

## Collation of SVD Lay Partners Workshop Reports

The First SVD Lay Partners Workshop was organized at Nemi from October, 2017. There were 27 participants from 16 lay partners groups. Most of them have sent their reports (twice) of their personal involvement and their lay partners groups' activities. Here, we present some of the main features of their activities. This is not only to inform you but also to be inspired by their activities and to learn from one another. We thank all the persons for taking efforts to send their reports with many details.

If you need full information of any of these groups' activities, you can make a personal request to Fr. Lazar Stanislaus.

### Matilda Anim-Fofie: Ghana / GHA province

I learnt "That some SVD Lay partners collaborate/partner with government of their respective countries to run NGOs..."

- **Dissemination of Rome workshop report** - St Luke Parish, Accra; SS. Peter and Paul Parish (New Aplaku, Accra; St. Joseph Parish, Kintampo, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Dansoman
- **Mission trip** - St. John Vianney Parish and its outstation, Asutuare
- **Profession of First Vows** - The Friends of SVD were present, presented each of the 17 newly professed with a crucifix and some donation
- **Mission Week Celebration** - 15th-21st October, 2018, the Lay Partners were encouraged to invite other lay people to join the SVD lay partner group or form new ones.
- **Inauguration of Friends of SVD** at Christ the King Parish, Accra, - After 4 months of teaching on the Arnoldus spirituality, 9 parishioners were initiated and the group was inaugurated.

### Magdaline Akomo Aluma: Kenya / KEN province

I learnt "...the Spirituality of the Arnoldus family especially the prayer that the founder Saint Arnold Janssen used to pray (May the Holy Triune God Live in the Hearts of all People)..."

- **Shared the experiences** during the Convention for all the SVD lay Associates in Kenya
- **Seminar** for the three SVD parishes in Nairobi – theme "Leadership"

### Edwina Mbite: South Africa / BOT province

"One of the best lessons I had is that: By focusing on 'God's mission' and with Jesus Christ love in our hearts miracles happen."

- **Feeding the Hungry/homeless** - Every Thursday evening of the month
- **Visiting of the Sick** - Raise fund for Cancer patients

### Jean Paul Nico Luketo: R.D. Congo / CNG province

"I recall the purpose of our missionary partnership: to collaborate in the proclamation of the gospel with SVD missionaries."

- **Sharing of Nemi workshop** – in 3 districts
- **Missions, pastoral visits** – I take the "opportunities to do missionary animation and talk about SVD spirituality as well as SVD lay people."
- **Provincial Chapter** – "I talked about the commitment of the Friends of the SVD Congo."

### Michael Joseph Paderon and Mary Geraldine Paderon: Philippines / PHN province

"God enabled me (us) to see in a richer way what Arnold Janssen envisioned all along of what lay partnership was all about."

- **Visits to different SVD schools, parishes** in the Philippine Northern Province - to share what happened during the SVD Lay Partners Workshop in Nemi Rome and to get their feedbacks about how they see this partnership in the future.

- **2018 SVD PHN Provincial Chapter** – participated in the chapter, towards the end, the Chapter strengthened this partnership with these words, “We affirm the formal promotion and formation of SVD Lay Partners in PHN.”
- **Workshop for SVD Lay Partners** - Faculty and Staff of Academy of St Joseph, Claveria, Cagayan
- Launched on the **social media** portals of SVD PHN Lay Partners on Facebook
- Launched **a link using Google forms** to reach out and connect with SVD Schools Alumni, SVD Friends, collaborators including workers and students, lay supporters including benefactors and those who help generate funds, lay groups and lay missionaries.
- **Family Thanksgiving** - the lighting of the SVD Lay Partners candle was first done with the family. It is important that it starts here.



### Fabian Pagaduan: Philippines / PHC province

I learnt, “SVD Principles and Directions. Other SVD Lay Groups Values and Directions.”

- **St. Arnold Janssen (SAJ) Kalinga Truck Mission** - With Manila Fire Department Officers and Employees and fire trucks providing water for showers for homeless -Delivered Clothes boxes donation to St. Arnold Janssen Kalinga Homeless Persons - LSSAJ sponsors every first Saturday of the month lunch for the poor for SAJ Kalinga.
- **Discussion of Quo Warranto case with Supreme Court Justice Sereno** - Proposed LSSAJ statement drafted on Rule of Law by Social Justice Committee.
- **Forum of St. Arnold Janssen Family SVD, SSpS, SSpSAP, LSSAJ on “Response of SVD Family to Signs of the Times in the Philippines”** - 80 persons attended
- **TV Program** - Promoting LSSAJ, and Catholic Social Teachings to be applied and practiced in the current Philippine situation

### Susan Noronha: India / INM province (she participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> SVD General Chapter, Nemi)

I learnt “Deeper understanding of Arnoldus spirituality, mission and roots of the SVD”

- **Tala Mission (INM) visit:** DDW members conducted workshops for the self-help-group members/children and teachers belonging to the poor Kathkari Tribal people
- **Christmas party for slum/street children** (in collaboration with Sarva Seva Sangh, SVD institution caring for the street children, Mumbai)
- **Members visited Sason & Lungai SVD Seminaries** where we are sponsoring the studies of the seminarians. They spent a week with the physically challenged children at Vikas Deepti.
- **Lenten Retreat** with the SVDs, SSpS and Lay Partners – a combined Retreat with the Arnoldus family
- A small group **visit Asha Jyothi (HIV/AIDS center, Hyderabad)** every 3 months.



### Sophie Wego: Germany / GER province

I gained “The enrichment of sharing experiences how the groups work in their countries.”

- **“Katholikentag,” German Catholic Convention, 10-12, May, 2018, Münster** - SVD / SVD Partner Presentation: Public Relation department of the SVD and preparation team
- **World Day of the Poor, Prayer Bridge** - worldwide at 132 places on 19 November 2017, 232 pillars
- **Novena for people in war and misery** - Call for participation by e-mail to friends and acquaintances as well as the Arnoldus family in the German-speaking area
- **Mexico Aid** - Fundraising campaign for the victims of the earthquake in 2017

#### Philipp Hautle: Switzerland / ECP province

“I am confident, the worldwide SVD-Family goes on and will be active in their missionary work.”

- **Meeting, Reflection about European Central Province Meeting** – “I shared my impressions from Vienna with some SVDs.” “I appreciate the openness and hospitality of the SVDs very much!”
- **Pilgrimage to Oies**, Josef Freinademetz’s birth place, 25 members from 8-10th June, 2018
- **KlosterMarkt** (public market) - Convents and monasteries of the East of Switzerland offers their products. SVD and Freundeskreis were present

#### Joanna Drągowska: Poland / POL province

“It was one of the most beautiful experience in my life.”

- **Shared the experiences:** I did presentation about this workshop for my stuff. I talk about what I learnt, what I saw, and what I experienced.
- Try to be better in my work. **Talk about SVD mission**, and co-operation with lay people.

#### Laura Inés Díez Bilbao: Spain / ESP province

“I have received not only formative teaching on various aspects of missionary work... but also the unique opportunity to share and deepen Arnoldus spirituality, understand the Trinitarian identity of the Divine Word and feel a fundamental part of its mission, as lay.”

- **Creation of the LVD Blog and Facebook LVD** - A Presence in social networks- Communication dimension
- **XI National Missionary Meeting “The word became flesh ... and has the face of a woman”** - Annual gathering, for missionary promotion

#### Sandra Garcia: USA/ USW province

I learnt “that it is urgent to show the world how important is to embrace the relationships with others and work together.”

- **Faith Sharing** - Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month @ Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility In Banning Jail (Females)
- **Small Christian Community MLVD/Parent Formation** @ the parish - Every Tuesday @ St. Kateri Tekakwitha in Banning Site

#### Mariana Flores and Esmeralda Castillo: United States of America / USW province

Mariana: “The workshop in Nemi gave us the opportunity to enrich our knowledge about the congregation, the four characteristics of the SVD, the spirituality of St. Arnold and about each of the lay movements.”

Esmeralda: “What my heart holds deeply is the four characteristics of the SVD, and how profound is St Arnold's spirituality.”

- **Formation Class** - Every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of month at Kairos Evangelization Center
- **Bible Study** - 20 weeks at Kairos Evangelization Center
- **Parish Faith Sharing/Bible Study** - Every Wednesday at Queen of Angels Parish and every Thursday at Our Lady of Lourdu Parish

- **Parent formation at parish** - Weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday at Queen of Angels Parish
- **Managing and operating Kairos Catholic Store & Evangelization Center** - Every day of the year except Holidays at our store by 55 persons



#### **Miguel Lerena: USA /USW province**

“I first learned that the Arnoldus family is more extensive than I imagined, since it is found around the whole world divided into 4 zones (AFRAM / ASPAC / PANAM / EUROPE).”

- **Youth Preparation Group** - Visit to Panama, the world youth meeting
- **Patron Saints events, Lenten days, Holy days, fundraising parties** - Total development in progress of the parish

#### **Gianini Sahagún Becerra: Mexico / MEX province**

“I have learned to value much more the work of the SVD Congregation at the World level, And not just stay with the work of my group in my country or in my city.”

- **Sharing some topics** that we learnt from the workshop
- Greater commitment in **missionary activities**

#### **Catalina Cruz Aguirre: Chile / CHI province**

“The multicultural experience, also seeing the religious views of others, and knowing the church from within was very enriching.”

- Working with the **Mapuche people** helps me to understand the ethnic differences.

#### **José Miguel Francisco Mateus: Angola / ANG province**

“From this workshop, I affirmed my will and determination to serve God and the Church as a lay missionary SVD.”

- **World Mission Day vigils** – Prayers, reflection, showed the films about Santo Arnaldo and the 50 years of the Congregation in Angola
- **Creating a partnership for the formation of young lay people** - 15 beneficiaries
- **6 meetings of missionary animation** - created conditions for the formation of a local group

#### **Rogelio Alberto Rodriguez Pizza and Rubiela de Jesús Ramírez Buritica: Panama / CAM province**

“Interculturality is more important”

- Intensified to have **more members** in our group
- **Accompanying** two communities for more involvement

#### **Froilan Armoa Gonzalez: Paraguay / PAR province**

“The great wealth of the SVD congregation, the love for the SVD mission, a family, the spirituality of our founder St. Arnold Janssen.”

- **Sharing the experience of the Workshop** - shared the experiences of Nemi, and encouraged the brothers and sisters to join the mission.
- Make known the **spirituality of St. Arnold**, the four SVD dimensions where the mission secretary decides.