

COMMUNITY GUIDING REFLECTIONS ON THE XIX GENERAL CHAPTER STATEMENT



**Part 1
Our Personal
Wounds**

**Guide 3
Celebrating Community
Reconciliation**

Celebrating Community Reconciliation highlights the essence of the Divine Word Missionaries' calling: to live interculturally and faithfully, witnessing God's love and fraternity across cultures and peoples. By honoring our commitments, we become living testimonies of the Light, embracing the universal mission to reach everyone, everywhere.

We cherish the rich heritage of spirituality and the sacrifices of countless missionaries and collaborators who have carried this light to the world's remotest places. As witnesses, we embody God's choice to uplift the vulnerable, transforming lives into signs of hope for others. Through sincere dialogue, we proclaim that the true Light, Jesus Christ, has entered our world to guide, reconcile, and inspire all.

LIVING IN AN INTERCULTURAL FRATERNITY

**We confirm our ability to live interculturally and witness the fraternity
(Faithful to the Word 6, n. 5)**

**“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
(Gal 3:28)**



We, the Divine Word Missionaries, embrace intercultural living as a key dimension of our mission. Bringing together members from various cultures, languages, and backgrounds, we witness to the universal fraternity that Christ calls humanity to embrace. Our communities become spaces of mutual respect, shared learning, and deep appreciation of diversity, showing the world that unity is possible amid difference.

This intercultural witness speaks louder than words. It demonstrates that the Gospel transcends borders and cultures, creating a family rooted in the Divine Word. In a divided world, our ability to live harmoniously becomes a living testimony of God's inclusive love, encouraging others to seek reconciliation and unity.

REFLECTION

- 1. How open am I to learning from cultures different from my own, to recognize and confront my own biases or assumptions about other cultures?**
- 2. How does our community create spaces where all cultural voices are heard and valued? Are there practices or habits in our community that unintentionally exclude or marginalize others?**
- 3. How does our intercultural witness serve as a sign of reconciliation in a divided society?**



FAITHFUL WITNESS TO THE LIGHT

By living out our commitments, we become faithful witnesses to the Light, the mission of being “Missionaries from everywhere, sent for everyone.”
(*Faithful to the Word 6, n. 7*)

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
(*Mt 5:14–16*)

The above biblical text captures the spirit of fidelity, shared mission, and being a living witness to the Light of Christ for all peoples. By faithfully living our vows and commitments, the Divine Word Missionaries embody the call to be “Missionaries from everywhere, sent for everyone.” Our mission is not limited by geography or culture; it is a living response to the Light of Christ that shines for all people. Our dedication shows that mission is not an individual pursuit but a shared journey of faith and witness.

Our community life reinforces this fidelity. In prayer, service, and companionship, we draw strength from one another to live our commitments fully. This shared fidelity illuminates the world, inspiring others to follow the Light and discover God’s presence in our own lives.



REFLECTION

1. How does our fidelity to vows and commitments become a source of healing and reconciliation for our community and for those we serve?
2. How do we accompany one another in carrying both the burdens and joys of our missionary life? What practices help us to strengthen mutual support so that healing is not left to individuals but embraced communally?
3. Where do we still need healing as a community, and how can we face these wounds together in prayer and dialogue?

HONORING A RICH HERITAGE

Honoring the rich heritage of the spirituality and the amazing witness and numerous sacrifices of many of our SVD missionaries, collaborators, who let their light shine even in the farthest corners of the world.
(*Faithful to the Word 6, n. 23*).

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”
(*Heb 12:1–2*)

We the Divine Word Missionaries stand on the shoulders of countless men and women—founding generation, missionaries and collaborators—who carried the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Their sacrifices, often made in challenging and remote places, remind the current SVD community of the power of faithful witnesses. This heritage is not just a story of the past but a living inspiration for present and future missions.



By honoring and remembering these witnesses, our SVD communities keep their light burning. We celebrate their courage and faith, drawing energy to continue the mission today. This gratitude strengthens the bond of community, uniting the present with the past and inspiring bold steps into the future.



REFLECTION

1. How does acknowledging the sacrifices and faithful witness of our predecessors inspire reconciliation within our community today?
2. How can cultivating gratitude for past witnesses help us heal past misunderstandings or conflicts in our community?
3. What practical steps can we take to strengthen bonds and promote forgiveness among members?

EMPOWERED IN VULNERABILITY

We, the Divine Word Missionaries, are living witness of God's will to choose vulnerable people, empower and transform them into signpost of hope for other vulnerable people.

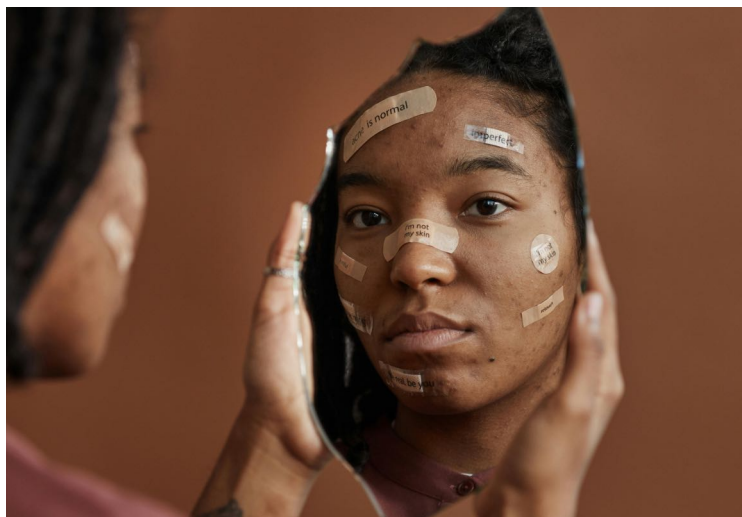
(Faithful to the Word 6, n. 23)

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast even more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

(2 Cor 12:9).

We believe that God often chooses the vulnerable to reveal His strength. Many of our members come from humble backgrounds, yet we become signs of hope and transformation for others. Our witness shows that God’s power is made perfect in weakness, and that even those who feel least qualified can become bearers of the Word.

This transformation is nurtured in our communities by supporting each other and serving those who are vulnerable. We turn our own experiences of weakness into sources of compassion and solidarity. Our life together becomes a beacon, showing that God’s grace can uplift and empower anyone.



REFLECTION

1. In what ways can sharing our struggles with one another become a path toward deeper reconciliation and authenticity?
2. What concrete steps can our community take to ensure we walk *with* the vulnerable as companions, not simply as helpers?



DIALOGUE AS A PATH TO THE LIGHT AND WAY FORWARD FOR RECONCILIATION

In sincere dialogue we bear witness to the fact that the true light has become human being and has come into the world in Jesus Christ.

(Faithful to the Word 6, n. 23)

“That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

(Jn 17:21)

For the Divine Word Missionaries, dialogue is more than words—it is an act of faith. In sincere engagement with cultures, religions, and communities, we open ourselves to discover the Light of Christ shining in unexpected places. Dialogue allows us to witness to God’s presence not through dominance, but through listening and mutual respect. When practiced within our own communities, dialogue nurtures humility, openness, and forgiveness. It provides space to name differences, acknowledge wounds, and work toward understanding. In this way, dialogue itself becomes a path of reconciliation, transforming conflict into communion and restoring trust among members. Dialogue leads us outward, reminding us that mission is not only proclamation but relationship. By choosing dialogue, we build bridges across cultures, faiths, and histories, enabling the Light of Christ to reach places of division and darkness. This bridge-building is the way forward for communitarian reconciliation, where unity is celebrated without erasing diversity.



REFLECTION

- 1. In what ways can dialogue help us move from conflict toward communion and deeper trust?**
- 2. What concrete steps can we take to witness to God’s presence through relationships rather than only proclamation?**

“Your Light Must Shine” Mt 5: 16

