Alcalde Díaz, we celebrated a heartfelt Thanksgiving Mass marking 150 years of the missionary presence of the Divine Word Missionaries around the world.

Jubilee Celebration in Medellín, Colombia – 7th September 2025

We were blessed with the opportunity to participate in the Holy Mass at the Divine Word Parish in Conquistadores, Medellín, commemorating the 150th anniversary of our Congregation. We also enjoyed a fraternal gathering with the missionaries, sharing experiences, encouraging one another, and reaffirming that wherever we may be, we remain one SVD family.



PANAM Zonal Meeting in Guadalajara – 13th–17th September 2025

Mariliam and Eymi de Gracia represented our lay partner group at the PANAM Assembly in Guadalajara. They returned renewed in their missionary spirit and enriched with new insights to share.

Pastoral Support at San Jerónimo Parish – 20th September 2025

As part of the parish novena, we accompanied Fr. David Selvasekar, SVD, at San Jerónimo Parish, assisting in pastoral activities and participating actively in the celebration.

DOMUND Celebration with Missionary Bingo – 19th October 2025

We joyfully celebrated DOMUND with an afternoon of fellowship, highlighted by a lively missionary bingo together with our priests and seminarians. It was a meaningful moment of communion, solidarity, and missionary enthusiasm.

Rubiela Ramírez de Rodríguez
Rogelio Rodríguez-Pizza



Ecuador (ECU) – Misioneros Laicos del Verbo Divino (MILVED)

Fifth National Assembly of SVD Lay Partners: “Lay Witnesses of Light and Hope”

Theme: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (Jn 20:21)

With great joy and gratitude to the Lord, the 5th National Assembly of SVD Lay Partners was held from 10th to 12th October on the beautiful island of Muisne, Esmeraldas. Lay partners from various SVD parishes across Ecuador gathered at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish to renew their missionary commitment. The local community welcomed them with a Eucharist and lively activities, fostering friendship and family spirit.

Saturday was a day of prayer, formation, and mission, reflecting on the role of lay people in the Church. Participants were encouraged to live their faith with joy, be bearers of hope, and keep alive the flame of the Holy Spirit in every parish service, inspired by St. Arnold Janssen. In the evening, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a cultural night became a vibrant celebration of faith and fraternity, where each delegation shared songs, dances, and traditions from their region.

The closing Eucharist on Sunday marked a heartfelt conclusion. Grateful and renewed, the lay partners embraced their mission to be instruments of God’s love, carrying His Word to every corner. The assembly was truly an experience of a living church, where faith was deepened in community and the missionary spirit rekindled with hope.

Maria Fernanda Carranza



Statements of participants.

“It was a deeply spiritual experience. I felt called to share the Word of God and discovered that it is He who speaks through us. I thank the MILVED Muisne community for their warm welcome.”

Paulina Quintero

“A fraternal encounter that strengthened our faith and renewed our missionary commitment.”

Katherine Sarango

“A fraternal space with the Muisne community and lay partners from all districts – where we felt Jesus in the Eucharist speaking to us tenderly. We experienced SVD spirituality with great fervour.”

Azucena Toapanta



PARAGUARY (PAR) – Laicos Verbitas del Paraguay, Asunción

Living the Jubilee Year



It is a joy to share what we have experienced during this wonderful time of waiting and preparing for the Jubilee. A journey filled with emotions, expectations, and meaningful encounters with family, friends, and loved ones.

Encountering God

Accompanied by Fr. Alfredo Hauron, SVD, we experienced God's love and closeness as we joined those ministering to people deprived of their freedom. We also visited elderly individuals who were ill, including some in their final moments, offering support to them and their families.

Walking with the Lonely

We also reached out to individuals who felt alone and in need of God. Some lived with their families yet continued to experience deep loneliness. As we walked through marginalized areas, we met young people and adults trapped in addiction – reminders of how deeply our society longs for healing and hope.

Sharing Hope

We encountered young women suffering abuse, mothers abandoned with their children, and men deceived or taken advantage of by relatives. In their struggles, we recognized a profound hunger for God and for compassionate listening. In these moments, the Gospel came alive for us: "I was hungry, naked, sick, in prison, and you visited me."

Celebrating Creation

A moment of great joy came when we illuminated the majestic Yvapovõ tree, which has quietly accompanied over sixty years of the SVD mission. Beneath its generous shade, generations have grown in faith, received sacraments, learned, played, and celebrated. This meaningful act also marked the tenth anniversary of *Laudato Si*.



Strengthened for the Mission

We were blessed to form new friendships with lay partners from Mexico during the first Lay Assembly of the PANAM zone. Blessed be God! Our priests enriched us with formation and spiritual guidance, encouraging us to share God's immense love wherever He sends us.

Thank you, family!

Blanca Garcia



PARAGUAY (PAR) – Laicos Verbitas del Paraguay

150 Years of the Society of the Divine Word and 115 Years of Mission in Paraguay



The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) celebrated 150 years of foundation and 115 years of mission in Paraguay with Eucharistic celebrations and cultural events across various parishes. Since they arrived in 1909, the SVDs have served rural, indigenous, and urban communities through evangelization, education, and social ministry. This jubilee year renewed the call to “proclaim the Word of God through works of justice, peace, and hope.”

Pilgrimage to Pai Ha

On 12th July, lay partners and SVD priests marked the anniversaries with a pilgrimage. Fr. Lucio Ríos, SVD, recalled the challenges of the early missionaries. The day ended with prayer, Eucharist, a visit to the cemetery of one of the first SSps sisters, and a fraternal lunch.

2025 SVD Youth Congress

From 12th to 14th September, eighty-seven youth gathered in Pikyry for the 10th SVD Youth Congress under the themes “Witnesses to the Light” and “Pilgrims of Hope”. The closing Mass, led by Fr. Kornelius D. Boli Udjan, SVD, highlighted God’s faithfulness and the legacy of missionary witness.

9th Congress of SVD Lay Partners

From 10th to 12th October, the 9th Congress of SVD Lay Partners was held with ninety participants reflecting on the reality of their groups and proposing a National Coordinating Team for 2026. Thanks were extended to Fr. Kornelius Boli and Fr. Anthony Musonda for their ongoing support.

Bible Apostolate

In September and October, love for the Word of God was promoted through Bible competitions across parishes and schools.

First PANAM Zonal Assembly

From 10th to 17th September, two Paraguayan Lay Partners participated in the First PANAM Assembly of SVD Lay Partners in Guadalajara, Mexico. Upon their return, they shared their experiences with great enthusiasm, inspiring others to deepen their faith and strengthen their missionary commitment in Paraguay.

Jorge Sienkawiec



United States (USW) – SVD Lay Partners

The SVD Presence and Lay Partner Engagement in the San Diego District

The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) continues its vibrant missionary presence in the Diocese of San Diego through four parishes and the diocesan missions office. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Blessed Sacrament, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, located within the Barona Indian Reservation, serve as dynamic centres of pastoral care, intercultural ministry, and lay collaboration. Additionally, the SVD has faithfully shepherded the Chinese Ministry in San Diego for many years, fostering spiritual growth within this cultural community.

While there is no formal SVD Lay Partner Association yet, the spirit of partnership thrives. Parishioners actively share in ministries of dialogue, service, and proclamation, embodying the SVD charism and laying the groundwork for a future lay partner group rooted in faith and mission.

Growing in Mission Together

Each parish embodies lay engagement in unique ways:

- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission emphasizes integrating indigenous traditions into liturgical life, honouring the cultural heritage of the Barona, Sycuan, and Viejas communities.
- The Chinese Ministry creates space for cultural expression and communal worship, strengthening bonds among Chinese Catholics and celebrating their faith identity.
- Across all parishes, lay leaders contribute to catechesis, liturgy, outreach, and social justice initiatives, living out the missionary call in everyday life.

The Missions Office plays a vital role in building mission awareness in the parish. Through the missionary cooperation program, storytelling, and support for global mission efforts—especially among the marginalized—it fosters solidarity with the universal Church. These initiatives help form mission-minded parishioners, echoing the SVD vision of “one heart, many faces”.

Spirit of Lay Partnership

In essence, the San Diego District is steadily cultivating a lay partner movement; organic, inclusive, and deeply missionary. It is a living testament to the SVD’s commitment to empowering the laity as co-workers in God’s mission.

Sylvia Angel



❖ Letter of thanks for the special newsletter ❖



A Jubilee Surprise Filled with Blessings

One of the numerous gestures of closeness and shared mission that we experienced in our jubilee celebration of the 150 years of foundation was the greetings sent by many Lay Missionaries of the Divine Word through the special edition of this Newsletter. On the initiative of the editorial team, about 60 messages from different places around the world, groups, and individuals expressed in their own languages the same feelings of congratulations, gratitude, and blessing.

The first impression I had upon receiving the Newsletter was one of surprise, a pleasant surprise. It is true that this 'extraordinary journey of faith, mission, and service' is a concrete expression of the vocation received, for which we should say with St. Arnold, 'consider it something great that God has deemed you worthy to be chosen for His service.'

The second was an overwhelming feeling of being overcome by reality. In just a few pages, the feelings of a multitude of missionary disciples of the Divine Word were expressed in different languages, but all sharing the same language. The

most gratifying thing is knowing that we are walking together. The messages in the plural do not speak of a generality or anonymity, but of communion and a shared journey.

I thank God for this growing missionary presence that accompanies, encourages, and strengthens the mission of the Society. I appreciate every person and group that has sent us their greetings, those who have joined us in the celebrations throughout the SVD jubilee, and those who dedicate time, effort, creativity, and resources to carry forward our missionary task. In the words of the Superior General, 'we are all craftsmen of this great mission. Today, it is you who contribute to our mission with prayers, gestures of detachment, fraternal attention, and generous donations.'

Blessings to each one and may our saints Arnold and Joseph continue to intercede for this shared mission.

Marcelo Cattáneo, SVD
Generalate Mission Secretary



Pleasant Surprises

The special edition of the Newsletter on 8th September 2025 truly brought us joy, happiness, oneness, and a pleasant surprise, as we felt that the whole world was greeting and celebrating with us. We read several heartwarming messages, such as: "We, as a of friends, want to walk with you on your journey" (AUS), "We are family, we are Verbitas, and we are pleased to greet the great family (SVD)" (PAR), and many more.

Indeed, this Jubilee is also the Jubilee of all SVD lay partners. Although St. Arnold Janssen did not formally inaugurate or give a defined structure, history clearly shows that, in spirit and in action, he always encouraged, inspired, involved, and called for collaboration with lay partners from the very beginning. Thus, this is your Jubilee too. Your greetings and well wishes express your love, support, and appreciation for the Society of the

Divine Word. Such memories and celebrations are meaningful for any organization; they offer a moment to remember and thank the pioneers who shaped our history, while also giving direction and inspiration for the future.

This future can shine even brighter and achieve greater milestones only with the lay partners. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your memorable and meaningful greetings and for your initiative in gathering these expressions of goodwill.

Stanislaus Lazar, SVD
Generalate Mission Secretary (2012-2025)

❖ SVDLP Abroad ❖

Mission Beyond Borders: Mozambique and Ghana

As we celebrate 150 years of the SVD, my husband Leo and I were happy to visit Mozambique and Ghana, experiencing the true spirit of the Arnoldus family.

Mozambique: Joyful Witness

In Maputo, we were warmly welcomed by Ir. Moacir Rudnik, Fr. Joseph Sahayaraj, and the confreres.

A special highlight was meeting the lay partners of LACVERDI (*Leigos Associados à Congregação do Verbo Divino*), led by Paula Novela. We celebrated a vibrant Eucharist at the home for the abandoned elderly, and later shared breakfast and heartfelt conversation with LACVERDI members. I was truly moved by their joy and simple, faith-filled service. They showed me that mission is measured in love, not things.

**Ghana: Fellowship and Faith**

At the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Centre in Accra, Fr. George Clement Angmor welcomed us into a serene space that invites prayer and reflection. Fr. Cyprian Kuupol, Provincial, and his team embody leadership rooted in service and collaboration. Staying with Fr. Peter Claver Narh allowed us to experience Ghanaian life as family — sharing meals, conversations, and daily moments of fellowship.

Meeting the SVD Lay Partners at Tesano, especially Agnes Cobbinah and her team, was a true joy. Their dedication, sincerity, and vibrant faith revealed the essential role of lay partners as co-missionaries. Celebrating the Eucharist and sharing fellowship with them deepened that sense of connection, affirming that the mission comes alive wherever love and service meet.

**Friendship and Mission**

It was truly heartwarming to see Matilda Anim Fofie again, a dear friend from the 2017 International SVD Lay Partners Workshop in Nemi. After so many years, our reunion felt like meeting family and brought back beautiful memories of that milestone gathering.

A Living Jubilee

These visits reminded me that mission reaches everyone. Everyone we met reflected St. Arnold's spirit; one faith, one family, one mission. May we carry this spirit forward wherever we go.

Susan Noronha
Disciples of the Divine Word, INM



❖ Experience Reports ❖

Journey of Compassion: Feed the Hungry Project of DDW, Andheri



On 8th September 2019, a beautiful journey of compassion began with the launch of the Feed the Hungry program. What began as a simple effort to give a few lunch packets to the homeless has grown into a meaningful weekly mission of service and love. Thanks to your support, every Saturday, members and volunteers step out with smiles, bringing not just hot meals but a sense of belonging and hope to those in need.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many faced immense challenges, the team adapted to provide essentials and groceries, ensuring no one was forgotten. This resilience and adaptability inspire hope and show that even in the darkest times, love and service can prevail.

One of the most touching aspects of this mission is the recipients' humble gratitude – often asking to share with others – reminds us of the power of community, empathy, and service. Their selflessness, despite their own struggles, is a poignant reminder of the power of community and empathy.

Behind each meal shared are four dedicated families who pour love and care into preparing fresh, hot meals for distribution. Their kitchens have become sacred spaces where food is infused with prayer and compassion. This heartfelt collaboration between those who cook and those who serve highlights a vital truth: Feeding the hungry transcends the physical act of giving food; it embodies sharing love, dignity, and hope.

This act of kindness touches many lives – offering comfort to the hungry and purpose to volunteers – building a community of faith and compassion where small acts of love spark lasting change.

May this mission continue to shine as a beacon of God's love, showing that in feeding the hungry, we are serving Christ Himself.

Jayesh George
Disciples of the Divine Word, INM



Climate Change Mitigation & Poverty Alleviation Advocacies

On 29 October 2025, the Confederation of Coconut Farmers' Organization of the Philippines (CCPOF-COCOFED), led by Charles Avila and Mayette Tamondong of The Lay Society of St. Arnold Janssen, Inc. (LSSAJ), inked an accord with the world-famous rapper of "Black Eyed Peas", the Filipino American Allan Pineda Lindo of Angeles, Pampanga (APL de AP).

The accord aims to build resilient and sustainable coconut farming communities through inclusive climate initiatives. Both parties agreed to co-develop a regenerative coconut-based agroforestry project that will also generate high-quality carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's Article 6.4 mechanism.

APL's group, OMTSE Ventures Inc., will provide technology and handle carbon trading, while CONFED will represent farmers and implement the Carbon Optimization in Coconut-Based Agricultural Landscapes (COCAL) program.

Coconut lands make up 26% of Philippine agricultural land—about 3.7 million hectares – with 2.9 million farmers and workers organized under CONFED and partner groups like PRRM. These lands produce nearly 15 billion coconuts each year, yet most farmers remain poor due to long-standing injustices.

Inspired by Ban Ki-moon's "Green New Deal," CONFED now focuses on reducing emissions and ending poverty in the coconut sector. It aims to capture 522 million metric tons of carbon dioxide over the next decade—the largest goal among all sectors.



Even before meeting CONFED adviser Charles Avila, APL had purchased 1,000 copies of *The Philippine Coconut Story*, a book co-authored by Avila and Edicio dela Torre, to distribute among his network.

Charles Avila
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of LSSAJ, PHC

My Personal Experience as an SVD Lay Partner

Discovering my Mission and a Sense of Belonging

My journey as a Lay Partner has been one of the most life-giving discoveries in my faith. Before joining, I didn't fully understand what mission truly meant. I thought missionaries were those who travelled across oceans or lived in distant villages. Then God showed me that the mission begins right where my feet are planted.

The first time I walked into an SVD Lay Partners meeting, I felt an unexpected sense of belonging. There was joy, purpose, and community. I realized that the mission of the Divine Word is not reserved only for priests and religious. It is a mission we all share, united by the same baptism and inspired by the same Spirit.

Living the Word beyond Church Walls

Serving alongside the SVD family has opened my heart in many ways. My faith is no longer something I carry only within church walls. The Word of God is not only proclaimed on the Altar: it is carried in a smile, a handshake, a listening ear, and the willingness to show up. This experience has deepened my prayer life. Scripture is more alive than ever because I see God's Word taking flesh in the people I encounter.

Grace in the Journey

Of course, the journey is not without challenges. There are days when time feels short and the needs seem too big. Yet, God's grace always arrives right on time, reminding me that I am never alone in this mission.

A mission that Defines Me

Today, I proudly say that being an SVD Lay Partner is not just something I do. It is who I am. It has shaped my identity and given me a deeper love for God's people. Together with the SVD family, I want to continue spreading the Gospel, promoting justice, peace, and the integrity of creation, and building a world where God's love is spoken in every language, culture, and heart.

This is my mission. This is my calling. This is my joy.



Ndalia Chileshe
SVD Lay Partners (Kabwe), ZAM

❖ For Information ❖

A Visit to the Tomb of St. Arnold Janssen's Patron Saint in Arnoldsweiler

'Do Not Store up Treasures Here on Earth!' (Mt 6:19)

St. Arnold of Arnoldsweiler took Jesus' call to heart, as a glance at his life story shows: Arnold was a musician at the court of Charlemagne and came with the king to Ginnizweiler (today Arnoldsweiler, Düren, Germany) in 779. He saw the people's need and asked the king for as much forest as he could ride around during the royal hunting banquet. Charlemagne agreed, and Arnold rode around the 'Bürgewald' forest. He then allowed the people living in the 20 villages within it to take wood from the forest. This was made official by a resolution of the Imperial Diet in Düren. Arnold later became an educator to Charlemagne's son, Louis, and ruled the sub-kingdom of Aquitaine (south-western France) until Louis came of age. He finally gave his property to Aniane Abbey (France) and returned to Ginnizweiler, where he died on 18th July 793 and was buried.

Arnold was soon venerated as a saint, and Ginnizweiler became Arnoldsweiler, where his grave can still be found today in the Arnoldus Chapel. Although the Archbishop of Cologne canonised him around 820, he was not included in any official calendar of saints. It was not until a decree by Pope Leo XIII in 1886 that this changed.

Being a musician, Arnold of Arnoldsweiler is always shown with a harp. He is also leaning on it in the painting that St. Arnold Janssen donated to the chapel in Arnoldsweiler in 1889. Painted by Hugo Kohl from Roermond, it shows the legend of the ride around the 'Bürgewald' forest. Incidentally, this forest was not cleared for centuries. It was only destroyed for the most part by open-cast lignite mining.

The donation of the painting suggests that St. Arnold Janssen had a close connection to his patron saint. How did the donation come about? This question still needs to be answered by the SVD archives. However, SVD did have a connection to this saint, at least for a time: parts of the head relic were kept in the church of the mission house in Neuenkirchen-St. Arnold near Steinfurt, Germany.

The Arnoldus Chapel in Arnoldsweiler is worth a visit, and not only because of the painting donated by Arnold Janssen. It is a jewel that was painted in the 20th century by the artist Peter Hecker with scenes from the life of the saint and his veneration. The annexed memorial chapel, also designed by him, is equally impressive.

Maria Wego
SVD-Partner, GER



❖ JPIC Column ❖



Dear friends,

There are many people who are committed to God's creation and are full of ideas. I am thinking, for example, of those who remove plastic waste from the oceans or clean riverbanks, those who plant trees or preserve old seeds, and work to promote biodiversity. They all

need strength - physically and mentally.

Prayer can strengthen their souls. Thanking God, asking Him for help, learning about other people, and learning from them – this is good for each of us and motivates us. That is why I look forward to the monthly Prayer Guide published by the *Laudato Si* Movement. The topics of the month reflect the Pope's prayer intentions. After the introduction to the topic, follow the three

steps: "Hear Creation's Song", "Hear Creation's Cry", and "Hear Creation's Call". Whether you pray alone or in a group, always remember to take time and go through the three steps slowly. Make sure to prioritize time for common prayer, contemplative silence, and personal and shared reflection.

In addition to prayer, I particularly like the responses people give to the cry of creation. For example, in the October issue, Steeven from Kenya introduced a new tradition: "Cutting cake and growing trees – a new tradition to celebrate birthdays." Perhaps we should follow his example?

Jo



[Learn more](#)

❖ Impressions ❖

Jubilee Celebration in Sankt Augustin 5th–7th September 2025



In Memoriam

For God so loved the world,
that he gave his one
and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
should not perish,



Fr. Poda Udjan Franciscus, SVD

† 20.10.2025

Indonesia (IDR)

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

We will miss you!

Rest in Peace



The light of the Christmas star to you
 The warmth of a home and hearth to you
 The cheer and good will of friends to you
 The hope of a childlike heart to you
 The joy of a thousand angels to you
 The love of the Son and
 God's peace to you

God grant you lightness in your step,
 A smile on every face you meet,
 Loved ones gathered at your hearth,
 And at your door, good friends to greet
 A holy hymn upon your lips,
 A window candle burning bright
 And may the Good Lord bless your heart
 And come to dwell here Christmas night.

During the coming Christmas season
 May you be blessed
 With the spirit of the season,
 Which is peace,
 The gladness of the season,
 Which is hope,
 And the heart of the season,
 Which is love

Irish Christmas Blessing

**Merry Christmas
 and
 a Happy New Year**

Susan
Sophie
Laura
Matilda
Daisy
Isabel

Imprint

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