



願天主聖三生活在我們和眾人心中

### A Word from the Provincial

*Our* SVD Constitutions states “We follow the Lord on the path of the evangelical councils and bind ourselves to his person and his service by the vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty and apostolic obedience. In this way we join together to form a missionary religious community. We propose to make the goodness and kindness of God visible in our life and service. As a community of brothers from different national and languages, we become a living symbol of the unity and diversity of the church.” Recently I had the opportunity to attend a conference in Rome: **“Meeting for Episcopal Vicars and Delegates for Consecrated Life: the Function and Role of the Episcopal Vicar for Consecrated Life.”** I attended as a delegate of the Taiwan Bishops’ Conference and a representative of the Taiwan Association of Major Religious Superiors of Men and Women. The conference was held in Rome from October 28-30, 2016. The conference was primarily concerned with women religious, newer forms of consecrated life and the relationship of the bishop to these groups. But because the focus as consecrated religious persons is perhaps clearer for women religious than for the members of male congregations primarily made up of clerics, the reflections of the meeting give us much to think about.



A basic question for religious, men and women, clerical and lay congregations is how to we envisage ourselves. Is our work the most important? Or is our primary thrust that of a prayerful community seeking the Lord through our vows and community life? Of course this is in some ways a false dichotomy, but it is a useful question. When planning our apostolic endeavors, do we ask how our community life contributes to our apostolic service?

*When* thinking of our province, there are some very positive examples. SVDs in our districts for the most part enjoy being together. It is obvious when our members take the time to join regular SVD gatherings or stop by a central community, just to stop by. The way in which our young members feel at home in our parishes and larger communities is a witness to the larger Christian and non-Christian community. We care about our young people. And at the other end of the spectrum, both in the communities at Fu Jen Catholic Universities and in Chiayi, we are together with our elderly confreres. Not only is this the right thing to do, it is also a witness to those beyond our community.

*There* is, of course, room for improvement. Different members have different ways of staying connected with the larger SVD community. Some are party-goers, some are not. How can we reach out to those of our communities who find themselves somewhat on the edge or who are having vocational difficulties?

A key topic at the Rome meeting was the *“co-essentiality of hierarchy and charism.”* Put in simpler terms, this refers to a balance between recognizing the hierarchical nature of the Church and the need to work in consort with the structured church and the need for allowing the spirit to lead us in new directions. In my discussions with bishops in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, they are all very grateful to the SVD for our service to the Church. Support given to bishops and those in Church administration is to be commended. Ask any bishop, it is not easy being a bishop these days.

*And what about our special SVD charism?* The parish is an amazing institution. Parish ministers accompany people literally from birth to death. It is good that we have so many SVDs in parish work in our province. The Generalate recently promulgated a document, “Profile of an SVD Parish” (SVD Publications, Rome, 2016). How many have read the document? More importantly, how many have raised the questions, what should be the profile of an SVD parish in my particular situation. Religious charism suggests that we be willing to “think outside the box.”

*Similar* questions could be asked about our other areas of service: education, special ministry, formation and administration. *What does my vocation as an SVD bring to my work?*

*During* the meeting there was much discussion of newer forms of consecrated life: secular institutes, communities of apostolic life, orders of virgins, orders of hermits, orders of widows. Some of these are really new, but many are new manifestations of traditions that go back to the early years of the church. Do we support these new initiatives? And what is our relationship with the members of these newer communities as well as with members of traditional men’s and women’s congregations. When preparing for the meeting here in Taiwan, problems of male paternalism and clericalism were not infrequently mentioned. What is my attitude toward other religious, especially women religious?

*The* Arnoldus family is enriched with three congregations – active congregations of women and men and the contemplative Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration. Considerable time was spent at the meeting discussing women’s contemplative congregations. Contemplation of the divine is the core of the Kingdom of God and of our future life in eternity. We not only appreciate the prayers of the contemplative communities, we also join with them in our efforts to combine contemplation and active missionary work. For all Catholic Christians, consecrated persons and the Christian laity, the Eucharist should be the center of our spiritual life. We thank the SSpSAP for continually reminding us of this reality.

*Some* in rather high positions in the church, have prophesized the end of consecrated life as seen in religious congregations and new apostolic communities. The final message of the meeting in Rome was **“Consecrated life has a future – there are problems but they can be remedied.”**

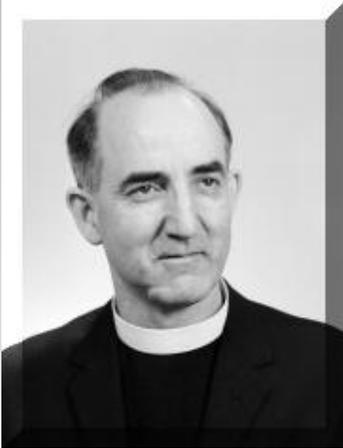


### *Frank Budenholzer, SVD*

*(On the left is Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, the head of the "Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life," who sponsored the meeting. The Cardinal visited Taiwan a couple of years ago. Next to the Cardinal are the three SVD participants in the conference. On the right is Fr. Giancarlo Girardi, provincial of the Italian Province and on his left Bishop Gabriel Edoe Kumordji from Ghana.)*



## Fr. Barley's obituary



P. Bartley Schmitz SVD  
(† 04.04.1918 - 06.06.2016)

*Father* Bartley F. Schmitz, SVD received the Lord's call to leave this earth on June 6, 2016 at 5:16 in the afternoon at Saint Martin De Porres Hospital in Chiayi, Taiwan. Bartley was born on April 4, 1918 on a farm in east central Montana in the United States. At the time of his death he was 98 years of age. The funeral Mass will take place at the Cardinal Tien Church in Chiayi at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 19. Bishop Thomas Chung An-Zu will be the main celebrant. Interment will follow in the Catholic cemetery of the Chiayi Diocese.

*Bartley's* parents were of German heritage, his Father a blacksmith from Wisconsin and his Mother (nee Noehl) a school teacher from Minnesota. They had homesteaded a 3000 acre ranch. Bartley was a real cowboy, riding horses at 5 and driving a tractor at 9.

*His* family was a devout Catholic family and he had received information about the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD), an originally German Catholic missionary congregation. At the age of 13 he left home to study at the mission seminary at Techny, Illinois, just north of Chicago. He continued in his studies, moving around to various SVD houses in the East and Midwest. He entered novitiate in 1937 in Wisconsin, took first vows in 1939 and professed perpetual vows in 1943. He was ordained a Catholic priest on August 15, 1944 at Techny.

*He* had long been interested in China, and after some time teaching in the United States, he was appointed to China in 1946. Bartley left San Francisco by boat for China in January 1948 and arrived in Shanghai two weeks later. He first went to study Mandarin in Beijing, but had to leave after three months as the Communist armies approached the city. He travelled to Shanghai and very soon was working in the mission procure, helping missionaries leave China, arranging for visas, purchasing tickets and such work. As the situation deteriorated, he himself had to leave Shanghai, arriving in Hong Kong early in 1951. In Hong Kong he continued the same work as he had done in Shanghai, helping refugees to leave China. After four years, most who could leave China had already left and Bartley returned to the United States.



*Back* in the United States, Fr. Schmitz was again asked to teach in various SVD houses of formation. In 1959 Thomas Cardinal Tien Ken Sen was in the United States and asked Bartley to be his English secretary. Pope John XXIII had appointed Cardinal Tien as the Apostolic Administrator of Taipei and Bartley accompanied him to Taipei, arriving March 1, 1960. Cardinal Tien retired because of ill health in 1965 and died two years later. (The tomb of Cardinal Tien is in the same Chiayi Church where the funeral Mass for Fr. Schmitz will be celebrated.) In 1967, it seems at the Cardinal's suggestion, Bartley was the first director of what would become the Cardinal Tien Hospital in Xindian, a suburb just south of Taipei. He was also appointed as the executive secretary of the Association of Catholic Hospitals of Taiwan.

*In* 1968 Fr. Schmitz returned to the United States both to recuperate from illness and to raise funds for the hospital. While in the U.S. Bartley came in contact with the charismatic renewal and saw in the charismatic movement the Holy Spirit at work as it must have been for the founder of the SVD, St. Arnold Janssen. He preached charismatic retreats and promoted the charismatic movement both in the United States and Taiwan. After a one-year refresher course in Chinese at the language center administered by the Jesuits in Hsinchu, in 1978 he appointed pastor of St. Michael Church in the Yungkang District of Tainan. After nine years of very successful parish work in Tainan, Bartley was elected rector of the SVD Taiwan South District House in Chiayi. Between 1987 and 1991, he was pastor of the Parish on Wu Feng South Road adjacent to the SVD District House and of the parish in the town of Chuchi in Chiayi County.

*In* 1993 Bartley retired from administrative duties living at the SVD house in Chiayi. However, during this time he was anything but settled, joining with people in prayer, listening to people with difficulties and encouraging the young SVD missionaries in Taiwan. Over the years his health gradually deteriorated and in the last years he was confined to a wheel chair. The SVD are most grateful those who took care of Bartley, especially an Indonesian caregiver who attended to his every need in the last years of his life.

*Like* all great missionaries, Bartley had his own opinions and there were disagreements with both colleagues and superiors. He was a man of prayer. He cared deeply for every person, even if at times he deeply disagreed with some of their ideas. The middle initial in his name stands for Francis, and like St. Francis and the current Pope, he was a man of mercy. He once advised a newly elected superior: **“get rid of your ego and hand it over to God...you are taken into his Divinity.”** Perhaps, this gem of spiritual wisdom sums up the man.

New Taipei City, Xindian District  
Office of the Provincial of the China Province of the Society of the Divine Word  
June 14, 2016



## A Posthumous Medical Award for Fr. Bartley Schmitz

On September 30 and October 1 the Health Care Department of the Taiwan Government gave awards for workers in the medical field who had given extraordinary service both in Taiwan or abroad. This year was 26<sup>th</sup> year this distinction was given. On September 30<sup>th</sup> the awardees were received by President Cai Ying-wen in the presidential palace. And on October 1 the official prize giving ceremony was held. There were twelve mostly medical doctors who had served people in the countryside, where people lacked access to medical care, three of them were dentists. A special award was given to a doctor who has pioneered in care for dying people. One young Taiwanese doctor was still doing medical work together with his family in Burkina Faso in Africa. There was also a Chinese doctor of the Catholic St. Joseph Hospital in Huwei, accompanied by several nurses. Among the awardees there were three foreigners who had served in Taiwan. A lady dentist and protestant missionary from Norway, who had taken special care of small children with dental problems. Fr. Yves Moal, MEP in Hualian, who is known for his work of collecting garbage and also of taking care of older handicapped persons. And then Fr. Bartley Schmitz SVD.



耕莘醫院(Cardinal Tien Hospital)首任院長 施予仁神父(Fr. Bartley Schmitz) 榮獲厚生基金會 (Health,Welfare Environment Foundation)第26屆醫療奉獻獎，由聖言會柯博識 神父(Fr. Jac Kuepers)代為領獎。



耕莘醫院(Cardinal Tien Hospital)首任院長 施予仁神父 榮獲厚生基金會 (Health,Welfare Environment Foundation)第26屆醫療奉獻獎，耕莘醫院院長、石台華 修女等人，率領耕莘醫院同仁，前往觀禮，共襄盛舉。一同見證這歷史性的一刻，並感念施神父對耕莘醫院的貢獻。

Fr. Bartley was especially remembered for starting Cardinal Tien Medical Center or Geng Xin Hospital in Xindian in 1965. As secretary of Cardinal Tien he shared his concern for the medical situation of the people in Taiwan at that time. On the Cardinals behalf he took up the work of establishing a hospital in Xindian. After serving as the first director for a short time he himself had to go back the USA for medical treatment. There he stayed on for several years raising money and medicine for the hospital. In 1975 he returned to Taiwan and became pastor of the SVD parish in Tainan. In 1987 he became rector of the SVD community in Chiayi, then pastor of the pastor of the Wufeng Nan Cardinal Tien Memorial church, after which he served as pastor Chuchi and retired in 1993. He passed away on June 6, 2016.

Fr. Bartley was a very pious religious, very pastoral-minded. Everybody who came to him he took very seriously and trustfully, in this way he strengthened many people in their faith. On the other hand his goodness was also not seldom misused, and he was often cheated. After working so much for the Tien Medical Center he was always very much concerned for people's bodily health, bringing the sick parishioners to the hospital and often visiting them. To prevent people from getting sick, he studied all kinds of alternative medicine, like using H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, or Royal Jelly, etc., tried it out himself and introduced it to other people. One can say that Fr. Bartley was a real doctor of both body and soul and therefore his medical award was well deserved.

*Jac Kuepers, SVD*

「聖言會家庭服務組」成立的宗旨，是為了協助因忙碌工作和瑣碎家務，形成蠟燭兩頭燒的現代夫婦們，學習以積極的互動、親密的溝通來增進信仰生活，藉此共同面對婚姻生活中的各種困難。為了推行這樣的「幸福意念」，使更多長期處在婚姻衝突中的夫婦、單親家庭、新住民家庭等，能夠找到一個適當又可信賴的出口，協助他們在徬徨已久的婚姻與家庭生活當中，重新認識自己、認識彼此，為沉重的婚姻生活注入新的活力與愛情。

因此，本「家庭服務組」於2015年3月份成立至今，致力於重建夫婦們健康有朝氣的婚姻生活，同時藉由教會的祝福並將祈禱生活納入家庭活動，讓天主聖神的愛親自帶領、並滿足全家庭中的各項需求。透過積極正面的夫婦深度對話和夫婦活動的舉行，加深夫婦們的親密關係，並重溫熱戀時的愛情語言。

由於深刻體認到現代夫婦對於建立家庭的困難與不易，「家庭服務組」結合教會的恩寵與資源，同時將關懷的眼光與溫暖，帶給家庭中的長者，進行老年人的牧靈與關懷。使得身處在忙碌疲憊的現代家庭，透過「家庭服務組」的陪伴、領受聖神治癒的聖寵。讓天主的愛來聖化他們，使他們重新成為恩愛和圓滿的夫婦，並教育親子及關懷家中長者之間的親密關係，讓彼此在主內不間斷地體認和學習，接納和寬恕的可貴。

除了訂下崇高的目標與理想，本小組也身體力行，將這些期望和口號化為行動。設置在新店大坪林的辦公室，除了開放預約夫婦懇談、親子教育、個人困難排解等談話，更安排有婚前輔導的課程。同時致力於推廣「天主教普世夫婦懇談會原始週末」、「夫婦週末踏青去」，開創有別於傳統課程的「咖啡人生系列」，藉由生活化的咖啡教學，結合家庭、親子與認識自我的課程，以生動活潑的教學方式結合信仰的內涵，讓課程不只可以增進教友的內在信仰，更可以成為間接的福傳機會。

「聖言會家庭服務組」的團隊成員，努力效法「耶穌服務到家」的精神，本著謙遜服務的態度，默默地為本地教會和家庭服務。我們的力量雖然微小，但藉著聖母瑪利亞為我們轉求天主的降福，讓我們的工作可以繼續往前，同時祝福接受我們服務的朋友與家庭，阿們！

*James Kwei-Hsiung SVD*



Marriage and Family Service Center: 黃貴雄神父 (Fr. James Huang) 與石碇天主堂教友共聚一堂、和樂融融。

### When I am not afraid to drink the living water of the Gospel

**Poland is Amazing** Words cannot explain the experience. I am still in awe and will treasure the memory of this World Youth Day forever. I had the tremendous privilege of attending the WYD together with the Hong Kong Diocesan English Youth (DEY) in Krakow. After one year of formation (catechism, monthly prayer meeting, personal encounter, pilgrimage, retreat, outing), I understand this is a pilgrimage of faith, not a vacation.

Poland is amazing. It is true that Poland is a beautiful place with beautiful churches. On August 20, 2016, we landed in Warsaw. I almost could hardly breathe because at the same time there were hundreds, maybe thousands of young people from different countries here to attend the WYD. I said to myself: I have been waiting for this great moment, in a second I will be in the homeland of St. John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Faustina Kolwaska who started the Divine Mercy Devotion, and the icon of the Black Madonna. Wow, I am going to experience the great community of the universal Catholic Church, listen to the word of Jesus, celebrate the sacraments, as well as joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ. Poland is so amazing!

**Days in the Diocese** After landing safely in Warsaw, our group stayed 5 days in the Włocławek diocese before we went to Krakow. In Włocławek, our group stayed in the Holy Spirit parish. We joined the English speaking group from Canada and made a pilgrimage to the birth place of Blessed Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko and the place of St. Faustina Kolwaska. We made a prison visit, did some cultural exchange and had Mass at the Shrine of our Lady of Lichen. The days spent in the Włocławek diocese provided us with a wonderful opportunity to become more acquainted with the local parishes, their people, and the country's culture. By praying and doing voluntary work with the people, we experienced an enrichment of faith and cultural interchange.

**Krakow: Miserecordia for All** On July 26, Monday morning, together with the WYD participants from the Włocławek diocese, we took a train from Włocławek to Krakow. The almost 10 hour ride on the train was a nice experience. We got acquainted with some friends that we met during the days in the diocese. In the evening, at 6 p.m., we reached Krakow and our group stayed with a host family at Mogilany parish. On our first day in Krakow, we just visited the city. On the second and third day, we attended talks conducted by different bishops. Those of us who were at the "Night of Mercy" will never forget the evening program on Wednesday: Matt Maher and Audrey Assad provided the music for the Holy Hour at which 20,000 young people were on their knees singing their hearts out and in silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Barron gave an amazing homily on the power of the Cross. And on Friday morning we visited the Divine Mercy Sanctuary. In the afternoon, we went to Błonia Park where, together with the 800,000 people gathered there, we did the Way of the Cross with Pope.

After a long day of walking, and sweating in the sun, it was easy to feel a little discouraged. But amidst all of it, God found a way to shine through. I don't know if it was praying with many people or just being able to be in adoration with the Pope at the Saturday Vigil, I thought the whole journey was worth it. **"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1: 5.** At the Closing Mass on Sunday with Pope Francis, 2 million people incredibly experienced God's mercy. Definitely this was a highlight of my Christian life, especially my missionary life. It was an opportunity to commune and renew and strengthen my faith.

Finally, the WYD was an incredible life altering experience for our DEY. For me, WYD 2016 will never be forgotten. His love and grace overflowed throughout the rally. Pope Francis said during the Closing Mass: the joy that you have freely received from God, freely give away: as many people are waiting for it. Yes, I am not afraid to drink the living water of the Gospel.

*Heribertus Hadiarto, SVD*





**A Fantastic Pilgrimage** After two years of planning, the World Youth Day (WYD) in Poland finally came to a beautiful ending. Thanks be to our God, thank you, all of you, for your support and prayers. Our SVD Youth Group also returned safely to Taiwan. During this fantastic 21-day pilgrimage, each and every young person was full of joy and deeply touched. Their faith also was clearly enriched. In this long journey, we reaped a bountiful and precious harvest. Here I would like to share some of our experiences.

**What I saw in Poland** Poland is really a beautiful country, full of wonderful landscapes. There are more than one hundred landscape parks throughout Poland, covering approximately eight percent of the surface of the country. These landscape parks are protected because of their natural, historical, cultural and scenic value. Poland is known for its medieval architecture and Jewish heritage. In the city of Kraków, we visited 14th-century Wawel Castle which rises above the old medieval town, home to Cloth Hall, a Renaissance trading post in Rynek Główny (market square). Nearby is the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp memorial, and the vast Wieliczka Salt Mine, with underground halls and tunnels.

Actually, Poland had a painful history, especially in time of war, persecution, the country's occupation during the time of Hitler and the long years of communist subjugation. Following the introduction of Father Wlad, SVD, we know that Polish people have suffered a lot. However, they have a very optimistic character and a strong faith. In every period of history, Polish people all put their trust in Mother Mary, whom they call the Queen of Poland. They also have hosts of saints and blessed: St. Stanislaus, St. Kinga, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. sister Faustina Alaska and St. John Paul II, who are called Apostles of Divine Mercy.

**What I want to say about Young people** During WYD in Poland, I have seen about two million young people from all over the world gather together. They come here with joy and happiness. They show their friendly and active nature every day. They are willing to learn from others and share their life experience with whoever they meet. I am very surprised by my students, for normally in Taiwan they are very quiet and never speak English, but in Poland they speak fluently with foreigners in English. For this point, Wendy Sun, a young people said: **"during the WYD we met a lot of friends from many different countries, although this is the first time we met, and may be we never meet again, but when we say hello, they give me a big hug, and talk with me like old friends. I speak with my poor English, but they always listened patiently to me. It is important is I feel being respected and encouraged"**.

**The message our Pope Francis gave to the young people.** Each and every young people wanted to see the Pope during WYD, and we are so lucky to see the holy father four times, and from a close distance too. We even could take many wonderful pictures. We all felt that the Papa Francisco is a nice person, he always smiles and looks at the people with merciful eyes.

At the first meeting with the youth in Krakow, the Pope told us in very soft voice: **"Let me tell you one thing I have learned over these years. It pains me to meet young people who seem to have opted for "early retirement". I worry when I see young people who have "thrown in the towel" before the game has even begun, who are defeated even before they begin to play, who walk around glumly as if life has no meaning."**

The Pope never blames us but earnestly calls us to get up from our comfortable sofa to go out to serve the society with mercy. He said: **"Mercy always has a youthful face! Because a merciful heart is motivated to move beyond its comfort zone, a merciful heart can go out and meet others; it is ready to embrace everyone."** Papa emphasises that the world today need us. He wants us do some things to change the world, and invite others to make the world better. In the message to the youth he wrote: **"You are thinking: I can do this, I will do that... Do not be afraid! God is a Father and He is always waiting for us. Come to Him and say from the depths of your hearts: Jesus, I trust in you"**.



**Visit to the SVD Mother House - Netherlands Steyl** After attending WYD in Poland, we returned to Steyl, Netherlands where Father founder, Saint Arnold Janssen founded The Society of the Divine Word, The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit and The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters. On this the last stop of the trip, we want to follow the footsteps of saint Arnold, and with the hope to help young people gain a better understanding of the SVD missionary spirit.

To be honest, I really cried when we were able to come to Steyl, especially when we could gather around the tomb of father Founder. This is an honor, it likes a kind of going home to see the Father. We stayed one night in a beautiful place which was formerly a small pub. Here we met many priests and brothers. Here we learnt many thing about SVD mission history. And here we prayed and celebrated Mass with the intercession of Saint Arnold. In addition, we also visited the two societies that founded by Saint Arnold: SSps and SSpSAP.

On this 21-day pilgrimage, each day also has a different surprise, its own moving story. These will become very important nutrients for the young people. Thanks to the SVD community. Thank you for your encouragement and generosity. We expect in the future we will continue leading more young people on the way of evangelization. Witness to the Word.

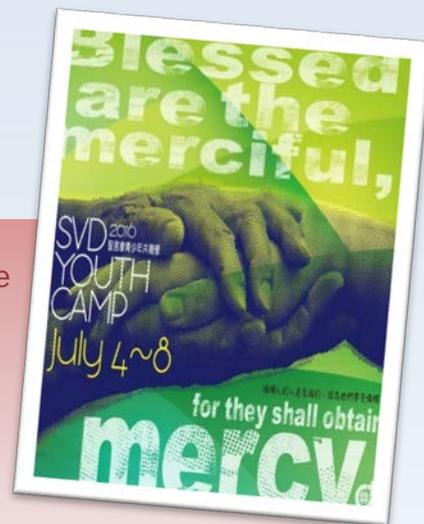
*Anthony Trọng Quang PHAM, SVD*



## Reflection On The Ninth SVD Youth Camp

*This* year, the ninth SVD Youth Camp was held from July 4 to 8 in Fenchihu Arnold Janssen activity center with 96 participants and about 40 volunteers the biggest number so far. As usual, we organized a lot of activities, as well as liturgy and life education classes. We also added some biblical drama and group spiritual sharing with hope of letting the young people understand about God and about the Catholic faith. During life education classes, we also tried talking about the main theme for this year which was to help the youth grow in understanding about the mercy of God, to know how to serve the poor and the disadvantaged people.

*For* the first day, because there were so many new faces, it was not unusual that the atmosphere was a little bit strange. But as the volunteers led some games to break the ice, the youth gradually opened their hearts, began to talk and share with another. After dinner, during the first class, we talked with them about the topic, **"Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7)**. We used the method "see, judge, act" of Cardinal Cardijn to lead the youth to give consideration to social issues, such as how to know about the lot of the poor people, the handicapped and the elderly living around us. They need our help, then what can we do? How can we get involve with the plan of the community? During the class we used some very active methods so the young people found participation exciting. Then in contrast to the excitement, we used a kind of silent prayer--Taize prayer-- to end the acitivity of the day.





*The* next day, we began with a joyful theme-song and a morning prayer. We thanked God for the many new friends that He sent us, and we prayed that God would bless all our activities. The day's schedule was a heavy one for the young people. Beside group pictures, rehearsal for biblical drama, they also had to attend 4 hours of classes. We were lucky to be able to invite a very active teacher from Chong-ren College, teacher Xie Chang Ren, to share about his "cycling experience".

Teacher Xie is a person who has experienced life to the fullest. Every summer he leads a group of young people go around Taiwan by bicycle. He showed us a lot of pictures and told many interesting stories.

*One* important part of the program is "The SVD Time". The young people were waiting eagerly for this item because it was led by the brothers from Taishan Formation Community. The Taishan Brothers come from different countries, they shared about their cultures. Even though some of them are only learning Chinese, but they always try to use Chinese to speak. After sharing they performed many wonderful traditional dances and songs.

*On* the third day, we began with the theme song but also with dance and prayer. Today is "da-di you-xi" (an out-door program), the youth need to go out to finish some tasks the volunteers give. They need to pass 8 stops. At every stop we give them a short story about Saint Arnold Janssen and Saint Josef Frinademetz, then we ask them to finish some difficult tasks. This is a good time to teach them how to work as a team, how to show their ideas and even how to listen to each other. In the course of this beautiful day, the relationship between students becomes closer and closer. Especially in the evening, all of us have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, some of non-friends also came to the priests, brothers and sisters to share their stories(分享). After this holy moment, all of young people are full of joy and happiness.

*The* fourth day, outing day, is the day that we were all waiting for. However, because there was a strong typhoon coming so we decided to pack our bags early in the morning and then leave for Janfusun. In Janfusun Fancyworld, the young people really had a lot of fun. They performed the theme song before the hundreds of guests, then divided by group to share with them about SVD Youth Camp, about the Catholic church, especially about their faith. This is what we call "xing-dong fu-chuan" (creative evangelization). Needless today they also took many photos with the guests and "da-ka" (check-in) on Facebook.

*Instead* of coming back to Fenchihu for the final festival night, we changed to Fujen Catholic High School campus for the last important moment in which the young people can have BBQ, camp-fire, dancing and sharing. Thanks be to God for this fortuitous arrangement, because many of the parents could come to join our activities, then bring their children home before the typhoon came.

*For* many years An Zu-xin has participated in the SVD Youth Camp. After this camp she said: "Every time I have learnt many different things... I am very grateful to have the SVD Youth Camp. I realize that volunteers work very hard for this camp. I can learn so much experience about their service. I also learn to open my mind to all the friends that I meet. I slowly can understand what the Mercy of God is, and how I need to be tolerant towards other people, willing to help other people, like God teaches us: be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful."

*As* the ninth SVD Youth Camp ended, many young people are looking forward to coming again. They said SVD Youth Camp is a place where they can enrich their life, consolidate their faith; here they are also understood and accepted by volunteers and friends; and they are supported and encouraged to do some good things and offer service other people.

*Finally*, I am full of appreciation for all the people who always pray and support us. I especially want to say a heartfelt thanks to my SVD communities for your support: Youth ministry as a priority. For all of these reason, I can loudly say, welcome all of you to the next SVD Youth Camp.

*Anthony Trọng Quang PHAM, SVD*

## Vocation Story – Frt. Peter Le The Hai SVD



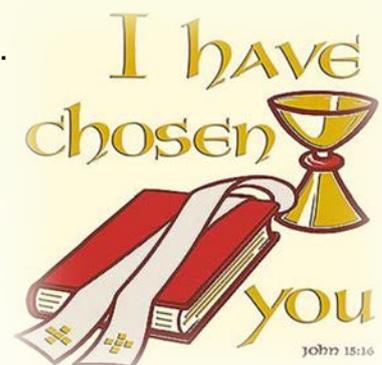
I am Peter Le The Hai, the newest seminarian of OTP in the Hong Kong - Macau District. I come from Vietnam, from the South-Eastern part of Vietnam. My province is called Ninh Thuan which is very different from the other parts of the country in comparison. My hometown is very hot and dry and is situated near the coast of the saltiest part of Vietnam. I am the middle child of my family. I have two older brothers (the oldest is 34 years old, and another is 32 years old) and two younger sisters (the youngest is 15 years old, and the other is 23 years old). My father was a farmer. My mother is a housewife. They always lived and worked on the farm and participated in the local Catholic community services and activities.

*My* vocation came to me very unexpectedly. At that time, I had just come home after taking an entrance test for a university. My uncle told me about the entry test for SVD and asked me if I would like to try it. I said “yes.” On July, 30th 2006, I went to the SVD provincial house to take the test. I passed it and became a junior seminarian as an aspirant. After I had finished my studies at university, I completed the aspirant program, I went to the provincial house to do the postulant program on September 3rd, 2011. There, I prepared for the entry test for the philosophy program. By the grace of God, I passed that examination and the following year, on July 15th, 2012; I became an SVD-novice.

*On* July 16th, 2013, I professed my vows according to the constitution of the SVD. I became an SVD-seminarian and started my philosophy program at the Dominican Center.

*Like* other Vietnamese seminarians, I joined OTP after I had finished the two-year Philosophy program. Then, I went to the Philippines for ten months to take some English courses. Now, I am staying in the OTP Formation House in Sha Tin, New Territories, with Fr. Jay and Fr. Denes Costa da Silva and taking a Cantonese course. At the same time, every Sunday, I go to St Edward's Parish in Lam Tin, where Fr. Mietek Drozd-SVD and Fr. Reginaldus Amleni-SVD work. On my first day there, they introduced me to the parishioners, who showed me around so that, I have a chance to meet people and get acquainted with my new environment. I hope I can find and learn from new experiences in a new environment and practise the new language. I know I will have to face many challenges. Hence, I need your support and your prayers.

*Fr. Peter Le The Hai, SVD*



### SVD-SSpS Common Retreat in Hualien (22-27 August, 2016)

“LET US CROSS OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE” (Mk 4: 35-41). An open invitation to a Spiritual Journey with Jesus (Let’s cross over...). This was the theme for this year Common retreat facilitated by Fr. Matthews Odhiambo Owuor, IMC. This spiritual journey was participated by 23 SSpS sisters and 39 SVD priest and seminarians.

*The* participants were invited to a Journey that requires **Faith & Transformation for Mission of Mercy** that is based on a solid “**Life in Prayer**” with a convinced spirit of **Commitment**.

*Citing* information from VATICAN CITY (CNS 17th Aug 2012), the percentage of Catholics practicing their faith and the number of vocations (to clerical/Religious life) are declining almost everywhere around the globe. So, a spiritual journey of Faith needs a **revision of our Faith** that leads to a Transformation so called “**Falling in love with the Lord once again**” that guides us to **MISSION**.

*Faith & Transformation* for Evangelization of Mercy are impossible without a profound & constant relationship with God = Prayer life. Life in prayer means our whole life is a constant search of the Truth/God till we find Him. The main obstacles to prayer life/life in prayer are: Ambition (to have) – the center of focus is “**to have**”, Activism (to do) - Overcrowded life = no space for prayer; all focus directed towards **achievement**. General obstacles to prayer life: Neglect of prayer (Common prayers are not enough), the presence of un-confessed sins in the heart (double life), Broken relationship (un-forgiveness), Discord in the home or community, “Internal noise” (mind busy with friends, problems). A Religious/Missionary/Christian whose **PRAYER LIFE is weak = very VULNERABLE!!** Recommendations to prayer life: Bathe your whole life in prayer – constant communication with the Lord, Don’t go it alone – seek the Truth/God wherever you can find Him, Don’t dwell in the past - “New wine is poured into new wineskins”, Open your heart to the guidance of the Spirit. “**Let’s cross over...**” with Jesus who was our model of “**Life in Prayer**” = **always in communication with the Father in prayer**.

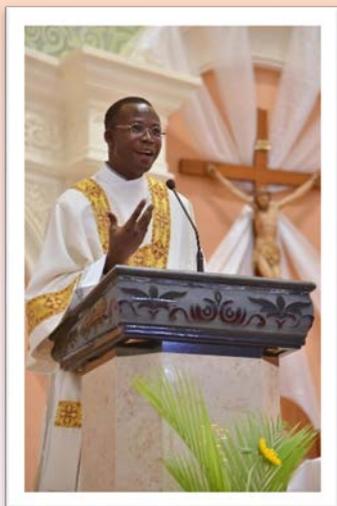
*Life* of Prayer requires a strong spirit of Commitment that goes with the following values: responsibility, consistency, honesty, trustworthiness, focus, determination. **A religious life that lacks commitment** results in crisis such as lack of vocations; frequent exodus of professed members; a lack of zeal / enthusiasm to live as a Religious; absence of solid spiritual life; loss of sense of belonging; the growing Conformism; Conflictive/non-exemplary community life; resistance to change (among the old); neo-individualism & Subjectivism; affective problems; lack of Resilience, and no place for self-sacrifice.

*As* religious we are called to be committed to a Mission of Mercy & Forgiveness. Forgiveness is a choice we make through a decision of our will, motivated by obedience to God and his command to forgive. Five steps to **REACH Forgiveness** (Everett Worthington): Recall the hurt, Empathize, Altruistic gift of forgiveness, Commit publicly to forgiveness and Hold on to forgiveness.

*Sr. Valentine Oei SSpS*



## The First Diaconate Ordination of a confrere from Africa



*The* first SVD confrere coming from AFRAM zone, Frt. Joseph Djiba Youta, on September 24 2016 received the holy order of diaconate from the hands of the Archbishop of Taipei Most. Rev. John Hung, SVD. Deacon Joseph is not the first African ordained in Taiwan, because other Congregations have had their African members serving in Taiwan for more than twenty years already.

*The* idea became truth. What idea? That all SVDs are missionaries that can be sent to any part of the world to share in the mission of proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Our understanding is that every zone became a mission zone and at the same time a sending zone which contributes to the welfare of the other zones. In fact, Joseph's coming was a new start and an encouragement for two other confreres from AFRAM (OTP) came after him to China Province – Peter Forgor to Hong Kong and Valentin Lissassi to Taiwan.

*Joseph* Djiba comes from Togo and came to Taiwan in August 2013 as an OTP student, after finishing his theological studies in Democratic Republic of Congo. He has spent two years at the Language Center at the Fu Jen Catholic University. After he continued his pastoral exposure in the Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Shulin District of New Taipei City.

*The* diaconate ordination was indeed a very joyful occasion for the whole China Province, especially for all those who knew Joseph and accompanied him in his last three years in Taiwan. The joy was even more plentiful, since the ceremony took place in a parish that Joseph was attending throughout the whole three years of his stay in Taipei. It was a very important place for Joseph as well, since he practiced Chinese, came to know the Chinese culture and Taiwanese Church in a great deal during his contact with these parishioners. Many people know him well and were very grateful for his service and presence. This was evident from the number of people who participated as well as from the special elements in the liturgy. During offertory, it was the group of the Aborigines, who amid a wonderful singing brought the bread and wine in a dancing procession to the altar. The English community was not lacking in presence as they offered a song at the end of the Liturgy. Other people were also present; among them worthy of mention are the volunteer of a Catholic Hospital, where Joseph willingly served as a visitor of the sick by his own choice. The only important people that were missing were the parents of Joseph. His father died recently, at the end of May, and he was able to get a compassionate leave and visit his family and bring them some consolation. But we hope his mother can come for his priestly ordination that will take place next year.

*Deacon* Joseph will spend some time in the Kaohsiung (South Taiwan) until his priestly ordination is prepared during the course of next year.



*Patrik Palenik, SVD*

*Bro. Djiba, Youta* 於樹林耶穌聖心天主堂  
(Shu-Lin Sacred Heart Catholic Church )  
榮升執事。

## Hong Kong Macau District Retreat 2016

A group of 22 SVD confreres of the Hong Kong and Macau district were truly fortunate to have the former Superior General Fr. Antonio Pernia SVD as retreat master. This retreat is to help us follow the Lord more closely and to learn to carry out our daily mission in the HK Macau district more faithfully and fruitfully.

*The Lord asks us indeed every day: "What do you want me to do for you?"* Our answer was given to us at the retreat. We are most privileged for the opportunity to attend this retreat as it gives us the precious experience of community life of an SVD in the District. We also experienced a special closeness with our confreres and are grateful for the saving help and forgiveness of our Lord on our missionary journey. This experience of renewal and forgiveness transforms us into becoming more authentic co-workers in a church reaching out to people who are searching for the meaning of life and longing for hope, solidarity, love, and mercy, like patients looking for a remedy for their illnesses.

*Fr. Antonio Pernia encouraged us to be ever at the disposal of our societies, the poor, the migrants, and the marginalized in our modern communities and cities. "Each week, how many hours do I spend with my better-off friends, and how many hours with the poor? Each the week, how many meals do I take with my rich friends, and how many meals do I share with the poor?" he asked us to reflect on these which are the concerns of our present Fr. General Heinz Kulücke.* To become a transforming missionary means to open ourselves daily to the five fundamental conversions: from activism to contemplation, from individualism to collaboration, from superiority to humility, from only evangelizing to also being evangelized, from mission understood as burden to being understood as privilege.

*Fr. Antonio Pernia gave his own personal practical testimony to these conversions while serving at the Generalate in Rome. He encouraged us to be open to transformation and change and to continue to open ourselves to the language of the Stranger at the borders of the marginalized Stranger and the life they live in order to be more acquainted with to have a better understanding of the various perspectives of the poor living at the edge of our societies, especially the migrant workers. He encouraged us to share with them the little we have, trusting wholeheartedly in the abundance of his/God's saving grace. The necessary change in our missionary approach, in our thoughts, words, and deeds, will help us genuinely give witness to the living God, whose name is "Mercy", thus opening up windows of hope and new life to everybody, at any time and in any place.*



*Fr. Antonio Pernia encouraged us to take on this missionary and transforming endeavour, to pray in a special way for each other, as confreres of the SVD community in the Hong Kong and Macau Diocese, by meditating every morning **Eph 3:14-21**: "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breath and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

**Franz Gassner SVD**

## Diaconate Ordination

*Rev.* Arjay Venus, was ordained last June 9, 2016 at Christ the King Chapel, in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. His mother and his siblings witnessed this special occasion/ceremony of *Rev.* Arjay. The family was so emotional when *Rev.* Arjay received the dalmatics as a symbol of his acceptance to the Order. Cardinal John Tong Hon, officiated at the ceremony with some local priests, deacons and SVD confreres. In his homily, Cardinal John Tong, reminded *Rev.* Arjay to be committed to the service of the Church and to give his life in the service and promotion of the Kingdom of God. He also reminded the faithful to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He said, that the faithful have the duty and responsibility to promote and pray for more vocations.



*In* his speech, *Rev.* Arjay Venus, thanked God for this special call, a call to be a witness to the Divine Word. The call to the Religious and Missionary life is not only a privilege but it is also a challenge. He was so grateful to his family, who supported him in his journey as a seminarian. He said, that the support of the family is so important in our religious and missionary formation. He is so grateful also to all his professors who guided him in his academic formation/studies and to his Spiritual directors and directress who accompanied and guided him in his spiritual formation. To be called to become a Divine Word Missionary is a gift of God. We pray for *Rev.* Arjay and all the deacons who are preparing for their Holy Orders. May the Holy Triune God, be their strength and inspiration in their mission.

*Rev.* Arjay, ordained priest, in the Divine Word Seminary, in Tagaytay, in the Philippines on Dec. 3, 2016.

*Jay Flandez, SVD*



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR  
2017**

Today, a  
**SAVIOR**  
has been  
**BORN**  
to you  
Luke 2:11

