

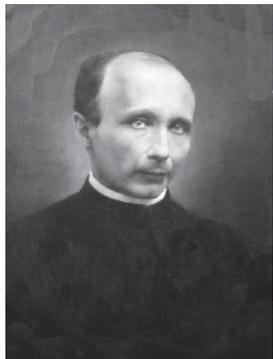
MISSION IN TOGO

Through the superior of the Roman SVD community Fr. Arnold had inquired from the Propaganda what the chances were of taking over the Togo mission. The secretary of the Propaganda gave the following answer: "1. If we want to take over the Togo mission, we will have to negotiate with the Pallotines since Togo along with Cameroun was entrusted to them (but this was never announced and may have been only a tentative and oral agreement. 2. It would not be difficult to get a mission in East Africa, to the north of Fr. Amrhein [Mission Benedictines]. If we decide to go there, we must contact the East African Society [a German colonial society]. They will assign the location for a central residence; the boundaries of the mission will be determined later. Cardinal Lavigerie, into whose mission the boundaries of the German protectorate extend, will gladly surrender a part of it. 3. German Southwest Africa could be given to us immediately. ... It seems His Excellency has already given some thought to the matter. He offered us Southwest Africa and East Africa immediately; he is not opposed to our getting Togo. But it would seem he prefers that we take over Southwest Africa (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, p. 279-280).

When Fr. Arnold himself visited the secretary of the Propaganda on January 30, 1891, the latter told him "that there were no prospects in Togo at the moment" (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p.631).

THE STEYL MISSION IN SOUTH SHANTUNG IN 1890

In the report for 1890 we read: in the area entrusted to us Steyl missionaries there are 2733 baptized adult Christians; 720 of them were baptized in 1890. There were 54 schools with 1205 students. 100 teachers, male and female catechists were employed; there were 25 Chinese seminarians and two Chinese priests already working as missionaries. There were 25 foreign missionaries, 19 priests and 6 Brothers. About 12 million people in South Shantung were not baptized "(Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote" [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], 18, No. 5).



Bernard Eikenbrock
first novice director



Arnold Janssen / Ferdinand Medits
advisor



Divine Word Missionaries Secretariat Arnold Janssen Steyl

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The Arnoldus Family Story

NOVEMBER 1890 – THE SECOND GENERAL CHAPTER BEGINS AND IS POSTPONED

November 3, 1890 – Opening of the General Chapter



In the afternoon of November 3, 1890 the second SVD General Chapter began in St. Gabriel's (Vienna/Austria). The capitulars were Arnold and John Janssen, Hermann Wegener, John Baptist Anzer and Bernard Eikenbrock.

Main Topic

The main topic was the draft of a Rule for the future sisters' congregation. "The first relevant question, namely, whether it was appropriate to call a mission institute for women into being, was unanimously answered with Yes by the General Chapter" (Alt, transl. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, *Journey in Faith*, Steyler Verlag Nettetal, 2002, p. 342). The Chapter also decided to invite Vincentian Fr. Medits, in an advisory role, to the discussions on the Sisters' Rule. "The title chosen for the sisters was '*Ancillae Spiritus Sancti*', Servants of the Holy Spirit (see *ibid.*, pp 342-343). Besides the Sisters' rule it was resolved "that our [SVD] Rule should be revised again in such a way that all rules, including those concerning the lay brothers, be compiled as *Regulae* or *Constitutiones communes* [common rules or constitutions] and separated from the *Regulae speciales* [special rules] which concern the government of the Society and the priests" (*ibid.*, p. 230).

Delegate from China

On November 4, 1890 it was resolved to invite the priests of South Shantung to send a delegate. However, if they did it would mean that the chapter had to be interrupted for two or three months. After quite some time Fr. Freinademetz sent a telegram that they would not send a delegate (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, Manila, Logos Publications, 1975, p. 293).

A huge surprise

On November 6 – to the complete surprise of the chapter- Bishop Anzer declared “he was going to leave the Society. He did not attend the sessions again until the afternoon of 9 November” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 228).

On November 8 the Bishop handed Fr. Arnold three conditions; their content is not known (*ibid.*, p. 490). The chapter decided to agree to the first, reject the second and the third finally was accepted under a certain condition (*ibid.*, 489-490). On behalf of the chapter, Fr. Eikenbrock negotiated with the Bishop; so on November 9 the Bishop attended the sessions again.

November 11 – The Chapter is postponed

On this day the chapter was postponed.

GERMAN PROTECTORATE FOR THE STEYL MISSIONARIES IN SOUTH-SHANTUNG

November 23, 1890 Bishop Anzer “submitted [to the German government] the application to place himself, his mission and its personnel, under the protection of the German Reich” and the German chancellor [head of government] “approved the request the same day” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, p. 256). In gratitude, Anzer was awarded “the Order of the Red Eagle, Second Class with Star” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 431).

A STEYL MISSION HOUSE IN GERMANY

To found a mission house in Germany, Fr. Arnold needed the permission of the German government in Berlin. Since the mission house would need a school to train missionaries, the Minister of Culture/Education, Gossler, was the man Fr. Arnold had to negotiate with. The main problem for him was whether the Steyl missionaries were a religious congregation. If that were the case, he would not give permission, since only those congregations were admitted into Prussia which had been there before the cultural war. Arnold Janssen then told him “that we were not yet a religious order in the ecclesiastical sense but it could be that I would decide it would be necessary to be such; in this case the minister would surely not throw us out. He replied that the question was embarrassing for him and for the time being he could not give an answer.” He first would have to study the relevant laws and consult with his colleagues (*ibid.*, p. 435).

Fr. Arnold’s own advisor was Prince Bishop Kopp of Breslau, who was quite influential with the German government. When the two of them met in Berlin on December 17, 1890, the Bishop drafted a letter to the minister which Fr. Arnold then wrote and signed. The letter states: “The undersigned, most obedient Superior of the mission society of Steyl, plans to establish in Germany several educational institutions for the training of missionaries who are to work in the German colonies. The aforementioned society is an ordinary mission society and therefore does not fall under article 5 of the law of 29 April 1887” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, p.259). Still on December 17 the Prince Bishop himself delivered the letter to the Minister “who read it and was apparently satisfied” (*ibid.*). And on December 22

the Minister recommended to the head of the German government, that permission could be given to start a mission house (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 439, footnote 214).

FIRST BROTHERS LEAVE FOR ARGENTINA

On December 13, 1890 the Brothers Eustachius Karl Werling and Alexius Karl Michael began their journey to Argentina. They were the first SVD-Brothers to be appointed for Argentina.

A GLANCE INTO THE HEART OF FR. ARNOLD JANSSEN

When on November 6 Bishop Anzer threatened to leave the SVD, Fr. Arnold was deeply shocked. On December 24 he wrote a letter to the Bishop: “Since November 6, I have suffered great anguish of heart because of what has developed between us. I have already recited the psalm *Miserere* many times and have asked the Holy Spirit to grant me understanding, repentance and forgiveness in as much as I myself have been at fault. May God grant your Excellency an abundance of light from the Holy Spirit that you may also understand all that has happened. I am certain that then everything will turn out well. What has happened is completely contrary to the fine relationship that should exist between us. I believe that it is imperative that we try to remedy the situation. To this end it would be helpful if we were to speak frankly and openly to one another. Then perhaps the situation will improve. ... But first, the relationship between us must be straightened out. In particular I must know what your Excellency thinks about the incident of 6 November” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, p. 297-298).

A LETTER TO EMPEROR FANZ JOSEPH OF AUSTRIA

Prince Bishop Gruscha of Vienna had informed Fr. Arnold that the Emperor wanted the Bishop to give him a report about St. Gabriel’s. Therefore, on January 6, 1891, Fr. Arnold wrote his own report to the Emperor. In it we read among other things: “The missionary efforts of St. Gabriel’s mission house and respectful request for His Majesty’s good will and protection. ... Our congregation, the Society of the Divine Word, was admitted into this part of the empire through the supreme decision of October 14, 1888, for which I once again thank your imperial and royal Majesty most humbly. The goal of our congregation is the spread of the Catholic faith particularly in foreign countries. At the same time we want to serve the special religious interests of Austria in as far as our weak powers permit, without interfering in the intentions of the highest ecclesiastical authorities and the rights of others. In doing so we do not exclude any continent. However, I want to name especially Europe, the Near East as well as Africa, even though I do not know in how far these will be of concern.

Obviously, for the solution of our tasks we would not only need the good will of the bishops but also the good will and the protection of your imperial and royal Majesty and your government. How happy I would be, if your Majesty gracefully assured us of this” (Bornemann, *Arnold Janssen und Österreich im Jahre 1891* [Arnold Janssen and Austria in the year 1891], Nova et Vetera, March 1970, p. 62).