



SVD Communication



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Quarterly Bulletin of the Communications of the Society of the Divine Word

“The world would be a poorer place without our contribution”. Fr. Heinz Küluke, our General Superior has repeated these words in several occasions.

EDITORIAL

MODESTE MUNIMI, SVD
*GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR*

It is a fact that the majority of our confreres worldwide are doing excellent work in the countries where we are working. And yet, it is also a fact that very little of this is known to others.

“If it is not communicated, then it does not exist”. Very often we wonder why bad news dominates the headlines. The media concentrate on the bad things in life, rather than the good ones. As indicated in the Decree on the media of social communications, *Inter Mirifica*, the Church experiences maternal grief at the harm all too often done to society by the evil use of the means of social communications (*Inter Mirifica*, no. 2). Thus, “the Catholic Church, since it was founded by Christ our Lord to bear salvation to all people is obliged to announce the Good News of salvation also with the help of the media of social communication...” (*Inter Mirifica*, no. 3).

Indeed, good news and good things are happening in our missions worldwide. “Visiting our many missions and meeting with our confreres I realized that we are doing great work. Majority of our members are doing excellent work and many of this is not known to others”. These words were said by Fr. Heinz in the meeting with the directors of the SVD media centers in Rome. How can we ensure our mission activities are communicated effectively? The key consideration that can help us significantly is “documentation”, which includes sharing of information about what we are doing and sharing of the good news that are happening in our life and the life of those entrusted to us in our mission.

Christmas is “Good news of great joy”. The angel said to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord” (Lk. 2: 8-12). The Gospel tells us that after receiving the good news of the Angel, the shepherds >>>



went to Bethlehem “in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.” They adored the Infant Jesus. Then “they made known the message that had been told them about this child” and “all who heard it were amazed” (Lk. 2:16). Notice how the shepherds did not keep the good news of Christ’s birth to themselves. They spread the message. We need this spirit of the shepherds spreading the good news. We need to share our best practices and stories with others.

Documentation and sharing of the best practices of mission activities is a grave concern and all those in charge of communication office and media center in our Provinces, Regions and Missions are to concentrate on it. Share more broadly. Our best practices need to be documented and shared with larger audiences, with our lay partners and benefactors, inside our Congregation and within communities.

May you have a blessed and joyful Christmas! May the missionary zeal of our Founder Arnold Janssen move and inspire us to go forth from ourselves to extend the good news of Nativity, the joy of our mission and the joy of the Gospel to all!***



BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION

AFRAM ZONE

NEWS FROM AFRAM ZONE: COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES IN THE PRMS

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Fr. Rex A. Vegbey shares with us some achievements made in the dimension of Communication in the Afram zone. This article is based on the reports he received from the PRM coordinators who sent their annual report.

CHAD: The mission of Chad has opened a Facebook account, where they share with friends and young people the various activities of the Mission. Part of the report reads: “As a young mission, our goals have always been, first of all, reinforcing our internal communication and secondly, promoting various aspects of Chad mission to the outside world.”

TOGO: Based on the Action Plan set in the last Zonal meeting for the characteristic dimensions in South Africa, the Province has reinforced Ad intra commu - >>>



BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION



cation by creating a WhatsApp group for all the confreres from and working in the province. The advantage of this tool is that it does not require any training. Hence, since most of the confreres use it, in the group that has been created, confreres share news of the Province and various activities in the Province instantaneously. The other activities being held so far are: The Communications Coordinator organized a mission week celebration in collaboration with the other characteristic dimensions. In the area of formation, an ongoing formation is given for confreres, especially for formandi on the use of social network. The communication team realized a video-documentary on the activities of the Arnoldus family in the province and translated the film on “Saint Arnold Janssen” from German to French. Since last year, the team is promoting the “lectioyouth” program.

They also use social networks, radio and blog to publish and broadcast reflections on each Sunday’s readings. The team is involved in the production and distribution of agenda, calendars and other publication from Ediverbum. The province newsletter “ENTRE NOUS” has been redesigned and appears monthly. There have been various meetings with the various local coordinators at the district and communities level.

ZIMBABWE: They continue with their traditional role of producing music, calendars, posters, designs and video and photo coverage of SVD and diocesan events. Also, the office is involved with LECTIOYOUTH.NET project - preparing printable and audio materials. >>>



BEST COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN THE CONGREGATION

KENYA-TANZANIA: The team of Communication directed by Fr. Lawrence Muthee is present in the social networks, where they make visible the mission activities of the Province. They have made the province's frame – showing confreres and where they are working to be displayed in all their communities in order to create a sense of oneness. They have established an online platform to share their pastoral activities with the world in order to inspire vocation and cooperation. They have also developed digital pastoral content in Swahili for the East African population.

BOTSWANA: The Communication Coordinator takes care of the Province Newsletter and SVD Calendar. He has updated the Province website and created a WhatsApp group for the members of the Province to exchange and share news.

Ghana: The Communications Coordinator is involved in the production of Catholic Teaching Videos and its distribution via social media. The Province has acquired the licence to duplicate and distribute the JESUS film in local languages. Catholics and non-Catholics alike have received these movies with joy as the impact of hearing Jesus talking to them in their local language was great. The Communication Coordinator participates in some Radio and TV programs with daily and Sunday's reflections and with hymns of praise. The Province Newsletter, which appears monthly is an effective medium for building relationships and maintaining regular contact with confreres and our lay partners. Along with the province website, the Communication team takes care of the social network, where the mission activities of the Province are regularly published. The team has also organized some training in Communication, media and social media for the novices and the

Provincial Council. Many confreres are involved in communication where they are serving. Some even participate regularly in Radio and TV programs. However, so far, each one is doing it on his own. We are hoping that soon we will have a well-organized and team work initiatives in the Province.

ZAMBIA: The Communication Coordinator is working to improve the mission Newsletter and has created a Facebook Page for the Mission.

SOME CONCLUSIONS

Generally, the goals set at the PRMs level, have been achieved partially. Some of the Action Plan 2015 have been well implemented from the report given especially in the area of improving upon communication ad intra as well as ad extra. Modern Media usage in our ministries seems to be on the ascendency in the PRMs. However, communication and collaboration between the Coordinators at the zonal level is still a pending subject. The zone website has not been updated regularly due to lack of stories and articles coming from the PRMs. There are varieties of mission activities going on in the zone, but very few are known within our PRMs and outside. There is a real problem of documentation. We hope to take advantage of the new platforms set at the Generalate level to share the videos, pictures and stories of our activities. It is a fact that internet connection is real problem in many of our African countries, however, this should not be used as an excuse.***



MEETINGS HERE AND THERE

ASPAC ZONE

ASPAC ASSEMBLY: FOUR CHARACTERISTIC DIMENSIONS

SEPTEMBER 3-9, 2017, ATMA DARSHAN,
MUMBAI, INDIA

by: Fr. Kasmir Nema, SVD
SVD ASPAC Communication
Coordinator

I. What is the meeting all about?

The SVD ASPAC of four Characteristic Dimensions held their triennial assembly on September 3-9, 2017 in Atma Darshan, Mumbai, India. The fundamental purpose of the meeting was to address these following points. Firstly, every characteristic dimension coordinator reported on the implementation of the action plan for the last three years. The reports followed this method; how it was implemented; what were the challenges in implementing the action plan, how these challenges

were resolved, and what are the suggestions for a future improvements. Secondly, it was a learning opportunity from other PRMs' ministries, especially from PRMs that had successfully implemented the action plan in their respective PRMs. Thirdly, It was an opportunity to develop the action plan for the upcoming three years.

The assembly was officially commenced with a hearty welcome from Fr. Sebastian M. Michaela, a Zonal Coordinator and Fr. Richard Mathias, member of Execom Committee and provincial of Mumbai Province. Following of this welcoming speech was the presentations on vision and mission of SVD on the four characteristic dimensions. In general, these presentations were an overview of the SVD mission of the world which were presented attractively by the general coordinators of the four characteristic dimensions respectively - except the communication coordinator of absence due to visa problem- of Mission Secretary, JPIC and Bible Apostolate. Fr. Stanislaus Lazar, the generalate coordinator of the mission Secretary, reminded the participants of the importance of the SVD mission that each and everyone carries. Mission, he said, has to be contextualized in the ASPAC context. Amazing and disturbing contradictions coexist in the zone, >>>





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its unique combination of the contrasts, namely, its cultures, religions and poverty, are the features of Asia in which our mission is implemented. Interfaith dialogues, he added, is one of the contextual mission which could be suitably implemented in the Asian context.

Meanwhile, Fr. Marek, the generalate coordinator of the bible Apostolate, reminded the participants to always “participate in the struggle for the Reign of God by creating, living in and ministering from an alternate world through our preaching and living the Word. We being an intercultural and multilingual body in all our provinces, we have involved ourselves with sincere love for the mission, people, culture and their languages in ASPAC Zone.” The Bible, for the members of Divine Word Missionaries, he emphasised, is always the root of the mission. The mission can not be undertaken without immersing oneself in the Bible. In other words, the mission would be remain meaningless without familiarizing oneself with the Bible. The bible is a primary source of the mission endeavors.

The generalate coordinator of the JPIC, Fr. Daisuke, on the other hand, warned the participants of the irresistible emergence of the various social problems in our world generally and in Asia particularly. Our society, he recognized, has become a society of refugee, disaster, terrorism, climate change, extreme nationalisms, fundamentalism. These situations must triggered our concern in our mission undertakings. These missionary features are absolutely needed for our collaboration and involvement. Our call, as Divine Word Missionaries, are not only to pay attention to such situations but most fundamentally to take action, involve in the situation.

These presentations, then, led the participants into a group discussions, in which the participants were able to discuss in more details about the issues and incorporated with one’s experience in their respective PRMS. The group discussions were allocated more time than other dynamics in the whole assembly. The emphasis was given to show the importance of understanding the inputs before formulating the action plan. Furthermore, the implementation of programs (action plan) during the last three years, were discussed thoroughly in the group discussions in line with the inputs from the generalate coordinators. After sharing in the group, the reports were presented to the assembly. These dynamics aimed at giving opportunities for other characteristic dimensions to observe and evaluate the presented reports.

Finally, in the last two days of the assembly, each characteristic dimension formulated action plan for the upcoming three years. The action plan, then, was presented to the assembly to be assessed. The assembly’s assessment was important so that the action plan will be well implemented in the future. After thoroughly discussions in the groups and assembly, then, each characteristic dimension formulated its final action plan. (*The action plan for communication is attached*)

Who participated?

The meeting was well attended by 52 participants from four characteristic dimensions of the ASPAC Zone, Members of Execom Committee, Generalate Coordinators and an observer from the Catholic Bible Federation (CBF), Fr. Jan J. Stefanow (secretary general of CBF). 18 out of 19 PRMs in the ASPAC Zone sent their representatives to the assembly except Papua Nugini province which had no representative in the assembly. The composition of the participants of the assembly as follows: >>



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EUROPE ZONE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| MISSION SECRETARY | 15 |
| BIBLE APOSTOLATE | 8 |
| JPIC | 8 |
| COMMUNICATION | 12 |
| GEN. COORDINATORS | 3 |
| EXECOM MEMBERS/ ZOAL COORDINATOR | 5 |
| CBF | 1 |

REPORT FROM EUROPE ZONAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATORS MEETING IN BRATISLAVA

2-4 OCTOBER 2017

by: Fr Nicodemus Lobo Ratu SVD

What is the outcome of the meeting (Action Plan)?

Apart from the advantageous suggestions emerged from the evaluation for further improvements of the ministry of SVD in the ASPAC Zone, Mumbai conference has produced the action plan for each characteristic dimension. The action plan has become a foundation of the implementation of the future mission for each characteristic dimension. The members of the execom, in their final speeches, hoped that the participants will undertake the action plan in a more professional way. In implementing the action plan, thus, it will involve unchangeably these points: planning, organizing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating. The ASPAC zonal coordinator, Fr. Sebastian M. Michael, furthermore, encouraged all the coordinators to implement wisely the action plan in their respective PRMs. The assembly was officially closed with the Eucharistic celebration together with the parishioners of the Sacred Heart Parish, one of the SVD's parishes in India Mumbai Province, to celebrate the SVD's foundational day. The mass was presided by Fr. Eduardo Rocha, Provincial of the Philippines South, the present president of Execom committee. The food was served soon after the mass, together with some members of the SVD of Mumbai Province and SSpS sisters, the delegates enjoyed the typical Indian culinary.

It is a joy for us to be in Bratislava, a beautiful city, known for its castle. It is the capital of Slovakia, which is situated along the Danube River, the border with Austria and Hungary. It is not just the city which is beautiful: our SVD community also has a beautiful formation house "Misijny Dom Arnolda Janssen." It was an abandoned school building but around twenty years ago, the Slovakian province bought it and converted it to a church and a formation house for the SVD students. The place was blessed on 15th September 2001. It is well located, close to the city and the main public transport services. The internationality of the community is quite obvious: there are members from Slovakia, India and Indonesia. The community also has a clear apostolate: working in the media and in parishes, as well as with young people, especially the students at University Pastoral centre at the University of Bratislava. This may be one of the main reasons that Bratislava was chosen to be the host for the zonal meeting of the SVD communication coordinators in Europe, (2-4 October 2017).

Most of us arrived one day before the meeting. Present during the meeting were: Fr Modeste Munimi (General Communications >>>



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coordinator), Fr Peter Dusicka (Zonal Coordinator), Fr Vaclav Mucha (GER), Fr Nicodemus Lobo Ratu (IBP), Fr Franco Zocca (ITA), Fr Sedfrey Nebres (NEB), Fr Krzysztof Kolodynski (POL), Fr Martin Stefanec (SLO), Mrs Monika Slouk (PR of the EUC), and Mr Anton Deutschmann (Steyl Medien, Munich).

After the introductions and a day of presentations from different provinces, and having discussed many things in the areas of communication, we agreed to have a concrete action plan where we can work together. Areas where we agreed to collaborate were:

- Sharing of materials using established platforms: videos, photos, stories.
 - Creating a Facebook Group account for the members of the Communication Coordinators of Europe Zone. It should not be a group of personal accounts, but of the accounts of provinces. Fr. Nicodemus Lobo Ratu is responsible. At the same time, Fr Nico has created a Facebook group: Europe Zonal communication coordinators. All communication coordinators will be co-responsible and have access to update this with news and information from their own provinces.
 - Creating a WhatsApp group for the members of Communication Coordinators. Fr. Sedfrey Nebres is in charge of this. At the same time, Fr Sedfrey has created a Whats Apps group account. The purpose of this is to have a better and quicker way of communicating with each member of the Communication Coordinators.
 - Making a common “small media project” with a small content, on which the whole Zone/ Provinces
- will work together. Every province can contribute. This task is given to our expert in media, Fr. Vaclav Mucha. We hope that six months from now, let us say by Easter 2018, we have something to work on.
- Education in the area of Communication, using the already existing Media Centers (SteylMedien, Kairos). The person should already have a basic knowledge in communication. There is a 6 month course, organized by Kairos as a joint venture with the University of Maynooth: video, radio, and printing. The Generalate is working on this project.
 - Workshop on “communication and social media” for the confreres of the province so as to encourage them and provide basic skills for using these new means of communication. To be conducted locally.
 - International Name of the Society of the Divine Word and Logo. For marketing purposes it would be good to have one “international brand name”. This is not meant to be an official name of SVD, which is and remains Societas Verbi Divini. This is a proposal for the 18th General Chapter.
 - List of Communication Coordinators of the Zone Europe as well as Communication Coordinators of the other Zones with basic data for communication.
 - Common Workshop/Meeting of all characteristic dimensions together in the European Zone as already exists in other Zones.
 - Next meeting of Europe Zonal communication coordinators will be in Varone, Italy. A year before, the Area Coordinator will begin the >>>



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process of looking for a suitable date.

On the last day of our meeting, we nominated a candidate for the office of area coordinator for communications. We elected Fr Sedfrey Nebres of the Netherland and Belgium province.

I feel this meeting of the communication coordinators was excellent. We thank you, Fr Martin and the formation community in Bratislava, and the Slovakian province, for being wonderful hosts and for welcoming us with such fraternal care, and also for showing us the uniqueness of the city.

For most of us, this was our first time in Bratislava and the first opportunity that we had met each other. We have many ideas, both big and small,

and also many challenges ahead of us, but as Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster once said: “We have learned a lot of stuff and received a lot of information and perhaps we have produced excellent materials and documents but when we go home, all may be easily forgotten. But probably we do not forget the faces and the people we have met. By meeting people we recognise the face - we know each other, and that is the beginning of friendship. In this modern time, we need to work well in friendship.”

Echoing this message, we hope we continue working well together in friendship in the Divine Word. May the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all. ***





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THE MEETING OF THE MEDIA CENTERS DIRECTORS IN ROME

The meeting was held in Rome from July 10 to 14, 2017. It was chaired by Fr. Modeste Munimi, the Generalate Coordinator for Communications attended by the directors of Communications centers of Kairos (Ireland), MCS (DR. Congo), Steyl Medien (Germany), Verbo Filmes (Brazil), Wordnet Production (USW), and the National Communications Coordinator of India. It aimed at finding ways of collaboration, sharing of materials between the different centers and documenting our mission activities and best practices worldwide.

After sharing and discussion, the group defined concrete areas of collaboration and cooperation. It was decided to use the existing platforms in the Congregation for the sharing of pictures, videos and stories. Hence, for the photos/Pictures, (www.svdphotos.org), for Videos clips: (<https://vimeo.com/svdmission>) and for the Stories: (www.witword.org). Besides, Wordnet Productions has launched a platform, webcasting channel: <http://wordnettv.com>, where we can share our videos productions. We need therefore cooperation and collaboration of all those involved in the media apostolate in the Congregation.

The meeting also discussed on how to incorporate the formation of our confreres in the media centers. All the participants are available to welcome our young confreres in formation for a period of training in the media. The CCTP or OTP experience could be the appropriate time for such

training. However, the media centers recommend those who are willing to have such experience should have at least a basic knowledge in media. However, the participants remind those in charge of our formation houses that media and communication should be included in the formation program, as it is recommended in the Manuel of the Superiors. As for the permanent formation, the media centers are ready to share



their expertise during various programs and activities of the Congregation, like during the Nemi Renewal Course.

The centers and the personnel at the center often do not have the time to do the animation of the members of the Provinces/Regions/Missions (PRM) in media. Hence, this is to be done by the PRM Communications Coordinators. In that sense, they urge, the PRM Communications Coordinators to work hand in hand with the me-



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NEWS

WORDNET ANNOUNCES A WHOLE NEW WEBCASTING STREAM

On the 18th of October 2017 Wordnet Productions launched its new 24/7 webcasting channel: <http://wordnettv.com/>. The channel will carry interviews of Father Mike Manning, SVD, as well as SVD contributions from around the world. You will be inspired by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, various Religious Congregations and other Catholic providers.

Once on site, click on PROGRAMS to watch individual items/shows immediately. Click on the red LIVE button to watch the current live stream. Scroll down to see other programs in the Que. In about two months the channel will be available on Roku, Amazon TV, Apple TV, Google TV, YouTube, etc. Stay tuned and be sure to send us your comments and suggestions.

“Come over and help us”, the dreamer said. (Acts 16:9) Stories of the SVD world are many, varied and inspirational. Join us in sharing yours with not only your own people in ministry but with us and the wider world as well.

“May Jesus’ love for you make you smile!”



2018



LA BUENA NOTICIA DE CADA DÍA

verbo divino

La buena noticia de hoy

Búsqueda por fecha

Calendario litúrgico

Evangelio en vídeo

ENJOY THE EUCHARIST DAILY READING: A COMMENTARY AND A VIDEO

Mobile App (Good News for every day): useful and practical information for prayer pastoral ministry.

Editorial Verbo Divino has launched a new App “Buena Noticia de cada día”. Download the App using Play Store for Android and App Store for Apple devices. In “la Buena Noticia” (the Good News), you will find all the readings that are read in the Eucharistic celebration during the year, with an attractive commentary, that invites people to prayer. You will be able to consult festivities and have access to the prayers that we will select year by year. We also visualize a weekly video with which we want to bring over to you the gospel message in an original way.

For now, the App is available for free only in Spanish. However, Editorial Verbo Divino is studying the possibility of presenting this application in other languages where the Divine Word Missionaries are working. There is already some contact with Verbum Bible in the democratic Republic of Congo. If you want to have in your language, please contact Editorial Verbo Divino for further information: evd.developer@verbodivino.es.