



# The Missionary Minute



Divine Word College students returning to the classrooms. Please keep them in prayer.

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New study completed about religious life. View "ten myths" about religious life. [Click Here.](#)

## My Overseas Training Experience By Seminarian Hoang Chuong, SVD

The Overseas Training Program (OTP), also known as the Cross-Cultural Training Program (CTP), is a pastoral training program for young members of the community who are in formation. A member in temporary vows has the opportunity to live in and experience a culture that is different than his own. The experience is meant to give him a deeper understanding of his missionary calling and to strengthen his faith.

When I had the chance to participate in the OTP, I decided on Taiwan. Taiwan has become my temporary home where I live and work with the members of the Divine Word China Province. When my classmates asked me why I had chosen Taiwan, I gave three reasons for my decision.

I told them that I want to learn the Chinese language and Taiwan's cultural values. I hope that, with this strong background, I will then have the opportunity to serve the Chinese people as a missionary priest. My second reason is that I want to continue in the footsteps of our Divine Word Missionary pioneer, St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD. Finally, I told them that my third reason for going to Taiwan is because I enjoy eating fried noodles and beef noodle soup, and I am told Taiwan has some of the best.

No matter what the reasons for my OTP choice, I am still a young missionary. I will continue the heritage of our founder, St. Arnold Janssen, and work to proclaim the Good News in places where it has not yet taken root. I am confident that each step I take will be guided by our founder's spirit.

My experience in Taiwan has been an exciting journey. United Airlines flight 929 landed at Taoyuan International Airport on August 22, 2007. My first thought was that I had arrived safely in Taiwan and it would be my home for the next three years. I have been living in Taiwan for almost five months and during those months, I have experienced some of the basic challenges of the missionary life.

[Click Here for full story.](#)

**Seminarian Bao Tran, SVD**, is preparing for diaconate ordination in the fall and priestly ordination in May 2010. He was recently interviewed by the National Religious Vocations Conference. To view an excerpt of his interview about how his early experience of Church influenced his religious vocation, [Click Here.](#)

