

building costs, which you will have to cover yourself! ... From the plans you have sent, I note that the new building is astonishingly large. ... I think I can understand your point of view which led both of you to build so much immediately. But, if I refrain from criticism on this score, I myself must equally decline to approve the construction of so large a building. How much will the building itself cost, and how much more will it cost before the interior has been completed and furnished?

Still on the subject of the cost I must advise you that at the outset you must be satisfied with the interior furnishing of only a part, and not even a very significant part, of the whole building. This is also for some very important inner spiritual reasons. One great difficulty with such an enterprise as you have embarked on is, to be sure, to provide the necessary buildings. But this is not the main difficulty. The main difficulty is rather how to build the inner spiritual building soundly, so that a good spirit will reign in the house and you can educate your young charges well.... To pursue this task with a fair measure of success, you should not begin by filling up the house as soon as possible. ... (*ibid.* pp. 99-102).

ITALY – October 24 - Bishop Döbbing of Nepi Sutri (near Rome) writes to A.Janssen

Bishop Döbbing was a Franciscan. He was such a good a friend of Fr. Arnold, that Fr. Arnold attended his episcopal ordination on the Sunday after Easter 1900. Already in the autumn of the same year the Bishop asked Fr. Arnold for help for his minor seminary in Sutri and the major seminary in Nepi. He wanted at least two priests “who had degrees from Rome, to be rectors of the two seminaries”, even if it were only for a few years. Furthermore he wrote: “I am willing to make any sacrifice necessary for the seminaries, if only I find help. [...] I believe there is a divine purpose behind our long-standing friendship. We are on the same wavelength” (*Alt, transl. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, Journey in faith, p. 908*).

October 28 - Arnold Janssen writes to Bishop Döbbing

“Janssen injected a touch of humour into his response”: “I knew that one day you would come begging at my door! Of course only when all else fails! But no hard feelings; it is right that you come. Naturally you had to ask your own people first and then turn to others. You can well imagine the long faces made by my councilors. I told them I would first like to ask you for more details about the project.” Then followed the usual long list of questions: the number of students, the professors, the syllabus, students from other dioceses, the Bishop’s plans. “I will give you no advice; but I think you will proceed slowly and carefully so as not to endanger the results” (*ibid.*).



The editorial committee wishes all its readers a
Blessed and Happy Easter!



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The Arnoldus Family Story

1900 OCTOBER - CHILE

October 9 - Arnold Janssen writes to the confreres in Chile

Beloved reverend confreres! Fr. Superior Albers, Fr. Langenstein, Fr. Kaufhold and Fr. Wilde! Dear Bro. Claver!

I hope that the confreres who left a month ago have by now happily arrived there; for that reason I want to send you these lines, to greet them with a welcome in the Lord, together with the older confreres.

May peace and joy in God the Holy Spirit be with all of you! I hope and pray that all of you will live together as good confreres, with the best intention to work according to the will of the Holy Spirit and the orders of the superiors in the huge vineyard which has been entrusted to you over there, and on the other hand to introduce a good religious life there in accordance with our Holy Rule, since this is the foundation of blessed activity of the missionary. Furthermore I ask you to venerate our holy patrons well and to give to God the Holy Spirit and the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus intimate love and veneration. I hope that in future I will receive good reports about all of this.

Overall I believe that the beginning won't be all that easy. That is always the case. Therefore you must not get discouraged and always go on entrusting yourselves to the dear Lord. If we do our duty, God's holy blessing will not be lacking. I have always felt and seen that the word of Holy Scripture is true: 'For those who love God all things will turn out to their best.' This is particularly true of the crosses which the Lord God sends. They are particles of the cross of Jesus Christ and are truly to the advantage of his servants. ...

I have a very busy month behind me. As you all learned from our magazines, the jubilee went very well. ...

I bless you in the grace and love of the Holy Spirit and ask this great Father of love, that he may unite you in sincere fraternal love and in the unity of the Holy Spirit (*Jos. Alt, Arnold Janssen SVD, Briefe nach Südamerika [Letters to South America], vol II, pp. 113-114*).

October 9 - Arnold Janssen writes to Frs. Albers and Langenstein

I received your letter of [May] 30 and May 8. Hopefully you have received my answer to them. In them I advised you to keep on good terms with the Capuchins of Bavaria [Germany] who are there. It is not in any way demeaning to you, but you honour yourselves and them if you ask them in appropriate cases for advice. ...

The Most Rev. Bishop of Ancud wrote to me on April 19 and July 10. In the latter letter he offered me the two sub-parishes Calle-Calle and Corral. I must say that

this was a bit too early for me. You yourselves have first to grow together well into a community which sticks together and you have to gain experiences before one can think of such division. Both of you, please be so good as to write to me about this. ...

I am sure you will inform me later more exactly about the matter with schools, since the Bishop wishes that something should be done in this regard. Perhaps you could at first begin with private lessons, when there are 1-2 good and talented boys who like to learn for instance Latin, German and French, or elementary classes for Valdivia and students from outside the town. The latter could be found if they knew that there was a school in Valdivia where the children would get a good education. At first they could stay with good people in town. Later one could think about whether still something more could be done as in Esperanza. However, I tell you that according to a decision of our Rule during the last General Chapter my approval has to be gotten for all purchases, properties and houses, all buildings. The plan and a map which shows the location of a place have to be added. If the foundation there should prove itself to be good, one has to think of making a good land purchase; in that regard the size and good location of the property is very important. If there is something good and solid, which gives hope for the future, then we are inclined to come to your help. It is good to think about the matter already in good time and to report about it extensively, but to act only then when the right moment seems to have come. ...

May God the Holy Spirit be your light, your power and strength. Remain good and faithful sons of the Society and give your best help in everything.

STEYL – October 12 - *Arnold Janssen writes to Mother Josefa.*

Most Esteemed Sister Superior!

When I was assigning the sisters I did not have Fr. Buecking's [Apostolic Prefect of Togo] special wishes so clearly in mind. Today I took the trouble to read all his letters of the past few years through once again. And there I find the things I had already informed you of earlier.

1. He would like a good nurse. 2. He wishes that every sister should know sufficiently well how to cook, [so that] when the others are sick or otherwise hindered anyone can take their place.

Would you please reflect on all this and then consider whether you could not suggest another in place of one of the two Sisters: Pancratia or Ludgera, and at the same time give reasons for your proposal. ... From Fr. Streit I heard that you had thought about Sister Thoma. I would also like to know how much the three sisters know about cooking and whether perhaps Pancratia could be replaced by another sister from her group who knows more about cooking, e.g. the second sister who is appointed for Shermerville. You must also say whether the sister considered would be able to get along well with Sister Dominica.

I request you and the Cloistered Sisters to make a novena to implore the recovery of the sick Fathers Freinademetz and Reinke, if I have not already asked you.

May the Holy Spirit bless you! (*Stegmaier, transl. Jacqueline Mulberge, Arnold Janssen M. Josepha, Hendrina Stenmanns, Correspondence, pp. 185-186*).

October 12 – *Mother Josepha replies to Fr. Arnold*

"We have reflected well on the matter and again when we considered Sr. Ludgera. Sister Ludgera can cook well. Sr. Ludgera is also good at all household work: washing, ironing, etc. She also knows how to fill and extract teeth, she has done this a great deal for the sisters. Sister Thoma can also cook well; ...She is also a good nurse because she was in Essen for a long time and also in Cologne [for nursing training]. ...

Sister Pancratia has not learned refined cookery but she has always done the ordinary cooking. She is so self-sacrificing and will quickly learn what she does not know. She is also willing to be taught.

Sister Dominica can also cook. ...

Reverend Spiritual Father, we believe that we can find no better sisters to send together. ... The four Sisters will also be able to adjust to each other and accept Sr. Dominica's leadership.

Sister Didaka and Sister Rosalia have also both studied some nursing in Dortmund. Sister Didaka also knows how to cook well. ... I hope this information will enable Your Reverence to form an opinion. ...This evening we will already begin the novena for the two sick priests...(*ibid., pp. 186-187*).

Srs. Dominica, Pancratia and Ludgera left Steyl for Togo on October 20.

USA – October 15 - *Fr. Superior Peil writes from Shermerville to Fr. Eikenbrock in St. Gabriel*

Fr. Beckert (SVD architect) has built us a magnificent house. In his view, the Society has not yet had its equal. ... The whole house has over 300 windows, is 4 stories high, and dominates the whole area. Presently the roof is being put on. I think that we will be able to move into it by December" (*Alt, transl. Robert Pung, Peter Spring, Arnold Janssen SVD, Letters to the United States of America, Steyler Verlag Nettetal, 199, p.102, footnote 5 to letter 46*).

October 17 - *Arnold Janssen writes to Fr. Superior Peil*

From Father Beckert I have received the plans of what has been built so far, as well as the plan for the scheduled technical school. I send my best regards to our dear reverend confrere and thank him for the work he has sent. I have submitted it to the General Council and am pleased to tell you that they raised no objections. But there was no shortage of criticism, either. I report these to you as follows:

1. It is not enough for the building plans to be submitted by the architect. The proper procedure requires that the territorial superior should do so, i.e. in this case, Father Superior Peil, or that at least he attach a letter, from which we can gather that he approves of the plan. True, the letter states: "We have considered...", but that is not enough.

2. A building plan should also be accompanied by at least a rough estimate of its cost, as well as a report on the present financial condition [of the foundation] and an indication of where the money is to come from. In the present case this was all the more necessary, since it was preceded by the building of so colossal a building.

Since the replies of Fr. Eikenbrock and Father Gier have not yet been received, I cannot give you official approval at this stage. I simply wanted to inform you of the state of the matter. In any case, the General Council must decline any onus for the