



Society of the Divine Word (SVD)

# SVD Lay Partners

Newsletter - from Around the World

Issue 20, December 2022

First AFRAM Zonal Meeting, 2022



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## Editorial

### Peace on Earth

Peace on earth? Really?

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” (Lk 2:13-14)



The overwhelming spectacle of a scene at the Judean hillside! At the peak of winter, in the dead of night, in cold and darkness, are a few of the least in society, the shepherds. And suddenly thousands of supernatural beings appear to them in the night sky praising God! The shepherds are allowed to see a glimpse of Heaven’s response to what has just happened – the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem! Now if this is the message from God through the multitude of angels, then what a responsibility we have to soak it in and try to grasp it.

And we must ask ourselves, what then is this ‘peace’ Jesus brings? Why is ‘peace’ the announcement? Well, we’re not alone in feeling the irony of the announcement of peace on earth. In the background of the Christmas story, king Herod is seen sitting on his throne and attempting to secure his chair by manipulating Judean scholars. He even tries to use the prophecies to his advantage, focusing his murderous gaze on Bethlehem.

Christmas is far from peaceful today. When I talk to people I frequently hear about their disappointments and sadness, as well as their rage at unfulfilled dreams. I see my friends working hard to keep up with a difficult mortgage and other loans. All of that effort is supposed to result in happiness, but few people appear to me to be peaceful. When we turn on the news, we are bombarded with images of war, sickness, hatred, and rejection.

However, there’s that word again ... Peace! The angels were proclaiming peace and goodwill from God to humankind. How the shepherds responded to that invitation helps us to realize this much-needed message today. Leaving the comfort of the familiar, the shepherds rush out on that cold winter night in search of a baby. And on that first Christmas night, in the simplicity of a stable, they found Mary and Joseph with their newborn, placed in the feeding trough of farm animals. And that was enough. The simple shepherds realized what peace is. They went away rejoicing. Yes; they found peace. They proclaimed peace. They were peace.

May you be blessed with lasting, genuine peace this Christmas.

Susan Noronha  
 Editor-in-chief

## First AFRAM SVD Lay Partners Workshop

Kinshasa (DR Congo), October 2022



The First AFRAM Zone SVD Lay Partners Workshop was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Biblical Pastoral Centre in Kinshasa, DR Congo. There were thirty-one lay participants from various PRMs, namely Angola, Botswana-South Africa, Congo, Kenya, Mozambique and Togo. Most of the participants were from DR Congo. The workshop's central theme was the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter theme: "Your Light Must Shine Before Others" (Mt 5:16): Faithful and Creative Disciples in a Wounded World."

The workshop began with Holy Eucharist presided over by CNG Provincial Superior Fr. Alpha Mazenga Kadjim. Fr. Martinus Hadun welcomed all the participants at *Notre Dame d'Africa* Parish. The enthronement of the Bible followed the Mass.

During the workshop, various talks were given. Fr. Stanislaus T. Lazar, the Generalate Mission Secretary, talked about "Lay partners and SVD mission in the light of 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter". Other topics included the role of the lay faithful, SVD characteristic dimensions and collaboration of lay partners, and the formation of lay partners, among others. The other speakers were Fr. Willibrord Kamion, AFRAM Zonal Coordinator, Fr. Godéfroid Manunga-Lukokisa, Director of PMS, and Fr. Alpha Mazenga Kadjim. Prof. Luboya Cornellie talked about the socio-political-economic realities of Congo.

After each topic, the lay partners had group sharing and common sessions. All the sessions were very fruitful. At the end

of the meeting, the lay partners came out with ten recommendations as Action Plan for 2022-2025. As a whole, there was the active participation of all the participants. The seven-day meeting strengthened the fraternal bond of the participants, deepened their knowledge, and revitalized their fraternity group. It also encouraged lay people to become part of the Arnoldus family and active lay partners.

The message of Vice Superior General Fr. José Antunes da Silva was presented during the workshop. He spoke about the importance of spirituality, formation, communion work, and a fraternal relationship. The workshop ended with the Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Stanislaus T. Lazar. A cultural program followed. Fr. Denis Pereira, AFRAM Zonal Area Coordinator of Mission Animation, had meticulously planned and encouraged the lay partners to participate in this workshop. Jean-Paul Nico Luketo, the National coordinator for lay partners in Congo, coordinated the program successfully.

Fr. Denis Pereira, SVD  
AFRAM Zonal Area Coordinator of Mission Animation  
Source: Arnoldus Nota



## Gratitude from the National Coordinator, SVD lay partners, Congo (CNG)



In the Parish of *Notre Dame d'Afrique*, the First AFRAM Zone SVD Lay Partners Workshop was opened with the Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Fr. Alpha Mazenga Kadjim, Provincial Superior of Congo on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022. It was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October at the Biblical Pastoral Centre in Kinshasa, DR Congo. Most of the participants took part physically and those from Zambia and other confreres followed the sessions on Zoom.

The Workshop covered Mass, prayers, conferences, hearings of national reports, workshops, meals, and cultural events.

In relation to the main theme, the role of lay partners in a wounded world was widely discussed along with topics like the Four Characteristic Dimensions of the SVD, Spirituality, Formation, etc. This gathering was also a wonderful chance to bring together AFRAM SVD lay partners at the Zonal level and give them a chance to share their experiences.

In fact, it is very evident that SVD lay partners are missionary groups rather than merely basic prayer groups. Every member is committed to the mission in one or the other way from where he lives, and where he works. As our founder, St. Arnold Janssen believed and practiced, we are missionaries in the ways of the incarnate word.

The SVD Congo fraternity thanks all the participants, speakers, and mission secretaries, especially Fr. Stanislaus T. Lazar, Generalate Mission Secretary, Rome, Fr. Willibrord Kamion, Zonal Coordinator, and Fr. Denis Pereira, AFRAM Zonal Area Coordinator of Mission Animation who planned this SVD lay partners' workshop in detail. We are also grateful to all those who have supported us throughout the world with their prayers and words of encouragement. We thank our Vice General, Fr. José Antunes da Silva who gave his message to us on behalf of the Generalate.

Jean-Paul Nico Luketo Musete  
SVD Lay Partner, Kinshasa, DR Congo (CNG)

## Kabwe, Zambia SVD Lay Partners Participate via Zoom

The AFRAM Zone Lay Partners Workshop attracted SVD lay partners from different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Though many attended physically, we participated via the Zoom platform. Mwansa Nyirongo and Chileshe Ndalia attended the meeting via Zoom from the SVD Novitiate in Kabwe.

We are grateful and excited to have been part of this workshop for the first time, especially considering that we are a fairly new group that was established in May 2022. We had the opportunity to see our friends from different countries, including the SVD confreres, especially, Fr. Willibrord Kamion, who made us feel like part of the group, even from afar. We presented a report on our activities in Kabwe since our establishment in May of this year.

Many presentations were made at the meeting. We learnt from these presentations how the SVD Priests, Brothers, Sisters, and lay partners are working in different parts of the world in carrying out the mission of the congregation, and indeed the Mission of the Church. The presentations also highlighted the growth of the congregation since its inception.

We also saw how the SVD is preparing for the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter on the Theme: *Faithful and Creative Disciples in a Wounded World*. We hope to take part in this event as we did in the AFRAM meeting.

In conclusion, we would like to thank our Chaplain Fr. George Clement Angmor for working tirelessly to ensure that we

attended and participated in the workshop. We will definitely share the experience with the general membership here in Kabwe. We look forward to participating physically in the next meeting. Virtual participation has motivated and encouraged us to do so next time. May God bless us and guide us all.

Chileshe Ndalia  
SVD Lay Partner, Kabwe, Zambia (ZAM)



## Brought Less, Gained More ...



I brought less but I gained more. This was my experience at the first AFRAM SVD Lay Partners Workshop in DR Congo. I got more clarity on the role of the SVD lay partners in the mission of the Arnoldus Family. As my group is still relatively new, I realized our potential to grow and where we can fit well. This is my realization after listening to the well-prepared talks on the lay partners and SVD mission in light of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, the characteristic dimensions and collaboration of the SVD and the lay partners, particularly on mission animation, history of the Arnoldus Family, and the initial and ongoing formation.

Meeting lay partners from different parts of Africa allowed us to learn from each other. Our group presentations and discussions led us to reflect on the state of our own groups and to get information on how we can overcome some of our challenges. This is the difference with having virtual meetings as we can get more time and clarity during informal one-on-one discussions during breaks. We simply require well-planned financial resources so that more lay partners can attend next time.

The liturgy was impressive. Listening to different languages made me realize the universality of the Church. It was good to learn a few phrases from the different languages on the continent. The SVD priests were always willing to help in bridging the language barrier. In the sharing part, no one acted superior to the other. Everything was shared as brothers and sisters. The atmosphere of the workshop was that of empowerment as it encouraged our groups to grow.

Thandi Mazibuko  
SVD Lay Partner, Malamulele, South Africa (BOT)

## AFRAM Lay Partners Workshop - Impression

Having a workshop for a Zone is not an easy task, but AFRAM Zone did it with great enthusiasm and interest. The five days sessions were filled with many talks, discussions, interactions, and cultural programs. The sixth day was an outing day as well as concluding celebrations. The workshop had the local flavors of spirituality, songs, music, dances, and so forth. Other than these, the local socio, economic and political situation was explored, and this created a lot of interest in how governance can take place and what perspectives that one could have for a just society. This analysis is applicable to other countries too in Africa and Madagascar.

Jean-Paul Nico Luketo, the national coordinator for Congo and the CNG province organized this program very efficiently. I enjoyed being part of this workshop and I admired the interest and zeal of the participants who were fully involved in the sessions and asking many questions. There was not any session without questions and interactions. All were not speaking the same language, we used three languages – English, French, and Portuguese. Simultaneous translation was not available, but the young confreres did a wonderful job of translating every sentence. I admired the gift of translating into other languages. In the beginning, it was tedious to listen, but as we progressed in the sessions, the translation went on very smoothly.

There was a very cordial feeling among the participants. There was a good blend of unison among the lay partners and the confreres who participated. Although only fourteen were from other countries, everyone felt they were at home with the local people, places, and sessions. I appreciate the eight lay partners who came from other countries who were fully involved in the discussions and interactions.





The opening and the closing liturgy were at *Notre Dame D'Afrique* parish, Kinshasa. I experienced the local church's expression of "Zaire Rite" in the liturgy. Singing, dancing, and praying together gave me a new experience of this Rite which incorporated the local traditions. DR Congo dioceses use this Rite which is officially approved by the Vatican.

In fact, there were more than 20 lay partners who were expected to participate from other countries, and they had given their names, but due to various reasons, mainly because of financial concerns, most of them dropped out just before the workshop. To reach Kinshasa from other countries is also not easy due to the connectivity of the flights.

We had the Zonal workshops for the lay partners in ASPAC and AFRAM, now, it is the turn of the other Zones to organize the workshops. Organizing sub-zonal workshops for the lay partners also would be fruitful in the coming years.

Fr. Stanislaus T. Lazar, SVD  
Mission Secretary, Rome





Bible plays a v  
live with it but  
available means  
seminars, radio  
Mission A





## AFRAM ZONE



### Kenya (KEN): Friends of SVD

#### Our Activities



We were invited to witness the Final Vows celebration of three SVD Brothers Joshua, Wycliffe, and Damien, and to their Diaconate Ordination on 2<sup>nd</sup> October where we participated in the Liturgical services. We had the Bible enthronement procession with symbols such as water, light, seeds, sword, and mirror, followed by Reading the Word

#### Mission support

On World Mission Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, we took the initiative to distribute mission Sunday envelopes to the people, in addition to distributing SVD 2023 calendars.

#### Participation in the AFRAM workshop

Three of our lay partners, Michael Murage, Imelda Wapopa, and Grace Akinyi participated in the first AFRAM lay partners workshop in Kinshasa, DRC. It was a privilege to have the General Mission Secretary - Fr. Stanislaus T. Lazar AFRAM Zone Coordinator - Fr. Willibrord Kamion, the Provincial Superior of RDC - Fr. Alpha Mazenga Kadjim, and the Mission

secretaries from the AFRAM zone in our midst. We had an opportunity to meet and share with our fellow SVD lay partners from other countries. We were driven around Kinshasa to see some historical sites and enjoyed the culture of the people of Congo. We are grateful to the workshop organizers and the Congo lay partners for their hospitality, warm welcome, and open hearts. Indeed, the love of Christ impels us, May the Holy Spirit continue to bind us in love and assist us, as we pursue our missionary commitment as SVD lay partners

#### Other activities

- We had a Recollection organized by Fr. Honore Karo at the district level.
- In our local parishes, we celebrated the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVD foundation day in different ways.
- We are glad that as a province, we have planned for our annual convention which will be held at Holy Spirit Langas Parish in Eldoret from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November.

We are saddened by the death of one of our lay partners, Samson Njoroge of St. Barnabas Kimumu Parish in Eldoret district. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Grace Akinyi



## South Africa (BOT): SVD Lay Partners Malamulele

### Mission Activities



### Mission outreach day

In the spirit of prophetic dialogue, it has to be emphasized that Mission Outreach Day is not only about doing something for our less-privileged brothers and sisters. They are one of our four dialogue partners, therefore, participants on the Mission Outreach Day should build interpersonal relationships which enrich one another so that each one will be “offering and receiving good news.”

### Success stories

The St. Benedict Catholic Parish is an SVD Parish in Malamulele, South Africa. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people from its 14 outstations were struggling to survive. The SVD lay partners together with the SVD priests had a meeting on how to reach out and assist them. We conducted a preliminary house visit to identify those who are in need. Some major benefactors and donors were also identified. Food and other grocery items were bought according to the needs of the families. On Mission Outreach Day, the volunteers visited the families, got to know them better, and gave them food parcels. More than 70 families were visited and assisted.

### Gratitude

The families expressed their gratefulness for the act of kindness. They were moved not only by the material blessings that they received but by the generosity of the volunteers in giving time and the willingness to listen to their stories and their struggles. The volunteers also learned valuable lessons on resilience and generosity.

### Moving forward

Each volunteer, including the benefactors, is encouraged to be present during Mission Outreach Day. The personal encounter with our beneficiaries is necessary as they are our dialogue partners. It is also encouraged to participate in the evaluation of the activity. Each one has to share the good practices done and find the room for improvements for a better follow-up activity in the future.

With the profile of the families identified, the next step is to plan for more sustainable projects such as livelihood and educational assistance.

Thandi Mazibuko



## Angola (ANG): Associação de Leigos Missionários do Verbo Divino

### Recent and Missionary Activities



#### Recent Activities - A Recollection

In the context of the theme of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and the celebration of the Society of the Divine Word's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a Recollection on the wounds in our society was held at Christ the King parish. Activities planned for the month of missions began on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, with Biblical reflections on the prologue of St. John's Gospel, facilitated by Fr. Hippolyte Mavusi Mandanda.

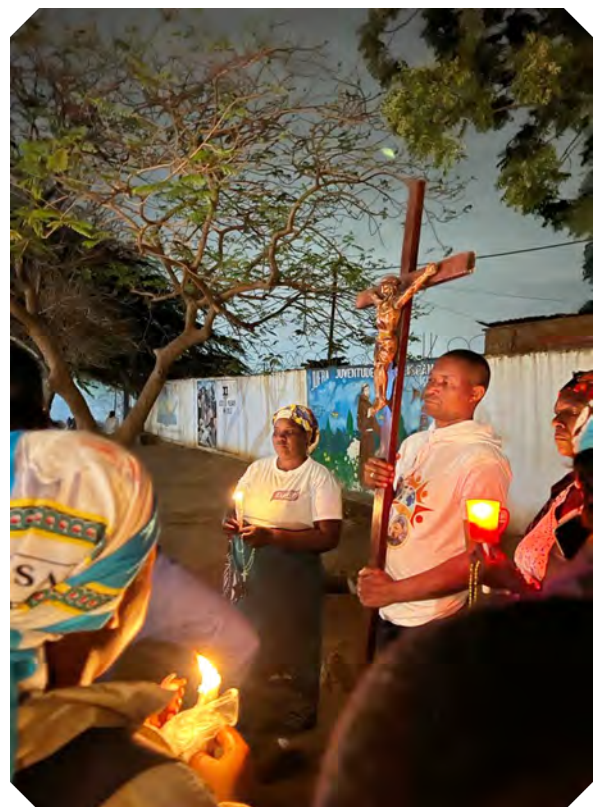
We participated in the Nativity of Our Lady Novena from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September, the 147<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the SVD Congregation's foundation, the 40<sup>th</sup> priestly anniversary of Bishop Estanislau Chindecasse, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession of Fr. António da Torre and Br. Dorvalino Cantelli, and the profession of first vows of four novices.



#### Missionary Activities

- On 21<sup>st</sup> November, a missionary vigil in anticipation to the World Mission Sunday was held by the SVD lay partners group at St. Magdalene parish, with the participation of many groups and movements.
- During the celebration of two Masses, sharing on the reflection of Pope Francis' catechesis on the World Mission Sunday under the theme: "You will be my witnesses" was presented by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Catechism.
- Intercession to the Holy Spirit, moments of sharing testimonies, mission animation, the Stations of the Cross with a candlelight procession.
- Video presentation on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVD in Angola portraying the congregation's history and areas of mission. There was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Eucharistic celebration to conclude the activities.
- From 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October, we participated in the first Assembly of the SVD Lay Partners in the AFRAM Zone held in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Mission activity on 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Divine Word parish.
- Priestly ordination on 5<sup>th</sup> November of the deacons: Celestino M. da Silva and José T. V. Muelessapi.

José Miguel Mateus



## Ghana (GHA): Friends of SVD

### SVD Lay Partners Delegates Conference



SVD lay partners from the southern part of Ghana held their delegates conference on 29 September 2022 at the St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Abeka in the Archdiocese of Accra. The theme for the conference was "Living the Trinitarian Spirituality as Lay Partners". Twenty-eight lay partners from the southern part of Ghana attended. Also, in attendance were the

Mission Secretary and his assistant for Ghana Province Fr. Stephen Dogodzi, and Fr. Patrick Kodom respectively.

The Keynote address on the theme was delivered by Fr. Abraham Dzibitor, Secretary to the Province. He explained to the delegates how the SVD lay partners' group has evolved over the years and its orientation. He educated members on how to live the SVD Spirituality, which comprises: Trinitarian Spirituality, Incarnational Spirituality, and Intercultural Spirituality.

Fr. Abraham Dzibitor demonstrated some of the practical ways by which lay partners can live their Trinitarian Spirituality by getting involved in: Witnessing and Proclamation, Liturgy, Prayer and Contemplation, Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), Interreligious dialogue/Ecumenism, Inculturation, and Reconciliation.

Delegates had group discussions and presented reports on questions relating to the theme for the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter.

The conference ended with the Holy Mass.

Martin Kumedzro



## ASPAC ZONE



## India (INM): The SVD Lay Mission Partners, Bandra

### Celebrating the First Anniversary

The SVD lay mission partners, Bandra celebrated their first Anniversary on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Institute of Indian Culture, Andheri, with a thanksgiving Mass. The principal celebrant was Fr. Richard Mathias, INM Provincial, and was concelebrated by Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurath, INM Mission Secretary, and other SVDs.

Fr. Richard Mathias reminded the lay mission partners that the light of Christ vanquishes the darkness of sin and the night of

unbelief. This is our hope in a wounded world. These symbols enshrined in the prayer of St Arnold, the patron of the SVD missionaries, should be a constant reminder to be faithful and creative disciples in a wounded world. The celebration of the Mass was followed by fun-filled games encouraging participation from all present, and then a sumptuous lunch.

Annie Luis



## India (INM): Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Mumbai

### Activities and Anniversary Celebration

**Global Prayer – Rosary for October 2022**  
Society of the Divine Word (SVD) – India Sub-zone

Virtual Rosary Format

Rosary participation from all Provinces & Regions on the following days and led by:

- 01 October – India Mumbai Province (INM)
- 08 October – India Hyderabad Province (INH)
- 15 October – India Central Province (INC)
- 22 October – India Guwahati Region (ING)
- 29 October – India Eastern Province (INE)

Opening Prayer  
Reflection or Spiritual Reading  
Rosary – Creativity is left to the zonal or regional coordinators  
Litany  
Mother Mary hymn/video  
Final Prayer

05:30 pm onwards on all Saturdays

Chief Coordinator: Fr. Ronnie Pereira  
Mission Secretary, India Sub-zone

ZOOM Meeting

*Rosary is a chain of roses and the roses are prayers*

**Theme: The Mission Sending of the Disciples to the World (5th Theme from the Mission Rosary)**

1. Introduction : Fr. Ronnie SVD
2. MC (conducting Rosary) : Mr. Ajit Kumar Kullu, ALMA group
3. Opening prayer : INE – Fr. Ajay Kerkella, SVD provincial council member
3. Bible text & Reflection : INE – Fr. Anurajan Dunggund SVD - Vikas Bhavan director, Bargari
4. The first decade : INM – Susan and Jayesh (DDW Group Member)
5. Second decade : INH – Pasala Joseph (Apostle's Association)
6. Third decade : INE – Julia Barla (Disciple of Light Group, Lunglei)
7. Fourth decade : INC – Crystal Daniels
8. Fifth decade : ING – Arnold and Group
9. Litany : Sushila Tikkey & Divine Word Lay Associate Group, Barla
10. Hymn/Video : Jayesh George / Susan
11. Final Prayer : Fr. Anurajan Bkung, SVD – Vice Provincial INE and Spiritual Director of Disciples of Light group, Lunglei
12. Vote of Thanks : INE – Fr. Ronnie SVD
13. Final Blessing : Fr. Victor Rodrigues SVD, INE Provincial Superior

### 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter: Theme and Guide for Communal Reflection

In response to the letter from the Generalate, the theme and guide for communal reflection for the SVD lay partners were discussed at our meetings. As part of the preparation for the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, the guide was shared among members and discussed together, discerning and listening to the promptings of the Spirit. Fr. Gregory Pinto and Fr. Tony Menezes joined us in the discussions. The report was sent to the INM Mission Secretary for forwarding to the Generalate.

### India Sub-zone Mission Rosary on Zoom

The SVD lay partners of India Sub-zone came together on Zoom on all five Saturdays of the month of October 2022 to pray the Rosary organized by Fr. Luis Ronald Pereira, Mission Secretary, India Sub-zone. The participation of some SVD confreres, including Mission Secretaries, and the Provincials encouraged the lay partners. We reflected on the Mysteries of Mission: The Incarnation, Epiphany, Calling of Twelve Disciples, Washing of Feet, and Sending of Disciples to the World.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

In October, we celebrated our 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on Atma Darshan Day. DDW was founded one year after Atma Darshan, a centre for Spirituality and Counseling. 'Connect' was the theme for the celebrations. Collaborating with Atma Darshan has helped us in connecting to thousands of poor and needy people every Saturday through our 'Feed the Hungry' project.

### Mission Month October 2022

In collaboration with Sacred Heart Parish, Divine Word Missionaries were invited to the parish in October to share their missionary experiences and to raise awareness of the SVD presence in India. Listening to the life stories of our confreres working in remote missions, it is evident that this is the Lord's work! God allows us to persevere and see His work completed even when we face difficult challenges.

Susan Noronha



## India (INM): Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW), Pune

### Second Anniversary Celebration and Excursion to India Hyderabad Province



#### Second Anniversary celebrations

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, The Disciples of the Divine Word, Pune, which was founded during the COVID pandemic, completed two years.

We celebrated our second anniversary on 9<sup>th</sup> October with our meeting, followed by the Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by nine SVD priests from the Divine Word Seminary and neighbouring SVD institutions. After Mass, President, Leena Xavier read the annual report for the year 2022 and presented a video that showcased the group's spiritual growth and the various missionary activities. The young seminarians who were also present were inspired and motivated by the presentation.

We thank our SVDs for their availability and encouragement for the group, especially our Spiritual Director, Fr. Gregory Arockiam for his constant support and guidance for the group.

#### Visit to INH Mission

Three members from DDW, Pune visited the INH missions from 15 to 21 September. We visited Asha Jyothi, the care and support centre for HIV/AIDS at Pregnapur and Jogipet, and the

Arnold Bal Vikas Ashram, a rehabilitation centre for orphans at Nizampet.

We interacted with the children and made them feel loved, cared and wanted. We organized and played games with them, entertained them with songs, and held quizzes and drawing competitions. We distributed gifts, and eatables and arranged a special lunch at all three centers. The children had a lovely time and were emotionally touched by our presence and loving gesture.

We also visited St. Anthony's Leprosy Health Centre at Jogipet and spent half a day with the lepers. We served them food and interacted with them listening to their life experiences. As we were leaving, they gathered to wish us goodbye. We felt the emotion and pain while parting from them. Our trip was a fruitful and moving experience. God bless all our SVD priests who work tirelessly with smiling faces serving the less fortunate.

Leena Xavier



## Indonesia (IDE): Soverdia Nagekeo

### Our Activities and a Meeting with the General Visitors



#### Activities of Soverdia Nagekeo

The SVD XVII General Chapter in 2012, has taken a major decision, which is to officially accept the laity as part of the Arnold Janssen extended family. In Indonesia, it is known as SOVERDIA (SVD lay partners). Although Soverdia has been functioning since 2012, for the SVD of Ende Province, especially the Nagekeo Sub District, it was only inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020, by the Provincial of Ende, Fr. Lukas Jua, SVD.

#### Our annual activities include the following

**Spiritual Activities:** Celebrating Mass together every first Friday, Prayer rotation once a month (except for May and October), Pilgrimage to *Lengkosambi* (garden of prayer), etc.

**Charitable Activities:** Solidarity donation for Soverdia members, those who experienced natural disasters, people suffering from HIV/AIDS, planting and caring for trees within the radius of Mbay City, collecting plastic waste, together with the Trash Hero Nagekeo group every First Friday of the month after Mass and many more.

**Mission Activities:** Fundraising through SVD mission envelopes and circulating the Soverdia calendar.

#### Meeting with the General Visitors

On Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, the General Visitor, Fr. George Clement Angmor had a meeting with the members of the Soverdia Sub-district of Nagekeo at the Pondok SVD Hall of Danga. He was very happy to be among the members of Soverdia. He wholeheartedly appreciated the real work Soverdia has done so far, especially in caring for the environment because it is closely related to the Pope's call on *Laudato Si*. He was particularly appreciative of our kindness and concern for those living with HIV/AIDS.

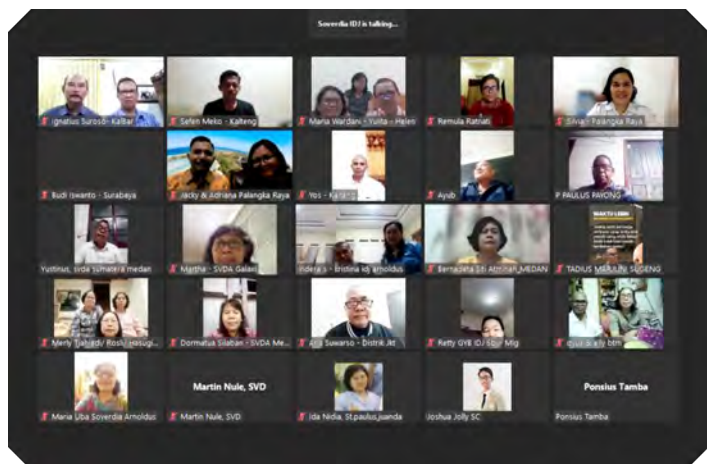
Fr. George Angmor wished that this Soverdia would be even more committed to promoting justice, peace, and the integrity of creation (JPIC). We are grateful to Fr. George Angmor for visiting us in the Nagekeo Sub-district and motivating us.

Elfrin Hurek



## Indonesia (IDJ): Soverdia

### Mission Rosary and General Visitation



#### Mission Rosary Prayer

As a devotion to our Lady of the Rosary, SVD lay partner groups participated in the Mission Rosary Prayer virtually in every district in IDJ Province, almost every Monday in October. This Mission Rosary was specifically intended to pray for the SVD missions and SVD missionaries around the world. Some groups also carried out spiritual pilgrimages to the Grotto of St. Mary. Soverdia group of St. Yoseph Denpasar Bali visited the Kerobokan Bali Prison, celebrated Holy Mass, prayed the Rosary with the prison inmates, and gave Spiritual books as a donation.

#### General Visitation

During August - September, every SVD lay partner group of IDJ Province was visited by the General Visitor. In a unique way according to the customs and traditions of each region, we welcomed his arrival to our Province. It was an important opportunity for us, members of Soverdia, to meet and have dialogue, and to convey various details about the development of SVD lay partner groups, as well as the challenges faced by the groups in the districts. The General Visitation gave us confirmation and encouragement to continue to live the spirituality of the SVD and also to be faithful to the SVD Mission.

#### Experiencing SVD Spirituality

As members of the SVD Family, exploring the SVD spirituality is an important activity for us. We regularly hold SVD spirituality-deepening activities with the aim of deepening our roots as SVD lay partners.

On 10<sup>th</sup> July, Soverdia groups from our Province had a Hybrid SVD Spirituality Seminar – physical and via Zoom, which was arranged by the Soverdia group of Surabaya Malang District. We are growing in our spirituality by listening to the testimonies of SVD missionaries returning home. This was also organized by the Jakarta District Soverdia group, listening to the testimony of Fr. Agustinus Lintang who works on a mission in Mozambique, Africa.

As Arnold Janssen family members, the 147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass was attended by all the Soverdia groups throughout IDJ Province.

Paulina Suharsi



## Indonesia (IDR): Persaudaraan Misioner Sang Sabda (PMSS)

### Sharing Faith, Sharing Mission and Marian Pilgrimage



#### Sharing faith, sharing mission

Two missionaries, Fr. Aloysius Rabata Men, SVD working in Columbia Province for six years, and Sr. Marriani Wisang, SSpS, a missionary to Siberia, earlier worked in Ukraine and Russia shared their mission experiences during the first Friday Mass with our SVD lay partners. They discussed the challenges of their missionary life on the mission field. Despite all of the obstacles and challenges, they have some hope and happiness because they know that God will never abandon them. They really do believe that whoever works for spreading God's Kingdom will be protected by God. Listening to their sharing, the lay partners promised them that they will continue to pray for them, pray for the missionaries through the intercession of St. Joseph Freinademetz and pray for more vocation through the intercession of St. Arnold Janssen. We assured them that every time we celebrate the Eucharist in our groups on First Friday, we will pray for their intentions.

asking them to surrender their life, worries, and problems to the care of Mother Mary. She is our loving Mother. He also said that we have to find our own way to meet Jesus as Zacchaeus did.

#### Mass for the dead at the Cemetery

On All Souls Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the SVD lay partners visited the cemetery to pray for the dead, particularly family members and Arnoldus family members.

Fr. Vitalis Hiburdin, SVD  
Mission Secretary

#### Marian Pilgrimage

Visiting the Marian Grotto is one of the traditions of Catholic people in Manggarai, especially during the month of May and October. On 30<sup>th</sup> October, members of PMSS went on a Marian Pilgrimage to "Golo Lusang Grotto". We celebrated the Holy Eucharist and prayed the Rosary. During Mass, the main celebrant reminded the group members to have faith in Mary,



## The Philippines (PHC): The Lay Society of St. Arnold Janssen (LSSAJ)

### Living the Present, Loving the Presence, LSSAJ as a Witness to the Word



As many of us navigate the new normal following the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be challenging to understand what role our faith and spirituality play in our lives and the lives of people around us. Inspired by our founder, St. Arnold Janssen, we need a deeper understanding of the role of spirituality as lay missionaries and better to equip us in coping amidst the challenges in what is now called the “New Normal”. It is for this reason, we held our annual Advent Recollection on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Christ the King Mission Seminary with the theme: “Living the Present, Loving the Presence, LSSAJ as Witness to the Word”.

In the words of our Chairman, Charlie Avila, “I consider yesterday's recollection a watershed event in the LSSAJ's striving for a faith-transforming life. The participants allowed themselves to be led by God's grace in the guidance of Fr. Roderick Salazar who has been exceptionally blessed by the Word as to both content and style. As a result, we the LSSAJ, individually and as a community, renew our commitment to BE WITH Jesus and TELL OTHERS of his values and intentions by the way we live and act. Let us continue in our participative use of both Scripture and life experiences to the point of being marked as Saint Arnold's own spiritual descendants - which we claim to be”. For others, it was a personal realization of “my own Galilee”, “my own Emmaus”, etc.

Fr. Glenn Paul Gomez, Mission Secretary of PHC and Mission Area Coordinator for SVD Asia-Pacific Zone, emphasized the

role of LSSAJ, is that of co-missionaries: to go both *Ad Gentes*, that is, “to the nations,” and *Inter Gentes* in a dialogical manner - proclaim the Gospel – Living the Present, Loving the Presence, LSSAJ as Witness to the Word.

It was an opportunity for all LSSAJ members to go to confession after more than 2 years since the start of the pandemic. The event culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Fr. Jerry Orbos as the Mass President.

Daisy Leones



## The Philippines (PHN): SVD-PHN Mission Partners

### A Concert and a Meeting of the Lay Partners in the Arnoldus Family

#### Rambak Misyon

Organized by the SVD-PHN Mission Partners, the *Rambak Misyon* - a musical concert for a cause, was the highlight for the month of August. *Rambak*, an Ilocano word (a major dialect in Northern Philippines) means *Celebrate*. Why *Rambak*? There are many reasons to celebrate the Mission. On the eve of 11<sup>th</sup> August, we rocked for the Lord (2 Sam. 6:14), as we celebrated His faithfulness for 113 years of SVD presence in the Philippines since the first two SVD missionaries arrived in Cagutongan (now San Isidro), Abra on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1909 and three years since the SVD-PHN Mission partners was institutionalized on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019. We launched the song composed by Fr. Edwin Fernandez for the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVD in 2025. The Musical Concert was live-streamed and proceeds were allocated for missionary activities

[Facebook link](#)

[YouTube link](#)

#### SVD@147: A tribute from the SVD-PHN mission partners

As an expression of our gratitude and thanksgiving, we produced a video in collaboration with our mission partners from the five districts of the Philippine Northern Province.

[Facebook link](#)

[YouTube link](#)

With the theme “Faithbook: Know Your Faith and be a Proud Catholic” organized by the Parish Youth Ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Mission in Sabangan, Mt. Province, the 10<sup>th</sup> Sabangan Youth Praise Jam was held on 24 September.

#### The partnership grows, and the mission continues

With SVD-PHN Mission Secretary Fr. Emil Pati, we started to move around the Philippine Northern Province visiting SVD parishes and institutions while meeting several lay mission partner groups.

#### Arnoldus family lay mission partners meeting

“St. Arnold Janssen must be leaping with joy.” With these words, Fr. Gary Mendiguarin opened the Lay Mission Partners Orientation Seminar and Workshop represented by the Agnus Dei Community and the Sunny Side SVD Choir, the SSpS Associates and the Eucharistic Adorers League (SSpSAP) on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the Divine Word Retreat House, Baguio City. “May the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people.”

Mike and GeeO Paderon



## The Philippines (PHS): Lay Mission Partners of the Divine Word (LaMP-DW)

### LaMP Bohol Rejoices with the SVD Commemorations



#### 50 years of SVD presence in Agusan

The Golden Jubilee of the SVDs' missionary ministry in Agusan del Sur since its founding in 1972 was commemorated from 6 to 8 June 2022. The Divine Word Missionaries served Trento, Sta. Josefa, Bunawan, and to date, still serving in the parishes of Veruela, Loreto, La Paz, Binucayan, Sta. Maria and Sinubong. Hundreds of SVDs and lay mission partners joined in the celebrations. Fr. Nico Espinosa, Secretary General, graced the occasion as he delivered the message of Fr. Gen. Paulus Budi Kleden.

#### 75 years of SVD presence in Bohol

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, the LaMP members joined the 147<sup>th</sup> SVD Foundation Day on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Holy Name University (HNU). A nine-day novena prayer was prayed via Zoom from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 7<sup>th</sup> September. Bishop Alberto Uy, officiated the Mass celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Leonardo Medroso, Bishop Arturo Bastes, SVDs, and HNU alumni priests followed by the honoring of SVD Jubilarians.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September, Eucharistic Celebration was held honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Arnold Janssen home officiated by Fr. Eduardo Rocha. Fr. Franlou Bardon (PHS Mission Secretary) was the homilist. The proceeds of *Piso Para sa Misyon* were offered. A few lay partners from Cebu also



attended the Mass. A dinner fellowship followed at Br. Adolfo Doroy's residence.

#### LaMP outreach and Marian pilgrimage

On 16<sup>th</sup> October, the LaMP visited the Marian-devoted churches in the eastern part of Bohol. The group started the Holy Rosary at HNU, where the statues of St. Arnold Janssen and St. Joseph Freinademetz are mounted. We prayed the Rosary and distributed 100 packs of Jolly Kiddie Meals with toys to the children. We were joined by Fr. Charlton Plateros, Fr. Manuel Mejares, and Br. Mark Paglicawan.

Nanelyn Wate



## EUROPA ZONE

### Germany (GER): SVD-Partner

#### Activities in Autumn 2022



For SVD-Partner, autumn was not only marked by the preparations around the World Day of the Poor, but also by a meeting with a day of retreat in Steyl. Two SVD-Partner also renewed their pledge.

#### Meeting in Steyl (30<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022)

As 3<sup>rd</sup> October (National Holiday) fell on a Monday, SVD-Partner took the opportunity to meet in Steyl for an extra day. This gave time for a day of retreat prepared by Petra Linchet SVDP on the theme "Searching for the Source". Also on the programme was the paper "From Arnold Janssen's Mission Partners to SVD-Partner" presented by Spiritual Director Fr. Jürgen Ommerborn. Finally, the group concretised the plans for 2023 and developed first ideas for 2024.

The renewal of promises is due for most SVD-Partner on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. However, since Lourdes and Rudi Scholz will then be going abroad, they decided to renew their pledge on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Holy Mass in Steyl. Thus the meeting had an unexpected feast!



#### Preparations and Plans

**General Chapter** - The group had begun the notes for the preparation of the General Chapter during their meeting in the summer and completed them with a Zoom conference. The text was sent to the Provincial Council and Generalate by the deadline.

**Plans 2023/2024** - The International Prayer Bridge for the World Day of the Poor will continue, as will the online prayer on the first Wednesday of the month and the Online Prayer Calendar, which gives an impulse every day since the COVID 19 pandemic began.

**Ukraine** - Since the first International Prayer Bridge for the World Day of the Poor, there have been contacts with Caritas in Ukraine. In view of the war, they asked for help for the first time. SVD-Partner were happy to give a small sign of solidarity and collected money in their own group to buy winter shoes for children.

Maria Wego





## PANAM ZONE



### Chile (CHI): Alma Verbita

#### New Faces in ALMA Verbita Animation Team



The lay group in Chile, inspired by the spirituality and charism of the SVD, gave a new impetus to its missionary actions. With a fraternal lunch held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, the lay group ALMA Verbita kicked off a new cycle of the community.

The meeting was held at the Divine Word Retreat House in La Florida. The new board encouraged the members to face short-term challenges like the call “1+1”. It urges the current members to invite another person to walk and bring “fresh air” to re-evaluate the mission and vision of the group.

The new leadership team is formed by Magaly Morales, President; Lidia Alfaro, Secretary; and Maria Luisa Roca, Treasurer. Fr. Gino Jimenez accompanies them.

In addition, those in the assembly recognized and thanked the work of Elena Ortiz for her service for 12 years as coordinator.

*Source: Arnoldus Nota (CHI Website)*

### Panama (CAM): Misioneros Laicos del Verbo Divino (MLVD)

#### Various Activities



Greetings from MLVD, Panama. Sharing with you some of our experiences in the Mission.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, we celebrated the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Divine Word.

We participated in the Parish Fair of *San Jeronimo* (Cabima) on 18<sup>th</sup> September with Fr. Mateo Yeng and the Religious Pedro Azuaga.

For the first time, on 8<sup>th</sup> October, the Holy Rosary of Men to the Virgin Mary was prayed in Panama and united everyone internationally. We were accompanied by Frs. Yohanes Umberek, Florianus Jehut, Brother Felix Sanjur, my son Pedro Rodriguez and myself.

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, a dinner was organized to provide an opportunity for generating donations and further strengthen the bonds of fraternity between the sponsors of the MLVD together with our priests and brothers

On 28<sup>th</sup> October, my wife Ruby and I were blessed by God to participate as a delegation from Panama in Medellin in the beatification of Maria Berenice Duque Henker, founder of the Congregation of the Annunciation (religious sisters) who give pastoral support at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish (*Parroquia Virgen de la Medalla Milagrosa* (Alcalde Diaz).

Rogelio Rodriguez-Pizza



## Argentina (ARE): Misioneros Socios Laicos Amigos del Verbo (MSLAV)

### New Coordinating Team and Bible Mission



On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, at the *Nuestra Señora de Fatima* Spirituality Center, in Graupa-Misiones, the meeting of the *Misioneros Socios Laicos, Amigos del Verbo* was held on a date where Friendship Day is celebrated. It was a beautiful fraternal meeting of service, beginning the journey to meet our FRIEND JESUS.

We began the day with prayer, followed by a welcome and Holy Mass by Fr. Héctor Maldonado, Provincial Superior ARE, followed by a talk on Formation by Fr. Simon Sugiduli, reading of the Statutes by Br. Nestor Benitez and mission animation talk by Fr. Dedi Bonaventura, Missionary Secretary. All the SVD lay partners were consecrated and the newly elected coordinating team made their formal commitment before God to serve, love, and accompany the mission and to profess the Spirituality of our Founder St. Arnold Janssen.

#### MSLAV Coordinating Team

Coordinator: Galarza Aurora Itati  
Secretary: Mattje Angel  
Treasurer: Espinola Itati

Councilors: Posadas District: Ortiz Isabel (P. Ntra. Sra. De Fátima - Garupá), Chaco District: Gutierrez Rosalia (P. San Miguel - Pampa Del Indio), Alto Uruguay District: Silveira



Gerardo (P. Sta. Teresa - Aristóbulo Del Valle), Eldorado District: Benitez Sergio (P. San Francisco and Sta. Rita - Eldorado).

#### Bible Mission

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Biblical Mission was held in the Virgin of Guadalupe Chapel of the Fatima parish. Fr. Héctor Maldonado led us in a prayer of sending forth. Over fifty members visited homes where some family members were ill as they made their way through the neighborhood streets. It was a very nice and moving experience. People were moved and shared their experiences with us. The day was filled with many activities. To conclude our biblical mission, Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Hector Maldonado and concelebrated by the parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Fr. Mario Selvan where we presented special signs, the Word and the Light, the image of our Founding Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz and the work done by the children.

Aurora Galarza



## México (MEX): Misioneros Auxiliares del Verbo Divino (MAVD)

### MAVD 40th Anniversary!



When we talk about Region D, we talk about changes, restructuring, and above all strength. By the grace of God, our Region has been blessed with the formation of seven base groups and two cells that are distributed in the center of our beautiful country.

- México City: San Antonio de Padua, Santo Cristo y San Marcos.
- Zapata, Morelos: Padre Andrés Rentka.
- Pachuca, Hidalgo: Trinidad Pachuca.
- Santiago de Anaya, Hidalgo: Mahets'i Santiago.
- La joya, Morelos: Santa María de Guadalupe.
- Chiapas: Jóvenes Choles.
- Oaxaca: San Juan Bautista Yae.

Each group is inspired by different charisms, but with the same purpose of evangelization.

Despite the pandemic which significantly affected our groups, we continue to collaborate with each other in this missionary work. The love of Christ has worked in the Region through us. It is Christ himself who strengthened us.

Different regions differ from each other in many ways but our activities always consider the existing conditions of each area. One is basic and common to all, and that is a formation program based on Catholic values that leads us to grow in faith. Our experiences of the past years help us to look forward

to finding new ways to lead others to God. Activities such as the choir, apostolates, rosaries, and Holy Hours help us to be closer to God and to be the carrier of His messages. The very essence of our mission is service, joy, commitment, and fraternity.

Our Region was fortunate to host the national meeting and the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the MAVD. The preparations for this celebration were done with much love in the city of Pachuca, Hidalgo where the Trinidad Pachuca core group is located. They were pleased to open their doors to all the SVD lay partners. May Jesus and our Blessed Mother always guide the people of our region.

To this day, we remain inspired, encouraged, and confident that the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ continues to guide us in this missionary journey.

María Lucero  
Ileana Pérez García



~ Last but not Least ~

## A Visit to *Stella Maris*

### The Seafarer's Mission in Hamburg



During a holiday at the Baltic Sea, SVD-Partner Maria Wego and her husband took the opportunity to visit the Catholic Seafarer's Mission *Stella Maris* in Hamburg. Here's her report:

The contact between SVD-Partner and *Stella Maris* exists since 2019 when SVD-Partner participated in a campaign collecting rosaries for seafarers. Contact has been maintained since then, but now was finally the opportunity to meet the team in person. It was a coincidence that the visit could take place on 8<sup>th</sup> September, but there really is no better day for a SVD-Partner.

The Seafarer's Mission is based in an old lock-keeper's house in the middle of Hamburg harbour. The journey to the mission already set the mood for the work to be done in the port: We passed warehouses, trucks were driving everywhere and large cranes and containers could be seen again and again.

After a warm welcome, the head of the Seafarer's Mission, Monica Döring, showed us around the building. Besides the offices for the *Stella Maris* team, there are also rooms where seafarers can meet and a prayer room. The latter radiates a soothing calm and warmth. The unusual turnover cross above the altar invites devotion, as does the icon of Holy Mary, the emblem of *Stella Maris*.



During a tea break, we also met Lejla Klüssendorf and Fr. Ritchie Salinas and immediately experienced the daily work of *Stella Maris*. They were returning from a visit to the ship and quickly made arrangements for church services and exchanged other news. Monica Döring told us more about the work during a harbour tour, i.e. a car ride through the harbour. She told about the long working days of the seafarers, who often have no time for shore excursions to go shopping, and about the problems caused by the many months at sea far away from the family and time contracts. SIM cards to talk to their families are therefore very important for the seafarers - and the team always has some. On the way through the harbour, we then learned more about the network of Catholic Seafarer's Missions worldwide and the good cooperation with the Protestant Seafarer's Mission in Hamburg.

After we had said goodbye in the early evening, we took many impressions of everyday life in the port and at sea with us. But above all: The *Stella Maris* team is there for the seafarers with a lot of heart and soul. Many thanks for that - and also for the wonderful day in Hamburg!

Maria Wego



## Online Mission Rosary for SVD Lay Partners of India Sub-Zone



In his Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, Holy Father John Paul II urged Christian families to pray in their homes by reciting the Rosary: “We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary.” The lay partners of India Sub-Zone as an extended SVD family came together on the Zoom platform on all five Saturdays of the

month of October 2022 to pray Rosary. During our online Rosary, we reflected on the Mysteries of Mission: 1. The Incarnation, 2. The Epiphany, 3. The Calling of the Twelve Disciples for the Mission, 4. The Washing of the Feet and 5. The Mission Sending of the Disciples to the World.

The Mission Secretaries of respective Provinces and Region in collaboration with lay partner groups in their Provinces and

Region prepared the Rosary program and conducted it as per their schedule. Most of the lay partners participated in the online Rosary every Saturday. For the lay partners, it was a time of prayer, being with each other to experience the SVD family spirit and express our solidarity with the worldwide mission.

We appreciated the presence of SVD Provincials, Regional Superior, and some confreres who joined us to pray the Rosary. We are grateful to Jayesh George, Vice President, DDW Mumbai, who provided us with the Zoom platform and technical support to organize and pray the Rosary. It was a deeply spiritual experience for all the participants and we

## LSSAJ Spirituality for the New Dispensation

In the library of Old Testament books, God’s name emphasizes the truth of “Be-ing” – “I am.” The accent is on God as real and true, as source of all be-ing.

In the New Testament literature there is a shift in God’s self-revelation, from “be-ing” to “loving.” And this time again, his name reflects precisely his newly revealed essence. We learn this from the youngest apostle who became the oldest survivor; he walked with Jesus, Jesus the revelation of God, and he cannot remember anything more clearly than God’s very “essence,” namely, that “God is Love.”

Centuries ago, Christians were made mindful of Jesus’ unequivocal line as to who becomes part of His Kingdom: so, who? “Not anyone who merely says Lord, Lord,” said Jesus, in other words, not those who are merely all-talk, “but he or she who does the will of my heavenly father ...” the ones who walk their talk. Therefore, who? As was his style, Jesus told stories that were always instructive. So, who? The Good Samaritan...who else? Who else? Everyone else passes the six-fold test given in Matthew 25. That’s it.

There are of course many people who believe in love and are *individually* applying it to the best of their ability and sometimes making a little difference through their families and social groups. But the present times clamour that this is not enough.

In the new dispensation, we must also work for the transformation of the larger institutions that govern the way we organize and interact with each other *collectively*. When we do

so we are acting *politically*, in communion with each other, and in the faith that as living parts of the cosmic Christ we can work miracles as and when needed. Let us refer to this as the spirituality of political action, awakened doing – or the spiritually awakened political act.

In the Philippines today, we have a new government, that of Marcos the Second. I have been advising LSSAJ not to withdraw from political activity but, rather, to engage even this second Marcos government. Why? Because it is there and, for now, there is no other and it must be used by us, if we could, in the service of the Filipino people.

Obviously, to engage the government is to recognize the possibility of an organized populace having a real say in their own governance. Helping people organize themselves into a living body is an attitude opposite to waiting for a benevolent colonizer or dictator. The oligarchy is well organized. The imperial class is even more so. But the broad masses of people, insufficiently so, as they remain bereft of their own organizations and without their own parties: farmers, workers, Indigenous peoples, women, the older folk, disadvantaged subsectors of the populace - like the “turba” or the “multitude” in the time of Jesus, “When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Mt 9:36). This is the spirit inspiring many of the actions that many members of LSSAJ are presently undertaking.

Charles Avila, LSSAJ Chairman

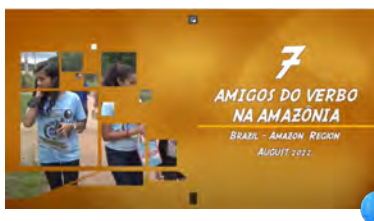
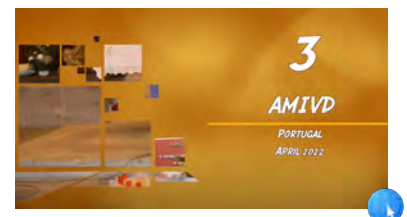
## List of Lay Partners' Videos

### Published by SVDMissionTV on YouTube

Since February 2022 SVD lay partners all over the world present themselves and their work in small videoclips published by SVDMissionTV on YouTube. From this issue

onwards, you will find the complete list of all existing videos on the last page of the section "Last but not Least"

Click on the globe to start the video.



Waiting for new videos



## In Memoriam

For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his one  
and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish,  
but have eternal life.



**Samsong Njoroge**

† 03.09.2022

SVD Lay Partner KEN



**Tulip Kotian**

† 24.11.2022

SVD Lay Partner INM

Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

We will miss you!

Rest in Peace



## Prayer

No sooner has he come into this world  
it already pushes him back.  
Your Son, O Lord, found nothing  
but a miserable manger.

Make that the Son of God may startle us from our  
Christmas dinner  
and our gifts  
and shake our selfishness to the core.

Make that this poor,  
naked child reminds us  
that he wants to proclaim the good news  
to the poor,  
to the hungry,  
to the humiliated,  
the persecuted  
and all those  
whom we look down upon disdainfully  
or around whom we give a wide berth.  
So that all his love may come to them  
today, tomorrow and for ever.

Amen

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year

Susan

Sophie

Matilda

Isabel

Daisy

Jawar

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Submission deadline for the next issue: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023