

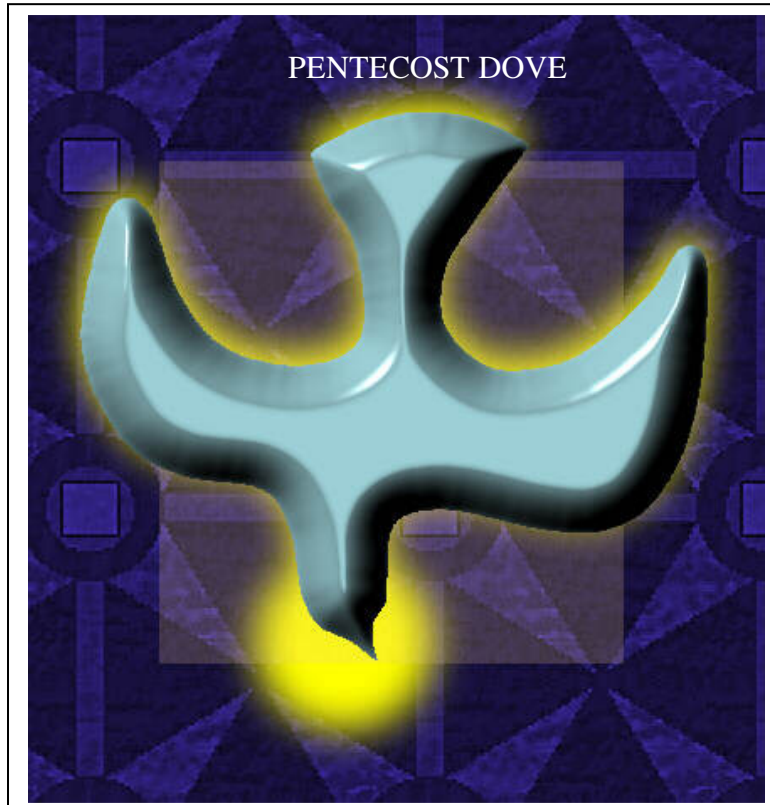


SVD BROTHERS

NEWSLETTER

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We hope that you regularly receive the SVD BROTHERS bulletin, which offers a forum on Brother Vocation in our Society. Previous issues of SVD BROTHERS are available on the homepage of the SVD Generalate (www.svdcuria.org).

The bulletin is written by its readers. We dedicate this next issue to our JUNIOR BROTHERS whose situation seems to be crucial for the future of the SVD Brother vocation.

Therefore, **we turned to our Junior Brothers this time to write about themselves.** The following guide questions helped them contribute.

1. Could you share about your daily schedule? How was your day yesterday or the day before yesterday?

2. Which activities of your present schedule do you consider as basic for your future? How far does this preparation influence your *community life*?

3. What are *your recommendations* to other Junior Brothers who strive to become authentic religious and better professionals?



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WHO AM I AND WHAT I AM DOING?

Br. Miller Hernandez, COL



I deeply believe that the Brother vocation can be lived happily. Personally, I live happily amidst heaps of opportunities offered to me by the Church today.

My name is Miller Hernández Díaz. I am from Colombia. I joined the SVD in 2001 and since then, I have been trained within the frame of the different stages proposed by our formation program in the Andean Sub-zone.

In 2008, I got a degree in Theology from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Three months ago, I finished my two-year OTP in the province of Chicago, USA. I am now back in Colombia. I am very happy after having learned a lot in this other face of the mission of God presented by the American continent.

I am preparing to profess my perpetual vows. This stage is called the Second Novitiate. I live in the post-novitiate house in Bogota where I share and experience discipline in prayer, community life and pastoral work with all the students. All in all, there are four of us who are candidates to become Brothers. In addition, there are six candidates for priesthood, two Brothers with perpetual vows, a deacon, and a priest who accompanies us.

A regular day for us in the post-novitiate begins with a moment of

personal prayer followed by the Eucharist at 6:00 AM. After the community breakfast, the students then leave for the university to carry out their academic responsibilities.

In my case, I spend some time with a companion who helps me my spiritual preparation for my perpetual vows. I also search for materials that I know would help me for this purpose. I read our constitutions and other documents that may help me deepen my knowledge of the Congregation.

In the area of leadership, I also prepare materials to work with young people in the workshops. That is a task assigned to me by the afro pastoral team, which offers young afro-descendants tools and means of leadership for participation in their communities and their local churches, as well as for strengthening their identity.

I do believe that the Brother vocation may be lived happily. I live happily in the midst of many challenges while building my own identity as an SVD Brother within the reality of the Church of today. In my daily life I try to exercise acceptance of others as well as acceptance of myself, so that my own contribution to the mission of God may be more effective and may lead me to live the Gospel consistently.

Finally, I am open to sincere dialogue in order to give testimony to my faith and vocation as a religious SVD Brother. I want to highlight the importance of the professional formation for Brothers today. Having finished my professional studies has made my preparation for my perpetual vows a lot easier. It also opens a clear view of my future since there is a definite career to focus on. I hope to continue studying and to

contribute to the mission of God as much as possible. God bless you dear confreres.

MISSION IS CHALLENGE

Br. Konstantin Kapu, OES



I am from Indonesia and at present, the only Junior Brother in the Austrian Province. Although there is a formation community in Vienna, I live separately from it in an SVD parish together with five SVD priests. We have several common activities such as morning prayer and breakfast, but I still miss the community of young confreres.

I have been invited to Austria by the publishing office of the Austrian SVD magazine *Stadt Gottes*. Therefore, my main responsibility is cooperation with the office, which includes assisting an elderly Austrian SVD Brother who is responsible for the distribution of the magazine in Vienna, the capital city of Austria.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, I visit the lay distributors in Vienna. It is important to maintain good contact with them. Most of them are elderly ladies with great enthusiasm, but they sometimes

Cont. Br. Kapu

have a naive understanding of other countries and our mission there. While I am interested in communications, I still ask myself the question of whether or not this service of magazine distribution holds a promising future for me.

On Fridays, I go to the editors' office in Mödling. I also work on the homepage of the Austrian SVD media. The other days are spent on several apostolates. On Mondays, I prepare Austrian children for their first communion. On Saturdays and Sundays, I participate in the missionary activities of the Juniorate (formation community). Along with other confreres, I visit different parishes or attend different events. Moreover, I also pursue a theological course as part of the Brother formation. These lectures take place every Tuesday. I have already finished a computer course here in Vienna, too.

My life in Vienna is indeed interesting, but I still look forward to my future in the SVD. I strongly feel that true mission is a challenge. Therefore, I would like to share with you an interesting experience that challenged me as Indonesian Junior Brother in Austria.

Once I visited an elderly Austrian lady in Vienna, an enthusiastic distributor of our magazines. During our conversation, another old lady appeared and, upon seeing me, said, "We, white people, give so much money to the third world

so that you can get your food." I was so angry and told her, "It is true that I don't have money, but it is my life that I donate for the mission." The old lady turned red and angrily left the room. I was scandalized. My host, the distributor of our SVD magazines, looked perplexed and said, "This woman is crazy!"

Indeed, Vienna is challenging! But anyway, I like it very much and I hope that I can contribute much to the growth of faith and human understanding in this country.

P.S. From Br. Konstantin Kapu on [May 26](#):

"Brother Bela, I left SVD. You can ask father Andreas Sawu, my Formator in Austria, about it. I am now in Yogyakarta because I want to study communications or English. I was at the university yesterday. About my reporting, if you want to publish it, I thank you. It is good to understand how we can give young brothers the opportunity to get proper education. Greetings from Jogja. Keep in touch."

Konstantin

**“WITH THE
VOCATION, GOD
ALSO GIVES THE
TALENT”**

Br. Szymon Porwol, POL



My daily schedule starts at 7:00 AM with the morning prayer and the Holy Mass, followed by breakfast and a short time for coffee with the confreres. I start my work at 9:30 AM. Aside from working in our publishing office as a graphic artist, I also create promotional materials. I recently opened an internet shop, which I also administer. Sometimes I also help in handling orders and preparing for deliveries. There are often many new things to do in the field of information technology, which is why I cannot complain of monotony. I take my lunch at 1:00 PM. After the noon prayer, I return to work until 4:30 PM.

After my work at the publishing office, I spend time for the needs of the community, a little relaxation, and private prayer. I also work on my own projects such as the website of our house. In the evening I join the community evening prayer. After supper, I usually spend time to sit with our confreres and to talk about our common issues. For me, each day is different from the other. I don't experience any kind of monotony. Recently, I set up electrical power in the newly reconstructed rooms of the publishing office.

Which activities of this schedule do I consider as basic for my future? First, I try to nourish my relationship with Jesus, although it differs daily. The above-mentioned schedule is true of a typical day. There are days when I hardly find much time for prayer, or when I don't have much energy any longer. Next is the concrete and intensive labor and, whenever possible, attendance of courses for further studies

coupled with a positive outlook on the constant learning of new things. Physical exercises such as jogging are also important for me.

What are my recommendations to other Junior Brothers who strive to become authentic religious and better professionals? What I have learned from my own experience is that we must not deceive anybody. We have to be true to ourselves. If there is something that we strive to reach but is beyond our capabilities and opportunities, then we should not be afraid of resigning from it and looking for better ways of realizing our vocation.

First of all, we must not forget Jesus, because without Him our work and our perseverance are valueless. The more we become conscious that He wants us to be where we are and the more we live out this consciousness, the more we become professionals in every field. This is true for information technologists, physicians, and gatekeepers. As that remarkable sentence I heard in the novitiate goes, "With the vocation, God also gives the talent."



MORE MOTIVATION!

Br. Albinus Sella, IDJ



It is nice to meet all the confreres through this site. I felt happy when I received the SVD BROTHERS bulletin. This is the best opportunity for us to share our experiences of becoming a Religious Brother in the Society of the Divine Word. I would happily share my experiences as a Junior Brother who just professed his vows in the Society.

1. Experience is the best teacher in our life. Living in a working community together with the seniors is very fulfilling. At first, I was quite afraid, worried and hesitant. Yet after walking together with them, I was glad. My daily routine at the Arnoldus community in Surabaya included the following: rising, taking a bath, morning prayer, mass, breakfast, going to the office, lunch, siesta, sports, supper, evening prayer, studying, recreation and sleep. Everyday was always a different experience for me. At times I felt happy, at other times lazy, and so on. I did enjoy my life with the community. My principle is that I don't want my life to be miserable so I have to make it livelier every single day.

2. A good preparation for the future that I consider is studying according to my talent and interests, or to what is needed by the Society for the mission. So far, the community where I am staying is very supportive with the course that I am taking.

3. I hope for Junior Brothers to continue loving their vocation as Brothers with the ability and interest to become experts in their chosen field. I also hope for all the confreres to continue their support for the vocation of Brothers in the Society and feel their presence among the confreres and in the community with our real and true love as confreres. Becoming an authentic and professional Brother entails praying diligently, serving zealously, working courageously, being open to others, and being ready to be sent to any mission field.

Looking at the decreasing number of SVD Brothers in the Java province saddens me. One reason for the decrease in number is the lack of promotion for the Brother vocation from the confreres. Many people still don't understand what being a Brother is all about. I hope we could give more motivations for those who are interested to become religious Brothers in the future. I strongly believe that if we work for God, there is always a solution to all problems in our undertakings. These are among the things that I could share to strengthen our Holy vocation. Thank you very much.

MANAGE YOUR TIME!

Br. Nelson Vidigal, IDJ



Before I share my daily activities, I would like to introduce myself. My nickname is Bro. Nelson. I am now living in the Soverdi Surabaya Community (IDJ). I am in my third vow and I am also studying to become a nurse. I am grateful for Bro. Lanyi's questions for us. But I have to apologize because my answer is written in Indonesian because my English is not so good. I hope Bro. Hubert can help with the translation. Thanks.

I usually wake up at five in the morning and prepare myself for the mass. If my class starts at seven, I don't attend the mass in the community. Instead I attend the 5:30AM mass at the Cathedral, and then prepare myself for class.

Everyday I use my bike to go to school, some ten to fifteen minutes away. I have some difficulties as a student but I try to solve them myself. I am now in the second year of my study. During vacation, I spend all the time on various activities in the community.

In my daily life, there are two basic things formed my future life as SVD.

1. *Spiritual life.* SVD Constitution No. 302 underlines that the heart our shared life is the Eucharist. Our oneness in Christ grows particularly through its celebration where we are strengthened by listening to the word of God and where the one bread we break is a communion with the Body of Christ. While gathered around the table of the Lord we are united in spirit with all our confreres and with those we serve.

2. *Apostolic life (study).* As a student, studying is a basic preparation for our life in the future. Of course, there are many challenges in our life as a member of the community and as a student as well. But I can always cope with all these things through personal prayer. My experiences in my study have taught me to become stronger in my vocation.

3. *What is my recommendation for our junior Brothers* who are striving to be authentic and professional religious? To be authentic religious, the first thing that we have to do is to build a strong relationship with God and to know Him closely through daily experiences and through the life of people around us. For all junior SVD Brothers all over the world who are still studying, do not forget to give time for your spiritual life and your apostolic life, especially studying. Please properly manage your time in studying and be good in your profession. To be a professional ones, we have to work together and listen to our superiors with humility, so that our will could be fulfilled. My sweet greetings to you all.

BEING IN DIALOGUE IS THE SUPPORT FOR OUR WORKS

Br. Servasius Retta, IDJ



I have been with the Novitiate community for almost eight months now. I follow all the community activities, which include praying together, meditation, Eucharist, meal, work, and recreation. Community work includes cleaning the house, gardening and so on. My daily program demands my personal initiative and my being proactive in order for me to see to the needs of the community. Some activities are new to me as I have experienced them first in the community. I learn a lot from my confreres. These are some of the things I have learned from the community life:

1. The intensity of work in the community can both be very challenging and rewarding. The interaction and the dialogue with people (generally in the campus) enable me to learn how to understand the reality of the world. I can then share this experience with the community that I am staying with.

2. Living with the community has helped me develop my personality. The

Cont. Br. Retta

community atmosphere helps me to grow spiritually.

There are many activities in the junior formation that could help my future and, of course, the future of the congregation. I wish to become a teacher, which requires strong interaction and relationship with people. By becoming a good teacher is instrumental to creating harmonious relationship with other religions or dialogue with others.

The course that I am taking now helps me understand the personality of the community members. I have learned a lot from my relationship and interaction with the formators (Novice Master-Assistant, Novice Master) together with the novices. I have learned to analyze social issues in the community and try to understand the needs of the younger generation (novices).

I wish that I could communicate this faith through my being with the people and that I could give witness to God through my works. This kind of thinking would strengthen my will to continue studying and enrich my capability to reflect my experience of faith.

Juniorate program in the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) becomes an important venue in our formation where we could process our experience and develop our capability to reflect our life thoroughly and humbly

to be open with the community members.

1. The religiosity that lived from the faith becomes a strong foundation for him to interpret his experience in life. The first and foremost duty of a Brother in the Congregation is to become a witness in the religious life. Becoming a missionary Brother demands our interaction capability and dialogue that support our works. Spirituality formation becomes important and useful in developing our faith if done in the light of the community spirit.

2. As far as I am concerned, some of our confreres who complain about their low capability and performance should not lose courage because there is always room for improvement. Diligence and perseverance would enable us (Junior Brothers) to speak about what we are in. Becoming a professional does not mean that you should know everything. What matter is how you communicate your expertise to the people you serve.

GARDENING AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Br. Zoltán András, HUN



I am a tractor driver, in other words, an "agricultural machinist". I have been working in different countries like Hungary, Romania, Switzerland, and Germany. In this way, I gained experience in several fields of agriculture: wheat farming, fruit production, flower gardening, chicken breeding and horse training. As a Divine Word missionary, I would also like to use these experiences in my mission.

I get up at 5:30 AM and do some healing gymnastics. Then I attend the morning prayer and the Holy Mass of the community at 6:15 AM. Afterwards, I am the one who fetches in the post of the community. My study time follows. After many years in physical works, I am again pursuing theological studies at the Correspondence Course of the Sapientia College of Theology of Religious Orders. This will take three years. I attend lectures every Saturday. Moreover, an intensive daily learning is indispensable for me. On Mondays and Tuesdays, I attend an English course.

My other job is to take care of the garden of our Nazareth Mission House. This work includes planting of flowers and other plants, and cutting grass. While I have to find time for this everyday, I usually do it on Tuesdays. A retired gardener-engineer next to us also teaches me in this field.

Later, I would like to work in a place where I can teach agricultural work to people, how they can produce this and that while conducting a life that pleases God. The best piece of

Cont. Br. Andras

advice I could give to somebody who chooses the vocation of a religious missionary Brother is to pray a lot! We have to believe that all things are in the Lord's hands.

NEXT TIME!

Br. Kris Riberu, IDJ

Kris informed us that he could not write anything for this edition. He is busy with his school activities. But he is grateful for the inquiry.

OTP IS LIKE A GIFT FOR ME

Br. Bernd Ruffing, (OES, OTP in Thailand)



Doing an OTP is really like a gift for me and everyday brings new and valuable experiences. I started to be involved in our hospice for people with HIV/AIDS. Yesterday we spent seven hours in the hospital in order to see a doctor. I was surprised at how the patients were taken care of by nurses while they waited for the doctor. The nurses led them in stretching exercises and

taught them various educational tips on how to take care of their health.

Everyday brings its own challenges as I interact with the patients and the youth in our new orphanage, and relate to the staff and members of our parish. I'm still new, so I have to try to build relationships.

I like asking people about what they think a "Brother" is. I believe part of the mission is to let them know more about who we are. A patient once asked me, "Brother, are you married?" Another patient suggested that I buy a house to live. He even offered himself to be my guide and housekeeper. In Thailand seminarians studying to become priests are also called Brothers, which further confuses many people. A lot of people often ask me why I wouldn't become "more."

Actually, I don't feel that I lack anything. I see the richness and beauty of my vocation, so I was happy about the feedback from Renee, an American volunteer who has lived in Africa for many years. Renee came to stay with us for six weeks. "I had no idea of what a Brother was," Renee said. "When I met you and the other Brothers, it was a revelation. Here were men living lives like a monk, but down-to-earth and were part of everyday life with us 'sinners'!"

"I was so happy to see that, and I felt that there is more hope for us. I was

really taken with their ways. Each Brother came across as very kind and caring but also normal—experiencing all the emotions that we do and having some of the failings. This has given me hope for my own life. It was very refreshing to see people living simply on purpose. I was impressed at how open and honest they were about what is happening in today's world and in the church, too! And they always answered all my questions, even the irritating ones!"

"Each day after meeting the Brothers, I asked myself, 'Is this what religious life could be like?' Seeing their life and asking many questions and watching them interact, I must admit I have been wondering if I would be able to do it. To me, the SVD Brothers are 'walking the walk'—and that is so honorable and it refreshes my thinking about religious people."

"I am exposed on a daily basis to various religious people in Africa and it is rare that I do not get sickened by most of those I meet for their ways. What does give me hope in Liberia and Ghana is the lay person who believes and who tries to live the Word. But as for the leaders in the various churches and denominations, I often cannot find one to admire. For me, this precious experience to live among SVD members has given me some hope and I long to convince the SVD order to send its people to Liberia to help those who desperately

Cont. Br. Ruffing

need some encouragement to walk the walk and stop only talking the talk!"

It is assuring that we are seen by others as doing the job that we are called to do. So let's continue to walk our walk and to become witnesses to the Word! That's what we do everyday, although we don't usually talk about it.

LEARNING THE LOCAL LANGUAGE...

Br. Julio Carrillo (ECU, OTP in PHS)



I am doing my OTP in the Southern province of the Philippines. I consider this experience fundamental within our missionary formation. This is a very important time to come out from the learned missionary concepts so that we may live them and put them into practice. At the moment I am being prepared to learn not only a new language but also a new culture as well as the history, ideologies and forms of relationship within this culture. Furthermore, this experience is also an opportunity to come to know myself.

I am living in the house of the Missionaries of Jesus because it is near the school where I am being trained. During weekends, I visit my confreres in our junior seminary in Skyline Road, Catalunan Grande, which is in the Southern part of the city. I have been in Davao City for four months already. I spend most of my time in the school of languages, MILC, learning Bisaya.

OTP, for me, is an experience that helps us, brothers in temporary vows, to be able to recognize other forms of mission and to exercise our goals and missionary necessities as a congregation. It is also an experience that strengthens our missionary religious choice and that, at the same time, helps us to take into account existent missionary needs, leading us to have more clarity for our professionalization.

PHS: HIGH APPRECIATION TO JUNIOR BROTHERS

(Br. Bela Lanyi, PHS, reports on Junior Brothers in his Province)

We have four junior Brothers in the Province. In addition, one junior Brother is on leave and we don't know if he would come back to us. In the present formation system, junior Brothers after the novitiate return to Cebu, the headquarters of Brother Formation.



Br. Irol Torres is a lawyer. Fresh from his BAR Examination, he can already contribute a lot of important services to our Province. As a notary public in Cebu City, he notarizes the official documents of the Province and the SVD-run University of San Carlos. Br. Irol has always been fascinated by social work. As the Human Resource Director of JPIC (the social arm of the SVD in Cebu), he cares for both the urban poor and the employees of this charity organization. His work requires a lot of travel, sometimes even to different islands. Br. Irol has also been a vocation promoter. As a Brother, he effectively promotes Brother Vocation while not neglecting priestly vocation well. He is now focusing on the family visitation of the new (incoming) seminarians. (With the beginning of the new academic year in June, a new formation year starts in the Brothers' Formation House in Cebu.) The new formandi are being prepared for the formation through an "Orientation Course" in which Br. Irol plays a crucial role.

Br. Villamor "Amor" Penoj-an has already been in the SVD for



several years as a priest candidate. During his novitiate, he decided to transfer to Brotherhood. He is studying Chemical Engineering at the University of San Carlos. He is looking for a good option as to how he can use his professional knowledge in his

Cont. Br. Bela

future, especially in his mission. Br. Villamor is also a member of the formation team at the Brothers' Formation House.



We are also proud of having a Brazilian Brother,

Sebastiao da Silva. After his basic formation in Brazil, he finished OTP in the Philippines. He worked with poor people in an island, but he could also travel around the archipelago. After this experience, Br. Sebastiao requested to be transferred into SVD-PHS (Philippines Southern Province). He continues his professional formation here as a student of the University of San Carlos College of Pharmacy.



A “new” Brother, **Roy Lapingcao**, has recently arrived at the Formation House after the

Novitiate. We are happy to have him back in Cebu. He will spend some years of temporary vows here, practicing his profession as teacher and helping in the vocation pastoral.

Another junior Brother, **Julio Carillo**, is doing his OTP in our Province. You can read about his experience in the previous article.

SHARINGS FROM CONFRERES IN FINAL VOWS

How do our confreres in final vows look at our Junior Brothers?

Since we could foresee that not enough contributions would arrive from our Junior Brothers, we encouraged our confreres in final vows to dialogue about the life and commitment of Junior SVD Brothers by sending them the following questions:

1. What would be your advice to a Junior SVD Brother after his transfer to your country?
2. What should he do to gain more social acceptance and missionary efficiency?

GOOD IN PROFESSION, GOOD IN COMMUNICATION

Br. Mike Decker, USC



Question #1

1. Make sure that you acquire the needed language skills in the new country.
2. Make sure that you receive some workshop, formal or informal, on the culture of the new country.
3. Make sure that you receive academic training in the area that you want to pursue.
4. Make sure you have good formators in the country you are in (E.g., good supervisor/mentor/CTP Director/Director of Brother Formation). It is also important to communicate your experiences in the new country with your CTP Director in your home country.
5. Fully immerse yourself into the people and culture, but be patient, as this takes time. As much as possible, develop a good relationship with a trustworthy SVD from the new country, someone who can give you valuable assistance.
6. Maintain communication with another SVD from your own country who is in the same country that you are in for support and understanding. He must be someone whom you can honestly share all your experiences and challenges with.
7. Be involved with as many different and new experiences as you can be.

Cont. Br. Decker

Question #2

1. Learn from others in the new country/culture you are in.
2. Observe, communicate with, and learn from both young and old SVD Brothers in the new country.
3. Be honest to yourself and to others.
4. Ask questions and learn from your mistakes.
5. As much as possible, learn about the new country's history, people and culture not only before but also during your stay. This is a lifelong process.

REMEMBER YOUR VOWS!

Br. Stephen Bonsu, GHA



My first piece of advice to the Junior SVD Brother is that he should learn the common language of the province. The Brother could gain social acceptance in the country by learning the culture of that country. He should also take the job assigned to him seriously, take initiatives, and be creative in the work given him. He should not spend much of his time just touring the country like a tourist. He should not get involved in the politics of the country.

He should get himself involved in pastoral work in the parish/outstation. He should associate with the youth in the parish and involve himself in their activities. The Brother can strengthen his vocation by spending some time in prayer with the Lord, and by reading the Bible and some spiritual books. The Junior SVD Brother should always remember the three vows he professed before the Lord.

Consecrated Chastity:

Constitution 205.3 says that "the consecrated chastity calls for prudent and mature behaviour not only in our dealings with others but also in what we choose to read and see: books, films, TV programs, etc. In all of this we should be considerate of the customs and sensitivities of those among whom we live."

Evangelical Poverty:

Constitution 207 says that "Jesus became poor to make us rich through his poverty (see 2 Co. 8:9). He was sent to preach the good news to the poor (see Luke 4:18) and took his stand with them. He demanded that his co-workers leave all to follow him (see Mk 10:28-30). Our vocation, therefore, entails that we too share the poverty of Christ. For the Lord and for the sake of his kingdom, we place all that we have at the service of our apostolic mission and we choose like Christ, to be one with the poor."

Apostolic Obedience:

Constitution 217 says that "our obedience serves to unite us

and coordinates our efforts, focusing them on the Society's missionary goals. To attain these one must be ready to go anywhere the society sends him. We work on our assignments conscientiously but the Junior SVD brother must be prepared to hand over to others, when asked to do so."

If a Junior SVD Brother takes the above pieces of advice seriously after his transfer to a new province, he will surely find fulfilment in his mission work.

EMBRACE THE MISSION AS GOD'S MISSION!

Br. Bernie Spitzley, USC



In August we will have a Brother in Temporary vows join us as a member of the Missionary Team here in Jamaica. This is a letter I wrote to him as he plans to join the team. I think you can use it for the newsletter.

To: Brother Jung-Che Yeh, "Bobby"

Welcome to Jamaica! We, the Divine Word missionaries, have been working here for over 17 years. During those 17 years we have

Cont. Br. Spitzley

experienced the potentiality and reality of the Reign of God here in Eastern Jamaica. As you prepare to come here, remember it is God's mission...not ours.

Thus, we invite you to work *with* the people, and to do so by embracing Jesus as a Brother. We need to be as one who initiated Prophetic Dialogue by Being a brother to all and by inviting others to be with the ministry as an equal. This calls for a dropping of the heart so that His Mission is our mission. This new way of mission is to embrace our mission as God's Mission. That mission (or evangelization) is not a one-way street where everything is done *by* the missionary *for* the people. When this happens, the people are merely recipients of the gifts brought by the missionary. Our dialogue underlines the fact that the Spirit is at work in the evangelized as well as in the evangelizers. To that end, mission becomes a two-way exchange of gifts between the missionary and the people among whom he works.

Consequently, I invite you to join us with daily prayer and weekly Bible sharing so as to approach the work of mission with contemplation, humility, and respect. You, like us, will have to learn to give and receive; to evangelize and be evangelized; to speak and to listen. Together we need to learn to walk with the people and respect the pace of the

people's walking. So I invite you to be prepared to change and be changed; to form and be formed; to invite conversion and be converted yourself.

To make your CTP year a success I invite you to embrace Jesus as a Brother, as one who worked with the people and as an equal, as your template for Prophetic dialogue. All of us need to drop our hearts and allow the heart of Jesus to be our heart. With this posture you will put mission in the proper perspective, and state a basic truth about mission, namely, that mission is first and foremost God's mission. The principal agent of mission is God's Spirit. Your call to mission is but a call to collaborate with the Spirit in helping unfold God's ongoing dialogue with humanity.

It's a big challenge, but together with the people, you will experience the Reign of God alive and well here in Jamaica!

**ATTEND
GATHERINGS.
MAINTAIN YOUR
PRAYER LIFE!**

Fr. Adam MacDonald, USC



Greetings from Techny and thanks for your note.

First of all, I'd like to offer you my congratulations on the great job you're doing with the Brothers' newsletter. I look forward to every issue, and I've enjoyed everything I've read so far. With regard to the questions for which you've asked feedback of the members, let me see what I can offer you.

What would be your advice to a Junior SVD Brother after his transfer to your Province?

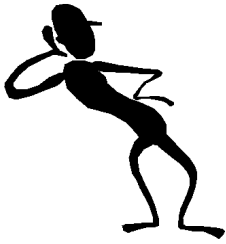
My advice would be that a Junior SVD Brother should make an effort to attend and fully participate in as many Province, District, and/or Local gatherings as possible after arriving in the Province. This would allow the Junior Brother to get to know the members and the situation of the Province more quickly.

How could he strengthen his vocation and gain social acceptance in your country?

The best way to strengthen his vocation would be to maintain an active prayer life, including making time for regular spiritual direction and an annual retreat, taking part in communal days of recollection, etc. In terms of gaining social acceptance, I think fluency in the local language and customs of the country would be of the greatest help.

LISTEN TO THE LOCAL PEOPLE!

Br. Peter van de Wiel and other Brothers from Teteringen (NEB)



We offer the following pieces of advice:

1. Give enough time for learning the language.
2. Spend time listening to the local people in order to gain insight into their culture and customs.
3. Have professionals give input on secular issues, such as politics, social life, and religious atmosphere in the new country.
4. Take time to study the geography and history of the country.

Greetings from Teteringen!

TO AVOID FRUSTRATION...

Fr. Josef Denkmayr (Provincial, OES)



Because of a lot of work, I can send you just a short reply. The following points seem to be important for me.

The transferred Brother and the receiving Province must clearly agree about concrete fields of activities (jobs) the former has to perform. Otherwise, frustration or disappointment over certain expectations might result.

If a young Brother goes to a Province with many elderly confreres, it would be better to go with a companion in order to avoid loneliness or isolation.

The confreres have to acculturate themselves to the new culture as much as possible. For this, a considerable distance from the home country is necessary. Contemporary media (Internet, Facebook, cellphone) are significant obstacles.

THEY NEED INFORMATION, NOT JUST ADVICE!

Br. Durai Raju Sosai, INC



If you offer your advice freely but feel like no one is taking it to heart, you may just be doing it wrong. A lot of our daily conversations involve giving and getting advice. Who likes advice in this changing world? Everybody wants information, not advice.

According to a study of the decision process, the best way to give advice is simply to offer information. Behavior Blog

Psychology highlights four different kinds of advice, namely, advice for, advice against, decision making, and information. When someone makes a recommendation for or against a particular option, a decision maker may feel like they have lost a bit of their independence in making a choice. Recommendations on how to go about making the choice may also make a decision maker feel a loss of independence. When the advice comes in the form of information, though, decision makers feel like they have autonomy. Information also helps decision makers inform future related decisions and makes them more confident about their choice.

There are a few reasons that information is more valuable to people than other kinds of advice. New pieces of information often make people aware of certain dimensions of a decision that they had never considered before. A recommendation for or against a particular option is useful for the specific decision that one is making at a given time, but that advice may not be helpful in the future. Finally getting information makes people feel more confident in the decision they ultimately make.

Information provides reasons for or against a particular option. There is a lot of evidence that people feel better about decisions when they are able to give a reason for making the choice. Information provides a good justification for a choice. Information is integral to our experience of the world, to personal, social and organizational functioning. If you want to help people, help them by giving information. Thus, we offer experience of

Cont. Br. Sosai

the world, personal witness, social structures and organization (SVD) functioning. Understanding this will help or strengthen the junior Brother in his vocation.

AVOID SELFISH COMMENTS TO JUNIOR BROTHERS!

Br. Muktlal Ekka, INE



Thanks for your message. It makes us feel proud that we are able to reach to all our brothers to share and to care in need. After a gap of a few years, we have another professed brother. India still struggles to prepare and guide the younger ones.

Our younger ones need to be nurtured and guided as they take up their first assignments. The responsibility of making them feel at home should first come from the senior members. Oftentimes, the senseless and selfish comments made by senior members are very disappointing, disturbing, and disgusting. The younger ones are humiliated and laughed at.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE THE CASE BY ANY MEANS. I had very bitter experience. Our younger ones need to be given the proper environment to grow gracefully and help them to commit totally to their tasks. They should not hesitate to express themselves in the community for the sake of community. Be devoted in prayers and in responsibilities, too. Be free and frank in expression in a humble way. Be strong whenever and wherever it is needed.

I wish our younger ones all the best. Stay blessed.

THERE ARE NO READY-MADE POSITIONS

Fr. Frank Budenholzer (SIN, Provincial)



I am off on a trip to China tomorrow and it will probably not be convenient to write to you in the next few days. However, because I think your questions are important, I want to say something.

You mention somewhere that the Brother vocation is sometimes not understood. I think this is true in the China Province. Therefore, I would suggest a Junior SVD Brother

who has just been transferred to the province to take a look at the good work and witness of several of the Brothers who are already in the China Province.

Brother Yohannes Lim, originally from West Timor, is in charge of the men's dorms in the SVD Section of Fu Jen Catholic University. He is doing a fine job.

Brother Norbert Ruf, originally from Germany, is doing a job that he finds very satisfying. It combines his interest in high-tech electronics, his interest in popular music, and his care for students. Norbert is the chief technician for the experimental theater at Fu Jen University. He has to use the sound and light capabilities of the facility to enhance all sorts of student plays, shows and lectures. Another Brother is teaching at a big public university in the province. He is an active teacher and author.

One thing all these activities have in common is that they demand a certain sort of creativity. They were not ready-made positions. These three as well as others whom I do not mention have all found ways to creatively serve the Church and the larger society.

And how can a young Brother strengthen his vocation and gain acceptance? I think the most important thing to consider is to be firm in one's own religious vocation and in one's work, and display a deep-seated and calm sense of joy in one's vocation.

BLOOM WHEREVER YOU ARE PLANTED!

Br. S. Swaminathan, INM



Thank you very much for your mail, which contained two interesting and important questions. I am not a competent person to give answers to those questions, but since you asked me, I am obliged to share a couple of my experiences.

BLOOM WHEREVER YOU ARE PLANTED. YOU ARE AT HOME.

A junior Brother comes to the province with great ambitions in his mind about his studies and work in the future. He may have extraordinary talents and higher qualification. Naturally he may have lots of enthusiasm, energy, good will, plans, etc. In reality more often than not, things do not really go the way one thought they would.

Therefore, it may be appropriate for a junior Brother to come to his assigned province with an open heart and mind to accept any type of job in accordance to the need of the province. "Try

to bloom wherever you are planted." This should be his basic principle in life. He should surrender to God, continuously seeking God's will and dedicate himself to fulfill it. He should constantly be aware of the truth that Jesus has called and sent him to do His Mission so that all will see the goodness and dedication in him.

Senior brothers should serve as models and encouragement to the junior Brothers. They should let the junior Brothers learn from their good example. The junior Brother should lead a prayerful life in order to be filled by the spirit of Jesus, carry on the job entrusted to him cheerfully, and persevere in and strengthen his vocation.

The junior Brother should make the province be his home and enjoy doing his assigned tasks. The spirit of his commitment, his love to his province/Mission, his dedication to his assigned task, and his love for his congregation and the humanity will certainly lead him to get deeply rooted in his vocation and gain social acceptance.

REPLIES FROM INDIA MAY BE DELAYED

Br. Bipin Surin, INE



It is summer vacation in India for all confreres. Most of us are at home with our dear ones. Therefore, the replies you are expecting may be delayed. I will try to inform our Brothers in the province about the articles in the given topics as their contribution for the next issue.

Could you send me the website of the University of San Carlos and Holy Name University? Some of our parents are eager to know our educational institutions in Asian countries. Thanks.



A LASTWORD, FROM THE EDITORS

I sometimes wonder why it was so tiresome to collect contributions from our junior Brothers. Yes, some of them complain that they are not good in writing. I also understand that on their way towards a final decision, they might not yet be able to point out with clarity the factors behind certain issues in their formation. Confreres in final vows share their experiences with much more ease perhaps because they have already made the great decision in their lifetime commitment.

Each sharing deserves high appreciation. Moreover, I personally believe that communication (in small local SVD communities or in a worldwide forum like SVD BROTHERS) is a good form of nurturing religious vocation. In fact, it is precisely this kind of communication that opens our eyes to see that not all tensions we experience are wrong. Challenges must be seen positively. "Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you." (1 Pet 4:18)

Do the sharings correspond to YOUR OWN IMAGE of junior Brothers? We would be happy to read your echo. Please write to the following addresses: newlanvi@hotmail.com or svd_brothersphil@yahoo.com. You may use your favorite language, English, Spanish, Indonesian, Polish, German, etc.

In the Divine Word,

Your SVD Brothers in Cebu City



SVD Brothers- Cebu City (3rd renewal vows of Brs. Amor & Irol last June 30, 2010)
From left to right: Brs. Roland, Dong, Sebastiao, Amor, Julio, Irol, Roy, Lando, Rommel, and Ben.

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