



The Missionary Minute



Charism of the
Divine Word
Missionaries
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How do I know if
God is calling me?
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Our Founder, St.
Arnold Janssen:
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Director.
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A Few Good Men

The Brotherhood of the Society of the Divine Word

From the beginning, Brothers have been the bedrock of the Society of the Divine Word, laying the groundwork for mission and ministry. They constructed the buildings and tilled the earth in the Society's early years, housing and sustaining its members. They grew, made, repaired or produced what was needed for survival – and they were the pioneers who changed the Society from an association of diocesan priests into a religious congregation.

In the early 1880s, the first Brothers took their vows as members of the Society of the Divine Word. Its founder, St. Arnold Janssen, regarded the Brothers as fully religious and as missionary as any of the Society's priests. In fact, on October 15, 1895, a Brother was the first member of the Society of the Divine Word to come to North America – Brother Wendelin (Joseph Meyer), SVD. A former teacher in Germany, his new work involved finding a market for the mission-based Catholic publications produced by the Society in their printing press department in Holland. Brother Wendelin's success meant that he soon needed help in his work. The following year he was joined by Brother Homobonus (Joseph Stiller), SVD.

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My Cross-Cultural Experience in Ecuador

By Jaroslaw Dabrowski, SVD

A few months ago, I returned from Ecuador where I spent almost two years doing my Cross-Cultural Training Program (CTP). This program allows a student to spend time in a foreign country or a place inhabited by people of a culture different from the student's culture. Ecuador, the place of my CTP experience, is one of the smallest among Latin American countries. Located in the Northwestern part of South America, it is a home to some 14 million people. Rich in its cultural and ethnic diversity as well as abundant natural resources, Ecuador struggles with many socio-economic problems. In 1999, the country suffered a severe financial crisis. Due to hyperinflation and the change of the national currency from *sucre* to dollar the following year, many people lost their jobs and significant amounts of money. Nonetheless, the country strives to improve the conditions of its citizens by implementing many social and economic reforms.

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