

which have many more souls and with much less effort and time can win many more souls to the faith” (Jos. Alt, transl. Frank Mihalic, Arnold Janssen SVD, Letters to New Guinea and Australia, pp.76-77).

## CHILE

**August 2:** *Fr. Arnold writes to Fr. Colling in Argentina and Fr. Visitator Grueter in Chile (excerpt)*

1. I received a letter from Fr. Langenstein, written on May 20 of this year: it is written in a very calm and factual tone and it gave me a wider and more exact insight into what is going on over there...

2. I am of the opinion that our priests [Frs. Albers, Langenstein, Wilde, Kaufhold] must ask the Most Rev. Bishop Jara not to act against the Capuchins (naturally, that only in case he gave you signs that he would do so). For the Capuchins have settled there with his permission and have certainly rendered very good services to the country. Therefore, you must reject taking over the Capuchin church as parish church...

3. If our confreres are to remain in Valdivia it is furthermore good to tell the most Rev. Bishop in a favorable hour: Our priests in Argentina are right now doing work which cannot be despised and it will increase year after year. But that cannot be done within one year. First the young priests have to acclimatize themselves and get to know land, people and language. That doesn't happen all at once.... In Valdivia, as well, we will with time be able to do more. However, for that to happen we need time.

5. Therefore, let us not yet leave, but let's wait and see! In the meantime some things can develop differently and others can be clarified...

6. Perhaps our stay in Valdivia makes it possible for us to settle elsewhere in Chile and to establish a college there. It, therefore, wouldn't be bad, in time to look out for something else. Perhaps it is even good that the bishop hears we had begun to think of something else. Then we see how he thinks about us (Josef Alt, Arnold Janssen SVD, Briefe nach Südamerika [Letters to South America], vol. II, pp. 263-265).

**August 3:** *Arnold Janssen writes to Bishop Jara in Chile*

“From Argentina I receive different reports from which I see that it would be good if Fr. Albers, the present parish priest of Valdivia, returned to Argentina together with the visitator Fr. Grueter.” The bishop is asked to give the office of parish priest to Fr. Langenstein (ibid., p. 267, footnote 4).



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## The Arnoldus Family Story

**150 YEARS AGO**

### February 1875

“In the beginning of 1875 the whole matter began to clear up a bit,” Fr. Arnold told Fr. Reinke.

First of all, on February 9, 1875 he received from his diocesan bishop Brinkmann the permission to dedicate himself totally to the founding of the mission seminary. The Bishop wrote: “On request, we hereby testify that the chaplain, Father Arnold Janssen, plans to establish a German foreign mission seminary, together with a preparatory school, for the training of missionaries. We wish him success in his efforts and declare our readiness to release him from his obligation to this diocese [if he wishes so for the development of the said purpose]. Muenster, 9 February 1875” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, Arnold Janssen, Manila, Arnoldus Press, 1975, pp. 52-53).

Fr. Arnold was full of joy, for after the approval obtained from the Bishop of Roermond, “this was the second canonical document decisive for the foundation of the project.” “Through his brother John in Muenster, [on February 10] he sent an offering from his own money for 21 Holy Masses; ‘ten in honor of St. Joseph, since the need for funds is at present the most pressing; three Masses each in honor of the Sacred Heart, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Archangel Michael; one each in honor of the Apostle John and of the missionary Francis Xavier. – Immediate help through prayer is necessary, since matters are progressing very slowly; so far the graces needed have not been earned. Every step forward must be bought with much effort, care and patience’” (ibid., p. 53).

In the month of February Fr. Arnold was given the prospect of two major donations. About the first one he told Fr. Reinke: “The first donation came from the Poor Clare convent in Duesseldorf. The go-between was Rev. Mother Francisca Schervier, foundress of the Poor Sisters of St Francis in Aachen. The Poor Clares asked for advice regarding the best use of a sum of 9000 marks which was at their disposal but which the convent wanted to give away in order to remain faithful to the principles of holy poverty. Mother Francisca asked the rev. prison chaplain Fr. Metzmacher to negotiate in the matter. He asked me to come and give him more information. As a result of this he said to the sisters: ‘I do not say yes, because I fear nothing may come of the matter. Then one will be careful not to begin such a very important undertaking a second time. I do not say no, because maybe God himself has his finger in the matter. Pray, Sisters, hold a novena to implore the necessary light from above, and if even then you are not sure, a second and a third’” (in: Jos. Alt, trans. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, Journey in Faith, p.54).

At the beginning of February, the seminarian John Baptist Anzer from the diocesan seminary in Regensburg/Bavaria wrote to Fr. Arnold. His history professor in the high school of the Benedictine Abbey in Metten had encouraged him to become a missionary. He turned to the Paris Foreign Mission Seminary to enter there but it was not possible for him. Some of the seminary students had subscribed to Fr. Arnold's Kleiner Herz Jesu Bote (Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart). When he read about the German mission seminary that was to be opened, he at once applied for admission (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, Arnold Janssen, p. 55-56).

## 26 YEARS LATER

### JULY 1901 – USA

**July 27:** *Arnold Janssen writes to the first Holy Spirit Sisters in the USA*

"I have, I believe, already written a few lines to you from here, in order to greet you over there in the New World. But since I am not quite sure, I shall now do so again.

I am very glad that you arrived in Shermerville safely and have begun with great zeal to carry out the various duties allotted to you. I pray that the Lord God may unite you in His holy love and be your faithful support in everything. Our life on earth is a hard service under the standard of our good heavenly King. But the initial years, when the proper facilities are still lacking in everything, will undoubtedly bring even greater sacrifices. I recall, e.g., how dismal everything looked here in St. Gabriel twelve years ago. And now we have a large, well-designed house with a beautiful church and a lovely spacious garden with many pathways. The same will happen for you. Console yourselves with this thought. Besides, is there not something great about suffering a little for our God here on earth? Praying, working, suffering, sacrificing, that is our daily bread on our pilgrimage to heaven.

"As you will already have heard from Steyl, I have appointed several more Sisters who will join you in Shermerville, probably before the end of August, to share your tasks and sacrifices. Observe the holy Rule faithfully, and hold fast to what you learned in Steyl. For no other foundation can be laid other than the one that has been laid. Otherwise you will exclude yourselves from the unity of the one Society. But may any such thought be far from your minds! May you always remain faithful daughters of the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit!

"So may God the Holy Spirit bless you in His love, He who has chosen you as the pioneers for the propagation and transmission of the Congregation in North America. May He comfort, sanctify, and strengthen you! May our dear Mother Mary, St. Joseph, St. Anne, and all the patron saints of our Congregation bless you!

"With all my kindest regards, Your spiritual Father in the Lord. Arn. Janssen (Jos. Alt, trans. Robert Pung and Peter Spring, Arnold Janssen SVD; Letters to the United States of America, pp. 125-126).

**July 30:** *Arnold Janssen writes to Fr. Superior Peil in Shermerville (excerpt)*

1. On 17 August, the three Sisters you requested will board a ship of the Red Star Line in Antwerp to travel to Shermerville and take over the kitchen in the St Joseph's Home according to the conditions which I have stipulated in that regard.

2. I have instructed Sister [superior] Leonarda to do her utmost to try to arrange everything according to the model of Steyl and in no way to deviate from it in essential matters. If a change seems desirable in less essential matters, in deference to local conditions, then it may be made, but it is her duty to keep me informed of any such changes.

6. Since you have undertaken to properly establish the postulancy and novitiate for lay brothers which you requested, and to operate it in accordance with the customs of the Society, I hereby give you the necessary authorization. ...

9. It is not my intention to remove you from office. True, I have had to admonish you now and again. For the rest you know that I have always had great confidence in you.

10. I have assigned Fr. Burgmer to you this year. He has told me that you had formerly been his confessor and that he has great confidence in you.

This year, however, I cannot send you more than one priest (ibid., pp. 128-130).

### AUGUST 1901

#### New Guinea (Wilhelmsland)

**August 1:** *Fr. Arnold writes to the Apostolic Prefect, Fr. Limbrock (excerpt)*

Fr. Arnold informed Fr. Limbrock that the present class of newly ordained priests was not inclined to go to the tropics. Only Fr. Girards had applied for Togo and New Guinea. He was going to send him to New Guinea. Then Fr. Arnold wrote:

2. "As far as the setting up of a new station is concerned, I believe I have more than once warned you about being too hasty. It seems that my warnings have met with little or no consideration. Please, in all such cases ask yourself the question: "What am I going to do if 1/3 of my priests and Brothers are either sick or on home leave?" Consider also the following point: people who have not had the Gospel preached to them, are only bound to observe the dictates of the natural law. But if the Gospel has been preached to them, they become more culpable if they sink back into paganism. For that reason you have a great responsibility to continue once you have begun, and finish the task...

3. "As far as providing yourself with a work force goes, you have every right to look elsewhere for workers. We have also done this in our European houses, where we hire carpenters and other workers from the outside. In fact I would be happy to develop this system further in order that we would have more Brothers to send to the missions. That idea, of course, has its limits, too, for many of the Brothers are not suited to mission work, nor can I, of course, go against the united stand of those I have put in charge of the Brothers....

4. "By reason of the love which I bear to you, I am inclined to help you in every way I can. But you should realize "that I have a very large territory but only a small flock of sheep. The Superior General and his councilors must try to make the best use possible of the priestly vocations which the Lord had sent them to redeem souls. I may in no way hinder this thrust; but I must also recall that in other aspects the tropics can be a real disaster. Therefore, I cannot compare my mission with others