

Word from the Leadership Team

Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization

On 8 October 2013, Pope Francis convoked the III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod on: The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization. The Holy Father has determined that the Synod of Bishops will thoroughly examine and analyze the information, testimonies and recommendations received from the particular Churches in order to respond to the new challenges of the family. The Ordinary General Assembly in 2015 will reflect further on the points discussed so as to formulate appropriate pastoral guidelines for care of the family. As we wait for the fruits of the noteworthy and timely efforts of Pope Francis, we SVDs need to understand the dynamics affecting families in our pastoral ministry (*ad extra*) and in our SVD community as a family (*ad intra*).

Today the family is experiencing tremendous challenges due to the processes of industrialization, migration, urbanization and globalization. The family has changed from producer-consumer entities of a pre-industrial society to only a consumer unit today, destroying the personal and intimate relationships that characterized it. Current working patterns too make it difficult for parents to educate and spend time with their children. The growing awareness of gender equality leaves many men confused about how to take on a more equal role in the family, and this in turn leads to a rise in violent forms of behavior. The phenomenal expansion of cities, the unprecedented pace of

technology and social change, the increasing heterogeneity and diversity of urban populations across the world have heightened anonymity, impersonality and alienation in families.

The above situation has led to a fractured, fragmented, atomized human society manifesting itself in mindless, compulsive consumerism and hedonism, in the breakdown and disintegration of human relationships, in the growing feelings of insecurity, vulnerability and uncertainty, and in a pervasive existential vacuum. The real threat to the stability and cohesiveness of societies comes from a growing deterioration in human relationships. Exaggerated individualism propels apathy, indifference and lack of commitment which, in turn, have contributed to the breakdown and disintegration of the family, the erosion of social bonds, the loss of faith in public institutions, drug abuse, and a surge in crime and delinquency in many societies.

So, what is at the axiological root of these various problems of society today? Or in other words, what are the values that guide our lifestyle, and structure our community? Several social scientists believe that the main cause of these multiple fractures appearing in family and society is atomism. Atomism asserts the importance of the individual in relation to all around him/her. Symptoms of this atomism could be the feeling that we are islands in the midst of an ocean of people,



a disintegration of our links with others, no one caring about the neighbor, and becoming less and less concerned and involved in what is happening to those around us.

An important way to restore the dignity of humanity is for Christians and especially religious to be a counter-cultural community witnessing to the communitarian values of the Kingdom. We need to protect the sacredness of the family. If Christianity is to be relevant today, it must address the cultural reality of family. The Church's dialogue in the Post-Modern world must be characterized by openness and rootedness.

The need of the twenty first century is to complement the liberal understanding of men and women as individuals with rights, with the need for communitarian values. This means to conscientize society and the individual to the fact that we are born into a specific community which holds common shared values for all its members. This model of the community can take on many forms - family, religious community, village community, parish community or a country. From within this communal standpoint it is then possible to become aware of the value of others in relation to one's own personal self-fulfillment. This sense of community emphasizes the fact that, as well as having rights, we also have duties and obligations to others. It is in this primary community environment that we gain our ethical values. In this globalized and post-modern world of ours, it will not be easy for Christians to be communitarian. The mindless and compulsive consumerism and hedonism of the global market will pull people towards individualism and atomism. The desire for affluence and a comfort culture lead people to an autonomous lifestyle.

Therefore, Christians need to be a counter-cultural community standing for communitarian values as a priority.

Strengthening of Small Christian Communities (SCC) in our SVD parishes may help towards building up of community values. Active participation in various Parish Associations by our parishioners can also be of help towards this. House visits by our parish priests and Brothers is another way of building solidarity and communitarian values. In short, in the globalized world, Christians need to be a Counter-Cultural Group that does not compromise with the values of the market and is not swayed away by the post-modern trends, but live deeply rooted in their faith. In practical terms, our Christian life should become authentic and witnessing. The SVD parishes should heed the observation of the Instrumentum Laboris that "The pastoral care of families, far from limiting itself to a legal point of view, has a mission to recall the great vocation of love to which each person is called and to help a person live up the dignity of that calling."

As the Church takes steps towards strengthening the bond of family values, we the members of the Arnoldus family need to live and work together in love so that our lives become a model of community life for the families around us and to the world. Individual interests and talents need to be integrated into the community. The prevailing circumstances are telling us that it is impossible to make a successful and happy community without God as the foundation. Hence, community prayers, Bible sharing, and participating in the Holy Eucharist are vital means of strengthening our community life.

Through the intercession of St. Arnold, St. Joseph Freinademetz, and our Holy Martyrs, may our communities in the Society have fullness of life as a witness to the families of the world.

Fr. Heinz and the Leadership Team

Maybe you can answer

The crisis on our southern border is complicated. Surely you know the story: Since last fall, 52,000 unaccompanied Latin American children have flooded the U.S. border with Mexico, most of them along the lower Rio Grande.

They have flowed out of Honduras (15,000), Guatemala (12,500), Mexico (12,000) and El Salvador (11,500). Most are teenagers, but many are younger than 10 years old. They're fleeing gang violence, abysmal education systems, staggering unemployment, crushing poverty and sexual abuse.

Imagine you're a parent of any of those children. How awful must their lives be for you to send them on such a long and dangerous journey? How pathetic must their lives be for you to turn them and all your savings over to a coyote—a smuggler of human beings? Maybe you can answer. I can't even begin to comprehend.

www.abpnews.com/



GENERALATE NEWS

Domitilla Catacombs attracts thousands of altar servers



More than 50,000 altar servers from Germany and Austria came to Rome during the first week of August. Some 15,000 visited the Domitilla Catacombs, administrated by the Divine Word Missionaries under the direction of Bro. Uwe Heisterhoff. An international team of SVDs welcomed the young pilgrims as guides or vocation animators. The vocation animation team was formed by Bro. Reiner Theißen (GER), Fr. Franz Helm (OES), and seminarians Pius Oduru and Josef Lipang. As guides in the catacombs, SVD seminarians from St. Augustin, Simon Ngimbi, Pierre-Willi Ngeyitala and Vincent Rey, helped.

A calendar with information about the SVD and the MaZ program, produced by Fr. Konrad Liebscher, the director of the Mission Procure in St. Augustin, was distributed to all young visitors. Important during these intense and hectic days were: the dialogue with the young altar servers; animation through songs and dances from Africa and Latin America; and a presentation of film clips about SVD, SSpS and MaZ activities all over the world. This informative presentation was produced by Fr. Vaclav Mucha.

Fr. Franz Helm

General Visitation

General Visitations by the General Councilors are taking place between August 1 and September 15, 2014. The following is the list of the provinces and the corresponding visitators.

ARS -Frs. Budi Kleden and Jose Antunes da Silva
ARE -Bro. Guy Mazola

New general coordinator for communications



Fr. Modeste Munimi Osung (ESP), originally from Congo, was appointed by the Superior General and his council on July 29, 2014 as the new General Coordinator for Communications. Fr. Modeste takes the place of Fr. Soney Sebastian, who was elected

Provincial Superior of USW, and will complete Fr. Sebastian's term as Generalate Coordinator until 2018.

Fr. Modeste completed a licentiate in Journalism at Centro Universitario Villanueva (affiliated to Universidad

Complutense de Madrid) and masters in Social Communications in Universidad Complutense de Madrid. For some months he was at the Radio Vaticana in Rome for some field experience. Beginning in 2010, he was the Provincial Coordinator of Communications in ESP and in 2013 he was appointed the Area Coordinator for Communications in the European Zone. As he fulfills his functions and responsibilities as the General Coordinator he will continue to reside in Spain. Congratulations.

A new mission in Southern Albania

Fr. Giancarlo Girardi, the provincial of ITA met with Bishop Hil Kabashi, O.F.M., Titular Bishop of Tures in Byzacena and Apostolic Administrator of Southern Albania.

The Superior General with the consent of his council has approved the request of Bishop Kabashi to start a mission in Southern Albania. In the next issue of Arnoldus Nota we will report on the future mission of the SVD under the Italian province.



From left to right: Maria Cristina (Argentina), Maria Theresia (Germany), Miriam (Germany), Eleonora (Poland), Mary John (India), Mikaelin (Indonesia), and Margaret (USA).

New SSps Generalate Leadership Team assumes office

On August 9, 2014, in a simple and profound ceremony held at the SSps Generalate House, the newly elected leadership team of the SSps formally assumed office to guide and lead the congregation for the next six years. Sisters Maria Theresia Hörnemann, Congregational leader and councilors Mary John Kudiyruppil, Miriam Altenhofen, María Cristina Ávalos, Mikaelin Bupu, Eleonora Cichon, and Margaret Hansen assumed this leadership ministry and as a team join their Spirit-given gifts in guiding the Sisters and the mission of the Congregation all over the world. Claiming a theme embraced by the Capitulars in their last General Chapter, the new leadership team embarks on a journey of leadership as “accomplices of the Spirit”.

Vice General Robert Kisala, assisted by Arlindo Dias, presided over the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Kisala, following the gospel theme of the wise virgins challenged the leadership team to remain trusting in God and to be open to wisely share their oils. He specifically pointed out the need to share their “oils” with their brother SVDs. He also thanked the outgoing councilors namely Sisters Pauline, Stella, Judith, Jessie and Stephanie for their service and commitment during the last six years.

Reference Intakes for Mission/Work/Formation

This section provides our readers with information about books published, interesting websites, articles, etc. in languages spoken within our Society. Our confreres are invited to cite any of these as references for work, apostolates and ongoing formation. Some websites may be helpful for preparing homilies and Bible courses online as well as general biblical materials:

English

www.munachi.com (African inspired homilies)
www.homilies.net (bilingual: English and Spanish)
www.biblereflection.blogspot.com
www.clerus.org
<http://www.catholic-resources.org>

Spanish

<http://www.verbodivino-ecu.org>
<http://www.Betania.es>
<http://www.formacionbiblicaverbodivino.es> (Bible course online)
<http://www.servicioskoinonia.org/biblioteca/bibliodatos>
<http://www.verbodivino.es> (with links)

German

<https://www.bibelwerk.de/home>
<http://www.pastoralamt.info/index.php?id=144> (with various links)

<http://www.perikopen.de> (an exegetical commentary on the Gospel, Years A, B, C)
Bibel pastoral <Bibelpastoral@steyler.de>

Bahasa Indonesia

<http://sabdaweb.sabda.org>

News

<http://site.adital.com.br/site/index.php?lang=ES&prevlang=PT>, a website in Spanish carries the latest news about Latin America and the Caribbean.

<http://alainet.org/publica/492.phtml>, a website in Spanish

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/es/>, a website from the Vatican press in Spanish



Reflections and Thoughts

My missionary experience

The Dutch-Racist!, non-church goers, oh my goodness, what a nation? These were stereotyped notions! I am Fr.Kodzo Edmund Deku, a Ghanaian missionary working in NEB and I would like to share with you my mission journey.

About two and a half years ago I landed in Amsterdam and was picked up by the late Brother Jan Rutten. He took me to our students' house in a small town called Nieuwegein, close to Utrecht, one of the biggest cities in the Netherlands. It was then winter time and very cold. A few days later, we celebrated Christmas.

In the months that followed, I spent a good amount of time to train my tongue and "scratch" my throat to be able to brew these terrible Dutch articulations. Oh, what a language! I had to travel about 45 minutes, four times a week to take my language course at the University of Utrecht and later to Lest Best, a language institute. One cold evening on the bus, on my way coming back from school, I had no seat. The only available seat was by the heating system, exactly what I needed at that very moment since the cold was cutting deep into my bones! There was however one problem! There was a man of about 45 years old sitting on one of the seats, one of the "racist" as I then feared and imagined. I had to gather all the strength I had in order to ask him if I could take the next seat beside him. With a lot of hesitation, I asked. His reaction was beyond surprise because he was inviting and welcoming! After some seconds of silence, he asked me what I was reading and doing in life. I am sure he saw the surprise on my face. I ended up finishing my language homework for that day right in the bus with him! For the record, this was someone who stopped going to church since the age of 11.

In the coming days I was filled with a lot of questions: Is this man an exception to the "supposed racists?" Was I too quick in believing all that I have heard about the Dutch? Are there many more Dutch like him? In the weeks and months that followed I was really surprised to discover that most of what I had heard about them was not true. After I had gained a little more mastery of the Dutch language, I was placed in a parish. This was to

help me have a concrete idea and knowledge of the Dutch culture in and around the parish setting. I was sent to work in a place called Heuvelrug Driebergen. The name of the parish in this area is called Saint Martin and it consisted of seven different villages. I was working under the guidance of a Dutch diocesan priest called Henk Bloem, a renowned Bible scholar.



Some of the most beautiful moments in my life were experienced in St. Martin Parish. I have come to realize how much a typical Dutch person values life in general. The Dutch put a lot of importance on each and every individual. I was highly respected and

valued. I came to realize that what really makes people happy is when they are valued, and what really makes people poor is when they are not valued. I was made aware of the most important vow one needs to take even as a religious, that is the vow to value and respect each living being. This valuing of the person is expressed in many ways: the way they talk to you, look at you, approach you, etc. The typical Dutch does not place value or respect on titles either. You can be holding 3 PhDs, but your name remains your name and you are not addressed by your title. For example, assuming I was holding two or more PhDs, I would still have been addressed simply as Kodzo E. Deku.

One of my greatest challenges on my arrival in the Netherlands was getting used to the fact that being a priest meant nothing to anybody. It is very different from what I experienced back at home in Africa where the priestly title meant a lot and people would show you a lot of respect because you are a priest. It was a painful and a challenging experience. This however gave rise to certain questions in my mind such as: What does it really mean to be a priest? What do we "really" do? What is respected is how much love and attention you give to other people and most especially those who might not be able to help you in return.

These elating discoveries were not only with people who were in the church but mostly with people who had nothing to do with any church. That was really an eye opener for me. I realized how gentle they were. It is as if the Bible or the word of God was planted in their blood right from birth. When I compare how some of our African churches are so filled with people and yet we are still lacking in value and respect for each other, I simply said to myself, “We Africans go to church and read the Holy Scriptures while the Dutch go the beach and parties, yet they live the values out of the Bible “. This brings to mind the parable of the two sons in Mathew 21:28-32. In this parable, the first son said “No” to the father’s request and yet went to carry it out while the second son promptly accepted but never carried the task out. The Dutch can thus be compared to the son who said “No” and yet went to accomplish the assignment.

All these experiences are helping me in my current work in the diocese of Rotterdam, The Netherlands. I am currently working in this diocese and precisely with the international community in The Hague. I work with the French, English and Dutch speaking communities and I am also working with some typical Dutch churches in a place called “Gouda”, consisting of six different towns and villages.

All our SVD missionaries to this country have had these beautiful surprises. The Dutch society is still forming people for the world by helping religious and many others have a different view on life. This has transformed a lot of our SVD missionaries here. Maybe this is the best way missionaries are supposed to operate: first allow the culture to evangelize you, then you can give back to them what you have received in a different parcel and trademark!

Fr.Kodzo Edmund Deku

MARIENBURG (SWI):

Syrian refugees to be housed in Marienburg



The 60 Syrian refugees are housed in the former boarding school of the Gymnasium

The Provincial Council SVD of SWI accepted 60 Syrian refugees to be housed in the former premises of Marienburg school in Thal. For their care the union of the municipality presidents of St. Gallen (VSGP) is responsible. “For me and my confreres, but also for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in Marienburg, it was immediately clear that we wanted to help these Syrian refugees - out of solidarity and humanity”, Fr. Provincial Stephan Dahler said. This has been the response of other religious communities to the terrible situation in Syria where over 2.8 million people have fled from their homes, half of them children. The Canton of St. Gallen accepted a total of 120 people, and 60 of them - all distressed and traumatized people - are to move into the Marienburg by the middle of August.

At an information session for the population of the surrounding communities held in Marienburg, the representatives of VSGP explained the objectives, the processes of this project. The focus lies mainly on the integration of the refugees. The refugees already have an official status when they come to Switzerland. The right of abode is guaranteed, the lengthy recording process is eliminated. For the federal government, the “Marienburg” is therefore also a pilot project where one specifically wants to gain experience. The expected twelve families (the exact composition of the group is not yet known) will be looked after on-site by a team of experts who will provide medical care, psychological, social and educational support.

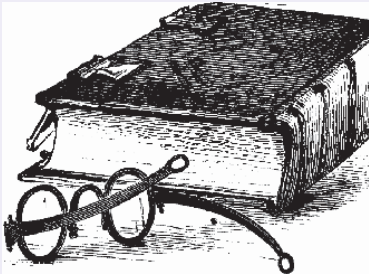
www.steyler.eu



AFRICA-MADAGASCAR ZONE

KEN: A confrere's spiritual journey

A Life Immersed in the Word



On 29th July 2014, Fr. Tom Leyden celebrated his 80th birthday. While recalling the past, an outstanding experience crossed his mind. As he is a passionate reader of the Word of God – he reads for two hours daily – something he happened to see on a busy street of Nairobi took him by surprise. It was a vision-impaired man sitting and reading the Bible with the help of Braille. Fr. Tom had mistaken him for a beggar.

This experience he shared with Fr. Ludger Feldkaemper and it was included in the covering note for initiating the reading of the Word of God for the whole society. On this special birthday I sat with him to gather and pass on the wisdom that has guided him all through his life. So I asked him what could be some of the sustaining elements of missionary life.

An important sustaining element of missionary life according to Fr. Tom is making time: “No activity can be carried out without making time for it”. Citing the example of Jesus he said that Our Lord offered himself in time. Hence evaluating one's timetable now and then is very important. Carrying forward the thread of conversation this came next. Fr. Tom pointed out that a missionary's concept of salvation should be clear. It can help us to prevent destroying one's self: “In so many ways we are seeing this ongoing mysterious reality before us”. As missionaries we want to save many souls, but in the process we forget to keep in mind that we need to save our own selves too.

Fr. Tom was highly edified to once see a bishop sitting under a tree and just being in the presence of God. That was when he was a young missionary in Indonesia. So for us to sustain our enthusiasm in this way of life, being in the company of the Divine is always extremely important. He also acknowledged that the prayerful atmosphere of his family back in Ireland instilled in him a sense of prayer.

Returning to the theme of time, he said that it is a huge gift given to us. In the evening of his life, time does not hang heavy at all. He is fully busy with the Word of God. In passing he mentioned that he has read the Bible from cover to cover 130 times already and still keeps going. He is devouring the Word as the Prophet Jeremiah has said. Being nurtured by the Word of God, he is an example of a devout Divine Word Missionary in its true sense.

Fr. Anthony Poruthur

KUKURANTUMI (GHA):

A project providing training and harnessing talents

St. Paul SVD project is sponsored by Arthur Waser Trust in Switzerland. It is aimed at assisting in youth training and development in courses being offered at St. Paul Technical School in Kukurantumi, in the Koforidua District. Bro. Peter Edze, upon the recommendation of some confreres, explored different avenues to improve the institution intending to upgrade it to a university level. The project started with an ICT center. This was given a priority because ICT is such an important area of

development. The Trust provided over 100 computers connected to the internet for students' research work and learning. The facility is not limited to students of St. Paul but also open to young people from Kukurantumi schools and their teachers who use the facility for computing tutorials as well.

Another area of the project is the 'Bicycle Project'. It is aimed at training students to make bicycle repairs since in the majority of the rural areas, where many of the young people come from, people use bicycles and the repairing skill can open job opportunities for them.. Different types of used and broken bicycles are provided by the Trust for

the students to service and reassemble. They are then given to some village community members.

As part of the project, the School Carpentry Shop has been equipped with modern equipment and tools for students to use. The Electrical Department has also been upgraded with modern equipment capable of re-wiring motor coils, generator motors and others, the first of its kind in the school. Also the Building and Concreting Department (B&C) has modern equipment which is able to test the moisture/water content in a cement block.

With the generosity of the sponsors of the project and with the willingness of the youth to learn and put new skills into practice, there will be many benefits for young generations of the present and future.

GHA Newsletter

SOWETO (KEN):



Fr. Trande and Fr. Ribeiro dos Santos with parishioners during the cutting of the anniversary cake.

With gratitude, we celebrate

The SVD run parish of Saints Joachim and Anne in Soweto, under the leadership of its parish priest, Fr. Jose Eudes Ribeiro dos Santos, celebrated its parish feast on July 27, 2014. Present among the SVD confreres were Fr. Albert Fuchs, the new Provincial of KEN, and a diocesan priest, Fr. Franz Josef Trande, from St. Polten diocese, Austria. Fr. Trande's presence was a welcome sight for the parishioners as they recognized his support to the parish, especially in the ongoing construction of the new church.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided by the parish priest with numerous SVDs concelebrating. Parishioners in attendance also included members of many indigenous

ethnic tribes. The Mass and the cultural celebration that followed were a common expression of gratitude to God and to all those who have helped Sts. Joachim and Anne realize so much progress in faith, as well as socially and economically, despite all the financial odds against them. Ethnic tribes provided entertainment in Swahili, Luo, Kikuyu, Kisii, Luhya, among others.

Sts. Joachim and Anne Parish was declared as a parish by His Grace Archbishop Raphael Dingi Mwanan'zeki in the year 2004. It is situated in the Soweto Slums, Embakasi Division. There are many activities going on in this parish including administration of a primary school.

Fr. Alex Omondi Owino

Tales from St. Paul Technical School in Ghana

American born priest John Harpel founded St. Paul's Technical School in a large, sheet-metal shed, with 25 students. Curriculum included English, mathematics, carpentry, masonry, auto mechanics and electrical training.

The bishop then had him scout out a permanent location for building a new school. Ever the pragmatist, Father Harpel chose a site near an established British agricultural station because it had electricity and piped water—essential commodities for his new school. Father Harpel drew up the architectural plan. And as was local custom, the local tribal chief sealed the land acquisition deal with his thumbprint and work began.



St. Paul's enrollment would swell to 400 by the time Father Harpel moved to Kaneshie, Ghana, to become pastor of St. Theresa in 1971.

USC Website



ASIA-PACIFIC ZONE

TACLOBAN CITY (PHS):

In the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, support continues



On August 4, 2014 monsoon rains caused flooding in some provinces in central Philippines including the greater Manila area. This was caused by the offshore storm Halong, packing sustained winds of 165 kilometers per hour. Unfortunately, government forecasters will continue to announce more disturbances during this typhoon season in the Philippines. Filipinos are no strangers to weather upsets. A German newspaper article from Deutsche Welle labeled the Philippines as a “country prone to natural disasters.”

The Philippines is in fact the country most exposed to tropical storms in the world. Violent tropical storms, such as the Haiyan typhoon, can generate 10 times as much energy as the Hiroshima atomic bomb. But however strong the typhoon or how great the havoc it brings, this nation and the rest of the world do not tire in extending help and support to the victims.

Recently, Fr. Tony Salas, the coordinator and director of the team that oversees the projects and programs for the victims and survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, reports that most of the concrete activities for the typhoon survivors in the target areas are done and organized by JPIC.

Housing:

We have reached 3,281 survivors’ families in more than 20 barangays, in seven municipalities of Leyte for our temporary shelter project. This Leyte housing project is mainly supported through funds from different organizations and generous donors. Construction materials are still being shipped from Mindanao. These include galvanized iron, plain galvanized iron, bamboo slits, nails, etc. The housing in North Cebu will reach around 500 semi-permanent and permanent houses.

Medical mission:

A medical mission with doctors coming from Cebu served around 1,500 patients.

Education:

School supplies and schools bags were distributed to around 3,000 children both in Leyte and North Cebu. In time for the school openings (June 2), two 3-classroom buildings and 1 newly constructed 3-classroom building in Sta. Fe and Bantayan were turned over. We are the first NGO in the entire municipality of Sta. Fe to have turned over repaired and newly constructed school buildings in time for the school opening. There are still thousands of classrooms that need to be repaired both in Leyte and Cebu.

Livelihood

We have distributed gardening tools to 1,400 families. We also provided them with seeds. We also dispersed piglets and feed, and offered small capital grants for micro businesses. We provided the capital and support for those who have the experience of doing business, or to recapitalize for their destroyed micro businesses.

Psycho social intervention

A number of SVD priests, Brothers and seminarians spent two weeks in the affected areas. Monitored by JPIC from May 2- 17, they organized activities for children, youth and adults.

Relief fund

Instead of giving food packages, we are implementing cash-for-work opportunities for the survivors. A survivor in a family will work for three days either in his/her own garden or repairing community infrastructure such as school buildings, chapels, etc. They will get a daily stipend of 250 pesos (6 dollars). The amount they get is about equal to the cost for the goods we provided during the immediate post disaster period.

A video presentation will give life to all these notable activities. It will soon be posted on our websites: svdcuria.org and witnessingtotheword.com

TUBA, BALI (IDJ)

Inauguration and blessing of new building



The newly restored building of Soverdi School at Tuban, Kuta, Bali was inaugurated with a Thanksgiving Mass presided by Fr. Provincial Joseph Jaga Dawan. In attendance were the members of the Provincial Council, confreres from the District of Bali, local government officials and indigenous leaders of Tuba. In his homily Fr.

Jaga reminded the school staff and supporters of the school that in the spirit and charism of the Society of the Divine Word education is imparted to the students with compassion and love.

After the Mass the newly restored building was blessed. The restoration, which took about a year, includes separate floors for the kindergarten and junior high school students. A special parking area for motorcycles was also considered. To the delight of the participants, most especially the excited students, the ribbon was cut by the Provincial and an official signing was done. A gathering followed with performances rendered by the kindergarten, elementary, junior and high school students of SOVERDI.

The Soverdi School Tuban Bali is multicultural and not all students are Catholics. In fact the majority of students (approximately 40%) are Hindus, the rest are Moslems, Protestants, Buddhists and Catholics. Three full time SVD missionaries (a priest and two Brothers) work in the school.

Fr. Pungki Setiawan

INDORE (INC):

Human resource development

Jan Vikas Society, a Center for Human Resource Development in Indore, run by the Divine Word Missionaries shares their recent programs and activities:

***Awareness Program on Tuberculosis (TB)

Almost 40 percent of the population in India is infected with the TB pathogen. With 1,000 Indians dying every day of TB, and with the highest number of TB patients in the world, India is undoubtedly the crucial battleground for TB control. An awareness program was organized in Jan Vikas Kendra in association with the "Collaboration for Elimination of TB from India" team on June 23, 2014. Women representatives from the Cooperative Society, Self Help Group, animators and youth participated in the program.

***Skill Development Training

A one day follow up training program on skill development was organized at Jan Vikas Kendra on June 24, 2014 for the women and young girls. The participants were trained to make creative and decorative articles. Jan Vikas runs various skill development programs like Tailoring, Welding and Fabrication, Carpentry, Spoken English, Basic Computer, Driving and Dance throughout the year for the less privileged.

***Medical Camp

A Medical Camp was organized at Jan Vikas Kendra on June 26, 2014. The medical camp was organized in collaboration with Index Medical College and Research

Center, Indore. Twelve young but experienced doctors from Index Hospital were present for the camp. People from the neighboring slums, mostly rag pickers and domestic workers, benefited from this medical camp. Medicines were given free of cost after diagnosis. Concessions will be provided for beneficiaries for further treatment at the hospital.

INC Newsletter

LACUB (PHN):

Youth Leadership Summit

Thirty youth leaders from Lacub, an upland town in Abra, joined the Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) with the theme “Learn Today, Leaders for Tomorrow” at Brgy Poblacion here last July 19-21. The YLS is one of the special projects of the Philippine Army that is an integral component of the Internal Peace and Security Program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The YLS in Lacub was the 15th batch of the YLS in Abra conducted by the 41st Infantry Battalion and the first in the upland communities which are most vulnerable and exposed to lawless elements. The three-day live-in youth summit was specifically designed to promote a positive and healthy self-image, critical thinking, love of country, social responsibility and the spirit of volunteerism among the youth. Fr. Simon Petrus Koton, a Divine Word Missionary in Lacub parish, imparted important insights to the youth and encouraged them to continue developing their joyful presence, transformative service, and creative mission.

news.pia.gov.ph

BRISBANE (AUS)

Living mission in multicultural St. Maximilian Kolbe parish

The SVD commitment to walking with the poor and the marginalized is lived out in Australian suburbia, as well as overseas missions. Fr. Sunil Nagothu and Fr. Adrian Jenani are experiencing both the joys and challenges of parish life in the Logan area of southern Brisbane. Fr. Sunil is currently the parish priest of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Kingston/Marsden and Fr. Adrian is the assistant priest.

Logan is a very poor area, with a reputation of being a challenging and difficult place for people to live. There are a lot of refugees in the area, mainly from African countries such as South Sudan, Nigeria and Burundi. People of low income are attracted to the area because it has cheaper homes and cheaper land and the government also directs people here for those same reasons. So there are social challenges. Fr Sunil says the parishioners are

predominantly of Pacific Island heritage, with a large representation from Samoa, as well as others from places like Fiji, Tonga and the Solomon Islands. Other cultural groups are also part of the parish community. This multicultural mix has its strengths and challenges.

Fr. Sunil and Fr. Adrian have also been busy working with the youth group, which now numbers about 40 young people. Steps are also being taken to strengthen the relationship between the parish and the local Catholic school, St. Francis College. A big focus is also visiting the sick at Logan Hospital and building up the parish's Care and Concern Group, which offers pastoral care and support to parishioners in need. Part of that outreach is a Healing Mass once a month, followed by a free lunch in the parish hall.

The parish will celebrate its 35th anniversary next year and will soon have a new office, parish space and renovated presbytery, with construction currently underway. Fr. Sunil says: “I’m looking forward to introducing more aspects of developing spirituality and growing as a community in coming years.”

AUS Website

The “boys” of Madang with Fr. General



Father General Heinz Kulueke on a visit to Madang last July 21. Here he is with the Confreres from the Madang District. In a later issue of the *Arnoldus Nota* we will post Father General's impressions and reflections on this important visit.

Bishop Isau Kikuchi

A nuclear issue to be reckoned with

If we continue to maintain the current lifestyle, with very high energy consumption, the promotion of alternative energy sources seems to me quite hypocritical."

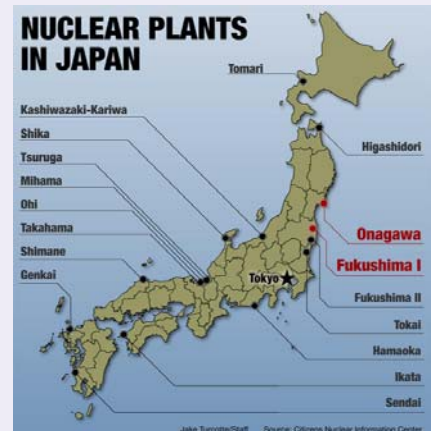
On June 6, 2014, commencing at 10:30 a.m. (local time), Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan had an audience with Pope Francis for approximately 30 minutes. On the eve of the encounter, Bishop Isau Kikuchi was interviewed by the Vatican Insider. Bishop Kikuchi touches upon a very sensitive point and denounces the risk of a purely ideological approach to the nuclear issue. His words follow here:

We are asking Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to abandon the way of nuclear energy. But in order to really choose an alternative route to renewable energy our people must be ready to change their lifestyle. Otherwise it is just hypocrisy. A year and a half after his rise to power, Prime Minister Abe has clarified the vague promise of "rethinking the national energy policy in the post-Fukushima era".

In the new Basic Energy Plan, presented in February 2014, nuclear power is defined as "an important source of electricity" also for the long term, and the reactivation of a dozen of the 50 nuclear reactors, still shut down for upcoming renovations, is planned. Already in November 2011 the Japanese bishops officially asked for "the immediate abolishment of all the [nuclear] power plants in Japan" and to "invest in alternative energy sources". Today, faced with the blatant reversal and the nuclear choice of the Abe government, they confirm their position, without hiding their perplexity and dissent.

The Christian Bishops and the leaders of other religious communities expressed strong support in the choice of alternative energy sources to protect humans and the environment. Promoting renewable energy sources is the only choice we have and it is the only responsible path to follow for the good of new generations in Japan. Furthermore, "this idea" must go hand in hand with the reform of our lifestyle in order to not remain a mere declaration of principle. "If we continue to maintain the current lifestyle, with very high energy consumption, the promotion of alternative energy sources seems to me quite hypocritical. Each person must be truly willing to give up something for the common good of humans, their children and of all of God's creatures".

Read more at: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/japanese-bishop-warns-govern>



INE

General Mission Secretary for Mission Animation:

The General Mission Secretary, Fr. Lazar Thanuzraj Stanislaus, will visit INE province for Mission Animation and meet the confreres in their respective districts in September, 2014. He will be meeting our confreres

of Bhubaneshwar district, Rourkela district, Sundargarh district and Sambalpur district respectively.

The meeting will be held for one full day. The general agenda for the District Mission Animation includes among others hearing the vision mission statement of a parish, the pastoral plan in a parish, success stories and problems in the parish life,

mission awareness among people, and how to promote this awareness.

INE Newsletter



EUROPEAN ZONE

General Visitation The Province of Hungary



The province of Hungary includes Serbia where our Bishop Ladislav Nemet resides.

In response to the directives of the XVII General Chapter, the province has chosen primary evangelization along with family and youth as its priorities.

The province has a few but vibrant ministries, such as formation, retreats, ministry to the gypsies (Roma people), etc. The province has a plan to accept a parish soon and to construct a youth center. Ministry among the laity and the animation and contact with benefactors is done responsibly and

systematically by the mission office. The National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies is our confrere Sebastian Madassery. His role makes our presence more visible in the country.

Mission among the Roma people is a perfect example of a “putting the last first” initiative in the province. HUN is the first province in the European Zone to have a well-organized ministry among these marginalized people. Besides other things, our main challenge in this mission is to give a sense of human dignity and respect to the Roma people. Education is one of the factors that can bring big changes.

With a good number of confreres in the province coming from other countries, our older SVD Hungarian confreres have given importance to accepting and accommodating them. They have been accorded respect and were given responsibilities and privileges side by side with their Hungarian counterparts.

Challenges/Opportunities

- The local confreres are getting older and there are very few vocations.
- Financial stability and growth
- Making full use of the house and property at Koszeg
- Motivating and preparing younger confreres for ministry among the Roma people
- Organizing our own programs in the retreat centers in Budapest and Koszeg

Fr. Gregory Pinto

ST. GABRIEL (OES):

Pentecost Sunday for the youth

80 young people from all over Austria, Germany, Indonesia, Ghana, Togo, Ukraine and Russia gathered at St. Gabriel Mission House to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. This international encounter included students from Munich, Steyl and major seminarians from St. Augustin.

Beyond the opportunity to meet each other, to maintain friendships and socialize, the gathering also included a time for workshops like music composition, meditation in non-violent communication, as well as juggling with balls and

words. The different activities led to the solemn Mass on Pentecost Sunday and the mission ending ceremony on Monday. In this ceremony “volunteer missionaries on temporary service” were once again sent out. This year, also, a young Divine Word seminarian from India, who is doing a practicum in Vienna, renewed his vows.

www.steyler-eu

General Visitation The Italian Province

The Italian province also includes the countries of Romania and Moldova. In addition, the province recently decided to extend its mission to Albania.

In response to the directives of the XVII General Chapter, the province has chosen primary evangelization, family and youth, and migrants as their priorities. These are the best examples of “Putting the last first.”

Italy was one of those countries that used to send good number of SVD missionaries to the world-wide mission. Today although that number has come down because of the lack of vocations in the country, the province still generously helps the world-wide mission financially.

Our presence in Italy is limited to the Northern part with only four communities: Bolzano, Oies, Varone and Vicenza. Each community has its unique ministry. Oies, the birth place of Saint Freinademetz is the treasure of the Society and the province. It calls for greater attention on the part of the province and the Generalate. In Vicenza we are known for migrant and prison ministry. In Bolzano and Varone, besides other ministries, we are also involved in parish ministry.

The Catholic population of Romania is 8.49%. There is a strong presence of the Romanian Orthodox. Romas or Gypsies are the ethnic minority community, spread throughout the country. Presently it is the only country in the Italian province that provides some vocations for our Society. As far as the ministry is concerned, we have a formation house and we collaborate with the diocesan clergy in Centro Gaudium et Spes, Traian. Taking up a parish in Romania would give the new missionaries and *formandi* pastoral experience while being assisted by our own confreres.

Moldova was formerly part of Russia. Since it has approximately a 78% Romanian speaking population, it feels culturally close to Romania. The majority of the people belong to the Russian Orthodox Church, while the Catholics are only 0.56%. Our two parishes here have a lot of scope for primary evangelization and social development.

I was delighted to meet lay groups in Romania and Varone and learn of their collaboration and cooperation in our mission.

Challenges and Opportunities:

There is a growing number of elderly local confreres in Italy.

No vocations in Italy for our Society in recent times and fewer vocations in Romania.

Ministry among a growing number of migrants and refugees.

Making the Freinademetz center at Oies more vibrant.



Fr. Gregory Pinto

OES

St. Gabriel Mission House in the process of transformation and reorganization

The reconstruction of the front wing of the Mission House of St. Gabriel's Seminary, where the SVD community will reside, is nearing its completion. On the 25th of October, on the occasion of the celebration of 125

years of the second house founded by Saint Arnold Janssen, this wing will be inaugurated. In 2015 the next step of reconstruction will follow. An event center with aula magna, conference rooms and a guest-house will be put up. Furthermore, office rooms for rent occupy part of the main building. This will be a source of income.

The new concept of “Lebenswelten St. Gabriel”

(interacting spheres of living in St. Gabriel) is being developed. Our SVD community maintains contact with a refugee-house run by the Caritas of Vienna. A Protestant Montessori-School and Kindergarten are located near a job-training project for handicapped young people. The SVD-Youth-project "Weltdorf" is sharing rooms with the Catholic Youth Organization of the diocese. A number of volunteers are also helping the mission

procure "St. Gabriel International" in its efforts to support the worldwide mission of the SVD. With this transformation and reorganization of the old Missionshaus St. Gabriel, the Austrian Province hopes to update the vision of Saint Arnold. On the day of the foundation of St. Gabriel he wished that the mission house should glorify God, serve the Mission of the Church and be a blessing for the surrounding region.

OES Website, June 2014

Retracing the Arnoldus Family History 100 years of the SSpSaP Mother House in Steyl

August 26, 1914 is an important landmark in the Arnoldus Family history and can be dubbed as "the independence day" of the Adoration Sisters (Pink Sisters), the third branch of Arnold Janssen's Trinitarian Community. On that day, the cloistered Sisters moved to their own building after sharing their life under the same roof with the mission Sisters (SSpS) since the foundation in 1896. The Adoration Sisters occupied a separate wing called the Holy Spirit Convent, in the newly built Motherhouse of the mission Sisters. After ten years of living under the same roof with the mission Sisters it appeared increasingly urgent to have an independent Pink Sisters' house due to the growing number of Sisters and their specific character (e.g. the need to have their own retreats). At the Founder's death, the number of Sisters, along with candidates, reached forty (three postulants, five novices, 28 professed and a few aspirants). It was becoming impossible to accommodate more Sisters in the only wing of the Sacred Heart Convent; it was also self-evident that the ever growing missionary branch urgently needed the wing.

In August 1910, both Sisters' congregations became independent financially from St. Michael Mission House. The Superior General, Fr. Blume, notified the cloistered Sisters on March 21, 1911 that they would have to seek their own house. After a long look, a suitable place for the convent was found on the banks of the River Maas in the vicinity of the mission seminary and of the Motherhouse of the mission Sisters. Despite difficulties, the Sisters were confident: If it is the will of God then we will get it anyway, if not, He will find another suitable place for us. The search for a suitable building site took the guiding principle of not being too near to the mission house so as to secure their internal independence, but also not too far away in order to secure the pastoral service of the SVD Fathers.



Finally on August 26, 1914 the long awaited day arrived when the newly consecrated bishop of Togo, Franz Wolf, inaugurated the Motherhouse of the Adoration Sisters. The ceremony was very modest as the Sisters walked in procession past the tomb of their

venerated Founder to take possession of their own house. The peaceful stillness was only interrupted by the occasional roar of cannons in the first weeks of World War I (since July 28, 1914). Looking at the façade of the Motherhouse, one could see over the main entrance a large stone-carved medallion of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and encircled by the words: In the shadow of your wings we dwell. This symbolizes

the loving veneration offered to the Spirit of Love by the cloistered Sisters.

Fr. Hermann Fischer conveyed the atmosphere of the Sisters entering the new building (26.8.1914) as follows: They "were pleasantly surprised by the lovely, bright corridors which made a real monastic impression with their Gothic arches and stained glass windows. They were also delighted by the roomy community rooms bathed in light and the friendly private cells on the upper floor of the house. Everything was monastically simple - the walls were only whitewashed - but sunlight and fresh air were generously provided. What was particularly welcome was the spacious roofed balcony facing the Maas on the second floor which the Sisters could use on rainy days for doing such things as needlework, etc."¹

¹H. Fischer, Mutter Maria Michaela: Adolfine Tönnies, Mitgründerin und 1. Generaloberin der Steyler Anbetungsschwestern: Ein Lebensbild, Steyl 1938, p: 70.

Fr. Andrzej Miotk
Historian-Generalate



PAN-AMERICAN ZONE

Father General Heinz Kulueke on a visit to ECU

February 28-March 12, 2014

Over a twelve day period, Father Superior General Heinz Kulueke visited Ecuador, an SVD province blessed with enthusiastic young confreres. He visited several places where our confreres work, met with them in their respective districts and listened to their interests and concerns in their respective apostolates. Father Heinz, at the end of the visit, had this to say: “Are our young confreres sufficiently prepared for mission? During various encounters in all five districts I asked our young confreres this question and their answers are very similar: The academic formation in the seminaries is good but more practical exposure would be needed in the seminaries. There is a need for an introduction to new and creative programs that can help missionaries as they work with the poor in their daily struggle for survival.”

As he made his roundabout visits to the Districts of Quito, Esmeraldas, Cuenca, Babahoyo and Guayaquil, he met with the confreres, parish councils, lay leaders, collaborators, indigenous groups, youth, etc. There is a huge variety of people within the parishes. Confreres are serving descendants of Africans, indigenous groups, mestizos etc.

Father General shares his impressions and reflections.

*The confreres of the province strongly feel the need to continue their work in Ecuador. Among the reasons given are the significance and importance of their witness towards an international/intercultural church; the contribution to the formation of the laity, particularly through bible seminars; and their work and contact with the people. Several dioceses are asking the SVDs to take over new missions. SVDs are known for being bible experts and for starting difficult missions.

**ECU is known for its Bible Apostolate. There is a bible center in Quito where bible courses are regularly offered every year. Our confreres offer these seminars. There is also a biblical center in Machala. Most of the confreres, however, are involved in parish work.



***A big challenge for the province is to continue the work with lay people. Our confreres will need further training to help in the education and formation of lay people. During meetings with lay people Fr. Heinz

was told several times: “As lay people we would like to understand the bible. The dioceses and many parishes do not have programs. We are grateful to the SVDs”. A greater participation of the laity in the liturgy is needed. The families need help and direction to live their faith together. Programs are needed for children, the youth and couples.

****Father General recognizes that the province in the past has been too generous to bishops and their dioceses. Many churches and whole dioceses were built up with funds organized by SVD confreres. Some bishops are grateful for that. Others easily have forgotten and are hesitant to support the SVDs. Ultimately it is not the diocese or even the Church that will take care of our senior and sick confreres. This responsibility belongs to the congregation itself. The congregation will have to prepare for this. This requires a change of policy and fair contracts with the respective dioceses in which we are working.

*****The province is very well organized with a good provincial and leadership team. According to the council, among the big challenges are vocation animation, initial formation and ongoing formation. There is a need to employ the four characteristic dimensions

which also requires a revision of the infrastructure of the province. There is also the challenge towards a financial solidarity with the PANAM Zone, implementation of the prioritized congregational directions and the care for senior confreres.

The Superior General left the province of ECU with lasting impressions and an important question that continues to ring: "Are our young confreres sufficiently prepared for the mission?" That same question applies to the whole Society and most especially to our houses of formation.

In the next issue of *Arnoldus Nota* we will feature the visit of Father General to the province of COL.

ARS/ARE

125 years of SVD presence in Argentina

This year marks the 125th year anniversary of the arrival of the Divine Word Missionaries in Argentina (1889-2014). After China, the founder set his gaze and heart on this mission, and the 125 years since its beginning continue to tick forward.

The first SVD missionaries, Fr. Heinrich Becher and German Locken, arrived in Buenos Aires on October 23, 1889. Bishop Aneiros, who met with the newly arrived missionaries, insisted on fulfilling the mission of pastoral care for the German immigrants in Argentina. These were times of popular missions, to identify and serve these family groups living in colonies. Fr. Germán Locken went from Santa Fe colonies to Esperanza and then to Crespo in Entre Rios, Sauce, and then to the colonies San Jose, Santa Maria and Holy Trinity in Coronel Suárez, province of Buenos Aires.

The Society of the Divine Word in Argentina invites all of us to participate in this season of remembrance, thanksgiving, celebration and renewal. We join them as the two provinces of ARS and ARE assess and evaluate the founding times and the founding generations and as they continue to move forwards towards consolidation and maturity in mission. These 125 years hold grace-filled moments for our confreres and inspire them to open themselves to new times that shape and develop new mission trends and mission landscapes.

Adapted from the article of Fr. Reinaldo Zburn

CANELA (CHI):

Young evangelizers

Between July 14 and July 18, 2014, 97 students of Colegio del Verbo Divino-Las Condes (CVD) participated

in a winter mission camp in the vicinity of Huentelauquén and Canela, Region IV of the northern part of Chile. Accompanying the students are the Pastoral Team of CVD, SVD confreres and seminarians. The students from different levels were divided into ten working communities. During their visits they organized liturgies, prayed novenas, visited the sick and organized a Marian procession on the Feast of Our Lady of Carmel, a very popular devotion in Chile, especially the northern part.

A final Mass, presided by Fr. Armand Schnydrig, Rector of CVD, brought the mission camp to its conclusion wherein everyone, the young evangelizers, the people they met and served, as well as the SVD confreres and pastoral staff, expressed their joy in the experiences.

CVD Website

BOGOTA (COL):

International Book Fair

The Divine Word Publisher's Foundation participated in the Book Fair held in Bogotá between 29 April and 12 May. The fair provided a platform for our Spanish Publishing Houses to create new contacts and maintain good business relations with their clients, who are normally around for the international book fair. The International Book Fair of Bogota is an event to promote reading and the most important publishing industry Colombia has one of the most important international bookfairs in Latin America. Every year, writers, books and readers become the participants and beneficiaries of this important book fair.

The conglomeration of the different SVD publishing houses is taking on new ways to coordinate and administer more effectively their business and working relations. Fr. Albert Klein has been named to coordinate the group.

COL Newsletter

TECHNY (USC):

Relatives: "Let the children come to us"

Brother Jim Zabransky, USC Justice and Peace Coordinator participated in a prayer vigil with our confrere Vince Ohlinger at a Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. After the prayer vigil, done in Spanish and English, they joined a group to address the crisis of thousands of children from Central America and Mexico crossing into the United States. The bill HR 1936 was introduced in Congress which will provide counsel for unaccompanied alien children and help them be united with relatives in the United States.

The international organization World Vision prays for

the children who arrive at the borders alone that: they be adequately cared for and protected while in the U.S; that gridlock can be overcome to help unaccompanied children; that government, churches and aid organizations will find ways to better serve children.

Bro. James Zabransky

TECHNY (USC):

Write a story for Divine Word Missionaries Magazine!



The summer issue of Divine Word Missionaries Magazine published an interesting story of Fr. Max Abalos' parish ministry in the Philippines. He goes to cemeteries not only to do funeral services or bury the dead but to visit his parishioners who squat on this holy ground.

Fr. Abalos' story has touched the thousands of readers of Divine Word Missionaries Magazine. Your mission story can also bring to light our mission endeavors for peoples from all walks of life. And they make a difference. Share by sending your articles to director@svdmissions.org

Your stories (500-700 words) are published to raise awareness of Divine Word Missionaries. The stories are not intended as a means to raise funds for projects. To view previous issues of Divine Word Missionaries Magazine go to: www.svdmissions.org

Echoes of Church Movements and Commitments

***About 350 pastoral workers in Latin America and the Caribbean enrolled in the First Latin American Congress of agents of pastoral care of families which took place from August 4 to 9 in Panama City. The slogan of the event is "My family and I serve the Lord". The event was organized by the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM) and the Archdiocese of Panama to reflect on the family as a source of social wealth and

how to promote its mission. (Agenzia Fides 04/08/2014)

***More than 130 delegates, including Bishops, priests, religious women and lay people, all engaged in pastoral work with migrants, refugees and displaced persons, the apostolate of the Sea, and tourism, participated in the First Congress of Human Mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean held from May 12 to 16 in Panama. The final document, sent to Fides Agency, summarizes what participants have warned about "the true Way of the Cross, of which many people in the movement and pastoral workers have been witnesses and victims of aggression, separation from family groups, abuse, persecution and torture, often paying with threats to their families, with blood and life itself". (Agenzia Fides 22/05/2014, 30/04/2014)

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Lifted canonical censure of a revolutionary priest

Pope Francis has reinstated Father Miguel D'Escoto 29 years after he was suspended from priestly duties for his involvement in Nicaragua's revolutionary government in the 1970s. The 81-year-old priest sent a request to the Vatican asking for permission to resume his priesthood, reportedly writing that he wanted the chance to celebrate Mass again "before dying." Cardinal Fernando Filoni, prefect for the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, signed the letter lifting D'Escoto's suspension.

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, an American Catholic missionary organization of which D'Escoto was a member, sent a press release and quoted the Vatican's letter as saying: "The Holy Father has given his benevolent assent that Father Miguel D'Escoto be absolved from the canonical censure inflicted upon him, and entrusts him to the superior general of the institute (Maryknoll) for the purpose of accompanying him in the process of reintegration into the ministerial priesthood."

D'Escoto had reached considerable stature in the church before becoming involved in Nicaraguan politics, which ran counter to the church ban on clergy holding government positions and led to his suspension by Pope John Paul II in 1985. D'Escoto served as the Republic of Nicaragua's Minister for Foreign Affairs for more than a decade and currently acts as Senior Adviser on Foreign Affairs to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. He is still a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), a political movement rooted in Marxist philosophy and which once had ties to the Soviet Communist party.

UCANews



OUR DEPARTED

SVD	Prov./Reg.	Date of Death		Milestone Dates			
Bro. Herbert <Vinzenz> Reiter	GER	04.08.2014	27	50	52	59	**
Bro. Josef <Pirminus> Haag	CNG	21.07.2014	38	58	60	66	**
Fr. John Regalado	PHC	15.07.2014	60	79	81	87	87

SSpS	Prov./Reg.	Died on	Age	Vows
Sr. Adalgaris, Anna Nagl	Germany/Laupheim	29.07.2014	98	75
Sr. Terezvita, Emília Šimová	Slovakia	27.07.2014	91	69
Sr. Lauria, Apolonia Götte	Argentina North	22.07.2014	95	73
Sr. Marivita, Martina Karner	Austria	18.07.2014	84	57
Sr. Irmentrude, Mathilde Rofner	Austria	09.07.2014	87	56
Sr. Fortunelda, Katharina Lorig	Chile	07.07.2014	98	73



OBITUARIES

Bro. Herbert<Vinzenz> Reiter (GER)
04.08.2014; 27-50-52-59-**



Bro. Vinzenz Reiter (baptismal name Herbert) was born on April 7, 1927 in Noswendelroth, Saarland region, diocese of Trier, Germany. He was the son of Johann Reiter, a miner, and his wife Maria, nee Wendels. From 1933 to 1941 he attended primary school in Noswendel after which he began an apprenticeship as a painter. The training was interrupted in March 1944 when he was called, first into the government labor service, and then to military service in Poland. Bro. Vinzenz was taken prisoner but was discharged on July 15, 1945. Afterwards he resumed his training as a painter which he concluded in 1947 with the journeyman's diploma. From June 1948 to November 1949 he worked as painter in a hospital.

In December 1949 Bro. Vinzenz entered the SVD Mission House at St. Wendel as a candidate for the Brotherhood. On September 8, 1950 he started the

novitiate, which he completed on September 8, 1952 by pronouncing the first vows. Bro. Vinzenz worked in the painting workshop of the mission house until 1953. He then trained as a nurse in St. Mary's Hospital in St. Wendel. In 1955 he received a mission assignment for the then Belgian Congo. Initially he did a three month course of languages in Banningville. But there was little demand for the professions of nursing and painting in the young Congo Mission. Bro. Vinzenz was eventually assigned to manage a herd of cows in Banningville, because the herd was threatened by sleeping sickness.

In 1958 Bro. Vinzenz returned to St. Wendel to prepare for perpetual vows, which he pronounced on September 8, 1959. Before returning to the Congo he attended a French language course in Grenoble. Back in Congo, from 1961 on, he was the "good soul" in the central house in Bandundu. He put into practice his painting and nursing skills. Bro. Vinzenz became an important "port of call" for all missionaries, some even coming from 120 kilometers away.

In 1972 and thereafter domestic political events brought many changes: nationalization of businesses, prohibition

of meetings, etc. Within the SVD there were currents that favored this development which was at times summarized in the phrase “make yourself superfluous”. In this situation, Bro. Vinzenz decided to return to the South German Province. His already poor health contributed to this step. He had helped to shape the significant years of building the young SVD region of Congo-Zaire and the diocese of Kenge

Back in Germany he was initially assigned to the Mission House in St. Wendel, then for a short time to the Mission House of St. Bernard in Mosbach before leaving the community - with due permission - to take care of his ailing father. After the death of his father, Bro. Vinzenz was temporarily sent to the Collegio San Pietro in Rome to help out as an infirmarian for the students. In 1979 he was officially transferred to Rome. Bro. Vinzenz remained in this work, which he did very willingly, until he was recalled to St. Wendel in April 1994 to serve as a driver for the large number of elderly and sick confreres. He did this task with much enthusiasm, always ready to accompany confreres to doctors or visit them in the hospital.

Shortly before the opening of the Wendelinus Home in 2008, Bro. Vinzenz gave up this work. A little later he fell ill himself from dementia. The disease progressed year after year and eventually Bro. Vinzenz himself needed help. About two weeks before his death it seemed as if he himself noticed that now the burden of age was so great that he was no longer able to carry it. From then on he refused any food. Quietly and serenely he waited for “brother death”. In the morning of August 4, the Lord called him. After the funeral mass in the church of the mission house on August 7 he was buried in the local SVD cemetery.

Bro. Josef <Pirminus>Haag (CNG) **21.07.2014; 38-50-60-66-****



Brother Pirmin was born on September 28, 1938 at Bebelnheim, Diocese of Speyer, Germany. On January 2, 1958, he entered the mission house St. Wendel as a postulant to become a missionary. After his novitiate (September 8, 1958 to September 8, 1960), he made his first vows and six years later, the perpetual vows. His first mission assignment was Congo. He was assigned to Kalonda and then Kenge, where he ran a small garage. But his first job was to build a bridge over the river, Konzi, together with Fr. Ekkelboom SVD, the originator of the famous “Ekkelboom Road” between Kenge and Kalonda.

Bro Pirmin was happy, if the confreres called him to their mission stations to repair their machines that had broken down. These repair trips throughout the Diocese of Kenge became Brother’s favorite occupation. He repaired vehicles, engines, generators, pumps, water tanks and all sorts of other machinery. In 1970, Brother Pirmin was once again assigned to Kalonda, where took care of the garage but especially prepared the spare parts for his tours in the “bush”.

In 1978, a new era began in the life of Bro. Pirmin. The Diocese of Kenge had given up its minor seminary Kalonda to be turned into the regional philosophy seminary for five dioceses of the province of Bandundu. The SVD also gave up its part and had to look for another place. Bro. Pirmin traveled the region to find a suitable location. His idea was to find a way to install a turbine to generate our own power. Near the village of Ngondi he found a place that was not quite perfect, but still gave the possibility of producing the needed quantity of current. Although he was not a qualified electrician, Bro. Pirmin got down studying this project and making it a reality. He completed it on November 29, 1984. This facility had paid for itself after 10 years and now will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year.

Together with Bro. Baptist, Bro. Pirmin had built the large mechanic shop (garage), where he worked for almost 35 years. Already on September 8, 1981 the community in Ngondi had entered the modest house they had built. Bro. Pirmin chose the smallest room for himself. Even when other larger and more comfortable rooms were available, he refused to leave “his” room, where he remained until his death and in which he also died.

When the SVD accepted a new mission in the Diocese of Kole in 1982, Bro. Pirmin went there each year, first to help the confreres to get properly settled in Dekese but later also to do troubleshooting of machineries for the confreres and the sisters. Each time, the trip alone lasted at least six days with all the unforeseeable mishaps on the road and especially the whims of the soldiers and their tanks. At Ngondi itself, Bro. Pirmin helped many people. All drivers who plied the Kinshasa - Kikwit route knew Ngondi where they were sure to find a solution for their breakdowns and technical problems. He helped the local parish priests and other religious congregations. He helped the population, if only to make wheelbarrows, weld their pots, repairing flat irons, their hoes, even to make cradles. He gave special attention to the many students who came to him for their good training. Bro. Pirmin recently contributed to the construction of the St Joseph school complex between Ngondi and Masamuna. He built an entire carousel for the children in kindergarten and made a lot of toys.

Bro. Pirmin died in Ngondi on July 21, 2014 at the age of 75 years after a short illness of four days. He died where he spent much of his life, in Ngondi, in his small room. He was buried in the cemetery of Ngondi which he visited every day and where he had, perhaps discreetly, already chosen his place. Bro. Pirmin was a living example that without making long studies, one can achieve great things. With a training of 8 years of primary school, 3 years of apprenticeship as a lathe operator and less than a year of preparation for his master's diploma in this craft, he did wonders, even outside of his field of specialization. He is the type of traditional SVD brother.

Fr. John Regalado (PHC)
15.07.2014; 60-79-81-87-87



Fr. John Regalado was born in Tabaco City in the Bicol province of Albay, Philippines on May 30, 1960. The son of Jesus Regalado, Sr. and Isabel Molo, both Bicolanos, he was the 3rd of 8 siblings, of which six are boys. He entered the seminary in Quezon City in 1977. On June 12, 1979

John began his novitiate and two years later, on June 7, 1981 he professed his first vows. He pronounced his perpetual vows on May 31, 1987 in Tagaytay City. On December 30, 1987 he was ordained a priest.

John's first mission assignment was the Botswana province. In 1989 he was assigned to Zambia and for eleven years in this West African nation he served in various capacities as parish priest, vocation promoter, district superior and provincial councilor. He went back to the Philippines in 1999 after having been diagnosed with "some unlikely ailments" including diabetes, infected liver and high blood pressure. In his home province he took on multiple tasks while receiving appropriate treatment. He spent four years in Divine Word College of Legazpi in Albay, as a campus minister and the director of basic education. In 2003 he was transferred to Christ the King Mission Seminary in Quezon City as the Vocation Director for the province.

From 2008 to 2011 John stayed in the Provincialate Community in Catholic Trade Manila as the Mission Secretary. With his experience in the mission he did mission animation especially to students in Manila and elsewhere. Through his mission stories he opened new horizons to the students who got a glimpse of the universal mission of the church. Later on he was assigned as parish priest of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Lubang, Occidental Mindoro. He was hardly a year in this last assignment

when he fell ill and was taken to Villa Cristo Rey to receive the necessary medical care and treatment. Dogged by health problems since his days as a missionary in Africa, he died at 10:30 p.m. on July 15, 2014, of multiple causes including acute respiratory failure and chronic kidney disease. His interment took place on Monday, July 21, at the common cemetery of the Arnoldus family in the Christ the King Mission Seminary.

John was a fun loving and humorous person. His open minded character and affable personality was his key to enter into the lives of many people. In all the places that he worked

John will be remembered as one who valued life and shared it fully to others.

Bro. Josef <Simon> Sayer (OES)
04.07.2014; 24-50-52-58-**



Josef Sayer was born on 6 March 1924 in Hagensdorf, in the southern Burgenland, diocese of Eisenstadt, Austria. In a missionary magazine he read something on the vocation of the "missionary brother" which motivated him, in 1939, then 15 years old, to go to St. Gabriel as a brother candidate.

However, his stay did not last long. In early May 1941 the Nazis confiscated St. Gabriel. So he returned to his home village to help his mother with the work in the farm because his older brother and his father had been drafted into the army.

A year later he himself was also called to arms. He served in the German force that occupied France. He was taken prisoner of war by the Americans but, in 1946, was able to return to the Burgenland and again work on the family farm. But his vocation was still alive in him: On May 20, 1950, he entered the novitiate at St. Gabriel taking the religious name Bro. Simon. Two years later, he pronounced his first and on September 8, 1958 his perpetual vows. Initially, Bro. Simon worked in the printing press and soon became their main driver delivering their print products in Vienna and throughout Austria. Over forty years, he has faithfully and reliably done this service. On the sideline he also delivered supplies to the vacation home of St. Gabriel in Kaltenleutgeben and looked after the forest belonging to the house.

Bro. Simon was a quiet man. He loyally, conscientiously and modestly carried out his tasks. Even in old age of almost 90 years, he always looked for some useful employment. He spent his whole life as a

missionary in St. Gabriel. Soon after his 90th birthday he experienced severe pain in the shoulder area, the cause of which was never fully diagnosed. It could only be relieved by strong drugs. He became visibly weaker and eventually bedridden. In the early hours of July 4, 2014 the Lord freed him of all pain. Our sisters SSpS and the staff of the nursing home lovingly took care of him, for which he was very grateful. After the funeral service on 11 July 2014 in the Holy Ghost Church of St. Gabriel he was escorted to his final resting place in the mission house cemetery.

Fr. Frantisek Sirovic (SLO) **29.06.2014; 20-40-41-46-46**



Fr. Frantisek Sirovic was born on February 2, 1920 in Zdana, in the eastern part of Slovakia. After completing his studies at secondary school in Kosice and Levoca (1932-1940) he entered the Society of Divine Word in Nitra. His novitiate he passed in the same city, in the house under the Zobor. Then he moved to Vienna for his philosophical studies (1941-1942) and completed them in Nitra (1942/1943). It was the period of the Second World War when he initiated his theological studies at the Theological Institute run by Jesuits in Banska Bystrica (1944/1945), and then – after the war – in Ruzomberok where the Institute has been transferred.

He was ordained priest on September 1, 1946, in Nitra. He was sent to Rome where he graduated at the Gregorian University with a licentiate thesis on the theme “Mystery of the Church according to S. Ambrose”. In June 1948 he began his fruitful missionary engagement, mainly as a teacher of Philosophy, in different countries. In Japan, his first mission assignment, after a short time in pastoral work, he taught in the SVD seminary Latin and Introduction to the Philosophy. In 1953-1957 he went back to Rome to continue his philosophical studies, first with his licentiate in Philosophy (1954) with the thesis “Teaching about emotions according to S. Bonaventura” and then his doctorate (1957) with his dissertation on “Teaching about the will according to S. Bonaventura”. Before returning to Japan he studied a semester of psychology at the Catholic University of America, in Washington D.C. In Japan he taught at Nanzan University in Nagoya Epistemology and Metaphysics.

Because of health reasons he was transferred in the autumn of 1958 in the Philippines where he continued teaching philosophy at Archbishop seminary in Vigan. In 1964-1968 he worked in the Divine Word Seminary in

Tagaytay, beside teaching Epistemology, Metaphysics and History of modern philosophy, he was the director of post gradual studies of Philosophy. After a short break (trimester 1968/1969) he went to Pittsburg University studying Analytical Philosophy. He taught for another two academic years (1969-1972) at Divine Word University in Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines. Then (1973-1982) he was a professor of Philosophy at Divine Word College, in Donamon, Ireland, and finally (1982-1993) he was in the same position at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa, USA.

In 1993, after long years abroad, he returned to Slovakia and accepted – in spite of his advanced age – to teach philosophical disciplines at Theological Institute “Aloisianum” in Bratislava (1993-1996), Theological Institute in Nitra (1994-1996) as well as Theological Faculty of University of Komensky in Bratislava (1996-1998). He was a member of different important committees like a Council for Science at Theological Faculty or the Council of Association for Faith and Science of catholic scholars. He was active in the pastoral care of English speaking faithful of Bratislava. In 1998 he retired and spent his last years in the central SVD house in Nitra – Kalvaria, Slovakia.

Fr. Sirovic was a very diligent scholar, a priest with ample missionary experiences, philosophical outlook, and at the same time a modest man with a particular motto: “Never begin to cease, and never cease to begin”. His abundant priestly, religious and scholar life – with results known also abroad – he gave back into the hands of his Creator in the evening of June 29, 2014, the Feast of St. Peter and Paul, in his blessed age of 94.

Fr. Hendrik Hermus (NEB) **27.06.2014; 21-39-41-45-45**

Adrianus Henricus Hermus, son of Sebastian Hermus and Johanna Stoop, was born on 10 January 1921 in Lage Zwaluwe in the diocese of Breda, Netherlands. He was born on board a ship as his parents worked and lived on a boat. In order to become a missionary he went to the SVD minor seminary St. Willibrord at Uden on September 14, 1933. On September 8, 1939 he began his novitiate at the mission house St. Lambertus in Helvoirt and, a year later, his studies of philosophy. In Helvoirt he also pronounced his first vows on September 8, 1941. In 1942 he began his theological studies at the mission house St. Francis in Teteringen which he continued in Steyl from 1943 onwards because Teteringen had been confiscated by the German occupation army.

On November 26, 1942, his mother and his sister were killed aboard their ship by a machine gun fire from a plane.

On November 27, 1944 Henk and other Fratres were arrested in a raid in Steyl and brought to Wuppertal, Germany. On 21 December, they were released and returned to the Netherlands. Henk stayed with the Perik family in Almelo. On April 22, 1945 he returned to Steyl. In early August 1945, the community of St. Francis Xavier was able to return to Teteringen. There Henk made his final vows on September 8, 1945 and was ordained a priest on September 30, 1945.

On July 20, 1946 Henk received his appointment to the Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia. He was assigned to the minor seminary of Toda Belu (Mataloko) in Flores, where he taught for twelve years. From 1958 to 1960 he was a teacher at a secondary school (SMA) in Ende. He then went into pastoral work: first in Nangahale (1960) and then in Kewapantai (1961). From 1963 to 1967 he was a teacher again, this time in the minor seminary of Hokeng in East Flores. From 1967 to 1969 he was pastor at Bola and from 1969 to 1985 in Halahebing on the south coast of Flores, a place difficult to reach. From 1985 to

1987 he was at St. Peter's Seminary in Ritapiret from where he provided service to the station of Lela. From 1987 to 1994 he continued working in Lela.

In 1994 he made his desire known to return to the Netherlands: So, on April 12, 1994 Fr. General transferred him from Ende to the Dutch-Belgian province. Once in the Netherlands, he continued to help where he could, many times assisting the Brothers in Dongen and once a week as main celebrant in the prayer room in Teteringen

In Teteringen Henk still came to the dining room, but in recent months his food was brought to his room. In the afternoon of June 27 he passed away at the age of 93. On July 5 after a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Chapel of the Woonzorgcentra "Zuiderhout" he was laid to rest in the cemetery there.

Above his bed hang a large picture of the ship of his parents. Let us pray for this pastor and "skipper" that God may now admit him to his safe "haven".



APPOINTMENTS & TRANSFERS

Appointments

28.04.2014	Fr. Tanan, Marcel	INC	oecon/prov	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Goopio, Jose	USW	Rector Riverside Res.	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Sebastian, Joseph Anthony	USW	sup/dist Northern Dist.	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Kirby, Jon	USW	sup/dist. Los Angeles	tri
06.05.2014	Bro. Pardy, Stephen	USW	sup/dist San Bernardino Dist.	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Nguyen, Duong	USW	sup/dist San Diego Dist.	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Reyes, Emilio	USW	coord/JPIC	tri
06.05.2014	Bro. Pardy, Stephen	USW	coord/com	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Nguyen, Trong Joseph	USW	coord/ap.bibl	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Zamarippa, Jesus	USW	Lay Movement dir	tri
06.05.2014	Fr. Nguyen, Trong Joseph	USW	dir/OTP	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Mangalath, Jaison George	USS	coord/ap.bibl	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. A., Arockiam	USS	coord/JPIC	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Pawlicki, James	USS	coord/com	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Gormley, George	USS	oecon/prov	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Pawlicki, James	USS	Rector Bay St. Louis	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Potts, Thomas	USS	vic/rect Bay St. Louis	tri
04.06.2014	Bro. Connors, Matthew	USS	adm/dom Bay St. Louis	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Viruthakulangara, Anil	USS	sup/dist Arkansas/Miss. Dist.	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Puling, Tarsisius A.	USS	vic/sup/dist Arkansas/Miss. Dist.	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Kelly, Darrell	USS	adm/dist Arkansas/Miss. Dist.	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Sucharski, Michael	USS	sup/dist Louisiana Dist.	tri

04.06.2014	Fr. Ayem, Alfred.	USS	vic/sup/dist LouisianaDist.	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Andrus, Richard	USS	adm/dist Louisiana Dist	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Murphy, Brendan	USS	sup/dist Texas Dist..	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Alexius, Vinsensius.	USS	vic/sup/dist Texas Dist.	tri
04.06.2014	Fr. Groner, Eric	USS	adm/dist Texas Dist.	tri
08.06.2014	Fr. Rodrigues, Jose Joaquin	MAD	oecon/reg	tri
08.06.2014	Bro. De Souza Rego, Simao	MAD	coord/ap.bibl	tri
08.06.2014	Fr. Grad, Zdzislaw	MAD	coord/com	tri
08.06.2014	Bro. Uran Wuwur, Benedictus	MAD	coord/JPIC	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Lakra, Nabin Roshan	ING	oecon/reg	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Pulickeel, Soby Joseph	ING	sup/dist Itanagar Dist..	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Kakkanatt, Chackochan.	ING	vic/sup/dist Itanagar Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Dungdung, Valentin	ING	adm/dist Itanagar Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Minj, Arun Kumar	ING	sup/dist Agartala.Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. D'Silva, Ivan.	ING	vic/sup/dist Agartala Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Minz, Benjamin	ING	adm/dist Agartala Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Ezhuthupallickel, Manoj	ING	sup/dist Brahmaputra	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Kanher, Surendra Kumar.	ING	vic/sup/dist Brahmaputra Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Lakra, Nabin Roshan	ING	adm/dist Brahmaputra Dist.	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Kuzhikkattuthazhe, Jose	ING	Praeses Regional House Guwahati	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Pinto, Cyprian	ING	Praeses O. B. Niketan	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Dungdung, Valentie	ING	Praeses SVD House Seppa	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Pulickeel, Soby Joseph	ING	coord/ap.bibl	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. A. Jeevan Kennedy	ING	coord/JPIC	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Kanher, Surendra Kumar	ING	coord/com	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Rodrigues, Maxim	ING	dir/form	tri
12.06.2014	Fr. Thumma, Lourdu M.	ING	coord/zet.voc	tri
15.07.2014	Fr. Hiep, Hoang Ignatius	VIE	mis/sec	tri
15.07.2014	Fr. Pogorzelski, Marek	TOG	mis/sec	tri
15.07.2014	Fr. Vattapparayil, Sunny	BOT	mis/sec	tri
15.07.2014	Fr. Dogodzi, Stephen	GHA	mis/sec	tri
15.07.2014	Bro. Spitzley, Bernard	USW	mis/sec	tri
15.07.2014	Fr. Suban Koten, Gabriel	TLS	mis/sec	tri
15.07.2014	Fr. Ola Rotok, Siprianus	USS	mis/sec	tri
18.07.2014	Fr. Rakus, Slawomir Szczepan	GER	Praes. Niederlassung Dresden	tri
18.07.2014	Fr. Marhefka, Michal	URL	coord/zet.voc	tri
29.07.2014	Fr. Adaikalasamy, T. L.	INC	mis/sec	tri
29.07.2014	Fr. Munimi Osung, Modeste	ESP	gen coord/com	afs
29.07.2014	Fr. Gekeng Making, Florentinus	IDR	mis/sec	tri
29.07.2014	Fr. Mirsel, Robertus	USC	Member Executive Team VIVAT New York	tri (2015)
30.07.2014	Fr. Batmolin, Lukas	USC	sup/del tri	

Change of first assignment

18.07.2014	Fr. Nguyen, Thinh Huu Dominic	BOT/VIE
------------	-------------------------------	---------

Transfers:

05.06.2014	Bro. Kerekas, Stephen	USW/USC for retirement
23.05.2014	Fr. Kufwakuziku Malemba, Ange-Albert	CNG/SWI for higher studies in Paris
15.07.2014	Fr. Awoudja, Louis	TOG/GHA for Liberia mission
15.07.2014	Fr. Redzisz, Mirosław Paweł	BRN/POL for health reasons
15.07.2014	Fr. Mai, Trung	USC/USW
15.07.2014	Fr. Thomas, Joy Cherupushpan	INM/ING
15.07.2014	Fr. Mattappallil, Sebastian	ROM/INE eff. 09/2014
19.07.2014	Fr. Baum, Horst	IDR/GER for retirement
22.07.2014	Fr. Ramos, Francisco Javier	MEX/CAM
22.07.2014	Bro. Kurczab, Albert	CNG/MEX
22.07.2014	Fr. Jeong, Hyung Yong Emiliano	KOR/ROM
29.07.2014	Fr. Baos, Bonifasius	ARS/IDR
08.08.2014	Fr. Alphonso, Edgard Cyril	INM/ARE
14.08.2014	Fr. Roman Diaz, Reynaldo	CAM/ITA



FIRST ASSIGNMENTS

12.08.2014	Frt. Amoro, Narciso	PHC/POR
12.08.2014	Frt. Cango, Hazer	PHC/BRA
12.08.2014	Frt. de Castro, George	PHC/PHN
12.08.2014	Frt. Labutan, Norman	PHC/KEN
12.08.2014	Frt. Ramos, Mark Angelo	PHC/ESP

Pope Francis on Iraq



Pope Francis discussed the persecution of Iraqi Christians at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) during his weekly Angelus prayer and address on Sunday (July 20). Francis said that hundreds of thousands of displaced Iraqis are suffering terribly, and that he is praying for them. “Our brothers and sisters are being persecuted, chased away, they are forced to leave their homes without being able to take anything with them,” he said from a balcony over St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City.

“I assure these families that I am close to them and in constant prayer,” he continued. “I know how much you are suffering; I know you are being stripped of everything.”

The pope decried the elimination of Christians from Iraq and Syria, where they have lived “side by side with their fellow citizens since the beginning of Christianity, and offered a significant contribution to social good.”

Vatican News