



SVD BROTHERS ***NEWSLETTER***

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Vol. 3 No. 1 March 2010

A bulletin for ALL, with YOUR sharing!



A BLESSED LENT to all Confreres! May our prayers and reflections prepare a HAPPY EASTER with the risen Lord!

SVD BROTHERS is a digital bulletin of the SVD.

Once again, like its previous issues, we would like to follow up on one of the recommendations of the last General Assembly on Brother Vocation. Recommendation #2 of the Assembly, on LEADERSHIP, reads as follows:

We recommend that the preparation of Brothers for specific leadership roles and specialized ministries be systematically planned.

Our bulletin is written by the readers. The content consists of answers to some animating questions set to motivate our readers, both Fathers and Brothers, to share their opinions with us. Before reading the answers, we would like to recall these questions.

-Was your own professional preparation adequate for the jobs/roles you have now?

-As a suggestion for the future, what could have been done better?

-What kind of leadership roles are taken over by Brothers in your Province?

-Do you recommend some specialized ministries (studies) for Brothers?

We had to shorten some texts. The full text of all contributions can be found on the Generalate's homepage. Contributions submitted after the deadline (February 28, 2010) will be published in the next issue (2010/1). We would like to ask for your understanding in this regard.

Br. Bela Lanyi, SVD (on behalf of other Brothers in Cebu)



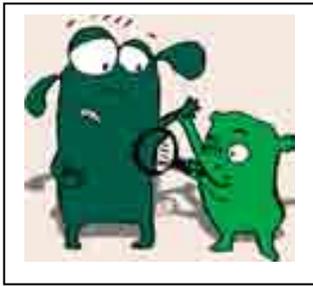
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LEADERSHIP- A CHALLENGE FOR BROTHERS IN INDIA

Br. Rajesh Soreng (INH)



India where I am the National Coordinator of Brother Vocation, is one of the countries from where we have a good number of Brothers in the Society. The Brothers are involved in many specialized ministries. Most of our senior Brothers are involved in the farms, printing press, house in charge etc. They render their service tirelessly. The Brothers of young generation are mostly involved in formation, education and administration. In India though the number of Brothers is big but we have not succeeded much in the line of leadership. Most of our senior Brothers are silent hard workers in the areas of work, where they don't need to play the leadership role visibly. Brothers who are in the formation and education have more chances to play the leadership roles. There are few brothers who are playing good leadership role in the provinces as well as in the national level.

Along with the recommendations of the General and National Assembly the Formation Board India also recommends that we need to

have a scientific study about the Brother Formation Programme in India. So this year we are making a through study of Brother Formation Programme. We hope to get the report of the study soon. There by we need to really give the priority to leadership role of Brothers in the church. We have many vocations to Brotherhood. We need to give company to the young Brothers and prepare them as lay leaders of the church.

As for my professional carrier in the society I was interested in the line of Education. I studied the Bachelor of Education. But after my studies I was appointed in the Formation since it was an urgent need of the province. So I could not proceed in the line of my interest. But I reconciled with myself and served the Brother Formation since then.

Brothers in the province (INH) are involved in different areas of work. They are involved in Formation, Education, Finance, Administration etc.

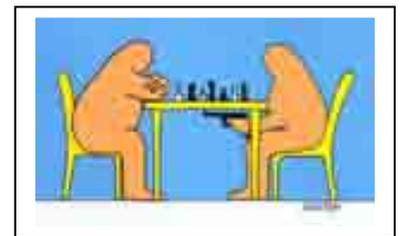
- I would like to recommend the specialized studies in the line of Formation. In Indian context we need very much the Brothers with formation training for the formation houses.
- I would recommend that Brothers choose a specific area of work on which they can render their service life long.
- I would recommend for all the junior Brothers

that they choose a specific ministry (Formation, education, medical, engineering, catechism, farm, social work etc.) and become professional so that they can be the leaders in the same line.

- I would suggest that the Provincial administration appoints the Brothers according to their talents and in the line of their professional studies.
- I would suggest that the Brothers' Professional studies should be according to their interest and need of the province.
- I would suggest that the Young Brothers should take keen interest to work with the youth.

THEY NEVER SAID "NO" TO ME

Br. Kishore Tigga (INC)



My personal view is that it all depends on each individual's interest to go for the specialization field. In my case, it was all a matter of a well-planned programme by and for myself. What should I do after my final profess? The administration never said "no"

Cont. Br. Tigga

to my request for my studies in my field of interest. Rather, they gave me enough chances to qualify in different lines so that I could take up any responsibility in the society. But I know there are certain provinces that are really not interested in the growth of the brothers.

I am quite happy in my professional line and am trying to motivate the younger ones to choose their career and aim at achieving it.

BROTHERS IN THE COUNCIL NEED EXTRA PATIENCE

Br. Muktlal Ekka (INE)



It is always refreshing and inspiring to go through SVD BROTHERS bulletin. We appreciate your initiative, commitment, and creativity. Keep it up!

Being in the Arnoldus family as a missionary Brother has always been rewarding. Right from the beginning, I felt as if I am in the family of my own. I experienced a lot of care and concern from my superiors in spite of my limitations. I was lucky to be in the hands of genuine and concerned superiors. They challenged me in a very loving

and passionate way, and helped me to love and live my vocation.

The province INE trained me to become a teacher. I was delighted and did my best during the training. I was appointed in the formation for eleven years with heavy responsibilities. Initially, it was tough, but I stood up to the challenge.

Meanwhile I had the chance to serve the province as a councillor for two terms. This made me more confident and strong in meeting my responsibilities. I did feel that Brothers in the council need extra patience to be a true Brother to the province members. There were many disappointments, too, but then I was able to read and understand those moments for the sake of the Province and society.

We need to come together as Brothers to understand our common struggles with open mind and heart for the sake of Brothers in the society. In the initial stage, Brothers were the pillars of society. This rich charisma and strength of brothers need to be carried out by each SVD Brother. Formation programmes and personnel need to be changed and updated.

The province INE is quite concerned about Brothers' vocation and training. There is a lot of encouragement and support to nurture brother vocation. Trained senior brothers need to be understood by the local authorities who should maintain dialogue with the persons concerned and decide which responsibilities they should take. It is a blessing that the highest number of vocation for both brothers and clericals is from INE.

OUR PROFESSIONAL SVD BROTHERS IN JAPAN

Brothers Yamamoto, Vinh, Mau and Carl Milos Bulilan (All in JPN)



We decided to combine our thoughts into one. In Japan Province, there are only four Brothers in Final Vows - Bro. Yamamoto, Bro. Vinh, Bro. Justin Mau and Bro. Bulilan (Miloy). There is nobody in temporary Vows.

Bro. Yamamoto graduated from Nanzan University and completed first class Accounting Certificate. He has spent most of his religious life as a Province Treasurer, and also many years as Secretary General for Nanzan University and then to the Nanzan School Corporation.

Bro. Vinh completed a course in Electronics. He worked for many years in our SVD Winery in Tajimi, while taking in charge also of the house maintenance. Few years ago, he moved to our major Seminary in Nagoya, working for the house maintenance. Since 2006, every summer, he spends months in our SVD Retreat house in Karuizawa as the person in charge of the house during retreats.

Cont. Brs. Yamamoto.

Bro. Justin Mau completed college in Business Administration Box Hill Institute, Melbourne Australia and completed Diploma in Theology in Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne Australia. After finishing Japanese language at Nanzan University, he was appointed as the OTP Director (present work). At the same time, he is also in charge of the Xavier House Community where OTP seminarians and new foreign SVD missionaries live while they are studying Japanese language and culture in our university.

He thinks that as a house Administrator, his training in Business Administration fits into this kind of ministry. However, as an OTP Director, which is a formation work, he feels that his knowledge is not enough for he has not yet been given the opportunity to be trained for such ministry. It would be good, he thinks, if he could do further studies in Spirituality and Formation as a preparation to work in our formation houses.

Bro. Bulilan ("Miloy"), the youngest among us, has just arrived in Japan the other year. Now he is undergoing his language studies at Nanzan University. He just recently received his first appointment to do a ministry among the migrants in our SVD Migrant Center in Karia City, near Nagoya. This would be a good opportunity for him to be oriented into the apostolate of the SVD Japan, and

at the same time, practice his Japanese in the field. He plans to continue his further studies in Anthropology, and contribute to the education apostolate of the Society.

This are our hope, that the Society as a whole, will keep encouraging Brothers, for professional studies in any discipline and give the opportunity to take the leadership role in the society. We strongly propose that Brothers should be trained and educated according to their talents and interests. In the field, they should do a ministry which is in-line with their professional training and not just to "fill the gap" because nobody wants to take the position. In doing so, the Brothers preserve their identity as professionals, religious, and missionaries in the Society.

MISSIOLOGY FOR BROTHERS!

Fr. Sebastianus Hobahana (IDR)



Greetings from Ruteng. I am Sebastian Hobahana, the provincial of Ruteng province. I am happy after having seen to some recommendations of the international assembly on Brother Vocation. We have

done a special meeting with Brothers in the province talking about Brothers' issues from the international assembly and the ones from the province. Recently, I have appointed a Brother as the Director of Brother Formation and another Brother as Vocation Promoter. For vocation promotion, we collaborate with the SSpS and SSpS AP Sisters.

Regarding your request for sharing on Brothers for Bulletin, I write down here 4 points in the line with your question. First, Indonesia-Ruteng Province is an accepting province, including acceptance of Brothers. The Brothers come to the province already with their profession. What we do in the province is to give them jobs accordingly such as formator or teacher, treasurer, nurse, etc. Second, we appreciate what you have started regarding the Bulletin of Brothers in the ASPAC. I would propose a wide sharing of Brothers themselves of any province through that medium. So, we can keep an international/zonal outlook at least on the identity as Brother and mission. Recently, our Brothers here agreed to have an E-mail address, to give access for each to share or to reach out. Third, so far, Brothers play the role in the community leadership, as province or house treasurers, formators, province secretary and at some units of service. Fourth, I am recommending Missiology Study for Brothers. Our ASPAC is starting to provide Missiological Program in the Philippines. Brothers could take advantage of it.

THE BROTHERS MUST GIVEN THE EQUAL CHANCE

Br. Martin Mamaq (IDE)



Was my own professional preparation adequate for the jobs/roles I have now?

Study or preparation for a religious-missionary is certainly very important for our missionary works as a member of the religious congregation. This happened when I was still in the formation. When I was requested to go for further studies taking up “Business Management” I felt that it was VERY IMPORTANT” for myself and especially when if I relate this to my present jobs entrusted to me by the congregation; though I am not directly involved in the business world or directly manage certain business of the province of Ende.

What are the leadership roles which are entrusted to me at present by the Congregation?

1. Rector of St. Conrad Brother Formation House, Ende, Flores, Indonesia

2. Council member of IDE province: Admonitor

These two jobs were delegated by the Province/Congregation to me and I happily and dedicatedly perform it to good satisfaction. Of course, the success of implementing my leadership role was based on my preparation. I was sent for further studies, so I could deepen my profession when I was still in the formation, before I pronounced my perpetual vows in the SVD

Am I recommending some specialized ministries (studies) for Brothers?

Based on the recommendation in the assembly of the Brothers in the Zonal level (ASPAC or other Zones) and on the results of various meetings, congresses for Brothers worldwide and specifically that of the recent assembly held in Cebu City, Philippines, 2009; it has been emphasized that the Brothers must be given equal chance and opportunity like the priests, so that they can pursue their higher education for Masteral and Doctoral programs, according to their interest. It has also been suggested that the Brothers can also go for further studies which are specialized in Scriptures, communication, sociology, anthropology, spirituality, theology and other fields which could present the identities and

characteristics of being missionary priests or Brothers in the SVD. Becoming expert and specialized in different fields, the Brother could become more open to his jobs and pastoral works either in the SVD or in the work with other institutions outside the SVD.

BROTHERS COUNCILORS – IS IT REALLY A “MUST”?

Br. Gabriel Wangak Kesape (IDE)



Before answering the questions sent to me in relation to the theme: “leadership”, I wish to comment one thing about the leadership.

Up to day I keep on asking myself, is there a need for a Brother to be represented in the Generalate or Province level? They said it is a tradition (MUST?) be a representative from the Brother. Well, it is right that the SVD consists of clergy (priest) and laymen (Brother) yet **we are one**: member of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). In my opinion therefore, those who are elected in the council members either in

Cont. Br. Kesape

Generalate or Province level, are not elected because they are priests or Brothers. However, the capability of the person to be in the position must be the main concern. Moreover, those who are elected must possess the visionary leadership where the interest of the SVD should be the priority. Anyway, even though there is no representative from the Brother, the council members still tackle the concern of the brothers. I don't find any fundamental basis in our constitution which would inform us that there should be representatives out of the Brothers in the councils.

1. Was your own professional preparation adequate for the jobs/roles you have now?

Honestly, I am telling you that my professional preparation was inadequate. I graduated from Senior High School, majoring in science. After that I took a short course in carpentry for one year. Then I joined the SVD. I wished to be in the pastoral work. Therefore, since the beginning of my formation years up to my first vows I was prepared to work in the parish as catechist.

My hope and interest totally changed 180 degrees after my first assignment in 1988. I was sent to work in Research Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture, Ledalero as a Junior Brother. Without preparation yet thank God I was able to manage with the new environment. In August 1992, I was sent to

Australia to study taking up Secretariat Administration in Box Hill TAFE, Melbourne. I returned to Indonesia and worked at the same institution until early of December 2008. December 8, 2008, I was transferred to St. Joseph, Ende working at the Secretariat of Ende Province.

If I am asked, Was your own professional preparation adequate for the jobs/roles you have now, my answer is: **not enough**. My senior Br. Benyamin Ade, SVD once said "for the sake of the vows of obedience, there is will, you will grow". His statement motivated me to accept joyfully all the assignments given to me by the superior. Professional preparation is not the hindrance for me to accept the tasks given to me by the superior.

2. What kind of leadership roles are taken over by Brothers in your Province?

Actually, there are many apostolates could be given to the Brothers and there are still many more works need the Brothers. Ende Province, for example, has three schools (major seminary in Ledalero, Syuradikara Senior High School in Ende and Bina Karya Technical School in Larantuka). Ende Province has a lot of properties and needs more specialized and interested confreres to manage these properties, such as: the printing press, publishing house and book store. There is also a daily news paper called "Flores Pos", a children magazine called

"Kunang-kunang" published twice a month. We have carpentry shop, welding shop and tailoring shop. All these works need the skilled and professional confreres and we can't simply assign anybody to any of these positions. Based on these, I would like to say that some of our Brothers are not well equipped and prepared to the maximum. This can be done if there is good management planning from the superior to see the future of the Province.

3. In connection with the next point, I may suggest that the specialized professional preparations for the Brothers in the Ende Province for the future should focus more on the following fields:

- a. Educational sector (preparation to be the administrators, teachers and professors)
- b. Agricultural sector : plantation
- c. Repair shop: carpentry and welding
- d. Architecture
- e. Economy
- f. Communication and Information

CAPABLE BROTHERS SHOULD BE TRAINED!

Br. Ricardo Atencio (PHC)



The future job/role of an SVD Brother in the Society is of great importance.

I am very fortunate that the SVD sent me to the University of Pittsburgh, USA for further studies in Nursing before I was appointed as Dean of the College of Nursing. I am comfortable, happy, contented and fulfilled with my present role as Dean.

SVD Brothers who are qualified and capable for key professional positions in our major offices, schools, and in the mission field should be trained adequately. Just because you are an SVD does not mean you are automatically in power to hold these positions. This has always been a very sad experience in our set up.

SVD Brothers are the most qualified in any administrative jobs/roles in the academe, finance, health care and other areas in the SVD administrations. RIGHT VOCATION, RIGHT PROFESSION and RIGHT PERSON are the KEY FACTORS FOR a very SUCCESFUL SVD BROTHER MISSIONARY.

THE DIFFICULTY OF SECOND AND THIRD ASSIGNMENTS

Fr. Heinz Kulueke (PHS)



I am sharing my experience as Provincial of the Philippines Southern Province.

The number of Brothers in our Province is still small to make a general judgment on whether their professional preparation is adequate for the jobs/roles they have now. However, a more thorough preparation particularly for formation work would be needed. Some of those who are now in temporary or perpetual vows came to us as young, well-prepared professionals (philosophers, teachers, lawyers, nurses, and architects, to name a few). Others got their professional training in the Society. Presupposed that ongoing formation and education is taken very seriously, Brothers are and will be sufficiently prepared for their respective roles.

The difficulty of having few Brothers in perpetual vows, however, is that many simultaneously get second and sometimes third assignments for which they are not too well-prepared. In this way, they are overloaded and overworked. Not everybody can handle managerial positions.

A good solution is that Brothers should be assigned full time to positions for which they really studied and specialized. This demands a bigger number of brothers and a thorough personnel planning of the province administration in consultation with the Brothers.

In our Province, all leadership positions in principle are also open to Brothers unless there are Canon Law restrictions. One Brother is on the PHS provincial council. Among others, Brothers assigned to our educational institutions are holding the following positions: Chair of the Philosophy Department, Chair and Assistant Chair of the Department of Architecture, Athletics Director, Director of General Services, Supervisor for Nurses doing OJTs, and Maintenance Officer.

Other Brothers are working in key positions in NGOs as Human Resource Officer and Legal Consultant or as coordinators of projects for differently abled people, street children, and young, abused women/men in red light districts or infected with HIV/AIDs.

Looking at the vast needs of the three educational institutions of PHS Province, all fields of interests/studies are open to Brothers, such as researching and teaching various sciences or doing youth ministry in our school campuses. In addition, I am personally interested in getting more Brothers to work in our NGOs, serving the poor and marginalized, or to get involved in our communication ministry, managing our radio stations. Yet, above all that, recruitment and formation work will have to remain our first priority (our survival will depend on that) in assigning our Brothers.

I FEEL ADEQUATELY PREPARED

Br. Romualdo Abulad (PHS)



To be honest, I feel adequately prepared for the tasks I am presently assigned now. I've always been an academic, teaching philosophy and doing administrative job in school before I joined the SVD. So I'm confident enough when it comes to school work.

As to formation work, my nature and training as a teacher help me a lot because formation and education have much in common. Moreover, my various exposures to psycho-emotional modules make me understand where the seminarians are coming from; I think I have a natural gift for this, too. My theology in Tagaytay and my experience of the contemplative life during my vocational search have deepened my spiritual understanding.

It is important that we ourselves have received integral formation if we are to form our young

candidates in a similarly integral way. This is easier said than done. Many of the blunders we tend to commit in our mission could have been avoided if our training were more balanced and authentically holistic.

Fortunately, the Brothers in PHS are all in key leadership positions, whether in education, formation or pastoral missions. Even our Junior Brothers are fully occupied, one with school and the other with JPIC. Since Brothers are basically workers, we should see to their professional training in the respective areas of their expertise, at the same time seeing to it that these are within the needs of the SVD mission, both locally and globally.

In the end, spirituality should always be given a priority, for this is the *raison d'etre* of our vocation as SVD, whether priests or Brothers. It should be remembered, however, that even spirituality is not a static matter that doesn't change with time. Even here there are paradigm shifts.

BROTHERS WHO ARE WELL PREPARED IN THEIR FIELD AND MATURED

Br. Guy Mazola (CNG)



Cordial greetings from Congo! I am back from Togo where I participated in the AFRAM Zonal Assembly. Everything went well. Fr. General was also there.

One of the points in the agenda of our Zonal Assembly was the follow-up of the Assembly on the Brother Vocation and Prophetic Dialogue. Most of the AFRAM provinces discuss the issue in their provincial assemblies. Some concrete decisions have been taken to promote Brother Vocation to the SVD at the local level in most of the provinces. It was really encouraging. This coming June, the AFRAM Formation Board will meet in D.R. Congo. It will continue to follow-up the Assembly on Brother Vocation.

Another thing that I can share with you is the election of three Brothers in the leadership of the Zone: the Area Coordinator for Formation, the Area Coordinator for Mission Animation and the Area Coordinator for JPIC. I think this

Cont. Br. Mazola

is an answer to the fourth recommendation of the Assembly on Brother Vocation, under leadership which says: *"We recommend that more Brothers who are qualified and competent be included in leadership roles at the zonal and Generalate levels."* Of course, these elections are to be approved by the Generalate.

Talking about the theme of our next bulletin, *the preparation of Brothers for specific leadership roles and specialized ministries be systematically planned*, I would first make a remark by saying that this recommendation should be applied for any SVD, Priest and/or Brother. In everything we do, we have to be prepared on that. The improvisation is always a risk. As for Brothers, anyone who is well prepared in his field and who is matured enough can render good services in the Society. I insist on human maturation of the confrere. Because, sometimes, for the lack of personnel or another reason, it can happen that a confrere is assigned in a field that he was not enough prepared; and it works.

We have to be ready to take any kind of responsibility in the Society whenever we are needed. That's why ongoing formation is necessary. For instance, myself, I've never been prepared for the formation work that I am doing

now. On the other hand, I was prepared for communication (journalism) which I am also involved but not as much as in formation.

Yes, a good preparation for a specific ministry is always beneficial. But this preparation should take into account the needs of the Society and also the personality of the confrere.

IF YOU DO NOT TRAIN THE BROTHER WELL...

Br. Stephen Bonsu (GHA)



My professional preparation is not adequate for the job I have and the role I play now. As a teacher, I am supposed to have a degree in Education first before I could teach in the technical school in which I am currently a part of. At the moment my qualification is far below what the Ghana Education Service demands of all teachers in the technical schools, especially in a second cycle school.

For many years now I have been trying to further my education, but there are many barriers blocking my chances of pursuing further studies. I am hoping that one day these barriers would be broken. It is

nice to hear that Provinces support Brothers in their pursuit to higher education. Whatever Brothers need to do, they must get the appropriate training for it.

Brothers should not just fill vacancies when emergencies occur. Training should be given to the Brother candidates to enable them to work hand in hand with the Priests in the parish apostolate. Quality training for Brothers will provide a high level of professional training that will help them meet the needs of every province and the various local churches.

It is time our clerics desist from seeing Brothers as second class SVDs. A change in mentality and behavior among SVD clerics towards the brothers is a must. It is better to train the Brother to give him the confidence to take up his job and role effectively than to say he is not good. If we do not train the Brother, then we should not expect much from him.

Currently we have brothers taking up the following leadership roles in the Ghana province: Brother Formation, JPIC, Province Treasurer, Superior Delegatus, Head of Educational Institution, Director of Work Place, Director of Book Shop, etc. I recommend that brothers be allowed to study Accounting, Formation, School Ministry, Communication and Mass Media, Construction Work, and Music.

I APPRECIATE THE FLEXIBILITY OF MY SUPERIORS

Br. Jerzy Kuzma (PNG)



1. The major part of my professional training had been done before I joined SVD. During my study in the seminary I appreciate basic knowledge on missiology, spiritual life and the Bible. I appreciate also flexibility of my superiors who allowed me for individualized course of training.

2. I think that most Brothers would benefit from upgrading their computer skills. Also learning foreign language(s) should occupy more time and organization.

3. Presently in PNG province Brothers taking position of rector or preases of the house, accountant in the diocesan offices (2), director of pastoral centre, director of postulancy or Brothers formation. In the past there were Brothers as a provincial secretary and provincial treasurer, and prefect of seminarians.

4. Regarding workshops and courses I think good computer skills are required on many jobs and positions therefore Brothers should be well trained in that area. There is a demand for

accountants or financial managers, higher education teachers, computer technicians, counsellors.

ON PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Br. Paulus Boli (PNG)



I joined the SVD Brother Formation batch 1984 in Ende, Flores Indonesia. As a Brother I was given the opportunity to study and be trained in the field of Pastoral Ministry and in Catechism. For two years I sent to one parish for my Pastoral Work Experienced. Since Pastoral Ministry was my interest I did my further studies in Catechetical Institute in Flores Diploma in 1990-1993 and had my degree in 1994-1996. But surprisingly after my study the Provincial did not appoint me for the pastoral ministry I was hoping and studied for but instead he assigned me in the formation to be a Prefect for the Junior Brothers in temporary vows. I was struggling with this job because the preparation I had was completely different from the role given to me then.

Though not prepared I gave myself into it and found joy. I learned the art of working with the senior prefect and together we look after the brothers as a team. In spite of that, I was given also the privileged to teach the

Catechism and Scripture link with the profession I had studied. It was a fulfilling job.

After post novitiate workshop and Biblical Apostolate course in Nemi 1999, I was invited to come to PNG. I was transferred to PNG Province in 2000 to work in the Pastoral Centre of the Diocese of Wabag, Enga Province. My main work of responsibility is to take care of the Disciple School – a training programme for the lay people or pastoral workers for their ministry in their own parishes and communities. I am very happy and love doing this job being trained in pastoral works. And to see how it is bearing much fruit is added to my joy. I always get the support from the confreres I am living with at present. In year 2009, the Provincial and his council asked me to be a Brother Director and be in the formation team. But I did not accept this assignment having aware of my limitation in formation work. And I certainly believe that this is a delicate job that needs one person to have a proper preparation, who has the willingness to accompany the souls searching for the deepest meaning of their lives in following the Lord. My profession is more inclined on Pastoral works. I find this work more fulfilling and beneficial for our local people and for me as well.

I recommend training the Brothers accordingly to the needs of the respective areas where they are assign. Skills like carpentry, mechanical, electrician and other manual skills are very much needed here in Papua New Guinea. To work in the Formation is quite a demand also

Cont. Br. Boli

for a Brother, I believe. Give them the chance for a higher study or training so that they can be more effective if they are given an apostolate incline to the needs of their Provinces and not only to what they are more interested to do. Broaden their horizon in the field of mission works. There are also brothers who are capable of leadership. But sometimes they are hesitant to accept leadership roles because they are not given a proper preparation or training to the particular role in the Society.

I HOPE I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THE BULLETIN

Br. Simao Pedro de Souza Rego (BRC/MAD)



At present, I can not reply to the questions. I have to finish my studies since I am about to leave for the province of my future work. I hope that I may work there in my profession, but I cannot decide alone on this matter. I have to listen to the Council. I hope that in another time, I will be able to help the bulletin.

GOING FOR SACRAMENTAL ORDERS AND THEN GETTING INVOLVED IN A BUSINESS?

Br. Stephen Pardy (USW)



When I entered the Society, the focus was on trades. Following the General Chapter after VAT II, it changed to serious training and education, and everyone was encouraged and expected to get his respective degree. I could not have accomplished what little I did without such training.

I feel that the powers that be (or were) did the responsible thing and that appropriate formation and education is now in place. Now, if anything, job definition and needs must be sought out, encouraged and **(anyone interested) directed to.** [directed to anyone interested?] Our Province is small and the number of Brothers is few. All in all I would HOPE that Province members and administrators are open to inclusion, but frankly, the track record is not that great. Admittedly, the problem could be quality, though, and that is fair. Let's not get into the area of simple "tokenism."

I am currently the Director of Development at Wordnet Productions, TV and media. This would be one of the prime areas

that Brothers could be involved in. I know many priests involved in this field and, to a degree, I don't understand the logic of going for sacramental orders and then getting involved in the mechanics of this business. I understand that, in this country, there are a couple of Brothers now in formation interested in this ministry and I can only strongly recommend their choice. It is exciting.

Having said that, times have changed. When I **entered [what?]** and went overseas, tradesmen were welcomed if not needed. This is no longer the case. For one, very few countries would accept anyone not qualified. We should not also replace local employees. So let's assess what is needed in the SVD world and encourage new members accordingly. (Media would only be one of them.) "Systematically planned" indeed!

Were the Founder alive today he would jump on new types of media as he did on the Press. Much can be done in this ministry and I can assure anyone who does and very rich, interesting and fulfilling ministry.

Last time I have written about the need for inclusion of positions FROM THE GENERALATE down. I understand this might have been discussed at the Cebu meeting. Where are the results? The non-presence of Brothers in MEANINGFUL positions (including the Secretarial level) at the top is embarrassingly obvious. For shame, sir, for shame.

WE ACTUALLY ELECTED A BROTHER AS PROVINCIAL, ALTHOUGH....

Fr. Mark Weber (USC)



1. Is the professional preparation of Brothers adequate for the jobs/roles they have now?

I believe that nearly all of the Brothers who professed perpetual vows in the past several decades received professional training of one kind or the other. Most would have applied their preparation in their assignments. However, like some clerics, sometimes they end up in assignments that are not directly linked to their formal education because the Province needed them in other roles.

2. What could have been done better, as a suggestion for the future?

In guiding young Brothers to pursue specific training, a longer-term view of personnel needs in the province would help to find a good match between a Brother's professional studies and the needs of the province.

3. What kind of leadership roles are taken over by Brothers in your Province?

Two of the seven members of the Provincial Council are Brothers. Four of the 18 local superiors are Brothers, as are seven of the 30 local councilors. In all cases, the percentage of Brothers in formal leadership positions is higher than the percentage of Brothers in the province as a whole. We've had Brothers serve as vice-provincial for many years, and we actually elected a Brother as provincial, although the Vatican refused to allow him to assume office.

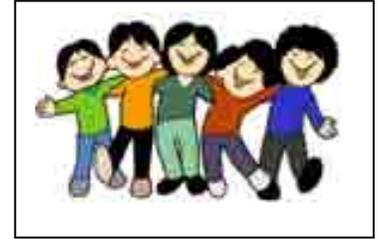
A Brother is Director of the Tri-Province Mission Center. A Brother is the Province JPIC Coordinator. A Brother is the Novice Director (for the common Brother and cleric novitiate), and the Director of Brothers Formation. Several Brothers serve as local treasurers.

4. Are you recommending some specialized ministries (studies) for Brothers?

It depends upon the interest of the Brother and how it fits within the Province's needs and ministries. Brothers in temporary vows recently have been studying in the areas of scripture, theology, counseling, and communications.

FACTS FROM THE CHICAGO PROVINCE

Br. Michael Decker (USC)



Good to hear from you and from the SVD Brothers Bulletin. I was sad to hear about Romy Abulad leaving the Formation since Romy has made some good progress in the Formation Program in the Philippines. He will be missed. My prayers are with you, Bela, as well as Edgardo, Rolando and Eduardo working together in Formation.

Here are my answers to your request.

1) I have been the Director of Brother Formation in Chicago Province since June 2008. For four years since January 2003, I was in the Initial Formation in Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa. My experience was in applying my Nursing skills by being the one in charge of Health Care in the community. I was also in charge of the Ministry Program and was a Formator. This gave me some good experience. I attended the "Institute of Religious Formation" in Chicago from September 2007 to May 2008. This gave me some good tools to assist me in doing Formation with SVDs in temporary vows. In the program I met two other SVDs, one from India working in Zambia, and one from Indonesia working in Japan. There was also an SSPS from Indonesia working in the USA. This has prepared me in the best possible

Cont. Br. Decker

way in my role now as Director of Brother Formation. Presently, I am doing Formation with two SVD Priests. Thus there are three of us doing Formation together for all SVDs in temporary vows.

3) In the Chicago province Brothers have been elected as Provincial as in 1993, Dennis Newton, approved by the Generalate but not by Rome. Since then Brothers have been elected as Vice Provincial twice and as Superior Delegates twice as well. Brothers have also been elected and assumed roles as Rectors and Praeces. Presently Brothers have assumed these roles: Rodney Bowers, Director of Novices; Pat Hogan and Bernie Spitzley in the Provincial Council; Brian McLaughlin, Director of JPIC; Jim Zabranzky, District Superior in West Virginia; Bernie Spitzley, Admonitor in the Caribbean; Dennis Newton, Director of Mission Office; Mathew Zemel, House Treasurer in Techny; Dan Holman in Techny House Council; Pat Hogan, Rector in Bordentown, New Jersey; Mike Decker, Vice Rector of Theologate in Chicago; and, Don Champagne, Rector in Boston.

4) As Director of Brother Formation in Chicago Province, I have brought to the attention of the Provincial the importance of promoting Brothers to be involved with the recommendations from the General Assembly of Characteristic Dimensions: Bible, JPIC, Communication and Misison Animation. One Brother in Formation has a degree in Bible and the Director of JPIC is a Brother. This is

being promoted in Formation among the students in Chicago Province. Brothers in Formation participate in CTP. One just came back after doing this for one year, and one is now in Togo and will be coming back summer of 2011.

THE WAY OF PREPARATION OF BROTHERS FOR LEADERSHIP

Br. Bernie Spitzley (USC)



In The United States we were blessed with the foresight of Bro. Bruno Burr, who sought and struggled to ensure that Brothers would receive full, total and integral Human and Christian Development so as to be full members of the Society. This continues by having all candidates take a liberal arts education foundation (a minimal two-year Program) at Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa. They would then pursue further education, be it a trade or a full College degree. Another aspect of the formation program is Goal setting, a basic skill which enables the person to set priorities and establish proper directives of one's pursuits. This skill has trained men to be responsible for their own life, to define and establish in concrete form a system of values and goals that are achievable. This process teaches one to sharpen his decision making

skills and grow in lifelong learning.

Another objective is to embrace and stimulate a spirit of intellectual curiosity, to realize that education does not end with a trade certificate or degree but is instead a lifelong process. Thus, the need for ongoing education, so as to assure that the person stays intellectually alive and abreast on spirituality and theology that is pertinent and relative to his local community and ministry. All Brothers are professional Religious missionaries and need to have the skills to live that life with integrity.

In USC, we have a number of Brothers in Leadership roles: Director of the Mission office, Rectors, District Superior, Novice Master and a good number serve on most house councils, District councils and the Provincial council.

I would recommend that all Brother candidates receive as a minimum a liberal arts education, with a solid background in Theology so that he can converse with authority with his confreres who, as priests, have additional studies in theology.



I REJECT A SPECIFIC PREPARATION OF BROTHERS! WHY?

Br. Kunibert Müller (GER)



First, I would like to urgently recommend special professional formations, (crafts and trades, administration and information technology) for Brothers as basis. However, I am against a preparation for special leadership positions, since these have to prove in the practice and to grow slowly. Brothers who have completed a formation for a specific leadership (like manager of a factory, teacher or praeses of a community), are later usually not ready to take over other tasks but those of their formation. They mostly leave our Society with great disappointment, because for whatever reason, they can not be engaged in the field of their specialisation,

Therefore, I would like to handle your 4 questions from my experience.

-Was your own professional preparation adequate for the jobs/roles you have now?

My professional formation was a complete training as upholsterer with journeyman examination ("Gesellenprüfung") before I joined the Society on March 1,

1951 in St. Wendel, Germany. Such basic formation was also given to candidates which were trained in our own SVD workshops.

With the above-mentioned training, I was engaged in the butcher's shop of our St. Wendel Mission House. Since I had a general drivers' licence from home, I was then taken as a driver, without a professional training for butcher. In 1957, I was transferred without any professional or verbal preparation to Estella (Spain), where I was commissioned to organize a printing press. Not even there, I received a professional training. For our newly founded publishing office "Editorial Verbo Divino", I was the one who printed in absurd circumstances the first edition of the New Testament. Out of this unprofessional start, the up to this day biggest Catholic Bible Publishing Press of the world developed. (See internet: "Editorial Verbo Divino"). However, we did not fail to send early enough a Spanish Brother to Steyl (Netherlands) for specific preparation as book printer, with the intention to let him take over our printing press as manager. By that time, the printing press grew during the years to a size of 32 employees and 5 bigger machines. Under my leadership, 12 million copies of New Testament were produced.

With a complete journeyman examination as printer, the above-mentioned Brother returned to Spain and I was immediately transferred to Aachen (Germany) as car

driver of a bishop. My successor in the printing press in Estelle (with specific training) left our Society after 3 month, because the materials were not so at his disposal as he used to it in Steyl (Netherlands). (A typical case of a specific Preparation for leadership position of a Brother.)

After the unexpected death of bishop Klaus Hemmerle, I was transferred at the urgent request of Fr. Provinzial to the Mission House St. Xaver (Bad Driburg, Germany). But my previous activities were there good for nothing. Professionally, this was my fifth new start without training. I began there like in 1951 in St. Wendel by the lowest services. After 7 years, I was there from 2001 to 2004 Vice-Rector. Moreover, from 2004 to 2010, I was appointed twice as praeses of the community there.

This report highlights that Brother formation does not depend on the preparation for specific leadership positions, but its safest and only way is "obedience" and readiness to "serve". Unfortunately, I miss this religious aspect in the documents of the General Assembly on Brother Vocation in Cebu.

-What could have been done better, as your recommendation for the future?

If Brothers are sent abroad, they should be given the opportunity of learning the language required there. A religious basis: obedience,

Cont. Br. Müller

prayer life and readiness to serve is urgently necessary. It should be the focal point of Brother formation.

-What kind of leadership roles are taken over by Brothers in your Province?

There are treasurers (on house and Province level), postulant master, novice master, praeses of small communities.

-Are you recommending some specialized ministries (studies) for Brothers?

I would urgently reject specific services for Brothers, because they can be employed in a later phase of life just one-sided and with limitations. With such services, no service is done for the individual confrere and the Society.

I HAD TO FIGHT FOR MY FORMATION

Br. Bruno Rehm (GER)



You inquire about my personal experience on Brothers in special leadership positions. The formation given to me by SVD in the beginning of my religious life was minimal. Well, it was absolutely not directed towards a future and any leadership positions. I had

to fight for my formation as business administrator ("Betriebswirt"), after my final vows in 1967. Only my provincial of that time had understanding for my request. Later on, everything was up to that what one made out of himself. However, this would have not been necessary, if the SVD would have given purposive assistance and initiative. Therefore, one was not always well prepared for jobs entrusted with. Nevertheless, I had advantageous conditions for my present activity as provincial treasurer and other jobs as well, since before I was entrusted with this office, I had been for 15 years in the Provincial Council. Moreover, I was working as General Manager of the civil legal person of the Divine Word Missionaries more than 17 years together with the provincial treasurers of both German Provinces. I knew the field of work very well and found my way around in these Provinces. This was already a privilege not everybody had.

Basically, there are in our Province fortunately no limitations concerning offices for Brothers (besides those of Canon Law). In fact, Brothers had here all possible leadership positions. Crucial is for the superiors and the confreres is the qualification of the person in question and not, whether he is a Father or a Brother.

In our Province, there are no problems if a Brother strives after special services (studies), inasmuch he brings along the

necessary qualification. Well, a good formation is always advantageous for the confrere and the SVD respectively its tasks as well. So it is seen by the superiors of our Province. But for sure, it is necessary that the Brother formation programs offer wide opportunities. Then the SVD has to attach great importance to prepare well qualified confreres for the future.

ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMICS

Br. Ángel Egurza (ESP)



Many Brothers should be formed in Administration and economics.

Not everyone is good this in the same way everyone has talent for music, for example. We, the five Spanish Brothers, (Andrés Lorenzo, Javier Lumbreras, Julio Ausín, Oscar González and I) work or have worked in administration and economics.

A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES NEEDED

Br. Darwin Loro, ARS



Every SVD Brother in the Society has the opportunity to follow a type of profession that one desires to offer as his contribution to the Church and its mission. While there are a variety of choices to make, a Brother candidate deserves to be guided by those who are placed in charge of discernment and formation.

For Brothers, there are certain fields of studies that are relevant to almost all places they go in for missionary work. As a preparation for mission, there is no doubt that emphasizing spirituality and community life in formation is highly important, but so too a good general and liberal arts education that would prepare Brothers to integrate in a totally diverse communities and people, ideas and perspectives, wherever they are placed in the world. When they go for further professional training, Brothers can take leadership roles with better knowledge of their field of specialization.

My social sciences background and formation experience were invaluable in helping me to prepare for my first mission

assignment. I believe that during the Initial Formation, junior Brothers would benefit more if they are provided with a variety of experiences in pastoral activities that interest them; and most especially, when they are able to make use of their skills, abilities and practice their respective professions. The possibility of doing an Overseas Training Program or Cross-Cultural Training Program that is appropriately designed for a Brother in temporary vows would certainly help strengthen one's commitment and understanding of his religious vocation. These are necessary preparations for missionary work.

A HUG FROM ARGENTINA

Br. Raul Acosta (ARE)



I want to apologize for not giving answers to your questions at this moment. It is unfortunate that every time you invite me to write for the bulletin, we, in the southern hemisphere, are busy with our preparations for exams. It is quite difficult to write for the bulletin at this moment. I hope you excuse a brother who studies and works. A hug from Argentina.

THANKS FOR THE BULLETIN

Br. Rafael Aguilar (ARS)



Thanks for everything and I always look forward to your bulletin. I hope to receive news sprung from there. I will try to reply in another time.

I LEARNED A LOT THROUGH THE PRACTICE

Br. Ivo dos Santos Fiuza (BRC)



-Was your own professional preparation adequate for the jobs/roles you have now?

Presently I am working with communities Afro-Brazilian, known as "quilombolas" communities here in Brazil. I have adequate training for this job. I learned a lot through the practice of pastoral care together with the Afro Brazilians.

-What could have been done better, as a suggestion for the future?

Cont. Br. Fiuza

I think we should prepare our SVD Brothers for their pastoral work. We should also respect their talents and skills. For their part, Brothers must also be open to the needs of the Congregation. What kind of leadership roles are taken over by Brothers in your Province?

Coordinators of formation, provincial councilors, district superior, among others.

-Are you recommending some specialized ministries (studies) for Brothers?

Yes! Justice and peace, youth, formation, Bible, communication, etc...

SOME PROFESSIONS FOR BROTHERS

Br. Raoul Mayulu (PAR)



Regarding the questions:

- Personally, I was prepared to assume my current position take on the position which I am holding at present as administrator of the School "Verbo Divino", I was prepared as I planned, I can confirm that I had an adequate preparation.

-En Paraguay, we are among few brothers, one who is the director of our Agriculture School, and other two, including myself, school administrator and the other brother administrator of our Seminary.

- Yes, personally, apart from the philosophical and theological studies, it would be good to study law, architecture, Bible and means of communication.

One concern: I do not know what happened because last time I sent a testimony of a brother I knew and with whom I lived, but unfortunately his name was not included in the bulletin. *(Editors: We are very sorry about this. We try our best, but mistakes still can happen.)*

A LASTWORD, FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

Are you impressed with some of the contributions? Or do you disagree? The open forum called "SVD BROTHERS bulletin" is ready to publish your comments and ideas. Please send them to one of the following addresses:

newlanyi@hotmail.com or svd_brothersphil@yahoo.com

SVD Brothers is written in English and Spanish. You may, however, contribute articles written in your favourite language (Indonesian, German, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, etc.), and we will do our best to translate them. What is important is that there be good communication among us in order to disseminate a new consciousness on Brother Vocation.

Br. Bela Lanyi, SVD

(on behalf of other Brothers in Cebu)

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