

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

L: My souls proclaims the greatness of the Lord... (Canticle of Mary)

INTERCESSIONS

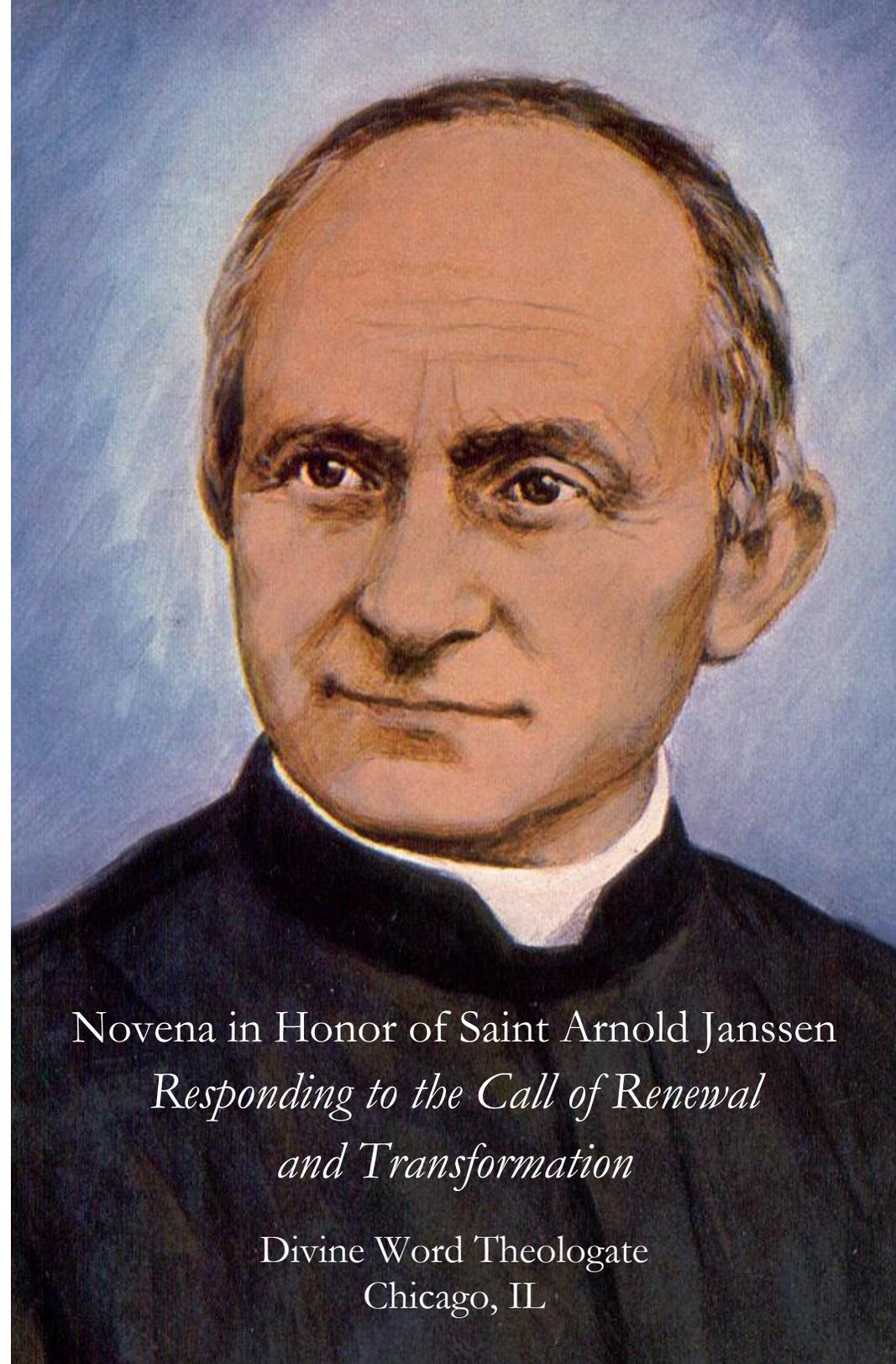
God has made an everlasting covenant with his people, and he never ceases to bless them. Grateful for these gifts, we confidently direct our prayer to him: *R/*: Lord, bless your people.

1. May we become more active and dedicated in promoting SVD lay partners and working with them in our mission. *R/*
2. May we take necessary steps to develop formation programs together with lay partners and to involve ourselves in animation of our lay partners. *R/*
3. May we involve more lay partners in the management of our educational institutions, planning commissions, etc.; also, on the advisory boards of our institutions such as schools and on working committees such as PRM finance committees. *R/*
4. May we be inspired and animated to organize an SVD Day, SVD Weekend or SVD Week annually to celebrate our worldwide mission. *R/*.
5. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). *R/*

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)



Novena in Honor of Saint Arnold Janssen
*Responding to the Call of Renewal
and Transformation*

Divine Word Theologate
Chicago, IL

OPENING PRAYER

L. God, eternal truth,

A. We believe in you.

L. God, our strength and salvation,

A. We hope in you.

L. God, infinite goodness,

A. We love you with all our heart.

L. You have sent the Word as Savior of the world,

A. Make us all one in him.

L. Fill us with the Spirit of your Son,

A. That we may glorify your name. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

L. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank you:

A. For having called Arnold to follow your Son, the Divine Word, in the task of proclaiming the Good News to all peoples;

- For the gift of your Spirit that filled him with great love for your Son, and drove him to consecrate himself totally to your kingdom of love, peace and justice;
- For the missionary witness of Arnold, a man of burning faith, hope and charity.

L. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we ask for ourselves:

A. The missionary concern of Arnold, so that we may go to those who do not know the Good News of Jesus Christ;

- the burning zeal of Arnold for God's Word to unite the hearts of all people;
- the hope of Arnold to form in one Spirit a bond of unity with all of creation;
- the enthusiasm of Arnold to imitate Jesus who gave himself to us in the Eucharist, as a sign of his infinite love for the world;
- the desire of Arnold when he prayed: "May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the Light of the Word and the Spirit of Grace, and may the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people."

Amen.

He predestined us †

to be his adopted sons through Jesus Christ, *
such was his will and pleasure,
that all might praise the glorious favor *
he has bestowed on us in his beloved.

In him and through his blood, we have been redeemed, *
and our sins forgiven,
so immeasurably generous *
is God's favor to us.

God has given us the wisdom *
to understand fully the mystery,
the plan he was pleased *
to decree in Christ.

A plan to be carried out *
in Christ, in the fullness of time,
to bring all things into one in him, *
in the heavens and on earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. God chose us in his Son to be his adopted children.

READING Colossians 1:9b-11

May you attain full knowledge of God's will through perfect wisdom and spiritual insight. Then you will lead a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him in every way. You will multiply good works of every sort and grow in the knowledge of God. By the might of his glory you will be endowed with the strength needed to stand fast, even to endure joyfully whatever may come.

DAY NINE

Responding to the call of missionary vocation like St. Arnold through co-responsibility with SVD lay partners

OPENING PRAYER (*Refer to page 2*)

INSPIRATION

We believe that as we are called to a missionary vocation, our lay partners are also called to their own specific vocation in the Arnoldus Family. Sharing the charism of our Society, we Divine Word Missionaries and the SVD lay partners continue our mission as co-responsible persons. As Arnoldus Family members SVD, SSpS, SSpSAP and Lay Partners all are called to collaborate with one another to transform the world. We are not the owners of our charism. This is a gift given by God. A sign of renewal and transformation is that we develop the capacity to share our SVD charism with others. In this respect, we are all encouraged and challenged to actively invite and welcome lay people to join the SVD lay partners' groups.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. God chose us in his Son to be his adopted children.

Canticle: Ephesians 1:3-10

Praised be the God and Father *
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has bestowed on us in Christ *
every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

God chose us in him †
before the world began *
to be holy
and blameless in his sight.

DAY ONE

Crystallizing St. Arnold Janssen's motto:

"May the Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people"

OPENING PRAYER (*Refer to page 2 / all stand*)

INSPIRATION

"In the history of our Society, we realize that the ardent love of Jesus impelled the Founding Generation, such as, St. Arnold Janssen, St. Joseph Freinademetz, Blessed Maria Helena and Josepha, to proclaim the reign of peace, love and reconciliation in each place, among every people, and for all cultures. **St. Arnold Janssen crystallized his fundamental belief in his motto: 'May the Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people' (Vivat Deus unus et trinus in cordibus nostris et hominum). This motto expresses both our fundamental rootedness in an intimate and loving union with the Trinity and our mission of inviting all people from other cultures and nations to participate in the life and love of the Triune God.** It is the vision of Arnold that we, as members of a missionary congregation, teach people to honor, worship and glorify the Triune God. Our identity and mission are shaped, animated, and empowered by Trinitarian life and love. Trinitarian spirituality is essential and fundamental to our life, mission, renewal and transformation."

HYMN (Be seated after the hymn)

PSALMODY

Antiphon. May the Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people.

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord, *
who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth; *
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house; *
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright: *
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends, *
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver: *
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news; *
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear; *
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor; †
his justice stands firm for ever. *
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry, †
grinds his teeth and fades away; *
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon. May the Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all people.

SCRIPTURE: Titus 3:4-5

But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Ant. The Father's voice resounded from the heavens: This is my Son in whom I delight, listen to what he says to you.

READING Acts 10:37-38

I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. Christ Jesus loved us, poured out his blood to wash away our sins, and made us a kingdom and priests for God our Father. To him be glory and honor for ever.

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... (Canticle of Mary)

INTERCESSIONS

Our Redeemer desired to be baptized in the Jordan by John; let us make our petition to him: *Lord send forth your Spirit upon us.*

1. May we develop strategies and programs for individuals and communities on the responsible use of social media and digital technology. *R/*
2. May we make use of all resources, especially social media, to proclaim the Word in a manner that can lead to the transformation of the world into a more humane and just society according to the values of the Kingdom of God. *R/*
3. May we foster collaboration among our centers of communication worldwide such as meetings of communication center directors and of these directors with mission directors. *R/*
4. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). *R/*

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

properly used. They should be at the service of people and mission, and we should not be enslaved by them. The digital era opens up immense possibilities for Primary and New Evangelization and the sharing of our spirituality. Careful study and collaborative utilization of digital technology can help us in our various ministries to serve the people effectively.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. The Father's voice resounded from the heavens: This is my Son in whom I delight, listen to what he says to you.

Psalm 110:1-5, 7

The Lord's revelation to my Master: †

"Sit on my right: *

your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will wield from Zion †

your scepter of power: *

rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth †

on the holy mountains; *

from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. †

"You are a priest for ever, *

a priest like Melchizedek of old."

The Master standing at your right hand *

will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside *

and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *

and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, *

and will be for ever. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

CANTICLE OF MARY

Ant. Three mysteries mark this holy day: today the star leads the Magi to the infant Christ; today water is changed into wine for the wedding feast; today Christ wills to be baptized by John in the river Jordan to bring us salvation.

INTERCESSIONS

L: Impelled by the boundless love of Jesus, let our response to every petition be:

R/: Loving God, grant us your grace.

1. May we reflect on the love of Christ and on transforming missionary discipleship in our prayers, recollections, retreats and life experiences. **R/**
2. May we persevere in times of difficulties in missionary life and activities. **R/**
3. May we become appreciative and supportive of the good works of our confreres. **R/**
4. May we be open to diversity in thinking and actions and to being challenged to go beyond our 'small worlds.' **R/**
5. May we let ourselves be evangelized by the other, regardless of nationality, religion or culture. **R/**
6. May we stand up for truth and justice; to be close to the people and put the least, who are so important to the Lord, at the center of our love and action. **R/**
7. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). **R/**

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

DAY TWO

Rooting our identity in the Divine Word like St. Arnold Janssen

For St. Arnold Janssen, discernment was not an option, but a vital need to remain rooted in the Word, do God's will and fulfill his mission. He consecrated himself to the Holy Spirit, spent long hours praying and left us a legacy of prayers and devotions that could accompany his spiritual sons and daughters in their daily lives. Such devotions help us to maintain the continuous connection with the One and Triune God, to root ourselves in his Word and to commit ourselves to his mission. Jesus of Nazareth, confronted by reality, led by the Spirit, and in an intimate dialogue with his Father, sought to discern about the leaven of the Kingdom (Mt 13:13) and the direction of his mission.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. Yours is more than mortal beauty; every word you speak is full of grace.

Psalm 45

My heart overflows with noble words. †
To the king I must speak the song I have made; *
my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe.

You are the fairest of the children of men †
and graciousness is poured upon your lips: *
because God has blessed you for evermore.

O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh; †
in splendor and state, ride on in triumph *
for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand. †
Your arrows are sharp: peoples fall beneath you. *
The foes of the king fall down and lose heart.

INTERCESSIONS

Let us give glory to Christ, the image of God, as we call upon him in faith:
Christ, Son of God, hear us.

1. May the grace be upon us to make our lifestyle and the way we care for our bodies correspond to the way we care for the environment. **R/**
2. May we pray and care for the environment and to formulate a plan of action addressing integrity of creation issues in our communities, institutions and parishes. **R/**
3. May we become more conscious and committed in the implementation of proper waste management in our communities and provinces. **R/**
4. May we join the national and international networks in addressing cases of environmental destruction, and promoting more environmentally friendly policies. **R/**
5. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). **R/**

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

EIGHT DAY

Serving the people and mission like Saint Arnold through social media

OPENING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

INSPIRATION

By "digital" we refer to both the "digital generation" and "digital technology". As transforming missionary disciples, we foster a healthy appreciation of the digital age (people and media) as means of continuous renewal and transformation for both the individual confrere and the SVD community. We need to walk with our confreres who utilize digital media and to challenge them to make use of the different forms of social media and different devices/gadgets in the service of community and mission. Social media and devices/gadgets may offer us opportunities for authentic personal and communal growth when they are

Though the wicked spring up like grass *
and all who do evil thrive:
they are doomed to be eternally destroyed. *
But you, Lord, are eternally on high.
See how your enemies perish; *
all doers of evil are scattered.

To me you give the wild-ox's strength; *
you anoint me with the purest oil.
My eyes looked in triumph on my foes; *
my ears heard gladly of their fall.
The just will flourish like the palm-tree *
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord *
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old, *
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just; *
in him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. As morning breaks we sing of your mercy, Lord, and night will find
us proclaiming your fidelity.

READING

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. At Cana in Galilee Jesus worked the first of the signs which revealed
his glory.

L: Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel... (Canticle of Zechariah)

Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever. †
A scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom. *
Your love is for justice; your hatred for evil.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you †
with the oil of gladness above other kings: *
your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

From the ivory palace you are greeted with music. †
The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. *
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. Yours is more than mortal beauty; every word you speak is full of
grace.

READING 2 Peter 1:3-4

The divine power of Christ has freely bestowed on us everything
necessary for a life of genuine piety, through knowledge of him who
called us by his own glory and power. By virtue of them he has bestowed
on us the great and precious things he promised, so that through these
you who have fled a world corrupted by lust might become sharers of the
divine nature.

SILENT REFLECTION

GOSPEL CANTICLE *(Please stand)*

Ant. When they saw the star, the Magi were filled with great joy; entering
the house, they offer their gifts to the Lord: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... (Canticle of Mary)

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to God that like St. Arnold we may all be attentive in listening to God and generous in responding to His Divine Word. Let us pray, Loving God, keep us rooted in your Divine Word.

1. May we become more open to read, interpret and respond creatively to the signs of times in concrete ways in the light of the Word of God and our Arnoldus Spirituality. **R/**
2. May we spend time in personal and communal prayer, to spend time in silence, adoration, and intercessory prayer; to celebrate the Eucharist in a well prepared, participatory and worthy manner. **R/**
3. May we cultivate a process of personal and community discernment in the presence of the Lord and to make intentional effort. **R/**
4. May we root ourselves deeply and constantly in the Word, which speaks to us through Scripture and creation as well other religious traditions and people of good will and impels us to transform ourselves and the world. **R/**
5. May we rediscover and renew our commitment to our SVD spiritual heritage (devotions, prayers, feasts and celebrations, etc.) so that it may help us to cultivate an intimate relationship with the Word and to animate us in our mission. **R/**
6. May we deepen our approach to intercultural life and mission, as well as our theological perspectives, through further reflection and to offer it to our lay partners, other religious congregations and the Church as a whole. **R/**
7. May we all become instruments in carrying out the important decisions, resolutions and recommendations made during the recent General Chapter. **R/**
8. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). **R/**

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

SEVENTH DAY

Upholding the integrity of Creation like Saint Arnold Janssen

OPENING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

INSPIRATION

Creation is a sign of God's love for us. Care for the environment is not only part of our mission, it is also part of our heritage. St. Arnold Janssen believed that nature is the temple of God into which God placed us so that it would proclaim to us God's existence. As transforming missionary disciples, stewardship of creation is our responsibility in expressing God's love. This can be manifested in diverse ways—care for creation, sustainable development, eco-justice and so forth. However, creation does not only refer to environment and nature, but it also concerns the care of our bodies. Thus, our lifestyle and the way we care for our bodies must correspond to the way we care for the environment.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. As morning breaks we sing of your mercy, Lord, and night will find us proclaiming your fidelity.

Psalm 92

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, *
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning *
and your truth in the watches of the night,
on the ten-stringed lyre and the lute, *
with the murmuring sound of the harp.

Your deeds, O Lord, have made me glad; *
for the work of your hands I shout with joy.
O Lord, how great are your works! *
How deep are your designs!
The foolish man cannot know this *
and the fool cannot understand.

2. May we recognize in the stories (realities) of the poor that God never abandons his people and to receive inspiration from the poor for our own life and commitment. **R/**
3. May we join the poor in their struggle for justice, equality, freedom etc., and adopt a lifestyle that brings us closer to the people in whose pain and sorrow we see the face of Christ. **R/**
4. May we find ways and means of addressing the challenges confronting the family and young people in our respective ministries. **R/**
5. May we promote specialized apostolates such as education and publications. **R/**
6. May we recognize and work for the transformation of the various structural systems of injustice in society which lead to the problems afflicting migrants, refugees, the marginalized and undocumented. **R/**
7. May we get rid of our own out-dated structures that cost money without benefitting our mission. **R/**
8. May we collaborate with others (inter-congregational collaboration as well as with GOs and NGOs) in serving the poor; to plan together with the poor (and not merely for the poor) in working out projects. **R/**
9. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). **R/**

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

THIRD DAY

Committing to Christ's Mission like Saint Arnold Janssen

OPENING PRAYER (Refer to page 1)

INSPIRATION

Jesus made a primary option in his missionary journey; this option became his mission manifesto; it became a reality in his person. In him was fulfilled what the prophet Isaiah said: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, For he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind; to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19).

As partners of the Divine Word we assume this primary option of the Incarnate Word. By living this primary option, people will perceive that we have experienced in our own lives the Kingdom of God that we proclaim (cf. c. 106). For us as his disciples, this option is programmatic. The renewal that we seek on a personal and communitarian level and as a Society of the Divine Word will only take place as we are rooted in Jesus and in his primary option, which is the common ground for everything we do. **When Arnold says that "the proclamation of the Gospel is the most sublime expression of love of neighbor," it resonates for us with the program of Jesus and his main interlocutors: the poor, the marginalized, the broken, the captives, the sick, the oppressed, in short those who suffer and have their lives and hopes cut off.** Jesus identifies himself with them, to the point of saying: "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). The fruitfulness of our SVD missionary life and mission depends on our union with him.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. You cannot serve both God and mammon.

Psalm 94

Hear this, all you peoples, *
give heed, all who dwell in the world,
men both high and low, *
rich and poor alike!

My lips will speak words of wisdom. *
My heart is full of insight.
I will turn my mind to a parable, *
with the harp I will solve my problem.

Why should I fear in evil days *
the malice of the foes who surround me,
men who trust in their wealth, *
and boast of the vastness of their riches?

For no man can buy his own ransom, *
or pay a price to God for his life.
The ransom of his soul is beyond him. †
He cannot buy life without end, *
nor avoid coming to the grave.

He knows that wise men and fools must both perish *
and must leave their wealth to others.
Their graves are their homes for ever, †
their dwelling place from age to age, *
though their names spread wide through the land.

In his riches, man lacks wisdom; *
he is like the beasts that are destroyed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. You cannot serve both God and mammon.

O rescue me, God, my helper, *
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips *
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight, *
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit. *
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

In your goodness, show favor to Zion: *
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, *
Holocausts offered on your altar.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. A humble, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.

READING

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. All who once reviled you will come and bow down in worship before
your very footprints.

L: Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel... (Canticle of Zechariah)

INTERCESSIONS

We pray now to the Father who has appointed Christ a light to the
nations: *Father, hear our prayer.*

1. May the Holy Spirit guide us especially our leaders in the
implementation of our resolutions and recommendation of the 18th
General Chapter. **R/**

PSALMODY

Ant. 1 A humble, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. *
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt *
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offenses truly I know them; *
my sin is always before me
Against you, you alone, have I sinned; *
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence *
and be without reproach when you judge.
O see, in guilt I was born, *
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart; *
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean; *
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, *
that the bones you have crushed may revive.
From my sins turn away your face *
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God, *
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, *
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; *
with a spirit of fervor sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways *
and sinners may return to you.

READING Ephesians 2:3b-5

By nature we deserved God's wrath like the rest. But God is rich in mercy; because of his great love for us he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. By this favor you were saved.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. Christ, you are Light from Light; when you appeared on the earth, the wise men offered their gifts to you, alleluia.

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... (Canticle of Mary)

INTERCESSIONS

L: As Divine Word Missionaries, united with all Christians in prayer and praise, we entreat the Lord: **Father, hear us.**

1. May our regular Bible Sharing deepen and strengthen our vocation and mission. **R/**
2. May we be guided through our spiritual direction and be accompanied by our spiritual director toward the will of God. **R/**
3. May our community be accompanied by individuals who lead us to community sharing and solidarity. **R/**
4. May we have life sharing and retreats with the perspectives of SVD Spirituality, Arnold Janssen and our Founding Generation; **R/**
5. May we make a concrete program in the community to reach out to the poor or less fortunate people, using our time and resources; **R/**
6. May we grow in interdependence and to show the willingness to alter personal plans for the sake of the common interest - a sustained renewal requires participation in a community that shares a common vision. **R/**
7. May we become bridge builders in our divided world, agents of reconciliation and advocates of justice and peace with our collaborators in mission. **R/**
8. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). **R/**

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

FOURTH DAY

Living out servant leadership and responsible membership like St. Arnold Janssen

OPENING PRAYER (*Refer to page 2*)

INSPIRATION

Our SVD Constitutions and Handbook for Superiors, among other materials, have offered us guidelines on the relations between servant leaders and responsible members (cf. Handbook for Superiors D1 1.0, D3 1.0). Inspired by these documents and being rooted in the Word, we become more supportive, sympathetic and understanding of those in leadership positions. **Arnold Janssen emphasized, “Look upon the will of your superiors as the holy will of God and try to comply in all simplicity and sincerity.”** Responsible membership is to have a positive and healthy appreciation of the work of our confreres in leadership positions. Those in leadership positions embrace and accept the will of God manifested through our religious community. They do so in loving obedience to the One who loves us first.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. Through him all things were made; he holds all creation together in himself.

Canticle: Colossians 1:12-20

Let us give thanks to the Father *
for having made you worthy
to share the lot of the saints in light.

He rescued us *
from the power of darkness
and brought us *
into the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Through him we have redemption, *
the forgiveness of our sins.

6. May we participate willingly and actively in ongoing formation programs on renewal, intercultural competence and new mission trends. *R/*
7. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). *R/*

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

SIXTH DAY

Caring for the poor and the neglected like Saint Arnold

OPENING PRAYER (*Refer to page 2*)

INSPIRATION

It is in caring for the poor and the neglected that we are actually ministering to the Lord himself. This is very clear in the gospel of Matthew (25:40ff): whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters (the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, etc.) we do for the Lord. Indeed, the Word is present in each one of them. A spiritual foundation in the Word impels us to make our missionary commitment to put the last first. The emphasis on missionary service to the poor is not an option since this is where we find the presence of the Word in the world. This mission is non-negotiable. We continue to advocate and work for the poor as emphasized by the previous general chapters. However, we want to stress the situation of the family and young people who need our immediate attention and care (2012 GC 12-13). The realities of the family are becoming more complex. Young people suffer different forms of abuse, the effects of broken homes and relationships, and sometimes rejection by their families and society. Furthermore, we also want to point out the plight of our brothers and sisters who are victims of structural injustices such as ethnocentrism, racial discrimination, religious persecutions, human trafficking and other forms of socio-economic injustice (2012 GC 22-23).

HYMN

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. I have made you the light of all nations to carry my salvation to the ends of the earth.

READING 1 John 1:5b, 7

God is light; in him there is no darkness. If we walk in light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all our sin.

SILENT REFLECTION

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. The people of Saba shall come bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh, alleluia.

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... (Canticle of Mary)

INTERCESSIONS

As Divine Word Missionaries, united in prayer with all of our brothers and sisters, we bless God and invoke his name: *Lord, show us your compassion.*

1. May our vocation promotion team find new approaches and strategies that will help and encourage discerners to realize their calling. *R/*
2. May we be more pro-active in supporting and providing Cross-Cultural Training Programs in the initial formation. *R/*
3. May we allow ourselves to be transformed by the experience of cross-cultural program. *R/*
4. May we provide support and prayers untiringly to our confreres in overseas. *R/*
5. May we be molded and formed in perseverance and in motivation to work among the poor and less fortunate ones. *R/*

He is the image of the invisible God, *
the first-born of all creatures.
In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, *
things visible and invisible.
All were created through him; *
all were created for him.
He is before all else that is. *
In him everything continues in being.

It is he who is head of the body, the church! *
he who is the beginning,
the first-born of the dead, *
so that primacy may be his in everything.

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him *
and, by means of him, to reconcile everything in his person,
both on earth and in the heavens, *
making peace through the blood of his cross.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Ant. Through him all things were made; he holds all creation together in himself.

READING Colossians 1:13-15

God rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creatures.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Ant. What is this sign of which you speak, this sign of a newborn king?
We saw a brilliant star in the heavens; its splendor filled the world.

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord... (Canticle of Mary)

INTERCESSIONS

Strengthened by God's Word, let us pray: **Lord, show us your compassion.**

1. May we value and follow a process of elections of our superiors characterized by a prayerful discernment which transcends ethnic or national loyalties and affinities. **R/**
2. May we assume servant leadership in the spirit of the Constitution and as responsible members to collaborate with our confreres in leadership positions. **R/**
3. May we give more attention to leadership training, especially for our younger confreres. **R/**
4. May we forego our own private agendas in order to serve our communities and institutions as leaders. **R/**
5. We may now offer our other petitions. (Pause). **R/**

L: With one voice let us pray to honor God, our loving Father.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONCLUDING PRAYER

FIFTH DAY

Opening ourselves to the fruits of the Spirit like St. Arnold Janssen

OPENING PRAYER (Refer to page 2)

INSPIRATION

We are invited to be open to the fruits of the Spirit and the signs of the times in our missionary efforts at renewal and transformation. This applies especially to all our initial and ongoing formation programs. Formation is crucial to our being. Here, we are invited to experience the love of Christ in our life and growth, our joys and challenges. Discernment in all stages of life is vital for being faithful to the Lord according to our vows as Divine Word Missionaries. In so doing, we continue to respond to the love of Christ, to be rooted in his Word, and to commit ourselves as missionary disciples to the mission of the Divine Word.

HYMN

PSALMODY

Ant. I have made you the light of all nations to carry my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 72

O God, give your judgment to the king, *
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice *
and your poor in right judgment.
May the mountains bring forth peace for the people *
and the hills, justice.
May he defend the poor of the people †
and save the children of the needy *
and crush the oppressor.

He shall endure like the sun and the moon *
from age to age.
He shall descend like rain on the meadow, *
like raindrops on the earth.

In his days justice shall flourish *
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, *
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

Before him his enemies shall fall, *
his foes lick the dust.
The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts *
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba *
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, *
all nations shall serve him.