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願天主聖三生活在我們和眾人心中

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Servants of the Divine Word

Frank Budenholzer, SVD

On this the 139th anniversary of the founding of the Society of the Divine Word, I would like to make a few comments on the name of our congregation, “The Society of the Divine Word.” This is particularly appropriate since the gospel chosen for today’s foundation day commemoration is the prologue of Saint John’s gospel: John 1:1-18.



The first sentence of the prologue reads: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” This is the primary meaning of the “Word of God” for the SVD. Our founder, Saint Arnold Janssen, chose to name our society after the second person of the Blessed Trinity, the Son of the Father, the Word of God. Some have used the word “audacious” to describe our founder’s choice in naming his first congregation after the second person of the Blessed Trinity. The founder continued this practice by naming his second and third congregations after the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity.

In the theological reflections of the Fathers of the Church, especially St. Augustine, and continued by St. Thomas Aquinas and in our day Bernard Lonergan, the second person of the Trinity is understood as the very self-understanding of the Father, personified as the second person of the Trinity, thus literally the Word of God.

The second meaning of the “Word of God” is closely related to the first. “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.” The Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, became a human person, thus expressing the fullness of God not only in the Godhead, but for us humans on this planet. “No one has ever

seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. It is the person of Jesus Christ who most clearly reveals God to the people on this earth. Thus the name "Society of the Divine Word" is most appropriate for us as Divine Word Missionaries. We have been called to continue the mission of Jesus, to share the revelation of God with all human persons.

Jesus as a true human person was only on this earth for a very short period of time, on the order of 33 years. He continues his presence in the community of his followers. This community continues Jesus' mission to bring the word of God to the nations. To assist in this process, the Lord has provided a very special gift to his Church – the Sacred Scriptures, the Word of God in the Bible. The Sacred Scriptures thus also reveal God to humanity. And as Divine Word Missionaries, the "Word of God" as revealed in the Scriptures is very precious to us. Thus the Biblical apostolate plays a very central role in our work as Divine Word Missionaries. We refer to the Biblical Apostolate as one of the characteristic dimensions of our society.

We are the servants of the Divine Word – the Divine Word, the second person of the Trinity; the Divine Word who became a human person and lived among us and the Divine Word of Scripture. We pray to the Lord to help us to be his worth servants.

Abstract of the homily on the celebration of the SVD Foundation Day, September 9, 2014, Choi Hung Parish, Hong Kong

Diaconate ordination of Frater Peter Liu, Cheng-Yen, SVD (劉政彥) on April 24, 2014 at the Immaculate Heart Chapel of Fu Jen Catholic University, Xinzhuang, Taiwan.



Frater Liu entering the chapel (folded hands).



From left to right (facing the picture): Father James Huang, SVD (Director of Formation Community), Deacon Peter Liu, SVD, Archbishop John Hung, SVD, Deacon Basilius Sun, OSB, Fr. Frank Budenholzer, SVD

Sharing Intercultural Life in Formation: SVD ASPAC Zone Formation Assembly

Dennis Manzana, SVD



Responding to the missionary directions or action plans for the mission of the Society set during the SVD 17th General Chapter 2012, the ASPAC Zone Formation Assembly was held in Cebu City, Philippines from August 11 to 15, 2014. The directions as written in the rationale for the assembly drew its inspiration from Rev 7:9, as synthesized by the theme “From Every Nation People and Language: Sharing Intercultural Life and Mission”. In summary, the directions focus on giving witness to the unity and diversity of the Reign of God just as Jesus, the Divine Word, prayed to the Father: “... that that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may also be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.” (Jn 17:21).”

The participants of the assembly came together to share, evaluate and offer suggestions for the improvement of the various formation programs within the zone such as OTP/CTP, formandi exchange programs, pastoral year programs, exchange of formators, initial and ongoing formation in intercultural competence and new approaches in vocation animation.

The opening day was graced by the presence of the Superior General Fr. Heinz who gave an input on the Formandi in the SVD and highlighted some issues which somehow set the direction of the discussion for the assembly.

After four days, the summary of our gathering was formed into a statement. The gist of which is; We, the sixteen (16) participants of the SVD-ASPAC Formation Assem-

bly, held on August 11-15, 2014, at Betania Retreat House, Cebu City, Philippines, in the light of the directives of 17th General Chapter Directives:

We affirm the great value of OTP/CTP/ESP in our congregation. Exchange of OTP/CTP is to be encouraged within the ASPAC Zone. Apart from all the other provinces/regions who are already accepting OTP/CTP/ESP in the zone, Vietnam, India and Indonesia are also open to receive students. This possibility could be explored.

For the ASPAC Zone, learning English language has to be emphasized. It should be as far as possible made mandatory for all our formandi in the zone to have a working knowledge of English.

Brothers' contributions to the Society have always been appreciated. Witnessing to intercultural life will not be complete without Brothers in the community. We need to enter into the serious task of promoting Brother candidates to our Society.

The ASPAC zone needs trained formators. We appreciate the formators in the zone, for their dedication, commitment and perseverance. The zone could visualize having common updating courses for formators, for example at Divine Word Institute of Mission Studies (DWIMS), Tagaytay City, Philippines and Ishvani Kendra, Pune, India.

The dwindling number of vocations in the zone is a matter of serious concern. We need to make a consolidated effort to promote vocations to our Society, by innovative ways and means. It must be the concern of every confrere in the province/region.

We recommend that the model of the Exposure Immersion Programme (EIP) in India, be adapted by other provinces/regions in the zone. (cf. p.8, India Report 6.1, 2nd par.):

“... giving our young confreres an opportunity to live in close contact with the poor and the marginalized and to participate in their life struggles ... Our seminarians should acquire not only the statistical and observational knowledge but also the experiential and insertional knowledge of systems and ideologies operative in his context.”

Together with the Generalate Secretary for Education and Formation, the ASPAC Zonal Coordinator, and the Zonal Coordinator for Formation, we praise the Holy Triune God for a fruitful Assembly.

40 Years in Vows

Brian Lawless SVD



I wish I could say that the 40th anniversary of my vowed life was a significant milestone in my pilgrimage through life. Alas, it was not, at least not in the sense of being somehow set apart, special, momentous or whatever other word one might use to describe noteworthy events. Indeed, the happenings of that day are already fast fading from my increasingly unreliable memory. To honour the day, I did try to journey back in my memory to the occasion

of my first vows, and though I circled and turned in my mind, trying indirectly to catch a glimpse or a reflection, the faintest movement at the corner of my eye, no trace surfaced. That day remains securely buried and inaccessible in some inner fold in my cerebellum.

Perhaps a change of filter was needed, a focus on something different but related that would provide sufficient buoyancy to lift a memory above the surface of forgetfulness. Then, out of the blue, a little nugget popped up. It was the fourth renewal of my vows and, unlike the previous vows which were taken in Ireland, this time the location was Ghana, where I was on regency, teaching in St. Peter's Secondary School in Nkwatia Kwahu. I remember being told that I would be evaluated by the community, something I don't recall happening in Ireland. For the first time, my destiny was in the hands of others. I can clearly recall the fear and trembling of those few days as I waited to find out whether I had been found worthy. I was no longer in control. Someone else was at the wheel. My confidence evaporated.

All my previous decisions had been my own, at least so I thought. My decision to join the SVD, my decision to go to Ghana, my decision to teach....mine, all mine. If there was one character trait I possessed in abundance it was the certainty that I was correct.



In hindsight, that evaluation for vows may have been a turning point, the dawning of enlightenment - not of knowing, but of unknowing. I became aware that my plans were not necessarily God's plans. As one of my more mature and astute fellow seminarians in Ireland remarked on my return: "You went out as a boy and came back as a man."

My 40 years in the wilderness of poverty, chastity and obedience has been more like a promised land. There is still a suspicion that I may have moulded the vows to suit myself rather than the other way around. I have still some way to go. According to Confucius, at 60 years of age, my ears should be attuned, and at 70, I can follow my hearts desire without offending heaven. I hope the meaning of this is that in ten years time I will be living the vows rather than just taking the vows. The next evaluation will be the big one!

SVD Youth Summer Camp in Fechihu

范重光 神父



SVD青少年共融營在會士共同努力之下今年七歲了，我們一直秉持著主耶穌交給門徒們的精神，『我把我所領受的傳給你們』你們也要這樣做。

今年共融營主題以教宗文告真福八端首句：「神貧的人是有福的。

ANAWIM, YOU ARE BLESSED」作為營標，為讓學員們能充分了解聖言 神貧的涵義和其宗旨在整體課程及活動設計中皆以此為基準目標，並鼓勵孩子們背誦真福八端。為期五天的營隊除了帶領學員們學習團隊合作的團康活動外，品德教育也是我們著重的一部分，因著道德常常能彌補智慧的缺陷，然而智慧卻永遠填補不了道德的空白。課程中除了認識真福八端的意義，更引導大家思考自己與耶穌基督的關係。

心靈上的滿足除了要和自己對話、探索內在，和上主的對話也是很重要的一部分。在營隊中由靈修組規劃了早禱及晚上心靈時刻，一天在和主耶穌的對話中開始，和自己的對話中結束，讓每一天都是充實的。除了每天的祈禱、感恩祭讓孩子們感受到上主和我們的



關係，和好聖事，在和神父、修士、修女們的對話裡，更了解自己的內在並再次的與天主和好。特別的是，在告解或是訴心過後，學員可以透過寫小卡片給想要和好、修補關係的對象，我們會幫他們把小卡寄送到對方的手上，達到和

好的目的，最近聖言會辦公室也陸續接到了家長打來的電話，告知已經收到孩子們寄來的小卡片，他們都非常感動。這樣的活動讓學員們和上主更接近，也重新思考了自己和家人的關係，讓學員能有所成長。

營隊中特別規劃了一天是全體一起步行7公里到鄒族文化園區，在走路的過程裡大家聽到清脆的鳥鳴聲，看到美麗的風景，呼吸到新鮮的空氣，感受到自己和環境間的關係，更知道愛護自己的環境是一件非常重要的事。



最後兩天，謝謝親愛的柏會長柏殿宏神父親自來到營地鼓勵我們，並在閉幕彌撒的講道中以科學的角度和現今數位時代的融合及真福八端的意義和自身的關係，帶給學員們另一番不同的感受，也謝謝聖言會的神父們、泰山陶成團體的楊神父派了優秀的修士們以及聖神俾女會全力的支持與幫助，讓我們一起完成這不可能的任務，有你們真好。



At Long Last He Is Here

Fr. Forgor Peter SVD



This is how Fr. Dondon Rollon, SVD. exclaimed when he saw me in Hong Kong. Fr. Dondon who was then the director of OTP (Overseas Training Programme) was the first person the Provincial of China province directed me to contact when I first declared my desire to have my OTP experience in the Hong Kong Macau district. Probably for Fr Dondon, his exclamation may be merely the long period it took for my superiors to approve my demand or just for a mere fun. However this exclamation has another connotation to me. At long last, my long time dream, desire and zeal to have an experience of mission in China has come to fruition.

When I arrived at the Hong Kong international airport on the 1st of August, 2014, Fr. Jay SVD. was at the waiting bay to receive me. He welcomed me with a very beautiful smile like the ninth day of moonlight. Then he drove me home a journey of about an hours and quarter during which I made good use of my sight admiring the beauty of Hong Kong.

At home Frts. SVDs. Peter Hien, Toto, and Arjay took much of their time taking care of me and showing me around the township of Hong Kong and Macau. They gave me a vivid and comprehensive orientation which actually made me feel more at home.

I visited Macau on the 9th of August 2014, during which I seized the opportunity to have a guided annual retreat with Fr. José Angel. Fr. Angel did not only inspire, endowed and imparted in me his motivational spirituality, he also shared his personal experience in China as a missionary for almost twenty years. I had a very remarkable spiritual encounter and also a very rich experience to learn from.

During a Eucharistic celebration marking the 139th anniversary of SVD in existence, I renewed my vows for three years in the presence of Fr Provincial Superior of the China province, confreres priests brothers and a very large number of the faithful at the Choi Hung Holy Family Parish hall. This actually was the first time I profess

vows before such a large number of people, it was so remarkable.

As part of activities marking the feast day celebrations of the SVD founders day there was a musical concert amidst dancing and cultural displays from various groups of friends of the SVDs from different parishes in Hong Kong. These were mainly migrant workers from the Philipines and Indonesia. Frs SVD, Sam and Tony from the Philipines seized the opportunity to promote a CD in support of mission in the Philipines and the world mission in general. During this ceremony I was invited to stage where I sang a local Ghanaian gospel song.

The basic summer climate condition is somewhat similar to what I grew up with in Ghana. For me weather conditions means less important to me. What matters most is the human relational climate. This I must say is the pivot of every human institution. So far, this is the kind of condition SVD confreres live in here in Hong Kong -Macau district. As a young missionary in formation, this kind of climate is a motivational factor that will help me grow and to embrace my mission in future with joy.

Not only are confreres caring and loving, they also live a more brotherly and collaborative way which for me serves as a fertile ground for growth in my vocation journey. I will seize this chance to express my appreciation to all my SVD confreres and all our mission collaborators for their enormous kindness and support since my arrival here in Hong Kong.

My Chinese Cantonese language course commenced on the 15th of September, 2014. We have lessons from Monday till Friday every week, three hours per day. Not much have been covered in our lesson note book, but I must say things are going on well and I hope and pray for the best during this period of my language learning. May the Divine Word continue to keep us in His love and grant us the needed protection to accomplish His mission entrusted onto us.

**“ Can any prophets be accepted in their own country? ”
2014 Workshop and Retreat for the SSpS
and SVD China Provinces**

Farkas Gergely SVD



It has been 4 years since SSpS sisters and SVD confreres last time had gathered in Taiwan for a common workshop and retreat in 2010. Year 2014 was a bit more special because the invitation both for the workshop and for the retreat was extended to the entire ASPAC zone. It was a great pleasure to welcome an SVD confrere from the Japanese province.

10 SSpS sisters and 12 SVD confreres “took off their sandals” to stand on “sacred ground” encountering God on the 11th of August. This “sacred ground” was of course not only the venue, the Manresa Spirituality Center in Changhua run by the Jesuits, but the interior reality of each workshop participant. As Sr. Celestina Tangan SSpS and Fr. Renato Gnatta SVD on behalf of the Arnold Janssen Spirituality Center in Steyl introduced, no one can learn how to become a respectful, attentive and sensitive retreat guide unless believing and knowing they were loved by God. During this six-day-course the Founding Generation “accompanied” us through their sanctifying experience of the Triune God prompting us to discover how much we shall still learn from them.

Nearly everyone of us is involved in spiritual accompaniment in our everyday ministry. The workshop gave a good opportunity to hold a mirror to ourselves and see whether we could offer more in guiding others to God. The workshop itself does not need any further “marketing” to get more people to come, so the purpose of writing about it is to emphasize how good is to know that the Arnoldus Family is taking care of the permanent formation of sisters and confreres also by training spiritual companions within our own communities. The workshop “animation” that is “bringing spirit, bringing the Holy Spirit into something” created a well trained SSpS-SVD team that could welcome the retreatants and cooperate for our common good either it came to coordinate the events, prepare the liturgy and the dynamics or to do different kinds of background work.

During this semi-guided retreat between the 18th and the 23rd of August re-

treatants could choose to see one of the 9 spiritual companions (5 SSpS sisters and 4 SVD priests). I am convinced that each of us could feel mutual trust and belonging to one another during the retreat. Strengthened by this experience no questions raised by Sr. Celestina and Fr. Renato such as “Why did I become an SSpS/SVD?”, “Why am I still an SSpS/SVD?”, “What does it mean, after years, to follow Jesus?” took any of the 70 retreatants by surprise. But there is still one more question left to be answered that is from the title: “Can any prophets be accepted in their own country?” in other words can we be spiritual companions for our own sisters and brothers in the Arnoldus Family? The answer is a definite 'Yes'!



Sai Kung

Charlton SVD

Pilgrimage to the Mission Place of St. Joseph Freinademetz at Yim Tin Tsai Island.

This year 2014 marks the 135th Anniversary of the arrival of our first SVD missionary, St. Joseph Freinademetz to Hong Kong, China (April 22, 1879). We always claim that China particularly Hong Kong is the first love of the SVD and to celebrate the monthly mass in this sacred place of Yim Tin Tsai is our way of expressing our gratitude to God for the gift of mission that He has entrusted to us SVD missionaries. From a very humble beginning, our mission to China has grown remarkably and we always give credit to our SVD friends and lay mission partners for their continuous support. May we always imbibe the virtues of our beloved saint, St. Joseph Freinademetz who remained faithful and committed to God and to his mission in spite of the many trials and difficulties that He encountered. It is our hope and prayer that pilgrims who come and visit Yim Tin Tsai island will experience conversion, healing and sanctification.



139th SVD Foundation Anniversary

Fr. Arjay SVD

The Divine Word Missionaries celebrated their 139th Foundation Anniversary last September 9, 2014 at Holy Family Church in Choi Hung. The celebration started with a solemn mass participated by the different communities. It was also a great moment for Bro. Forgor Peter, an SVD seminarian from Ghana, as he renewed his religious vows to the society. Right after the mass, there was a short yet a joyful program for all. The Holy Family Community was very privilege enough to welcome Fr. Samuel Agcaracar, SVD and Fr. Antonio Pegon, SVD. They came here in Hong Kong to promote the mission of the SVD through singing and proclaiming the Divine Word of God. To highlight the atmosphere of the program, Fr. Samuel sang few songs from his album entitled “I want your light”. It was really a happy and memorable moment for all. The celebration ended with a prayer and blessings from the SVD priests.

