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Sent: Wed 1/21/15 10:01 PM

Fire at St. Arnold House

This is to let you know that early yesterday morning a fire destroyed St. Arnold House, Divine Word College's residence for women in the lay ministry program. St. Arnold House is located in the town of Epworth just across the street from Divine Word College's back entrance to Megan Hall.



Actually, there were two fires. The first took place during lunch on Monday, January 19th. All the residents were at the college having lunch. Mr. Jim Callahan, our maintenance man, went over to the house to repair something and smelled smoke. Eventually he and Brother Vinh discovered a fire within the walls (it was an electrical fire) between the upper part of the kitchen and the lower part of the bedroom section (the home is a split-level bungalow). He called the firemen, who put the fire out. The damage probably amounted to several thousand dollars, but the firemen managed to save the house. Sr. Mary (the formator also living there) and the lay women packed some of their things and moved across the street to Megan Hall.

During the night (around 1:00 AM or so) a passerby noticed smoke and flames coming from the house. He called the fire department. This time when they arrived the fire was already raging over a good part of the roof. The firemen spent several hours at the scene to make sure that the fire was completely out. What the fire did not destroy the water did. The house is a total loss, and Sr. Mary and the lay students lost everything they had left behind. But at least they are safe.



I'm attaching several photos so that you can see the damage for yourself.

Fr. Timothy Lenchak, SVD
President



