

would find this appropriate for several reasons: a. It is the center of the mission. b. Better connection with the other places.”

Concerning classes in the elementary schools we have to stick to the following: A Catholic parish without a Catholic elementary school is nonsense. Therefore, the priests have to take care of the elementary school in so far it is possible and then find out if amongst the students there isn't someone who could be trained to become a good elementary school teacher. Therefore, one has to use the elementary schools to get from them ... teachers' colleges to come into being. ... All this was discussed and unanimously accepted in the general council on Sunday, 5.8” (Jos. Alt, *Arnold Janssen SVD, Briefe nach Südamerika* (Letters to South America), vol. II, pp. 90-92).

Steyl – Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

August 13: Mother Josepha writes to Arnold Janssen:

The Sisters had gotten a new folding machine. The sisters were to take on the entire work of folding magazines for the printing press. Now Mother Josepha writes to Arnold Janssen:

“Would you be so kind and check whether the order for the folding machine can be done this way: In the morning right after breakfast... the machines are started up and they run until the Office [breviary], 8:05 a.m. After first breakfast there is spiritual reading for those sisters who are not taking the Course [teacher's training]. The four sisters who are occupied at the machine can make up the reading at 9:30, because several sisters have learned to use it so that they can take turns. After the Office the machines can run until 12:45 because the sisters take turns for lunch and rosary outside.

“After recreation the machines run from 2:30-4:30, then there is coffee, devotions or a talk. If there is the Way of the Cross or, on Tuesdays, the rosary, the sisters can make them up later and the machines can be run again from 4:45 till 7 o'clock. The main oiling [of the machines] takes a good quarter of an hour and is done in the afternoons after recreation. Since the work is so pressing right now, three or four sisters take care of it during recreation. The sisters pray the Quarter Hour Prayer but other prayers cannot easily be prayed there” (Ortrud Stegmaier, transl. Jacqueline Mulberge, *Arnold Janssen, M. Josepha Hendrina Stenmanns, Correspondence 1884-1903*, p. 174).

Fr. Arnold's advice for the new year 2024

*Trust the Lord in every situation, whether it is day or dark night.
Whether storm clouds fly overhead or the sun smiles gently.
Leave everything in his hands.
He means so well with you.
When the time comes he will calm the storms.
You are safe in his care.*



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The Arnoldus Family Story

1900 JULY - New Guinea

July 7: From St. Gabriel's Arnold Janssen writes to Fr. Limbrock (excerpt)

“On 24 April I wrote to you as follows: “At the outset there is no thought of taking over a parish [in Sydney]. Whether or not we would do that, time must tell. In any case the matter must be presented to the generalate and guidelines laid down, or at least the implications thought out about what your relationship would be to such a parish and what ours would be. ... Among other things the relationship of Drummoyne to the mission and us must be regulated. The generalate insists that you hold only “auctoritas delegata” [delegated authority] over Drummoyne, and that in principle it remains a house of the Society; which seems all the more necessary since in the future other subsidiary centers will have to be set up, especially among the German colonists in Australia. As Steyl accepts sick missionaries and shops for the orders from the missions, so Drummoyne will also do for you. And if with the growth of the Society we shall have to take over other missions in the Pacific, we'll have to take care of them, too. At the moment we have 120 students in philosophy, 60 per course. Later when St. Wendel's is built up, the annual courses will be larger...”

PS. “The Sisters' daily order would naturally be one that depends on their superior. As provincial, you are completely responsible for the Sisters. ... About the mission having its own boat ... isn't that a bit much at this time?” (Jos. Alt, transl. Frank Mihalic SVD, *Letters to New Guinea and Australia*, pp. 44-46).

China

July 7: Fr. Freinademetz and Br. Ulrich arrive in Puoli. About 1000 people were gathered there together with four Chinese priests. “Freinademetz's appearance rekindled their hope and confidence for the future. The jubilation of the Christians was tremendous ... However, his presence must not come to the knowledge of the outside, certainly not of the mandarin; otherwise he would be sent immediately to Tsingtao” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *As Wine Poured out, Blessed Joseph Freinademetz SVD, Missionary in China*, Rome, 1984, p. 314).

July 8: Fr. Freinademetz in the presence of all Christians makes the following vow: “In the presence of the entire community of Puoli and thousands of refugees the undersigned solemnly vows that each year for the next five years he will solemnly celebrate the feast of *Maria Auxilium Christianorum* [Mary Help of Christians] (month

of May)-by holding thirteen hour adoration (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) if the residence of Puoli should remain undamaged during the great persecution” (*ibid.*).

About **July 13**: Fr. Freinademetz and Br. Ulrich decide to leave Puoli and move to Wangchuang, the second largest residence of the missionaries, where Fr. Nägler and Br. Engelbert were staying. The reason for the move was that through his presence [in Puoli] he was endangering everyone. “If the mandarin were to learn that two foreigners were still in residence that would be the end of the mission station.” Therefore, all the Christians advised the two missionaries to leave Puoli (*ibid.*, p. 315).

July 25: In Wangchuang Fr. Freinademetz celebrated his silver jubilee as a priest. He sang a solemn High Mass in the small but solidly built Wangchuang church. The orphans and a number of Christians sang popular hymns. Everyone received Holy Communion. “During the Mass firecrackers exploded and canons boomed in keeping with Chinese tradition” (*ibid.*, p. 317).

St. Gabriel – USA – Australia

July 16: From St. Gabriel’s Arnold Janssen writes to Fr. Fischer in the USA

In this letter Fr. Arnold informs Fr. Fischer of his transfer to Drummoyne in Australia. The reasons for the transfer were:

“**1.** You know English well. **2.** You are no longer a youngster but have some experience behind you. **3.** Because you have worked in Chicago and other big cities you would already possess the necessary authority. **4.** Fr. Fey will find it no problem to work under you. **5.** I hope that you have the necessary trust in heaven and earth, and will make it your concern to increase it. **6.** The climate in North America with its great contrasts is evidently not good for you and will within a short time bring you to the edge of the grave. **7.** By contrast Sydney has a pleasant mild climate. **8.** The fact that there are so many German colonies in Australia offers us a large field for our activity.

For these reasons I have decided to appoint you to the above-mentioned position. Would you see to it that before long you start making preparations for a trip to Sydney. The shortest route is by way of the Pacific Ocean. Try to choose the cheapest fare and see if you can get a reduction in it. If some serious objection should stand in the way of your trip to Sydney, please let me know about it” (Jos. Alt, transl. Frank Mihalic SVD, *Arnold Janssen SVD, Letters to New Guinea and Australia*, pp. 47- 49).

Argentina

July 30, Arnold Janssen writes to Fr. Provincial Superior Colling (excerpt).

The first topic of this rather long letter is the plan of building a new Sisters’ convent. Disputed is its location: Crespo or Diamante.

“Please, study the issue thoroughly and report to me then.” At the end he adds this serious admonition: “By the way, will you please see to it that this issue does not lead to a division between the two houses of the sisters and if necessary speak a serious word to those involved. ... Tell them that if they quarrelled strongly I for my part will wait with building and will see which party is first willing to leave the

whole matter up to the decision of the superiors.” Then Fr. Arnold talks about various SVD matters: “Parana, Rosario, Esperanza, Diamante, S. Geronimo, Crespo, Buenos Aires. Would you explain the relationship of these towns to each other and where the Society should in the first place have to seek places for its activities. Surely, in that matter one must not want to be super- clever and look very much for the guidance of divine providence.”

On 18.4 Fr. Degenhardt wrote a longer letter to me and in it he asked if it wouldn’t be good to take over in Parana the parish of St. Michael, so that the seminarians [of the SVD run seminary] would see with their own eyes how pastoral work had to be done. Furthermore, a Catholic High school ... would be good. Will you think this over and deliberate if not exactly Parana should be made the centre for us” (Jos. Alt, *Arnold Janssen SVD, Briefe nach Südamerika* [Letters to South America], vol. II, pp. 78-80).

AUGUST 1900 - Argentina

1./2. August: Arnold Janssen writes to Mother Andrea, Superior of the Holy Spirit Sisters:

“I just come from Holy Cross [Mission House in today’s Nyssa/Poland] ... and use some minutes of free time in the railway station of Liegnitz to write a few lines to you. Thanks be to God, in the train I have found time to read once again the pretty thick package of letters, which I have received since October from the good sisters. ... Concerning the building in Diamante or Crespo I wrote to Fr. Colling and expect his answer. I myself wrote at first about the necessity of a mother house with garden. If the sisters should remain in Diamante and the rent is too expensive or it will be terminated, without other living quarters being available for you, then [a new convent] must be built.“ “I strive to be a good father to the sisters ... However, I admonish you on the one hand to take care of the concerns and interests of the sisters’ congregation with wisdom and motherly care. On the other hand you must watch that no unfitting jealousies come to the fore in an improper way.... Regarding the Spanish language, in future it must be still more practised. It is not right that the Sisters in Marienthal always speak German among themselves...” (*ibid.*, pp. 83-84).

USA – August 8: Fr. Superior Peil writes to Arnold Janssen:

“I have up to now not been a nuisance as far as money is concerned. I will try to struggle through, even if things get tough. I have therefore all the more reason for hoping that I will be helped out a little with Brothers and priests” (Josef Alt, transl. Robert Pung and Peter Spring, *Arnold Janssen SVD. Letters to the United States of America*, Steyler Verlag Nettetal, 1998, p.101, footnote 3 to letter 46).

“We now have 8 boys, the 9th has just been accepted [for the trade school]. We wish, however, to move into the new house with 50 boys. They will come from the German orphanage (*ibid.*, footnote 4 to letter 46).

Brazil – August 12: Arnold Janssen writes to Fr. Superior Tollinger (excerpt).

“You are free if you think it to be appropriate to have your residence in Juiz. Yes, I