

A young boy with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, facing right. He is wearing a red t-shirt with white stripes on the sleeve and a white logo that includes the word 'LAYS'. His hands are clasped together in a prayer position, held up to his face. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall.

# **SOCIAL CONCERN PRAYERS**

**SVD Lay Partners**

**SVD Generalate - Rome  
2020**

# THE SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD

Editor: Stanislaus T. Lazar, SVD  
Layout: Mark Angelo M. Ramos, SVD

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# PRESENTATION

Dear SVD lay partners,

A prayer book is always a helpful tool to pray together with others as well as for individuals. This prayer booklet “Social Concern Prayers” is another prayer booklet to help primarily the SVD lay partners as they gather together for prayer sessions, meetings, discussions and interactions. These prayers can be used for understanding the social concerns as well as to pray for various intensions according to the need of the occasion.

We can always use the Vadamecum which has very significant and wonderful prayers for various occasions and intensions. In addition to this book, many SVD lay partners have local prayer books in their countries. This booklet is an additional help to pray especially for particular social concerns which would instil a missionary spirit among the lay partners. The significance of this prayer booklet is that all the prayers are written by the SVD lay partners except the last two prayers; thus, these prayers are from the heart of the people.

I thank all the persons who contributed to this booklet and all those who encouraged the lay partners to write these prayers. I express my gratitude to the mission secretary and all the coordinators at the generalate - Frs. Stanislaus T. Lazar, Daisuke Narui, Marek Vanus, Modeste Munimi, and Peter Dusicka for their help to get a good format to these prayers. Fr. Mark Angelo Ramos (ESP) has made the excellent design and layout of this booklet; my heartfelt thanks for his service.

Kindly use this booklet at SVD lay partners meetings to get inspiration and motivated action.

Yours Fraternally,

Fr. Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD  
Superior General

# WELCOME TO ARNOLDS FAMILY

**SVD LAY ASSOCIATES**  
of south africa (botswana division)

The first group of SVD Lay Associates in Botswana was formed on September 4, 2011.



## II. THANKSGIVING PRAYERS



# 1. PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTIAN VOCATION

*For Reflection: Eph 1:18-21*

**D**ear God, Loving Father,  
we thank You for our Christian vocation.  
Through the gift of holy baptism,  
You have rooted us in Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
At the same time we became members of the community of believers,  
which is guided by the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to this grace, our life has got a new dimension  
and meaning in all areas of our life.  
The Christian vocation gives us force, when we are forceless,  
hope, when we are hopeless and joy, when we are sad.  
There are no words to say, how big a gift it is for each believer.

This gift is too precious to be kept for ourselves only.  
Instill in us your grace that we live our Christian vocation through  
our missionary activities.

Mother Mary, you were the first disciple of your Son  
and the first Christian.  
Help us appreciate our Christian vocation and  
discover more and more Christ hidden in our complex reality.

Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz,  
you were true missionaries to the world that remained  
in the darkness of unbelief.

Help us to share what we have received.  
Amen.

*Urszula Wozniak, Poland*

**"PROBE ME, GOD, KNOW MY HEART;  
TRY ME, KNOW MY THOUGHTS.  
SEE IF THERE IS A WICKED PATH IN ME;  
LEAD ME ALONG AN ANCIENT PATH."**

(Ps 139:23-24)

## 2. PRAYER FOR DIVERSE CULTURES

*For Reflection: Rev 7:9-12*

**A**lmighty Creator, we praise Your goodness  
as we discover in each other  
the richness that each culture offers to the world.

We thank You for the grace of diversities in  
race and culture that color the beauty of the world.  
In the mission of integrating this diversity, we experience  
challenges, obstacles and difficulties.  
Bless us O Lord, with the grace of wisdom, so that  
we always try our best  
to continue caring for our cultural diversity.

Lord Jesus, You have called each one of us by name  
to be Your disciples, we give You thanks for uniting us in You.  
As we are all part of Your mystical body, each of us offering  
our diverse and unique talents, and united in You, we continue  
to grow in interculturality seeking Your mission of salvation.

Oh Holy Spirit, we thank You for restoring unity in Pentecost.  
At the Tower of Babel all were dispersed,  
On Your coming, all are called back to unity.

We praise our One and Triune God,  
in whom we seek to be renewed in love,  
so that we may continue to give witness,  
that love unites us within the diversity of all people.  
May Saints Arnold and Joseph help us to live in peace,  
appreciating the diverse cultures.  
Amen.

*Mariana Flores, Unites States West*

**“HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS, WHEN BROTHERS  
DWELL TOGETHER AS ONE!”**

(Ps 133:1)

### 3. PRAYER FOR A GENEROUS HEART

*For Reflection: Wis 9:1-6; Mt 11:28-29*

**G**od, One and Triune,  
we thank You incessantly, for the Sacred Scriptures  
and their teachings,  
revealing the source of the generous heart of the Word,  
from the beginning of the world.

Almighty God, Father of charity,  
Your bountiful love goes beyond nations, races, tribes and languages.  
You love all the sinners, betrayers and people who  
run away from Your love.  
May our mission resound Your works, in fidelity to Your ways.

God-Son, teacher of faith,  
thank You for the experience of Your generous heart,  
the love that overflows from Your Sacred Heart,  
giving us the beautiful feelings of love.  
Your generous heart offers without expecting anything in return.

Holy Spirit, God of hope,  
Our gratitude is infinite and our joy is immense  
for the gift of Your hope in all who are in need.  
Your abundant power through Word and inspiration fills our hearts.  
Impel us to be channels of Your grace  
for the wounds of the world,  
Help us to have a generous heart.

Mary the first missionary, Saints Arnold Janssen and  
Joseph Freinademetz, and all the saints, intercede for us!  
So we may remain in the generous heart of the Holy Trinity. Amen.

*Valdirenne, Brazil Central*

**“THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND MY SHIELD, IN WHOM MY  
HEART TRUSTS. I AM HELPED, SO MY HEART REJOICES; WITH MY  
SONG I PRAISE HIM.” (Ps 28:7)**

## 4. PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF GOOD HEALTH

*For Reflection: Deut 30:15-20*

**T**oday we want to thank You, God the Father,  
for something that we often take for granted, our health!  
Oh God, One and Triune,  
we thank You for the wisdom that You have given to  
the people of science, of medicine, and all the people  
who work in the field of health,  
who have in their hands the ability  
to take care of the sick in their suffering.  
Give them also good health, bless them.

Give us the wisdom to know how to take care of ourselves,  
You who made us in Your image,  
that we may know how to avoid all the bad things  
that could endanger our health.

Holy Spirit, You who are the soul of all creation,  
we thank You with all my being, for giving us good health to work.  
Shower Your grace on us in the moments of weakness.

Mary, Mother of the Divine Word,  
following your example, help us to appreciate the gift of good health,  
guide us to comfort all those  
who need someone to help them  
to carry their cross when their pain is more unbearable.

Thank You for the example of Saints Arnold and Joseph.  
Oh God of mercy, we thank You now and forever. Amen.

*Fernanda Melo, Portugal*

**“HE ASKED LIFE OF YOU;  
YOU GAVE IT TO HIM, LENGTH OF DAYS FOREVER.”**  
(Ps 21:5)

## 5. PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF NATURE

*For Reflection, Gen 2:4-9,15*

**O**h Holy Trinity,  
We thank you for the gift of Mother Nature,  
a true teacher, nurturing, upbringing her children,  
with fresh air, pure water and warm sunlight,  
juicy fruits and beautiful flowers to our hearts' delight.

Thank you for the fascinating nature in our country,  
for its richness and opportunity for prosperity to her children,  
huge trees, green forest with unique fauna and flora,  
and also for animals, birds and various insects.

Blessed with precious stones, gold and minerals;  
cherishing us with seafood, corals and reefs.  
Through this creation, we witness the goodness of our Father,  
Oh wonderful and bountiful Mother Nature!

Alas! We, the irresponsible persons of Mother Nature,  
destroying and burning our ancestral green forests,  
devastating the rice-fields and rivers with pollution,  
have failed to do our duty to safeguard our Mother Nature.

We, Your sons and daughters of Mother Nature,  
commit ourselves to work for the integration of creation  
by cultivating more trees and protecting fauna and flora,  
by fighting against the corruption and injustice of humankind.

And you, Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz,  
help us to restore the lost paradise in our country. Amen.

*Dama Louis, Madagascar*

**“WHEN I SEE YOUR HEAVENS, THE WORK OF YOUR FIN-  
GERS, THE MOON AND STARS THAT YOU SET IN PLACE...  
A SON OF MAN THAT YOU CARE FOR HIM?” (Ps 8:4-5)**

## 6. PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF FOOD

*For Reflection: Mk 8:1-9*

O Lord, we thank You for daily food.

We give thanks for many people who toiled to produce this food.

We give thanks for all our farmers and their committed work to produce grains, vegetables, fruits and so forth.

Lord, we are gifted with this food because of Your care for us.

Our children are able to have food because

You give us the opportunity to work.

We acknowledge O Lord, the love, time and efforts given to prepare food, and we pray that all may be blessed and multiplied, just as You did with the seven loaves of bread and two fish.

And as we partake of these gifts, may we remind ourselves not to be wasteful or gluttonous, as there are many who cannot subdue their hunger.

We pray for the hungry, and all those who cannot have food, may you provide them food with Your divine help.

May the food bring nourishment and strength to our human body just as Your Divine Word nourishes our spiritual body.

We beseech You to increase our passion for giving and sharing the abundance of food that You have blessed us with.

Lord, we seek Your blessings through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph; we make this humble prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Ramila Furtado, Australia*

**"ALL OF THESE [CREATURES] LOOK TO YOU TO GIVE THEM FOOD IN DUE TIME. WHEN YOU GIVE IT TO THEM, THEY GATHER; WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR HAND, THEY ARE WELL FILLED." (**

**Ps 104:27-28, )**

## 7. PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF WATER

*For Reflection: Jn 7:37-39*

**O**ne and Triune God,  
who called us to participate in your mission  
from the moment of our Baptism,  
we thank you for the gift of water.

Water has been accompanying us  
at all times since creation;  
it gives us life, frees us, unites us, and cleanses us.  
Forgive us, for, on many occasions we have wasted it.

Help us to be grateful for the sources of water you give us,  
that we can approach Jesus  
who is the living water that quenches our thirst for you.

Holy Spirit, enlighten us  
so that every day we can raise awareness  
that water is a gift from God  
that we must take care of and share with all creation.

Holy Mary, infuse us with attitudes  
of attention, service and gratuity,  
to be able to sensitize others  
that access to water is not the privilege of few  
but the right of all.

With the help of Saints Arnold and Joseph,  
may we be a testimony of love;  
may we not stop praying and working  
to continue in the mission of preserving the gift of water. Amen

*María Fernanda Carranza, Ecuador*

**“YOU VISIT THE EARTH AND WATER IT, MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY  
FERTILE. GOD’S STREAM IS FILLED WITH WATER; YOU SUPPLY  
THEIR GRAIN.” (Ps 65:10)**

## 8. PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF GOOD AIR

*For Reflection: Dan 3:57-65*

Everything that has breath praise the Lord for Sister Air.

Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Air,  
who blows and storms,  
who is tender and powerful,  
who motivates and reminds us to pause,  
who carries life within herself.

Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Air,  
being the home of birds,  
penetrating the water for the benefit of the fish,  
carrying seeds and nutrients around the world,  
shaping landscapes.

Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Air,  
filling our lungs to live,  
making us feel the seasons,  
cooling us on hot days,  
bringing us the scent of flowers.

Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Air,  
letting us hear,  
letting us speak and sing,  
filling the sails of our boat that takes us to new shores,  
bringing us together.

Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Air,  
that You have given to us,  
that reminds us of Your breath  
that lets us feel Your closeness,  
that we may carry our song of praise to You:  
Be praised, O Lord, for Sister Air! Hallelujah!

*Maria Wego, Germany*

**"THE HEAVENS PRAISE YOUR MARVELS, LORD, YOUR LOYALTY IN  
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE HOLY ONES." (Ps 89:6)**



## II. INVOCATION PRAYERS



## 9. PRAYER FOR MOTHER EARTH

*For Reflection: Gen 1:1-24*

**H**oly triune God,  
to You we give glory forever and ever.  
The whole world sings Your greatness and majesty.  
I admire the infinite universe, work of Your hands.

You have created all that exists for the love of human beings;  
You constituted human beings in this universe  
so that by using it, they would cultivate, care for it and honor it.

Oh Lord, Mother Earth came out of Your hands - beautiful,  
wonderful and luminous creation.

The excessive ambition of human beings  
has led them to the destruction of nature.  
Today, Your creation is wounded  
with cruelty by the hand of human beings;  
have mercy Lord, have mercy on us all.

Oh Holy Spirit, help us to overcome vanity, pride, and greed.  
and give life to all that we have destroyed with our sins.

Mother Mary, intercede for us, Your children.  
Help us to say YES to life throughout the world,  
caring for our common home, for our Mother Earth.

May each baptized person collaborate  
in building a better world for all Your children,  
and one day we can meet You, Father,  
to enjoy the new and eternal creation.  
This we ask through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph.  
Amen.

*Lay partners, Paraguay*

**“HE SET THE EARTH ON ITS FOUNDATIONS; IT CAN NEVER  
BE MOVED.” (Ps 104:5)**

## 10. PRAYER FOR MARGINALIZED WOMEN

*For Reflection: Mt 15:21-28; Lk 23:55-24:9*

**O**h, Holy Triune God,  
thank You for calling and empowering women  
to share equally in the dignity of creation.

In the Gospel, Jesus demonstrated His love, compassion and respect  
for women especially to the least, the lost and the last.

Oh Jesus Christ, Your example challenges us all to do the same.

Grant us the same heart and compassion for women  
who are rejected, despised and forgotten in our families  
and communities, who are marginalized due to culture,  
traditions and male domination.

May we stand bold and brave  
to be their voice in society as You did.

Oh, Holy Spirit,

Breathe Your Spirit among these women,

whom this world has negated their dignity and human rights.

May they hear the voice of God calling them and

may they cherish the courage to assert themselves of their womanhood.

Oh, Mary full of grace,

inspire every woman to embrace in humility and obedience  
your fiat just as you did.

It was by your offering that the Word was made flesh.

May our lives be authentic witnesses of the Gospel.

Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz, pray for us,  
that we may value each life as a priceless gift from God.

Amen.

*Mary Geraldine Paderon, Philippines North*

**“[THE LORD] GIVES THE CHILDLESS WIFE A HOME, THE  
JOYFUL MOTHER OF CHILDREN. HALLELUJAH!” (Ps 113:9)**

## 11. PRAYER FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

*For Reflection: Zec 8:4-8*

**L**ord God and Father of all creation,  
We pray in unity with the indigenous peoples.  
You created the universe out of your love,  
every creature is interconnected with each other,  
every clan, tribe and indigenous group is an expression  
of the harmony of creation.  
May we respect all indigenous peoples and cultures;  
They are the closest to nature and dedicated in taking care of it.

We ask pardon for destroying your creation,  
especially for invading indigenous peoples' land  
with the excuses of "modernity, progress and development".

Inspire us that we don't enter into their space and their rights  
out of our selfish ambitions and with an arrogant attitude.  
We are sorry for the harm that we have done to them,  
for not listening to their needs and demands,  
for violating their rights to life, freedom of expression,  
and decisions about their future.

Loving Father, soften our hearts  
so that we can be sensitive to the indigenous peoples and  
understand their sufferings and pains;  
help us to engage ourselves together with them  
to restore their dignity as children of one God,  
and for their freedom and for rights.

This we ask through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph.  
Amen.

*Ruth Mery Olivera Alcocer, Bolivia*

**"MAY THE NATIONS BE GLAD AND REJOICE; FOR YOU  
JUDGE THE PEOPLES WITH FAIRNESS, YOU GUIDE THE  
NATIONS UPON THE EARTH." (Ps 67:4-5)**

## 12. PRAYER FOR THE SICK

*For Reflection: Lk 17:11-19*

**A**lmighty and Everlasting God,  
Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering.  
We humbly beg you to help them with your kindness, mercy,  
and outpouring of love, that you may stretch your healing hand  
over the sick and guide them through their illnesses.

Father of goodness and love,  
hear our prayers for those suffering from mental and physical illnesses,  
Show your mercy as you cure their wounds and illness,  
make broken bodies whole again and strengthen their spirits.  
May they find good health and deliverance from suffering.

God our Father, your Son accepted the suffering on the cross  
through pain, humiliation and despair,  
but through resurrection, he gave us a hope for salvation.  
Oh, Jesus, remember all who suffer from pain, illness or any disease,  
in Your Sacred Heart.  
May they have hope to overcome their sickness.

Father in heaven,  
give them courage when they are afraid,  
patience when they feel afflicted,  
hope when they feel dejected, and when alone assure them of the  
prayerful support of your holy people.

We also pray for the families of those who are sick and suffering.  
We thank you for your compassion and care for the sick.  
May the Saints Arnold and Joseph intercede for the sick to get healed.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Paulina Suharsi, Bali, Indonesia*

**"I WAS CAUGHT BY THE CORDS OF DEATH; THE SNARES OF SHEOL  
HAD SEIZED ME; I FELT AGONY AND DREAD. THEN I CALLED ON  
THE NAME OF THE LORD, 'O LORD, SAVE MY LIFE!" (Ps 116:3-4)**

### 13. PRAYER FOR PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN

*For Reflection: Mt 19:13-15*

**H**oly Triune God,  
help us to know You and to adore You.  
Help each of us to find the intimacy  
that You share within Your very own awesome life.  
Help each of us as followers of the Divine Word,  
to likewise love others with Your heart.

Life giving Spirit, thank You for creating children;  
including children with different abilities.

We pray especially for the physically and mentally challenged children  
that they experience the love of God.

Jesus, you showed special concern to children and sick.

Help us to show compassion to all children  
especially to physically and mentally challenged children,  
keep them in Your Sacred Heart.

Help all people to understand these challenged children,  
Inspire us to be close to these children and offer our help to them,  
so that they feel that they are wanted.

Help us to respect them, and enthuse us to learn from the weak.

Mary our Mother, may these special children  
always rely upon your motherly love and tenderly care.  
May you guide them to receive the grace of God.

May Saints Arnold and Joseph assist us  
in reaching out to these children.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Jeyesh George, India, Mumbai*

**“CERTAINLY SONS ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD, THE FRUIT  
OF THE WOMB, A REWARD.” (Ps 127:3)**

## 14. PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

*For Reflection: Ex 3:2-10*

**G**od our Father, look at the suffering of many of Your children of our time who are victims of violence and atrocities of all kind.

Around the world there are cries of distress, tears and lamentations especially in countries which are in the grip of wars, crimes and violence caused by the personal and selfish interests of some.

Yet Your son, Jesus, our Lord prayed for unity, peace and love among people of all races, tribes and nations. God our Father, we pray for all the victims of violence, oppression and persecution who suffer in their body and spirit; may the passion of Your Son, our Lord Jesus, renew in them faith, hope and confidence in Your ever-loving providence.

May they find the strength and moral force to recover. Lord, put on their path people who can provide them with material, moral and spiritual support to get out of this situation. Provide them Lord, the strength to forgive their enemies and may they not respond to violence with violence.

May Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz give them hope for peace and tranquility. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Nico Luketo, D.R. Congo*

**“TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL, MY GOD, IN YOU I TRUST; DO NOT LET ME BE DISGRACED; DO NOT LET MY ENEMIES GLOAT OVER ME.” (Ps 25:1-2)**

## 15. PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

*For Reflection: Lam 3:55-59*

**M**erciful Father,  
We acknowledge that by human pride and  
by erroneous decisions against nature,  
more catastrophic situations make harmony impossible  
between people and Your creation.

May the anguish and sorrow we see out of these disasters  
be a sign of our conversion.

We ask for forgiveness for disrespecting Your creation.

Have mercy on Your children who day and night  
experience suffering because of natural disasters.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died, strengthen and  
comfort their families,

watch over the survivors of these calamities and give strength  
to the people of good will to continue offering material and spiritual  
help to the victims.

Ó Lord Jesus, You who redeemed us, inspire all people  
to be united in this moment of sadness.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us in Your missionary work  
so that we become true witnesses and co-workers of the Gospel,  
helping and caring for Your creation.

May Mary our mother, Saints Arnold and Joseph,  
intercede for us and for all who suffered natural disasters. Amen.

*Paula Novela, Mozambique*

**“SAVE ME, GOD, FOR THE WATERS HAVE REACHED MY  
NECK...; THE FLOOD OVERWHELMS ME.” (Ps 69:2-3)**

## 16. PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS

*For Reflection: Lev 19:9-10,33-34*

**O** God our heavenly Father, we thank You for the many gifts You have bestowed on our country to be used for our common good.

We ask Your forgiveness for not sharing these resources equitably.

We pray especially for our brothers and sisters, migrating women, men and children, those on the streets, and all who are seeking better lives and as a result have become vulnerable.

We pray that these migrants find safety and shelter.

May they be strengthened by their faith in You and may they find a safe abode.

We pray that people will be generous to the migrants that they may live with dignity.

We continue to pray that You inspire our leaders to implement policies that will benefit all citizens of the country, that they may look through the prism of love of neighbor.

Oh Holy Spirit, enlighten all people so that in sharing our God given resources with others, all will come to know and enjoy Your goodness and generosity.

Bless us through the Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz. Amen.

*Sena Dotse, Ghana*

**“THOUGH I WALK IN THE MIDST OF DANGERS, YOU GUARD MY LIFE WHEN MY ENEMIES RAGE. YOU STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND; YOUR RIGHT HAND SAVES ME.” (Ps 138:7)**

## 17. PRAYER THE REFUGEES

*For Reflection: Ex 15:1-13*

**A**lmighty God, our Eternal Father,  
You created us in Your own image as male and female.  
But we are fallible, we want to possess more and more.  
We are even able to initiate wars for the sake of selfishness  
and more profit.  
There is poverty in many places around the world,  
where basic living needs aren't met.

People suffer harassment and persecution for their faith or belief.  
Masses of people are forced to leave their homes,  
become refugees, having no roof, food and security,  
exposing themselves to many dangers.

Help each one of us to create an atmosphere towards strangers,  
give them new possibilities for safe lives.  
Dear Lord, provide us with the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
to recognize the need of our fellow human beings  
and to offer help where possible to all refugees.

We pray that every country  
find ways to implement Your Holy Will in their home places.  
Help us to live what St. Peter the Apostle said:  
For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness;  
and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control;  
and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;  
and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

Dear Lord, hear our prayer through the intercession of Saints Arnold  
and Joseph. Amen

*Piroska Lukács and Gyula Póka – Hungary*

**“YOU WHO DWELL IN THE SHELTER OF THE MOST HIGH, WHO  
ABIDE IN THE SHADE OF THE ALMIGHTY, SAY TO THE LORD, “MY  
REFUGE AND FORTRESS, MY GOD IN WHOM I TRUST.” (Ps 91:1-2)**

## 18. PRAYER FOR BROKEN FAMILIES

*For Reflection: Is 49:13-16*

**G**od of love and goodness,  
pour out Your Holy Spirit on all families,  
especially on all broken families.

Fill them with the light of Your love and enlighten their lives  
so that they find together the path of reconciliation.

Loving Father, heal the resentments of these people;  
may everyone respect and give dignity to each other in the family.  
Renew their hearts, dispel their doubts, increase their faith;  
encourage, unite and guide these families of Yours.

Flood their hearts with patience, humility and love;  
may Your Word lead them to forgiveness  
and through fraternal dialogue, may they resolve their differences  
and thus restore their family in Christ.

God our Father, today the world needs Christian families  
strong as the oak tree and tender as flowers,  
families willing to raise happy children,  
and willing to fight against the abandonment of children.

Comfort also, those abandoned children;  
give them hope for a better life  
and put in their way, a loving family.

Today we thank You for listening to us;  
may we show witness through our family life and  
enlighten our minds through the intercession of Saints Arnold  
and Joseph. Amen.

*Lay partners, Mexico*

**“RISE UP, LORD GOD! LIFT UP YOUR HAND! DO NOT FORGET  
THE POOR!” (Ps 10:12)**

## 19. PRAYER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY

*For Reflection: Mk 6:30-44*

**O**ur most Holy God,  
thank You for providing food for all of us.  
Food that will nourish our body to do Your will as Lay partners.

Lord, today, we see a lot of adults and children who do not have their daily food.

Today, many of those who have more food and riches, refuse to share with others.

Due to corruption, malpractice and fraud many are neglected and cry for daily food.

May all be inspired that everyone has the right to food, thus we share with others what we have.

Give us a sense of compassion for hungry people and give them food.

Give us a heart of generosity to reach out to others.

Just like a boy who provided his own five loaves of bread and two small fish to feed five thousand who came to hear Your Word through Your Divine Son, Jesus, may we find ways to provide food for those who need it.

Lord, help us to realize our responsibility towards the hungry.

We offer this prayer through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

*Clement Kunandi Victor, PNG*

**“THE EYES OF ALL LOOK HOPEFULLY TO YOU; YOU GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD IN DUE SEASON. YOU OPEN WIDE YOUR HAND AND SATISFY THE DESIRE OF EVERY LIVING THING.”**

(Ps 145:15-16)

## 20. PRAYER FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

*For Reflection: Mt 25:31-46*

**M**y Lord and my God,  
we come before You with a grateful heart,  
in trust and faith knowing that You choose each one of us in  
love to glorify You with our life.

Oh Holy Triune God, thank You for teaching us Your ways.  
We implore You to hear our cry for the homeless.  
They live in the streets, open fields, gardens and deserted lands,  
their children feel loneliness and are losing hope.

Bestow upon them the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit,  
that moved by Your presence in their mind and soul,  
they turn towards You to find refuge in Your Sacred Heart.

Almighty God, touch the hearts of all leaders,  
all ordained, religious and lay leaders, Nations or Organizations  
and all of us, that being enlightened by the Holy Spirit,  
all feel the urge to do more than what is necessary for the homeless,  
giving them dignity and rights to have a home.

Oh Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Our Celestial Mother,  
teach us to see Jesus Christ in the homeless people.  
Thank You for covering all the homeless and broken-hearted people  
with Your mantle of love and filling them with hope.

Protect all the homeless with Your precious blood,  
We ask this through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph.  
Amen.

*Edwige Mbite, South Africa*

**"FOR GOD WILL HIDE ME IN HIS SHELTER IN TIME OF TROUBLE,  
HE WILL CONCEAL ME IN THE COVER OF HIS TENT; AND SET ME  
HIGH UPON A ROCK." (Ps 27:4-5)**

## 21. PRAYER FOR ABANDONED ELDERLY PEOPLE

*For Reflection: Lk 21:1-4*

**H**eavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of life.  
Lord, you teach us through scripture  
how it is precious to grow old.

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by a life that is just.”  
Elders are witnesses of Your love, wisdom and righteousness.  
May we be close to the elderly people so that our vision will widen.

We pray for all the elderly people especially who are left alone.  
O God, be always with them,  
accompanying their suffering and loneliness.  
Give them the grace to be strong in their faith  
and be dependent on God always.  
Jesus Christ, the elderly often face rejection in their lives,  
which You have experienced in Your lifetime on earth.  
Let them have the resolve to persevere in life,  
believing on the promises of God.

O Lord, help us to care for the elderly, giving our time and energy.  
Give us patience to be with them, to understand them.  
Instill in us to respect the elderly people  
and learn from their experiences and wisdom.

Mother Mary, intercede for the abandoned elderly  
that they may be able to withstand with hope their failing health,  
and find solace in Jesus at the times of loneliness.  
We pray especially for those who have lost their spouses,  
uncared for by their children and go through great mental anguish.

We ask this grace through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Varghese, India, Hyderabad*

**“TEACH US TO COUNT OUR DAYS ARIGHT, THAT WE MAY  
GAIN WISDOM OF HEART.” (Ps 90:12)**

## 22. PRAYER FOR PERSONS WITH ADDICTIONS

*For Reflection: Jn 5:1-8*

**L**ord, we praise You and glorify Your Name.  
You are the God of love, righteousness, compassion and forgiveness.  
We come before You today in supplication and bended knees,  
to open the heart, body, soul and spirit of our brothers and sisters  
who have been suffering from all forms of addictions.

Lord Jesus, heal their deep wounds which cause addictions.  
Cover their body and soul with your unfailing mercy.  
Reveal to them the right people to go for help and  
give them the strength to do so.  
Grant them the needed strength, an unwavering faith,  
and be with them as they go through the process of  
staying clean and sober.  
Give them peace that surpasses understanding as they continue  
to deal with their healing process.

Allow the Holy Spirit to flow through them.  
Allow the peace of Christ to come over them,  
in every bit and piece of their being.

We also pray for their families and friends who are crying out  
to You for the healing of their loved ones.  
May they understand and accept the deep wounds of their loved ones. Grant  
them an enduring patience, forbearance and steadfast faith,  
that they may continuously be the source of strength and conviction  
for the members of their family who are suffering from addiction.

This, we ask You through the mighty name of Jesus, our Lord  
and the intercession of Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz.  
Amen.

*Daisy A. Leones, Philippines Central*

**“I AM MISERABLE AND POOR. GOD, COME TO ME QUICKLY! YOU  
ARE MY HELP AND DELIVERANCE. LORD, DO NOT DELAY!”**

**(Ps 70:6)**

## 23. PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

*For Reflection: Jn 8:1-11*

**G**od our Father, every human being is an image of God.  
Instill in us the respect for every human being, for every child,  
and for every adult, men and women.

Help us to honor the rights of each individual and their dignity.

We pray for every child who suffer from physical, emotional,  
economic or sexual abuse;

may they find the help to free themselves from the violence  
and grow in true loving relationships.

We pray for women who are traumatized by sexual violence;  
may You protect them from the violence,  
free them from the abuse and heal their wounds.

May a safe environment be created to live in peace.

Let us become compassionate and sensitive towards the victims  
of sexual and other violence.

Let all victims have the courage to seek help in order  
to free themselves from abuse.

May they know God's love and understand that they are not alone.

May we be able to guide them to get help, support and safety.

May all perpetrators of violence against children and women  
realize the gravity of what they are doing,  
and stop their abuse and seek professional help.

We pray for young and old and for all,  
may they experience healthy relationships,  
free from any type of abuse and have a good attitude towards  
moral behavior.

May your Church be a safe place for vulnerable people.

Lord, may your protective love enfold all these victims  
and may your justice prevail over all.

We ask this through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph. Amen.

*Lay Partners, Panama*

**“LISTEN TO MY PRAYER, O GOD, DO NOT IGNORE MY PLEA;  
HEAR ME AND ANSWER ME.” (Ps. 55:1)**

## 24. PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*For Reflection: Gen 37:23-36*

**E**ver living and loving God, we thank you for the gift of life. You created man and woman in your own divine image and blessed them.

We are aware that many children and adults are deceived and taken to other countries or places for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor, and organ 'harvesting'. The traffickers' hearts are like stone, filled with evil. The simple people suffer due to threats, lies and force by these people.

We cry out against this evil practice of trafficking human persons. Restore their human dignity and provide them a new beginning. Empower us to end this exploitation by addressing its causes. Help us to reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking. Make us agents of liberating these persons who suffer incessantly.

We pray that the sold and abused persons will be found and will receive help despite fear and deception. May they experience restored minds, bodies, and lives through Christ.

We pray to you Lord that you rescue the victims of trafficking and give them safety. Give them the peace and love that surpasses human understanding for the glory and honor of your mighty name.

May Mother Mary protect the victims, may the Saints Arnold and Joseph show them the way of peace. Amen.

*Martha Alal, Kenya*

**"OUT OF THE DEPTHS I CALL TO YOU, LORD;  
LORD, HEAR MY CRY! MAY YOUR EARS BE ATTENTIVE TO MY CRY  
FOR MERCY." (Ps 130:1-2)**

## 25. PRAYERS FOR DECISION MAKERS

*For Reflection: Rom 13:1-10*

**H**eavenly Father, Abba,  
We have heard the song of love You sing  
and no fear can hinder the promises You have made.  
You made us ready to serve You as SVD lay partners.

You are the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings and  
the Authority of Authorities,  
so we want to pray for our politicians.  
Help them to know You as the Truth.  
Give them the courage to bring justice, honesty, peace and  
Your sensitivity in places where they are working and living.

Help them to be responsive to other people's needs.  
Lead them to protect human life - especially  
unborn children, old, sick and needy people.  
Give them the ability to distinguish good from evil.

Strengthen their desire for justice so they are able  
to respect the rights of everyone and by their actions contribute  
to good interpersonal relationships.  
Let their words be the deeds.  
Give wisdom to people in leadership positions to make decisions  
according to your holy will.  
Bless their families and beloved ones with peace and joy.  
Teach us to love all nationalities and races living in our country,  
and help us to take right decisions according to Christian values.  
Bless us through Saints Arnold and Joseph.  
Amen.

*Margaréta Bencelová and Veronika Šubjaková, Slovakia*

**"DEFEND THE LOWLY AND FATHERLESS; RENDER JUSTICE TO THE  
AFFLICTED AND NEEDY. RESCUE THE LOWLY AND POOR; DELIVER  
THEM FROM THE HANDS OF THE WICKED." (Ps 82:3-4)**

## 26. PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

*For Reflection Mt 5:3-12*

**G**od of heaven and earth,  
we give You thanks for all the blessings You have given us.  
Look with mercy on Your servants  
who are persecuted for their faith in You.

Grant them courage and strength to continue to live  
with faith and show good will to bear the suffering.  
Because of hard hearted persons with hate and revenge,  
unforgettable pain is experienced by many faithful  
because of their faith.  
Help them to be worthy imitators of Christ.

At times, persecutions have blinded our conscience.  
We ask your forgiveness for the times of betrayal.  
We ask You to strengthen our faith  
so that we have the courage to continue our faith journey  
and proclaim the faith that You have given to us.

Mary, Queen of Peace,  
through Your gentle and motherly love,  
kindly lead us in our paths, so that we can continue  
to keep our faith and live in peace with our Heavenly Father.  
We ask this through the intercession of Saints Arnold and Joseph.  
Amen.

*From the Lay Partners - Vietnam*

**“HOW MANY ARE MY FOES, LORD! HOW MANY RISE AGAINST ME!  
BUT YOU, LORD, ARE A SHIELD AROUND ME; MY GLORY, YOU  
KEEP MY HEAD HIGH.” (Ps 3:2-4)**



III.  
TOWARDS RENEWAL  
AND  
TRANSFORMATION  
PRAYERS



## 27. 18<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER DOCUMENT PRAYER

**O**h, Holy Triune God,  
you have called us to live rooted in the Word,  
and committed to your mission.

We are followers of the Divine Word,  
source of holiness and renewal;  
our name is our mission.

The love of Christ impels us and immerses us in loving service;  
through encounter and dialogue,  
we revitalize our vocation,  
accompany us in sharing this gift  
with confidence and passion.

Lord, your voice challenges us;  
the clamor of the earth wounds our hearts,  
the life of the people embraces us and sets our hearts on fire.  
We are yours, transforming missionary disciples;  
root us in your Word and send us out to the world  
as artisans of communion.

Life-giving Spirit, by your creative power  
you form us in the Heart of Jesus,  
help us make your option ours, putting the last first.

Mary, Virgin of silence and Mother of the Divine Word,  
form us in active listening, in discerning, and in caring for life.  
Inspire us so that in community, with our mission partners,  
we may be authentic witnesses of the Gospel of joy.

Saints Arnold and Joseph, blessed Maria Helena and Josepha,  
and all our martyrs, open our hearts to all peoples,  
so that in embracing their cultures, with their joys and tears,  
we may be attentive and open to the signs of the Kingdom. Amen.

## 28. SVD MOTTO PRAYER (2018-2024)

### FAITHFUL TO THE WORD, ONE WITH THE PEOPLE

**M**erciful Father,  
you offer us the gift of your Word,  
an expression of your love reaching out to us.  
We want to remain open and faithful to the Word  
that flows from within you,  
so that it soaks into our hearts, is reflected in our lives  
and we turn ourselves to others in selfless service.

We listen to hear your Son, Word made flesh,  
who overcomes the darkness of despair and heals the wounds of injustice.  
Bound to the Word, with our whole mind and our whole heart,  
we let Him take the initiative in our life and guide us in our path.  
We want to be faithful disciples of the Word,  
that questions and challenges us,  
helps us to discern and moves us to conversion.

We also want to hear the life of the people we serve  
and the events of our time to offer mercy and solidarity.  
We look primarily to the poor, oppressed and disconsolate,  
putting the last one first to restore dignity, to liberate and reconcile,  
and to promote the integrity of creation.

Driven by the Spirit of Love we are sent to all peoples and nations.  
The Word announced and expressed in different languages and cultures,  
encourages us to promote inculturation and to live interculturality.  
We want to discern and dialogue, witness and transform,  
united to the people and in collaboration with everyone.

Mother of the Divine Word,  
model of attentive listening and generous response,  
Help us to communicate with joy and strength  
the Word that nourishes our fidelity and commitment  
to be united with others in the mission.  
Amen.



THE DREAM of ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN  
to FOUND the 4th GROUP  
THE LAY PARTNERS - to SHOW a REALITY  
**ARNOLDUS FAMILY**  
1. SERV. FOR THE WORLD MISSIONAR  
2. SERV. FOR THE SISTERS





