



Sept 2017

# SVD CHINA PROVINCE NEWSLETTER 天主教聖言會中華省通訊

願天主聖三生活在我們和眾人心中

Issue No. 71

SIN Provincialate: 11F, 219-2, Section 3, Zhongxing Road, Xindian District, New Taipei City, Taiwan 231

## *A Word from the Provincial*

### Thanks For The Opportunity To Serve



It's hard to believe that I have been provincial of the China Province of the Society of the Divine Word for nine years. It has been a happy time, even if sometimes busy and tiring. Let me share a few vignettes to make my point.

Sometime ago one of our confreres was commenting on why he chose the SVD. I remember thinking to myself in a rather euphoric moment: *我選對了, I made the right choice.*" I attended an SVD high-school seminary. Before entering the SVD seminary, I also passed the exam at the Chicago Diocesan high school seminary. At that time I was already thinking of becoming a priest-scientist and the SVD seemed the place where I could accomplish that. Already in 1957 I had read articles in the Chicago newspapers that Father John Koster, SVD, a missionary to Ghana with equipment for radio astronomy, had been the first outside the Soviet Union to detect one of the Russian Sputnik satellites. (Another boyhood dream was to ride a horse as a missionary in New Guinea. I clearly was a better scientist than horseback missionary. The horse was probably also relieved.) During my time in seminary, the SVD was very supportive of my interest in science. My first and only appointment was to Taiwan, to work in the chemistry department of Fu Jen Catholic University.

After finishing language school in 1980, my first thought in Taiwan was to work as a priest-scientist – teaching, research and campus ministry. However, I almost immediately moved into administration, first as director of the fledgling MS chemistry program and then in 1984 as dean of the college of science and engineering. *I was not so happy with the situation, but remember thinking to myself that we had some very bright young scientists in the College of Science and Engineering and, even though my own research would be impeded, as dean I could help a larger group reach their potential.* And so I continued a career in teaching, research and heavy administration. After finishing as vice president for the SVD Section, I had a one-year sabbatical at the University of California at Berkeley, 1997-98 academic year. While I had been planning to work in the laboratory of a very well known physical chemist, I very quickly ended up spending most of my time at the Center for Theology and Natural Science amid the cluster of seminaries north of the Berkeley campus. So after my return to Taiwan, I pretty well gave up mentoring chemistry graduate students and turned to religion and science research. It was also around this time that I had the wonderful opportunity to teach Bernard Lonergan's master work *Insight* to graduate students in the Philosophy Department. For several years I taught Lonergan and religion & Science in the philosophy and religious studies departments as well as in the general curriculum program of the university.

Soon after my return to Taiwan, the Fu Jen SVD community recommended that I join the board of trustees of Fu Jen Catholic University. This morphed into heavy administration when I was asked to serve as Fu Jen Catholic University resident trustee in 2001. A position I still hold after all these years.

For some years, there had been suggestions that I might possibly serve as the provincial of the China Province. I never sent the SVD Generalate a flat “no.” However, at least once I wrote that there were very few SVDs that were full professors and also had a reasonable command of Chinese and English, so maybe the Generalate should consider someone else. However, in 2008 when the primary vote was published, it became obvious to me that I would most probably be elected provincial. Also, by that time I had reached retirement age at the university so I the society could receive my retirement benefit. And again I remember thinking to myself that the SVD had been very good to me, so maybe it was time to repay the SVD by serving as a full-time administrator.

When my appointment was officially confirmed, I gave up all teaching and research at the university (though I continued with the board of trustees). With a province spread between Western China and Taiwan, Manchuria and Hong Kong, it would not be fair to me or my students to continue teaching.

I hope I was able to serve the China Province in a reasonably good way. My experience in administration at the university was a positive factor. I had had almost no traditional pastoral experience. However, my time with the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Men and Women of Taiwan was a great learning opportunity to understand the pastoral situation of the Church in Taiwan and, by analogy, in greater China. It has been a joy to work with the members of the provincial council and the four district superiors of the China Province. Council meetings were a way to work out as a team the best directions for the province. We were there to work together – not for any one member to get his way. The cooperative spirit among lay employees and partners has also been an enriching experience.

Being provincial means a lot of travel. But it has been a privilege to travel across the wide expanses of our province to visit the individual members and their communities. I always felt most welcome. Being provincial of the China Province also means being involved in a lot of administrative work. You probably have heard me quip that the Philippines and the United States have three provinces and one formation program. We have one province and three formation programs. My many connections with other provinces throughout the SVD world, especially in East and Southeast Asia, have been wonderful. The same can be said for the bishops with whom I have worked.

I could continue on. Being provincial is, of course, a lot of work. And I cannot deny that I was at times angry or upset. But as I said in the first paragraph, *“I made the right choice.”* I hope that my efforts have furthered the objectives of the SVD as a missionary congregation – prophetic dialogue, both direct evangelization and continuing dialogue. Good luck to my successors.

*Frank Budenholzer, SVD  
July 27 2017*



**“Send-Off” from Xindian, Da Ping Lin (provincial office)**



## THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF CARDINAL THOMAS TIEN KENG-HSIN SVD

On 24<sup>th</sup> 1967 Cardinal Thomas Tien died at the age of 78 in the Saint Martin de Porres Hospital in Chiayi, run by the Sisters of Our Lady of China, a Congregation he himself had founded in China. Since 1964 he had been sickly and was taken care of by the SVD confreres in their Provincial House in Chiayi. As the first Cardinal in China, and indeed the first Cardinal in the whole of Asia, Cardinal Tien, was given an official funeral, attended by the representative of the Holy See in China, all the bishops of Taiwan, high Government officials, the military and a huge crowd of people, both Catholics and others.

Now after 50 years the anniversary was celebrated in the church built in his memory, the Chinese-style Cardinal Tien Memorial Church, where his body has also been laid to rest in the crypt of the church. The anniversary was announced with a beautiful poster of the Cardinal with the inscription: "The Precursor of the Chinese Church, a Miracle in Praise of God!" As Archbishop of Beijing and Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church he had been the first Chinese to represent the whole Church of China. This was a major step in the inculturation of the Church in China.

For the memorial the Archbishop of Kaohsiung, Peter Liu, the local Ordinary of the Chiayi Diocese, Thomas Chung, many priests and some 300 Catholics had gathered there, together with SVD representatives and the Sisters of Our Lady of China. A one hour very lively program was prepared by the parishioners with songs and humorous sketches introducing the life of the Cardinal, after which a quiz was held for the youth using their cell-phones to report the answers. After the memorial Mass the celebrants went down to the crypt for a Chinese memorial rite in front of the tomb of Cardinal Tien.

In the crypt next to the tomb a permanent exhibition about the life of the Cardinal was set up. Besides some of his personal belongings many pictures were displayed: including his ordination as bishop by Pope Pius 12<sup>th</sup> in 1939, his elevation as Cardinal in 1946, his attendance at the Second Vatican Council with Pope John 23<sup>rd</sup>. Being born the son of a farmer and his personal name being 'Keng-Hsin' meaning 'cultivator of the land of

Hsin', one could compare his whole life in the Church as working on a farm with deep attachment to the soil of faith and diligently caring for all that lives and grows in the Church. Everywhere in the dioceses entrusted to him, namely in Yanggu, Qingdao, Beijing and Taipei, he stressed conscientious attendance to the life of faith, promoted education, cared for the poor and much more. His successor Cardinal Paul Yupin described him as a diligent missionary with a broad apostolic view, an advocate of a well-educated and pious clergy, and as a humble and good-hearted person.

Jac Kuepers, SVD





## “ The Mighty One has done great things for me” Magnificat

By God’s love and blessing, the S.V.D. Youth Camp celebrated its 10th anniversary, 3-7 July at Holy Angels Parish in Fenchihu, in the mountains of Chiayi County. The theme this year was “the Mighty One has done great things for me” (cf. Lk 1:49). Already at the beginning of the summer, youth leaders from Taipei, Changhua, Chiayi, and Kaohsiung joined with the personnel of the SVD Youth Office to prepare this camp. Through their exceptional efforts, the programme fully expressed the theme “the Mighty One has done great things for me.”

In order to let the participants have a different experience, Mr Alvin WANG was invited as a speaker to give input. His very rich and fruitful input was divided into three parts: “self-knowing”, “critical thinking” and “how to respond God’s call.” Alvin highlighted independent thinking and self-expression. During his input, he kept asking questions, and let the participants find out their answers through group discussion – “everyone is blessed, everyone is unique, everyone has talents that have been given by God to help the others”. Then team leaders and the team spiritual directors held further discussions with the participants to think through some social issues and the possibility of concrete action to help the weak. From the input to their action plans, everything strictly focused on the theme of the camp - “The Mighty One has done great things for me”.

“Earth Studio” was a new item among the camp activities. This activity encouraged the participants to prepare videos of Holy Angels Church, the Janssen Activity Centre, Pott Hall, as well as the environment, foods and culture of Fen-Chi-Hu. The footsteps of the camp participants were imprinted along the forest nature trail to Fen-Chi-Hu Old Street and the train station. On the same day, in the afternoon, there was an activity called “Avenue of Stars” -- a time to present and share each team’s movies. Every movie was creative and unique. In God’s love and blessing, we came to better know each other, and better know the land. That filled everyone with happiness.

Then later that same afternoon there was a drama activity based on the Bible, which aimed at knowing God in another way. With the help of their team leaders and team spiritual directors, every team had to present a Bible story using a short play, but modernised and funny. The participants showed their creativity and passion!







On the third evening, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was arranged. In order to calm down and prepare for Confession, the spiritual team placed a big icon of the San Damiano Cross (cross of St. Francis) and many candles, while the sisters sang sacred music. In this comfortable environment, we began to talk with ourselves and God. For Catholics, they were encouraged to meet a priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For the non-Catholics, other male and female religious were ready to listen and pray with them – to release the burdens in their hearts.

In the morning of the fourth day, we were grateful that God had granted us good weather for the S.V.D. Games! Several new items enriched this year's games, like individual team processions, multitasking competitions, relaying with the cross and the S.V.D. water world. "Funny, very funny; tired, very tired," Rev. Fr. Trien commented. The cheers and laughter sounded over the sports centre. The participants tried their best to gain honour for their teams. They were so united. It was a remarkable moment for each of us.

The S.V.D. camp fire on the same evening was the peak of moment of the camp. All of us treasured this moment to share our feeling and memories with our team members. The participants and staff members were so generous too; they performed what they knew on the stage team by team, dance, singing, playing music. Some teams added a play into their performances to enrich that evening's gathering. Finally, the song "Moonlight (月光)" was played by the Spiritual Team to recall the memories of those four days, to learn from the experience of each other, to open our hearts to embrace each other. The simple melody made our minds peaceful and made us feel God's inexhaustible love and blessing.



In this camp, some heard for the first time about God; some came already committed to God. Guan-Ying had participated in the camp continuously for seven years. She became a team leader this year. To be a team leader was not an easy job, they were required to deal with their team members directly. Guan-Ying showed that she learned much from those members who were younger than her. She found that her members were full of creativity, able to solve the problem by their independent thinking and unity. Another youth leader Liu-Zhen had been participating in this camp since Primary-6. This year she joined the activity team. She felt great pressure for this job and worried she would not be up to the task. During the formation for the youth leaders, she was able to plan and cooperate with her team members to solve each obstacle. She said that through this experience, she realised that her capacity was larger than she had imagined, and the overnight preparations became worthwhile when she saw the smiles from the participants.

This good work could not be completed without God. The 5-day camp ended with tears and friendship. Through this camp we felt that we are full of the Holy Spirit, filled with true love. "The Mighty One has done great things for me"; our responsibility could be seen from those who are in need. For this call, we shall be more mature, experiencing more "I'm being loved therefore I'm willing to love." God loves everyone, more than we can imagine. Through God, we can see God from the others; through God, we strongly feel that "I love these people because God love me". S.V.D. Youth Camp, see you next year!

Postulant Robert Wong





**[..., solemnly promise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
to live for life chastity, poverty, and obedience,  
according to the Constitutions of the Society of the Divine Word.]**

With these words, Fraters Anthony Song and Joseph Lyu committed themselves for life as religious missionaries of the Divine Word last August 2, 2017 in the Chapel of the SVD community at Fu Jen Catholic University. Anthony and Joseph arrived in Taiwan three years ago to complete their post Novitiate Formation as they pursued the Baccalaureate Degree in Sacred Theology at the St. Robert Bellarmine Faculty of Theology. In preparation for their future mission Anthony and Joseph dedicated their time to scholastic study and apostolic ministry. Anthony made friends and served the patients in Losheng Sanitorium, a hospital for lepers located in Xinchuang District of New Taipei City. Joseph on the other hand dedicated his time and talents serving at St. Joseph Frienademetz Parish in Linkou District of New Taipei City. Both served with zeal and were greatly appreciated by the people whom they ministered to.

Their vows were received by the Provincial Admonitor Fr. Joseph Huynh Tran who presided at the Eucharistic Celebration. During the homily, Fr. Tran, deepened the reflection on the prologue of the Gospel of John focusing upon the incarnate Word of God, “the Word made flesh and dwelt among us.” He invited Joseph and Anthony and all of those present to remain in Jesus, allowing Him to continue to dwell in their hearts. In addition, he shared the message that to live out daily the presence of Jesus in one’s heart as the guarantee of true happiness.

The simple yet solemn liturgy was participated in by SVD priests and brothers, SSpS Sisters, family and friends, with the fraters from the formation community acting as altar servers. The parents of both Joseph and Anthony, who came especially for the occasion, were seated beside them during the Holy Mass. The brother of Anthony and the cousin of Joseph both of whom are diocesan priests, together with other members of their families, also graced the celebration. It was truly a day of gratitude and joyful thanksgiving!

Dennis Manzana, SVD





## Deaconate Ordination, August 5, 2017

### Taiwan, New Taipei City, Sanchung District, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017, three young SVDs – Jose Lyu, Martinus Ratu, Anton Song – were ordained deacons in the Archdiocese of Taipei by Archbishop John Hung, SVD, the Archbishop of Taipei. Friends of three deacons and faithful from both northern and southern Taiwan joined the celebration. Members of the families of Deacons Lyu and Song also traveled from the Mainland for the celebration. After the ordination Mass, all were invited to a luncheon banquet.

During their time of formation, the three deacons worked in different apostolates in different Church units of Taiwan. Their efforts were well appreciated. All three had also participated, once or twice, in a week-long summer youth camp in the town of Fenchihu in the mountains of eastern Chiayi County. By their efforts and personal witness, a number of young people were led to further discern their holy vocations.





## THE NIGHT IN UJOP'S HOUSE : A REDIRECTED PILGRIMAGE

I thought of going to Shandong but I was led to Oies. The link that connects the two places is Saint Joseph Freinademetz. He was born in Oies, Val Badia in 1852 where he was called Ujop. Val Badia was then part of Austria but now belonged to Italy. He died in Shandong, China in 1908, after 33 years of missionary work, where he was known as Fu Shenfu (福神父), meaning, the lucky priest.

Being involved in the Chinese apostolate, I wanted to go on a pilgrimage to Shandong in 2016. That was before I embraced a new phase in my missionary journey. The plan did not materialize. Instead, a pleasant surprise took place a year later. One morning in May 2017, the Provincial Superior of SVD-Italy told me: “*Abs, se vuoi, puoi andare a Oies domani* (Abs, if you want, you can go to Oies tomorrow)!” Thus, the pilgrimage and a night in Oies happened.

The visit to Oies prompted some questions in mind: How was the prayer life of the Freinademetz family? Did the little Ujop speak other languages aside from his mother tongue, Ladin? What transpired between Ujop and his family members after he left home? To find some answers, I spent a few hours that night reading about the life of Ujop in his own house.

**Family Prayer Life.** The daily life of the Freinademetz family “commenced with the ‘Angelus’ and closed with the family rosary before the house altar. From spring to fall, Joseph’s father, Giovanmattia, made a weekly pilgrimage up to the ancient chapel of the Holy Cross, 2000 meters above sea level. Every day he took the children to Mass in the parish Church of St. Leonard’s, twenty minutes from Oies” (Mulberge, *Joseph Freinademetz: Serving the People of China*). Indeed, a bunch of spiritual exercises a day.

Two things caught my attention. First. The “Angelus” which stresses the mystery of the Incarnation was very dear to the family. That was a counterpart of the strong devotion of Arnold Janssen’s family to the Word made flesh. While the Freinademetz family recited the Angelus daily, the Janssen family used to read the Prologue of John’s Gospel. Before Joseph and Arnold met in 1875, they were already sharing something in common – devotion to the Incarnate Word of God. Later on, they were united to do mission in the Divine Word.




Altar at the Sala



Ujop House

Room where Ujop was born



Second. Giovanmattia made pilgrimages and walked the children to Mass. The father of the house not only exerted effort to move toward the cross; but also brought his children close to the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ through the Holy Eucharist. He must have known by heart St. Paul's exhortation: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord" (Eph 6:4 [NAB]). A biblical scholar, who reflected on the Fatherhood of God, stated elsewhere that the prayer life of a father of the house creates an impact on the faith of his children. Did the spirituality of Giovanmattia plant the seed of his son's sainthood?

***Ujop and Languages.*** I met a parishioner in Val Badia who mentioned that there are three languages presently spoken in the area – Italian, German, and Ladin. The little Ujop learned Italian and German in primary school. Later, he studied Latin, Greek, and a little French in the seminary. Thereafter, he learned Chinese.

Bishop Henninghaus once said: "[Joseph Freinademetz] was gifted with quick perception, a retentive memory, and a special talent for languages...Just as later he acquired an exceptional command in Chinese, so he also had an unusual mastery of Latin which he spoke and wrote with marvellous ease" (Bornemann, *A Wine Poured Out: Blessed Joseph Freinademetz*). Ujop was adept in several languages. As one who studied European, Classical, and Asian languages, he knew the pains and demands as well as the joy and reward of language learning.

For language students, especially missionaries – SVDs in particular, Joseph Freinademetz can be an intercessor and companion in the journey. He will not turn his back but will be compassionate to those who invoke his aid. Saint Jerome, an expert in classical languages, is regarded as the patron of librarians and translators. How about Saint Joseph Freinademetz who possessed a special talent for languages, can he possibly be considered the patron saint of language students?



**Home in the Mission Field.** In 1879, Ujop made his farewell to his family and home. But letters kept him connected with his family and friends. In 1886, he wrote to his parents: “I tell you the truth: I love China and the Chinese and I want to die a thousand times for them... Now that I do not have much difficulty with the language and I know the people and the Chinese custom, I acknowledge China as my native land, as my battlefield, where I desire to die” (The author’s translation. Irsara, *Lettere di un santo: L’amore per il prossimo, la famiglia e la Badia*).

With those words, Fu Shenfu admitted that he encountered difficulties in crossing the boundaries of cultural differences. He also expressed a deep affection for the country and that affection overflowed towards the people he came to serve and the place where he was sent. Those words, too, conveyed a reality that he found a home in the mission field – just like the Incarnate Word who “made his dwelling among us” (Jn 1:14 [NAB]).

Fu Shenfu never returned to his home in Oies. However, his spirit remains and is very much felt in his birthplace today. His house has become a place of prayer and meditation; and also a place for Eucharistic celebration. Thousands of pilgrims flock to Oies each year. A small community of SVD is present in that hamlet to serve the needs of visitors and pilgrims, especially those who yearn for a spiritual encounter with Joseph Freinademetz. What would it mean if someday a Chinese SVD, one who speaks the native language learned and spoken by Ujop in the mission field, would do missionary work in Oies?

**Conclusion.** I planned a pilgrimage to Shandong to know more about Fu Shenfu, to see the fruits of his works, and to get some inspiration. But God’s invisible hand led me to Oies to discover certain things significant to my missionary journey. I came to know a father whose spirituality possibly could have planted the seed of his son’s sainthood. I felt closer to Ujop, someone who can be an intercessor and companion in my language studies. Through his letters, I encountered Fu Shenfu who found a home in the mission field. His penned words are gateways to the mind and heart of a missionary who lived out the life and love of the Word Incarnate. Such was the night in Ujop’ house. Such was the redirected pilgrimage.

Abs Borja, SVD



**St. Joseph House**



**Chapel in the house**



## Macau Deaconate ordination

Fr. Kornelius Bardata, SVD and Fr. Peter Hien Van Hoang, SVD were ordained to the deaconate on July 1, 2017 at 3:00 PM at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Macau. The ordaining prelate was Bishop Stephen Lee Bun-sang. After Mass there was a reception for all who attended, followed by a smaller dinner for the SVD community and other visiting priests and for visiting family.

It was a joyous day for everyone. Bishop Lee confided that this was his first ordination in the Diocese of Macau. The parents of Deacon Bardata were able to come to Macau for the ceremony. While Deacon Hien's family could not make it, both Deacon Hien and Deacon Bardata were joined by large numbers of guests originally from their native countries of Vietnam and Indonesia. The pastor and parishioners of Fatima Parish went out of their way to prepare the liturgy and make it a memorable day.

Deacon Bardata will have his six-month deaconate service at Fatima Parish in Macau while Deacon Hien will serve at Resurrection Church in Hong Kong. In a letter dated June 16, 2017, Father General appointed the two to the China Province. Meeting on July 10, 2017, the China Province Provincial Council appointed Deacons Bardata and Hien to the Hong Kong-Macau District. Welcome to the Hong Kong-Macau SVD missionary team!

Frank Budenholzer, SVD



## CONGRATULATIONS AND ALL THE BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

We would like to thank our former Provincial Rev. Fr. Frank Budenholzer, SVD and his team for guiding and leading the china province for past nine years. And we welcome our New Superior of China Province Rev. Fr. John Chang Jihliang, SVD. The Provincial and his Council were officially installed on July 5, 2017 in the SVD Chapel in Chiayi. We congratulate and wish them God's choicest blessings and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all their endeavors.

