



# SVD LAY PARTNERS

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## NEWSLETTER OF SVD LAY PARTNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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To keep authenticity we receive news items only from the authorized contact person.

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## SVD Leadership

### **Fr. Heinz Kulüke, SVD, Superior General**



Fr. Heinz Kulüke is from Germany and he is currently the Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word. He was elected to this post in 2012 in Nemi, Rome. After his ordination in 1986, he was sent to the Philippines. From 1986 to 1989, he devoted his missionary activity in Agusan del Sur, Mindanao. There he devoted himself to the fight against poverty and for the observance of human rights, especially for the poor people in the metropolis of Cebu City.

He founded a non-governmental organization in 1999, and with 70 employees, executed various aid projects.

He has a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome and he was also a professor of philosophy at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. In the SVD Southern Province, he served as a Provincial Superior from 2005 to 2012. After becoming the Superior General, he has visited nearly 70 countries in the world where the members of the Society of the Divine Word are working. His rapport with the local realities in all these countries helps to foresee the future the Society for effective missionary service.



*“ Be shepherds with the smell of your sheep, in the midst of your people like Jesus the Good Shepherd.*



## From the SVD Mission Secretary, Rome

### Lazar Thanuzraj Stanislaus SVD, General Mission Secretary



Vatican II brought forth the emphasis that the Church is the People of God. From then on, more importance is given to the lay people in forming and organizing them to participate in the mission of the Church. In some places the hierarchy has taken initiative to do this, and in some other places, lay people themselves started organizing to participate in the mission dimension of the Church, because everyone is a missionary by one's baptism. Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* said, "There has been a growing awareness of the identity and mission of the laity in the Church". The lay groups, their participation and enthusiasm steer us up to do more and to be with them to continue the mission of the Church.

Many religious congregations have organized various ways of having groups under their patronage; some lay groups formed themselves taking the inspiration from a congregational spirituality. While promoting the active participation of lay people in all of the Church's activities, SVD General Chapter, 2006 said, "our basic attitude in Mission Animation is to involve others, to animate them with our enthusiasm for the journey to the Kingdom and to be animated by them, rather than falling into the temptation to think that we can do it all ourselves." The Society of the Divine Word acknowledges the immense goodness and vitality of the lay people, and their testimonies and witness to faith are inspiring and encouraging to the local people and to our confreres.

The Society of the Divine Word recognizes the gifts and talents, contributions and collaborations of lay people. Throughout the Society, there is an overwhelming involvement of the lay people in mission. The SVD General Chapter 2012 has formulated certain guidelines for recognizing a group as SVD Associates. Some groups are recognized by their respective provinces and regions. We have to find ways and means in formation of SVD lay partners, collaboration with Society's missionary activities and strengthening the SVD Spirituality among the lay people. We encourage all the lay groups to have statutes and try to seek recognition from your respective provincial/regional/mission superiors.

## International Workshop for SVD Lay Partners

The Society of the Divine Word is organizing an intensive programme for SVD Lay Partners from 14 to 28 October, 2017 at Nemi, Rome (arrival 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. and departure 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.). This is an excellent opportunity for the representatives of lay partners groups in various countries to know more about the SVD Society as well as its charisms.



### Objectives of the Workshop

- ◆ To promote more involvement with the Society of the Divine Word
- ◆ To know the roots, the spirituality and the congregation more closely with the Generalate members and spirituality team
- ◆ To get to know the other groups more personally and promoting more exchanges for the future
- ◆ To be more committed to collaborate with one another and design Action Plan of Lay Partners.

Number of participants for this workshop will be thirty; the languages of the course are both English and Spanish. In regards to the financial implications and other details, kindly contact the SVD Mission Secretary of your Province/Region/Missions or the confrere in-charge of your group. The last date to register the names for this workshop is **April 15, 2017**.

## Lay Missionaries of the Divine Word (LVD) – Spain

**Submitted by Gonzalo Revert Martínez**

The IX Missionary Encounter took place the weekend of October 14th to the 16th in the House of Spirituality of Duenas, Spain. The Divine Word Lay Missionaries, SSpS and SVD gathered for this event. This year the theme chosen was *"The Word became flesh and ... Does it find refuge among us?"*

During the weekend more than 150 people worked in groups to discuss the theme of welcoming the refugee and caring for the immigrant. The ALBA Association provided information regarding legal advice, support and care for the immigrant.

In this workshop, the ALBA Association lawyer, Encarna Campos, explained the legal situation and differences between the various titles of Immigrant, Refugee, Asylee, etc. Later, through the sharing of various audio-visual materials on the reality of migrants in the world, groups worked on what should be the Christian welcome of our brothers and sisters who suffer discrimination because they are foreigners.

In the afternoon, the university professor Martin Rojo, also a member of the Caravan for Peace, who visited the camps of Greek Refugees, explained to us the work being done there and his perspective of the problem.

Finally, to give a Scriptural foundation to this event, the Lay Missionary Zamora prepared and shared a Biblical based prayer with all in attendance.



## Lay Missionaries of the Divine Word – Panama

**Submitted by Ana Luisa Vásquez C.**

The group was established in 2009, by Fr. Mikhael Malik, and is made up of families, young people and children. From the onset, activities take place within St. Joseph parish of Chiriquí Grande, from Prelatura de Bocas del Toro - Panamá. The mission takes place during the time of Carnival, Holy Week and the patriotic month of November.

From April 2014, the group under the direction of Fr. David Selvasekar, continues the mission in Bocas del Toro and in other communities which make up St. Jerome's Parish.

Among some of the first communities visited, the Barriada Ciudad del Lago community stands out well, where we are building the chapel bearing the name of the founder of the congregation, St. Arnold Janssen. This is the good effort of the group's team work and effort. Adjacent to the chapel the first SVD library of Panama will be built. Another community is the Barriada Praderas de San Lorenzo, who are already in the process of building their chapel, which will be called Our Lady of Guadalupe.



**General activities include:** Visiting households of the indigenous peoples, animation in the Eucharistic Celebration, celebrations of the Word, Holy Hour, praying of the rosary, Lectio Divina, visiting the sick, MLVD retreat, spiritual retreat with the youth group of various parishes, encouraging participation in parish activities and social work.



## Steyler Missionare (MaZ) - Germany

*Submitted by Markus Woettki*

### **The Motto:**

***Living, praying and working together, stands for quality and uniqueness of voluntary service.***

The young voluntary service/MaZ is an apostolate which can be combined with the apostolates of the religious congregations such as OTP-Programme, vocation promotion or youth ministry and supervised by a SVD confrere, a pedagogue or a qualified lay person. This centre works closely with German-Speaking provinces (Switzerland, Austria) of the Divine Word Missionaries and other religious congregation.

- ◆ The young missionaries/MaZ live in a community. This offers them support and enables them to take up the challenges of life in the new situation.
- ◆ To this belongs also intensive contact to a trustworthy person with whom they can reflect on their experiences.
- ◆ The young missionaries take part in the prayer and community life of the SVD's and the parish community of the town
- ◆ The young missionaries work according to their talents and abilities in on-going projects. These projects are often social, medical or pastoral.
- ◆ The preparation and the accompaniment of the temporary missionaries (MaZ) is a challenge which requires a team that harmonizes and regulates team-work.
- ◆ The team-work is not only a great chance to ensure the success of the MaZ-programme, it also offers a big chance to learn together and to learn from one another.



*"I live in a children's home in Chile. The little boy Joel cannot really speak and I am currently learning Spanish and we understand each other without the use of words."*

*Charlotte*

What do we do when we return home?

- ◆ Seminar for returned MaZ
- ◆ Different activities/events
- ◆ One-World-Camp
- ◆ Accompaniment of the MaZiV
- ◆ Partnership
- ◆ Political engagement
- ◆ Participating in the Church congresses
- ◆ Participating in the activities of the SVD in one's own country.
- ◆ Forum MaZiD

MaZ from the different religious congregations who have returned home are connected in the Forum MaZiD. These young missionaries bring their experiences from where they worked and their yearning for a united world and society into their own communities and make conscious efforts to integrate these values.

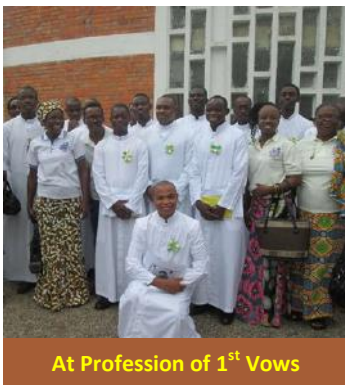
**"One time in voluntary missionary service - always in missionary voluntary service"**

## Friends of SVD Ghana

*Submitted by Helen Dzikunu*

The general objective of the formation of the Friends of SVD in Ghana is to have groups on a parish level. The specific objectives are that these groups will pray, support and visit the SVDs especially in rural territories.

So far five groups have been inaugurated and are functioning in their parishes especially in the ministry of praying together for priests, religious brothers and sisters as well as for seminarians. The groups are in the following parishes, St. Margaret Mary, Holy Trinity, St. Augustine, St. Luke and St. Charles Lwanga.



At Profession of 1<sup>st</sup> Vows

### Activities from July-September 2016

Two groups from St. Margaret Mary Parish Dansoman, Accra and Holy Trinity Agomanya attended the profession of first vows of twenty Novices. Token gifts were given to the Novices and a donation was made to the Novitiate.

Five groups of Friends of SVD from St. Margaret Mary Parish, Holy Trinity Parish, Agomanya, St. Luke and St. Augustine from Ashaiman, attended the ordination of five new SVD priests and made token donations.

A small delegation participated in the Silver Jubilee celebration of the priesthood of one of the SVD priest and also at the Golden Jubilee of St. Augustine Parish in Asesewa. This parish is preparing to inaugurate Friends of SVD.

### On-going Activities

We are collecting old clothing for a parish in one of the poor areas of Ghana served by the SVDs. These will be sent before Christmas.

We are praying that more people will be interested in supporting our activities especially in our visits to rural and poor areas served by the SVDs.



Volunteers in Poland

### New Group Forming

After receiving the newsletter "SVD Lay Partners - June 2016" we would like to say "Thank you!" We are a German group on our way to become recognized as SVD partners - hopefully soon. Your newsletter is very inspiring and encouraging for us! We hope to be able to write about our group within the next edition.

Please, pray for us!  
Yours in the Divine Word

On behalf of the group  
Maria Wego

## A Missionary Spirit – Chile

**Submitted by Elena Ortiz**



We are many lay people in the world who identify with the spirituality and charism of our founder St. Arnold Janssen, opting to share Christ with our brothers by giving our life as a testimony.

Our community Alma Verbita, was founded on April 28, 2012. It is now four years of working and contributing with the SVDs. We have an electronic newsletter that comes out quarterly. The bulletin is called ALMA / Ñaque Misionero. In this bulletin we share our activities, we get to know one another,

we encourage others to take on their baptismal commitment and to share our missionary experiences.



## Lay Missionaries of the Divine Word (MLVD) USW - USA

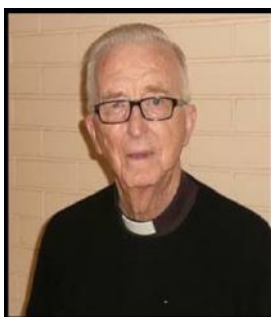
**Pictures Submitted by Mariana Flores**

MLVD of Riverside, CA along with Fr. Beni, current administrator of Queen of Angels Parish along with the Parochial Vicars Fr. Ignacio and Fr. John welcomed Fr. Miguel Ruiz, former pastor who now resides in Rome, along with Fr. Sebastian Soney, USW Provincial, Fr. Jesus Zamarripa, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in LA and Fr. Emilio also of Lourdes, to concelebrate a very special Mass held on September 24, 2016.



Some MLVD members in Riverside have dedicated a year of their life to the Mission of the Church. Five members commit themselves for the first time while fifteen men and women have renewed this public promise, with a few of them for five consecutive years. Amidst the myriad of personal, professional and familial responsibilities, they solemnly promise to prioritize Mission and Ministry in their daily life.

## Obituary



**REV. FR. BRENDAN CASEY**  
Departed this life on  
October 18, 2016

Rev. Fr. Brendan Casey died in the Ryevale Nursing Home, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, where he had been residing for some months while being treated for an oral tumour. Despite his severe and progressive illness, he continued to minister to the other residents in the home as a priest until very recently. Brendan, who came from Ennis, Co. Clare was a "Clare man" all his life and was a proud supporter of his County GAA team at all times. He was always passionate for God and for his County. He was a wonderful Mission Secretary and did a lot of good work for the Society of the Divine Word at home and around the world as a fund-raiser and as an animator of Mission. He is survived by two sisters, Sr. Maura Casey PSBVM and Rita, in Ennis.

**- Fr. Liam Dunne SVD, Mission Secretary of Ireland**

## Auxiliary Missionaries of the Divine Word – Mexico

*Submitted by Elizabeth Zavala Villaseñor*

### World Mission Sunday Celebration

The Auxiliary Missionaries gathered to offer their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in taking the message of God's tenderness and compassion to others.



Their presence was made known in the following States of Mexico: Jalisco, Colima, Michoacán, Guanajuato, Aguascalientes, Queretaro, Hidalgo, Mexico City, Pachuca, Morelos and Nuevo Leon.

The event began with a Eucharistic celebration in distinct parishes throughout the Country. There were representatives of 5 Continents, who highlight-

ed their SVD missionary work through music, native dress, food and artefacts from each place.

An invitation was sent for new members to integrate into the movement, to live in the spirit of reflective study inherited from St. Arnold Janssen and to be like St. Joseph Freinademetz to establish intercultural Christian communities.

## SVD Lay Partners in Indonesia

*Submitted by Muliady Wang*

We were initially gathered by Fr. Christ Ratu, SVD to be introduced to the SVD mission; celebrate Mass and join in Adoration on the 1st Thursday and 3rd Monday of every month.

Some of our spiritual activities included a Novena to the Sacred Heart Triduum in honor of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael; visiting parishes with few parishioners; participating in SVD mission services when a SVD Missionary receives his mission cross before leaving for a new mission assignment.

Some of our service activities included cleaning of the cemetery, visiting the parents of our SVD priests who are in mission outside Indonesia, visiting the sick SVD priests and their parents as well as going to Malang Seminary when there is a new priest inducted.

We have hosted gatherings with the following SVD visiting priests: Fr. Christiansen from Germany, Fr. Thomas from Czech and Fr. Veri from Austria.

As on April 2016, there is no longer a Soverdia Bali Lombok district. Since the priest at our church is no longer a SVD priest, we were not given permission to continue as a collaborative inter-parish movement. However, we will still support the SVDs by helping in Janssen Hydroponic Farm in Pancasari Bedugul Bali.

*Please share with us the good works the Lord has begun in you for the sake of the Gospel. How are you proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in your part of the world? Let us know how St Arnold is inspiring you to actively participate in the Church's mission of Evangelization.*

*- Editors*

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

*Submitted by Susan Noronha Chettiar*

### Sharing our joy with children of Mangaon and Tala Mission, INM Province

No one should be happy alone. Happiness needs to be shared. This has long been one of the guiding principles of DDW activities. This was amply seen when two buses packed with children from Mangaon and Tala Mission (India Mumbai Province), accompanied by Fr. Cosmos Ekka SVD, arrived on April 17th to enjoy a two days outing in Mumbai. This outing was initiated by Dominic and Sandhya Thomas, DDW members, on the occasion of their daughter Maria's First Holy Communion Celebrations, in collaboration with DDW members and SVD fathers.

The day began with the traditional lighting of the lamp at the Sacred Heart Community Hall, Andheri, followed by a cultural program. After a sumptuous lunch, the two buses were set out for an experience of a lifetime for the tribal children. They saw the Taj Mahal Hotel and went around taking photographs at the Gateway of India, visited Marine Drive, savoured the ice cream at Juhu beach, and drove up to the Hanging Gardens, where they literally let their hairs down on the swings and see-saw. It was a memorable event not only for the children of Mangaon & Tala Mission, but also to all those who were a part of this event.



### Retreat at Ishvani Kendra, Pune

From the hustle and bustle of the Mumbai city life, DDW members went for a week-end retreat in the quiet, green and serene surroundings of Ishvani Kendra, Pune in August 2016. Fr. Tony Menezes SVD, the Director of Ishvani Kendra and the Ex-Spiritual Director of DDW was our excellent host as well as our efficient and effective resource person for the retreat. He helped us to introspect and ask ourselves, how we can be missionaries who make a difference by attempting something new in our DDW group, like our founder St Arnold Janssen, who himself was a champion pioneer. It was indeed an enriching experience.

### Meeting with the General Visitor, Fr. Budi Paulus Kleden

On September 11, 2016, the General Visitor, Fr. Budi Paulus Kleden SVD met the members of DDW. Addressing the members, Fr. Budi said that he was very happy to meet us and was deeply touched by the various activities carried out by DDW, especially towards the people living in the margins of the society. He congratulated our efforts to grow as a group and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Superior General and his Leadership Team. Members expressed their desire to animate and promote other groups in our Province as well as other Provinces in India. The meeting ended with the Holy Eucharist with Fr. Paul Vattathara SVD, INM Provincial.



**"May the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all"**

— **St. Arnold Janssen**

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