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THANK YOU

for all that you do for our missions.



**A new soft blanket...
a warm and fuzzy
"friend"...**

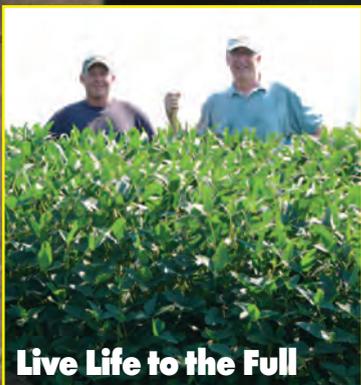
A friend of Divine Word Missionaries donated his birthday party money to provided new blankets and stuffed toys for children in a mission community in Thailand. **Want to help the missions?** Make a plan to designate gifts from your birthday or anniversary. Go to www.svdmissions.org and see how you can make your gifts *make a difference in the world.*

Divine Word

Missionaries Magazine

Mission Updates from Around the World

Fall 2011



Live Life to the Full

... the proclamation of the Gospel to everyone ... is the most precious service that the Church can render to humanity and to all individuals who are seeking the profound reasons to live their life to the full. This same invitation therefore resonates every year during the celebration of World Mission Day.

—Pope Benedict XVI
Message for World Mission Sunday,
2011





Archbishop O'Meara Award

Divine Word Missionaries Magazine received the Society for the Propagation of the Faith's "Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Award" in the category of single article with a world-wide missionary theme for the article, *Doing What We Can: One Parish Responds to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic*, by Father Jean Chrysostome Kiyala SVD of the Botswana Province. The winning article appeared in the Winter 2010 issue. The award was presented during the Catholic Media Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in June 2011.

View this award-winning magazine online!



Download any **QR** code reader app using your smart phone, or go to www.svdmissions.org

World Mission Sunday: October 23, 2011

This year we celebrated World Mission Sunday on October 23. In his message for Mission Sunday, Pope Benedict reminds us that the missionary work of the Church has not lost its urgency: "... there are still people who do not know Christ and have never heard his Message of salvation. And this is not all; an increasing number of people, although they have received the Gospel proclamation, have forgotten and abandoned it . . ." *Divine Word Missionaries* work in countries which could fall in both of those categories.

This issue of *Divine Word Missionaries Magazine* features stories from places where Christians are a very tiny minority of the population, such as Japan, Hong Kong, and Thailand. There are also stories from countries where Christians are well represented, such as Botswana and the United States.

Father Robert Riemer SVD describes his ministry in a hospice facility in Nagoya, Japan. He has undertaken this ministry after decades of work at Nanzan University.

A few months ago, Father Anthony Rebello SVD celebrated the first anniversary of the Pagalelong Hospice for persons with HIV/AIDS in Botswana. The hospice is the capstone of many years of ministry to the critically ill in Angola and Botswana.

Father Valan Arockiasamy SVD is a full-time chaplain to seafarers in Hong Kong. His "parishioners" come from all over the world and just getting to work each day presents Fr. Valan with an interesting challenge.

Sergio Morales Rangel is a seminarian at Divine Word College, our college seminary in Epworth, Iowa. He and fellow student, Peter Do, had the opportunity to visit our missions in South Korea and Thailand. Sergio describes his summer teaching experience in Thailand.

Father Michael Hutchins SVD is beginning a new ministry in Weldon, Iowa. Fr. Mike lives on one of our Divine Word Farms and he gives his first impressions of life on the farm in this issue.

When *Divine Word Missionaries* around the world celebrated World Mission Sunday, we thanked God for the challenging and rewarding work which the Church has entrusted to us. Every day we thank God for our many wonderful friends who support us with their prayers and sacrifices.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Newton, SVD".

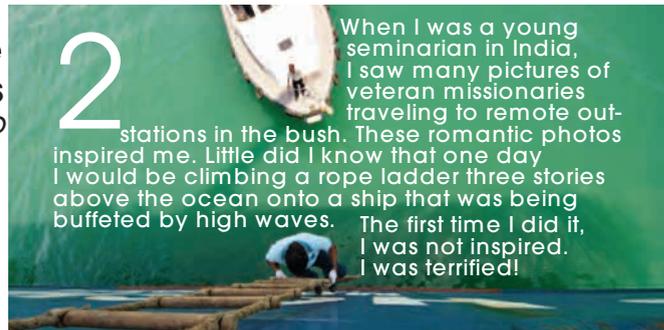
Bro. Dennis Newton SVD
Mission Director

Contact me any time; my e-mail address is:
director@svdmissions.org

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

Ship to Shore
My Ministry to Seafarers
Valanarasu Arockiasamy SVD



2 When I was a young seminarian in India, I saw many pictures of veteran missionaries traveling to remote outstations in the bush. These romantic photos inspired me. Little did I know that one day I would be climbing a rope ladder three stories above the ocean onto a ship that was being buffeted by high waves. The first time I did it, I was not inspired. I was terrified!

A Place of Love and Care
Anthony Rebello SVD



When I first met Mary, she was in the final stages of AIDS disease. She could not walk and was unable to eat, wash, or go to the toilet by herself. Her own brother, who lived next door, refused to care for her and angrily denounced Mary in my presence.

A Summer to Remember
Sergio Morales Rangel



Kid's Page



The Final Journey Home
Robert Riemer SVD



Life is the most precious gift from our Creator. Even when conditions make human life painful, lonely, or frustrating, it retains its dignity, because that dignity comes from being a beloved child of God.

In Memoriam
Father Francis J. Kamp SVD



1920 - 2011

Down on the Farm
First Impressions
Michael Hutchins SVD



Divine Word Missionaries engaged in the farms ministry with clear objectives. The farms are a financial investment intended to generate annual dollar support for several of our overseas ministries.



page 14

The hospice staff consists of two doctors, twelve nurses, twenty volunteers, and two chaplains. The volunteers devote one day a week to helping in various ways, such as arranging flowers, making beds, and serving tea.



I am more determined to fully immerse myself in the seminary program in order to discern God's will for me and strengthen all the gifts God has entrusted to me.

page 10



They who sailed the seas in ships,
Trading on the deep waters,
They saw the works of the Lord
And his wonders in the abyss.

(Psalm 107:23-24)



Ship to Shore My Ministry to Seafarers

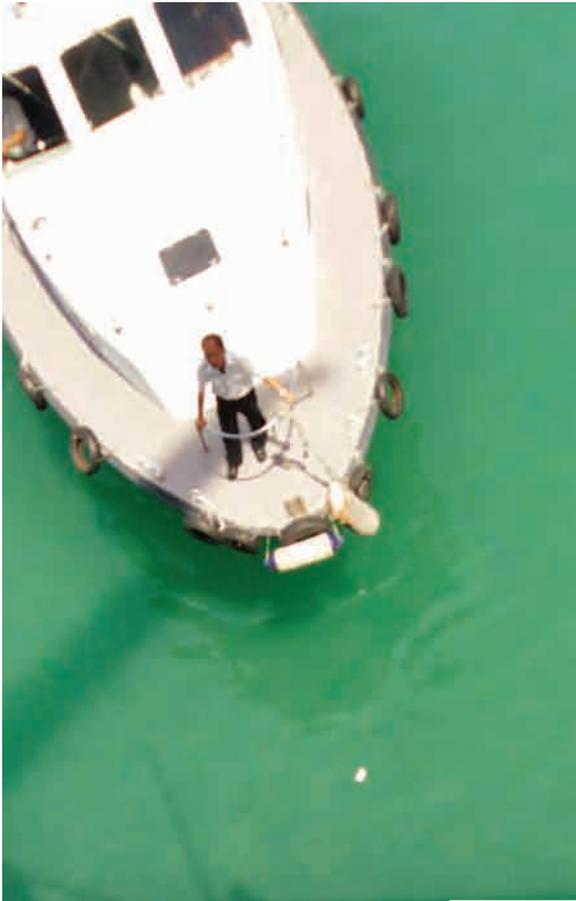
Valanarasu Arockiasamy SVD

When I was a young seminarian in India, I saw many pictures of veteran missionaries traveling to remote outstations in the bush. Some were riding huge horses; some were driving rusty, battered jeeps; and some were climbing steep mountains on foot. These romantic photos inspired me. Little did I know that one day I would be climbing a rope ladder three stories above the ocean onto a ship that was being buffeted by high waves. The first time I did it, I was not inspired. I was terrified!

I am a full-time chaplain for the Apostleship of the Sea, known internationally as *Stella Maris*, in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. *Stella Maris* was founded in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1920 and was approved by Pope Pius XI in 1922. Today, in every major country, a bishop is appointed as the episcopal promoter to coordinate and assist chaplains of the Apostleship of the Sea.

Because I live in Hong Kong, I am never far from ships. I see dozens on Hong Kong waters each day. Only a few people, however, are conscious of how much we depend on ships here in Hong Kong and elsewhere around the world. Ninety percent of world trade is carried by ships. The life of a seafarer is hidden from most people. Many seafarers have

to work away from their families and local communities for nine to twelve months at a time, often accompanied on their journeys by loneliness, depression, spiritual deprivation, and even exploitation.





There are approximately one and a half million merchant seafarers and two-thirds of them are from developing countries. A typical cargo ship has fifteen or more crew members who, with their combined skills, labor, and devotion to duty, guide the ships safely on their appointed routes.

Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Lutherans operate two Mariners' Clubs in Hong Kong to serve seamen from all countries. Our first duty is visiting seafarers on their ships. We usually do ship visits during daylight hours and we do not let bad weather deter us. For ships lying at anchor, we are taxied out on tug boats. We also visit ships docked at oil, coal, and cargo terminals and we regularly visit seafarers who are in hospitals or prisons.



When I board a ship, I take newspapers, books, magazines, prayer cards, Bibles, rosaries, films, and recorded television programs. Our center tries to supply these items in many languages. If a seafarer wants to call his family, we sell discounted telephone cards. I preside at ecumenical prayer services and celebrate Catholic Mass for seafarers who request it. Regardless of the crew's religion, many request a blessing before I leave a vessel. On a rare occasion, I have been turned away from a visit because I am a Catholic priest or because of my race or nationality.

A seafarer's life is not easy, and the nature of the work is dangerous and demanding. Last year over one thousand people were taken hostage by pirates. Many seafarers use a



port call to visit the Mariners' Club, where they can meet privately with a chaplain to discuss a personal or spiritual problem, so I maintain regular office hours. If a seaman has a problem with unpaid wages, a safety concern, a contractual issue, or allegations of abuse or mistreatment, a chaplain can intervene on his behalf.

On October 27, 1982, Pope John Paul II addressed seafarers with a special message that summarizes very well my ministry:

In fulfilling this mission to seafarers, you face a most challenging and difficult task. You are dealing with people who live in a dispersed milieu. They face painful problems, such as separation from family and friends and the resulting feelings of isolation and loneliness; for extended periods of time they live and work at a great distance from a territorial parish. In a real sense, the seafaring world has become a missionary world.

Remember that you are not alone in this awesome task. The whole Church is one with you in solicitude and prayer. The local Churches have a special role to play in the pastoral care of seafarers and other migrant groups.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve the special community of seafarers. Climbing up a rope ladder on windy day has become quite routine. Now the thought of riding a horse terrifies me! □



Lord, Ruler over waves and sea, keep your blessed hand over all seafarers.

Give me the strength
to lead a Christian life
aboard our ship.

I do not want
to disappoint anyone
who may expect help
from me aboard.

Keep my family at home
in your care.

Even when far away
from them for long, let me
always be attached to them.
Help me and all seafarers to
keep on the right course
always, and to reach
the safe port of heaven.

Amen.

(from the Mariners' Club in Hong Kong,
www.marinersclub.org.hk.)

VIEW
Online more photos at:
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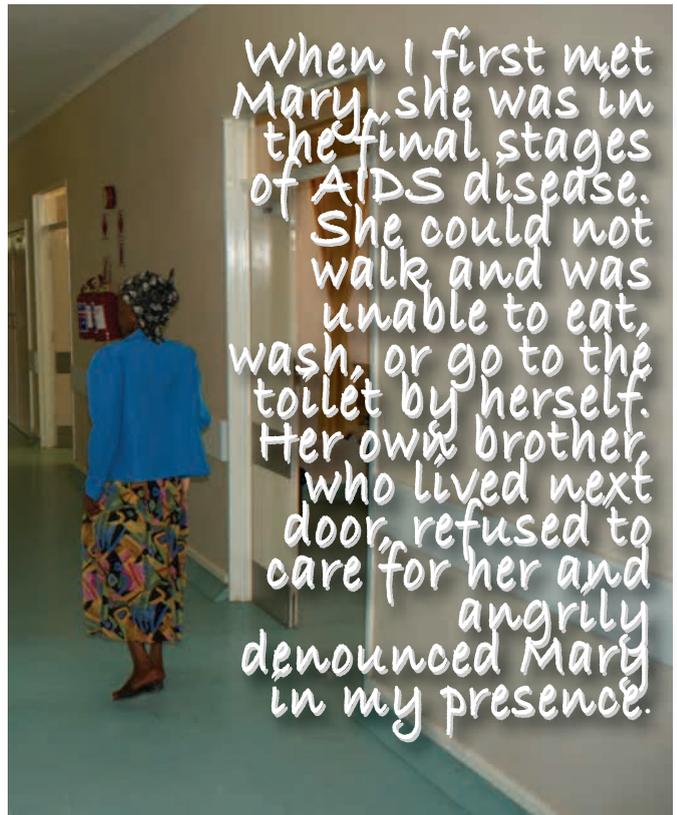
A Place of Love and Care

Anthony Rebello SVD

While I was a missionary in Angola, a war-torn country, I was blessed to be introduced to HIV/AIDS patients at the government tuberculosis hospital in Luanda by Sister Dorothy, a Holy Spirit Missionary Sister. My experience with the patients and their distressing state wounded my heart deeply. The Holy Spirit prompted me to fall in love with and to care for HIV/AIDS patients.

When I was transferred to Botswana, I asked my superiors to allow me to devote my efforts to persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Diocese of Gaborone. I shall always be very grateful for the support and encouragement I received from my fellow Divine Word Missionaries, my superiors, and the bishop.

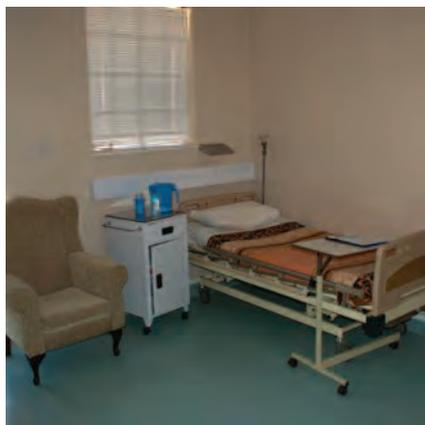
I arrived at the Holy Cross Parish in Mogoditshane on January 18, 2003, and immediately introduced myself to Sister Angela, who ran a home-based care ministry for persons with HIV/AIDS. Members of the home-based team made their rounds every week from Monday through Thursday, bringing meals,



Finally, Mary succumbed to the disease. My heart ached and I became more resolved to establish a center to love and care for the terminally ill so that they could have a dignified death.



bandaging wounds, assisting patients with bathing, providing comfort, and praying with each patient. I soon learned that many patients were without care or assistance from their relatives from Friday through Sunday. Some of the patients were so sick that they could not even stretch out their hand for a glass of water. Often the homes had no toilet facilities or running water for bathing. In many homes, there were even three or four persons who needed care. I can think of many examples, but Mary comes to mind most quickly.



When I first met Mary, she was in the final stages of AIDS disease. She could not walk and was unable to eat, wash, or go to the toilet by herself. Her own brother, who lived next door, refused to care for her and angrily denounced Mary in my presence. Mary broke down and wept bitterly. Our home care team took care of Mary from Monday through Thursday, but between Friday and Sunday, she languished—hungry, thirsty, and dirtied. When she grew even worse, we transported her to the government hospital and she responded a bit to the medications. The hospital authorities could not keep Mary, however, and she was sent home. She soon became weaker and weaker, and we felt quite helpless. Finally, Mary succumbed to the disease.



My heart ached and I became more resolved to establish a center to love and care for the terminally ill so that they could have a dignified death. I prayed to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and asked for her intercession. My prayer and daily celebration of the Eucharist led me to believe that the time was ripe for the Catholic Church in Botswana to do more for the terminally ill. My missionary experiences in difficult situations and countries have taught me to rely on the providence of God. As our founder, Saint Arnold Janssen, often said, "If it is God's work, it will succeed." I spoke to Bishop Boniface Tshosa Setlalekgosi and proposed a

twenty-bed hospice to care lovingly for the sick and the terminally ill patients. The bishop was very understanding and compassionate, and he spoke to his consultants, who approved the plan.

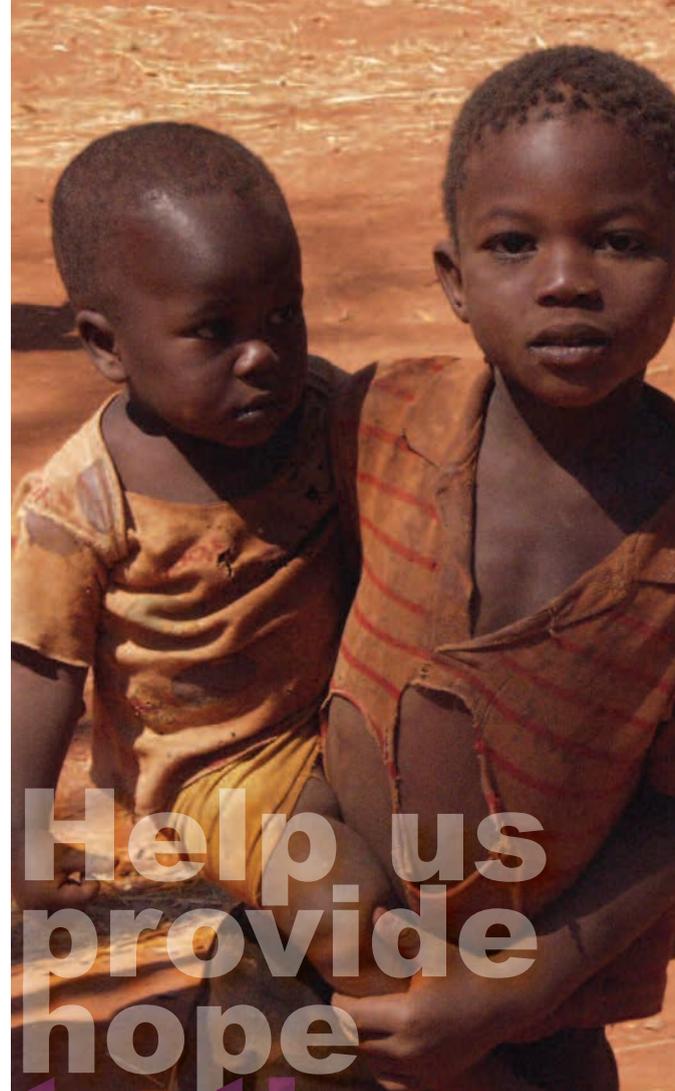
Meanwhile, the Catholic Women's Association in Mogoditshane expressed its desire to give me a helping hand. We brought some of the sick, about ten of them, to our parish for Sunday Eucharist. Afterward, we shared a meal with them and gave each one of them a Bible in the Setswana language. They especially treasured the Bible, which lifted their spirits. We continued to do this for a year or so. The youth of the parish also became involved.

In April 2004, Sister Bonolo and Sister Sethunya of the Sisters of Nazareth also became interested in this project and agreed to join me. They were like angels sent by God. As we waited for the project to develop, we continued to visit the sick. Once a week, we brought a group of patients from their homes to our hall at Holy Cross Parish. Some of them were very weak and some were in wheelchairs. We shared the Word of God with them, led them in physical exercise, provided lectures on health, and created an atmosphere of positive interaction among them. We concluded with a nutritious meal and then transported them home. Two physicians, Dr. Hypsy and Dr. Baron, were always in attendance.

As the number increased, we began programs in four centers. For those who were able, we offered training in sewing, cooking, baking, and computers. By 2008, we were able to hand these programs over to Sr. Angela and her home-based ministry so that we could focus our full attention on providing hospice care.

Finally, in spring 2010, we dedicated the ten-bed Pabalelong Hospice in the presence of the now-retired Bishop Setlalekgosi, the government minister of health, Mr. Seakgosing, and our new Ordinary, Bishop Valentine Tsamma Seane. Fittingly, *Pabalelong* means "a place of love and care."

This spring, when we celebrated the first anniversary of the hospice, we noted that forty-two persons received care during the first year. Ten of them were called by the Lord. Some remain with us today and a few were able to return home with some new skills. New patients always fill the beds of those who leave us. Our financial situation is still very fragile, but we are enormously grateful to those who have helped us to establish Pabalelong and who have sustained us through our first year. □



Help us
provide
hope
to those
in need.

**Can you imagine...
every morning
of every day,
desperately searching
for food to eat
and clean water
to drink?**

\$25
will feed a child for
one week in the Congo
\$50
can provide medicine
to those in need in
India

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we earnestly need your prayers as well!
Please join us in praying for those in need.

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and click the DONATE NOW button.**



A Summer to Remember

Sergio Morales Rangel



Last summer Peter Do and I were extremely lucky to work with our Divine Word Missionary priests and Brothers in South Korea and Thailand. They shared their vocation stories, difficulties, and blessings in the mission and encouraged us to continue our formation. Our time in Thailand was particularly rewarding.



We spent most of our time in Nong Bua Lamphu, the smallest province in Thailand, with the five members of the Divine Word Missionary community: Brother Damien Lunders SVD, Brother Ron Fratzke SVD, Brother Bernard Ruffing SVD, Father Truc Quoc Phan SVD, and Father Anthony Duc Le SVD. Although they are small in numbers, they have made a very positive contribution in Nong Bua Lamphu.

Divine Word Missionaries first came to Thailand to care for persons with HIV/AIDS. More recently, they are teaching English and staffing a parish, which has many programs in the wider community.



Peter (L), Sergio (C), and Brother Ron Fratzke SVD (R) with school children sending their greetings of "Peace."

At a nearby village, our group helped wash dishes, fold clothes, and tidy up yards.

During the week, Peter and I taught English with Bro. Ron at Nong Bua Pittayakarn School. Since Bro. Ron is a native speaker of English, the students could work on improving their pronunciation. Peter and I were each given four classes a day, Monday through Friday. We were asked to encourage the students to use English and make them more comfortable and confident with the language. The kids were enthusiastic learners, fun to teach, and definitely not shy.

Before we left, one teacher said, "We have had many foreign teachers come and go, but you are different." Bro. Ron attributed this to the background we have as missionary seminarians. Perhaps it is more natural for us to approach a different culture with respect and with a willingness to learn as well as teach.

On the weekends, Peter and I spent our time at St. Michael's Catholic Church. It is the only Catholic church in the province of Nong Bua Lamphu. The church was built next to the Mother of Perpetual Help Center orphanage and hospice, where Bro. Damien is director. Prior to the arrival





of Divine Word Missionaries, the parish was served by temporary pastors. Consequently, the parish was not well organized.

In 2007, five years after the construction of the new church, Fr. Anthony Duc Le SVD was assigned as pastor. Fr. Anthony is very active with the young people, who are Thai (some HIV-positive) and Vietnamese migrants. They make up the largest segment of the parish. After Mass, the youth participate in various activities, then they prepare and share lunch together at noon.

One Sunday, Peter and I went along with the youth to visit the elderly for Mother's Day. We went to a nearby village, broke up into teams, and began to wash dishes, fold clothes, and tidy up their yards. While I was folding clothes, one grandmother sat next to me and chatted away. Even though I had no idea what she was saying, we both enjoyed our time together. Afterward, the Thai youth sang Mother's Day songs to the grandmothers as the rest of us showed our love with applause and smiles.

Visiting the elderly was a great experience that unified the youth group. Grade school children, the Vietnamese youth, and the Thai youth all worked together for a common purpose. It also improved the self-image of the HIV-positive youth. Instead of being the ones served and feeling sorry for themselves, they learned that they too can serve others.

As a seminarian, I was very impressed with what the Divine Word Missionaries in Thailand are doing to spread the Word. This trip has really strengthened my missionary vocation. I am more determined to fully immerse myself in the seminary program in order to discern God's will for me and strengthen all the gifts God has entrusted to me. One day, I would love to serve in Thailand, where the seeds of our missionary efforts are just beginning to sprout. ▣



LEARN
about
THAILAND

Answers to Word Search
on page 20



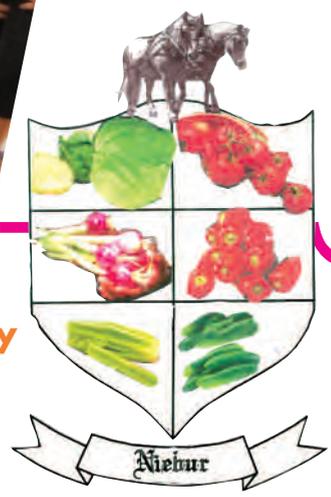
WORD SEARCH



Seminarian Sergio Morales Rangel spent his summer teaching kids in Thailand. You can learn about Thailand too by completing this word search puzzle.

Z	O	V	F	E	R	P	F	T	O	T	F	G	T	X
V	U	I	A	E	U	G	L	I	N	S	T	R	A	E
U	S	F	B	L	F	L	U	W	U	G	C	S	N	S
H	N	B	K	H	T	F	B	W	G	C	O	A	S	U
S	U	L	V	H	T	U	L	T	Y	Y	C	Y	I	L
R	X	D	S	Q	L	J	S	V	B	R	O	Q	S	S
B	U	D	D	H	I	S	T	E	A	N	N	D	I	G
M	T	I	M	B	E	R	A	G	R	T	U	K	A	I
N	O	Z	T	R	U	N	U	O	I	O	T	O	M	E
H	A	N	K	T	S	S	C	N	P	K	S	K	R	C
W	L	M	A	N	E	T	S	G	N	U	T	G	E	I
P	H	L	A	R	D	A	E	L	G	F	R	N	D	R
D	O	I	F	D	C	B	A	H	T	E	M	A	D	Y
A	B	F	T	I	N	H	B	R	O	D	M	B	Z	F
V	Q	H	E	E	K	A	Y	V	Y	Q	X	S	L	D

- Thailand's former name is **SIAM**
- This sea forms one of Thailand's borders **ANDAMAN**
- Some of Thailand's resources are **RUBBER, GAS, TIMBER, FISH, LEAD**
- Thailand's capital **BANGKOK**
- About 95 percent of the population is **BUDDHIST**
- Thailand's form of government is a **MONARCHY**
- The colors on the Thai flag are **RED, WHITE, and BLUE**
- Agricultural products include **RICE, RUBBER, CORN, SUGARCANE, COCONUTS, and SOYBEANS**
- Thailand is the world's second largest producer of **TUNGSTEN**
- Thailand is the third largest producer of **TIN**
- Thai currency is the **BAHT**



Custom-made coat of arms by Ray Niebur

My dad and grandfather were both farmers. Dad told us the story of how he drove a team of horses daily. Their produce was taken to the "South Water" market by horse and wagon. If he arrived early he'd roll out his blanket and sleep for a time under his wagon. It wasn't an easy life but it was what they knew best from the old country. This coat of arms is dedicated to him.

THE FINAL JOURNEY HOME



Robert Riemer SVD

Mr. Sei'ichi Goda was one of the first patients to enter the Holy Spirit Hospice when it opened in spring 2009. Ten years earlier, he moved from the countryside to live with his daughter and son-in-law in Nagoya. When Mr. Goda became ill, they cared for him at home as long as possible. After the illness advanced to its final and painful stage, they moved him into the hospice, where he received palliative care and loving attention.

During his years with them, Mr. Goda witnessed the fine, Catholic example of his daughter and son-in-law. After spending two weeks in the hospice, his daughter asked him if he would like to receive the sacrament of baptism. Without hesitation, he said yes. Although his condition had deteriorated greatly, Mr. Goda was alert when I asked if he believed in Jesus and wished to become a Catholic. Again he said yes, so I baptized and confirmed him and celebrated the sacrament of the sick. His smile and beautiful, "Arigato," which means "thank you," are ingrained in my memory. Shortly afterward, he lapsed into a coma and soon went to meet his Savior.

This incident early in my ministry as chaplain in the hospice has set the tone for my work during the years that followed. The office of chaplain empowers me to bring Christ to the patients in our fifteen-bed facility, even though the baptism of Mr. Goda was a rare exception. Most of the patients are Buddhists or Shintoists;



a few have been Christian. But all are preparing for that sacred moment when they will be called to meet their Creator. Jesus uses his chaplains, Sister Muraki SSpS and me, to bring the patients a bit of consolation, a good laugh, a listening ear, an encouraging word, and a friendly smile. Most important, however, is prayer with the patients and for them. Although Buddhists and Shintoists have a different approach to prayer than Christians, all understand and appreciate the prayer that Jesus taught: "Our Father in heaven . . . Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven . . . Forgive us our sins . . . Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Throughout the day, I frequently whisper a short prayer for the patients as they await "Sister Death." I celebrate a weekly Mass in the chapel of the hospice and give a short scripture talk, which is broadcast into the individual rooms through the intercom. When a patient dies, the on-duty staff of doctors, nurses, and volunteers joins Sister Muraki and me, as well the relatives of the patients, in a short prayer service held in the chapel. Then we bid final farewell to the patient who had been part of our hospice family for days, weeks, or months, and escort the body to the waiting hearse.

The hospice staff consists of two doctors, twelve nurses, twenty volunteers, and two chaplains. The vol-





unteers devote one day a week to helping in various ways, such as arranging flowers, making beds, and serving tea. They help to establish a friendly, family atmosphere with their thoughtful actions, kind words, and joyful spirit. The nurses, two of whom are Catholic, administer the carefully prepared medicines, record the pace of the illness, and are available to the patients. I admire the doctors, one of whom is a Catholic graduate of our Nanzan High School. They combine medical professionalism with loving bedside care.

Usually there is a special social activity for the patients each month: in March, a small Cherry Blossom festival; in February, a full moon viewing party; and in December, a visit from Santa Claus. These activities give the patients something to anticipate and they enjoy the event itself. When patients cannot gather in the common room for the event, somehow the nurses ensure that the activity spills over into the private rooms. In addition, music concerts, visits from a group of semi-professional clowns, and tea-tasting gatherings are held on a regular basis. We are a family who enjoys doing things together.



When I was involved in education, my motto was "For Human Dignity." I felt that education could make the students realize their dignity as children of God and develop in them a genuine respect for the dignity of other women and men. In Holy Spirit Hospice, I continue to work "For Human Dignity." Life is the most precious gift from our Creator. Even when conditions make human life painful, lonely, or frustrating, it retains its dignity, because that dignity comes from being a beloved child of God. The sacred hour of passing over from this world to eternal life in the world-to-come is the epitome of human dignity. As hospice chaplain, I am blessed to be able to assist so many of God's children at that sacred moment. ▣



LIFE IS THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT FROM OUR CREATOR. EVEN WHEN CONDITIONS MAKE HUMAN LIFE PAINFUL, LONELY, OR FRUSTRATING, IT RETAINS ITS DIGNITY, BECAUSE THAT DIGNITY COMES FROM BEING A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD.



In Memoriam

Father Francis J. Kamp SVD 1920–2011

Father Frank Kamp SVD was the founding director of the Mission Center of Divine Word Missionaries at Techny, Illinois.

He passed to his eternal reward on August 27, 2011, at the age of ninety-one.

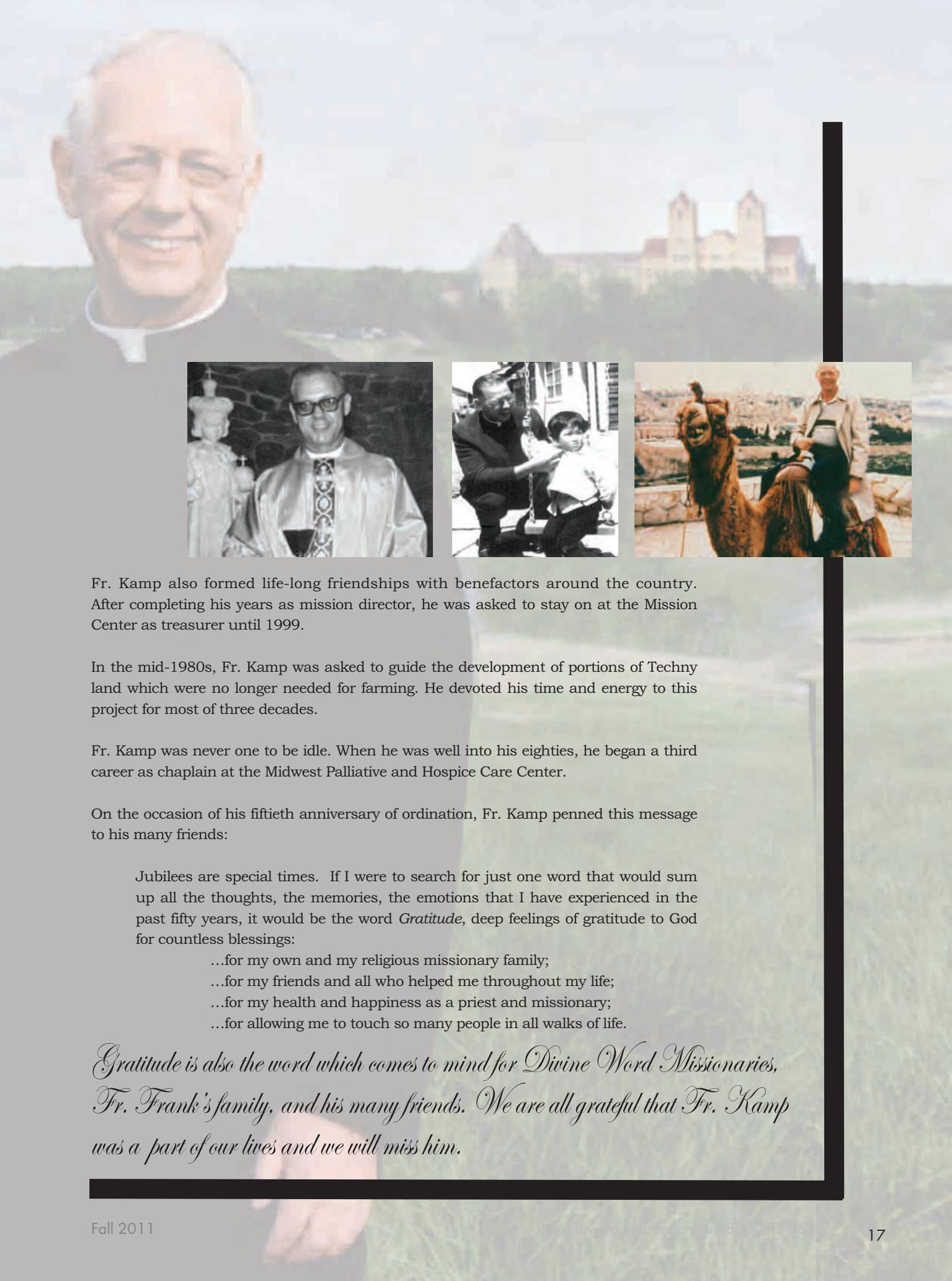
Fr. Frank was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the son of John and Martha Kampschroer. He professed his first vows as a religious on June 6, 1942, and was ordained to the priesthood at Techny on August 15, 1947.

After ordination, he was assigned to teach English, literature, and public speaking at Divine Word High School Seminary in East Troy, Wisconsin. At the same time, he was asked to serve as editor of a children's mission magazine, *The Little Missionary*.

In 1952, Fr. Kamp was transferred back to Techny to work full-time in the publications department, editing and marketing magazines and other missionary literature.

At the age of thirty-eight, Fr. Kamp was appointed mission director at Techny. He served in this post for twenty-four years. The job entailed assisting missionaries all over the world, editing *Divine Word Missionaries Magazine*, preparing direct mail solicitations, visiting benefactors, and preaching mission appeals throughout the United States. He was tireless in this work and generations of missionaries benefited from his dedication and creativity.

When word spread that Fr. Kamp passed away, the Mission Center received e-mail messages from veteran missionaries all over the world. These missionaries recalled how much Fr. Kamp assisted them in countless ways. A missionary in a remote village in Papua New Guinea counted on Fr. Kamp to make sure he could get a ribbon for a manual typewriter that Fr. Kamp purchased for him when he received his first mission appointment. When missionaries returned to Techny for home leave, Fr. Kamp made sure they received excellent medical care. He remembered them at Christmastime, on their birthdays, and every Thanksgiving. He did all this spontaneously and cheerfully. Whoever coined the phrase, "Service with a smile," must have known Fr. Kamp.



Fr. Kamp also formed life-long friendships with benefactors around the country. After completing his years as mission director, he was asked to stay on at the Mission Center as treasurer until 1999.

In the mid-1980s, Fr. Kamp was asked to guide the development of portions of Techny land which were no longer needed for farming. He devoted his time and energy to this project for most of three decades.

Fr. Kamp was never one to be idle. When he was well into his eighties, he began a third career as chaplain at the Midwest Palliative and Hospice Care Center.

On the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary of ordination, Fr. Kamp penned this message to his many friends:

Jubilees are special times. If I were to search for just one word that would sum up all the thoughts, the memories, the emotions that I have experienced in the past fifty years, it would be the word *Gratitude*, deep feelings of gratitude to God for countless blessings:

- ...for my own and my religious missionary family;
- ...for my friends and all who helped me throughout my life;
- ...for my health and happiness as a priest and missionary;
- ...for allowing me to touch so many people in all walks of life.

Gratitude is also the word which comes to mind for Divine Word Missionaries, Fr. Frank's family, and his many friends. We are all grateful that Fr. Kamp was a part of our lives and we will miss him.



Down on the Farm

First Impressions

Michael Hutchins SVD



Divine Word Farms is a relatively new undertaking of Divine Word Missionaries. I first learned of Divine Word Farms three years ago as I was beginning to discern my own future in ministry. The more I read and heard about the farms, the more interested I became. An eventual visit to the farms, encouraged by Mission Center director, Brother Dennis Newton SVD, sparked further interest, indeed excitement, about the possibility of my becoming directly involved in the ministry of Divine Word Farms. Three years after my initial introduction, I can happily report that I am now officially assigned to this ministry and have recently taken up residence at the Divine Word Farms in Weldon, Iowa.



Divine Word Missionaries engaged in the farms ministry with clear objectives. The farms are a financial investment intended to generate annual dollar support for several of our overseas ministries. The income from crop and livestock production assists established ministries serving people in serious need, like street children in Kinshasa, HIV/AIDS orphans in Thailand, and physically challenged youngsters in India. The effective operation of the farms helps ensure that some of God's children, those lacking the most basic levels of care, can discover the dignity that is their birthright. Bro. Dennis keeps this focus clearly before us.

The principal objective of Divine Word Farms is exciting. Also exciting are the means toward that objective. Cultivating the earth and managing livestock are public, visible demonstrations of the commitment of Divine Word Missionaries to make a difference for others. Getting our hands dirty and our boots muddy are expressions of our serious intention to care for God's children in



need. As we work with our farm staff, vendors, agricultural advisors, and neighbors, we create new channels for speaking the Good News. Some are still curious about who we are; others are wary, waiting to see if we are authentic; but many are eager to learn more about our ministry here and beyond. The potential for building Christian community through the farms is considerable. It will take patience, intelligence, creativity, and hard work to realize that potential.

For the past few years, I have preached at several weekend “mission appeal” Masses in parishes throughout Iowa. People have listened politely as I described in general terms the worldwide ministries of Divine Word Missionaries. Polite listening turned into active engagement when I began speaking more specifically about the Divine Word Farms project. By the expressions on their faces and the curiosity in their eyes, I could see that small town and rural Iowans “connected” to the farms concept and appreciated our decision to work for the benefit of others the land they love and know so well. In some, I recognized a desire to become more involved.

Almost one hundred acres of flourishing soybeans begin a stone’s throw from my back door. On either side of two nearby fishponds are 750 chestnut plantings. Framing much of the property are sections of both wild and managed timber. These are currently the basic elements of the Weldon farm. A few miles away is our large cattle herd. Scattered across the four counties south of Des Moines are other farms planted in row crops or trees. Some farms are enrolled in the government’s conservation program. How we care for this land is also an important Farms objective. As Divine Word Missionaries, committed to the sustainability of creation, we find here opportunities to encourage and partner with other groups sharing that commitment. Through Iowa State University and other organizations, expertise and information resources are readily available. Through *Divine Word Missionaries Magazine*, we have spotlighted the farms, illustrating the impact of global forces on agriculture around the world and its consequences especially for the poor. Through the farms, we can continue to raise awareness about the connections between local agriculture, international commodities markets, and world food supply.

Our plan is that the Weldon site will serve as something of an interpretive center where church and civic groups, as well as individuals, can learn more about the international congregation of Divine Word Missionaries, take time for personal reflection and spiritual renewal, and find ways to collaborate with us in caring for God’s children. Our plan will evolve as we become further acquainted with the local community and acquire more experience. Personally satisfying for me in my new ministry is the possibility of living daily close to



nature. For some years, the cycle of the seasons, the beauty of the countryside, its crops and vegetation, have been important sources of my prayer and spirituality. It is good now to live close to these sources and have time to appreciate them. On a clear night earlier in the summer, I stepped outside to a croaking chorus of what must have been ten thousand frogs. Amazing! The contemplative, Thomas Merton, once wrote: "One has to be alone, under the sky, before everything falls into place and one finds his own place in the midst of it all. We have to have the humility to realize ourselves as part of nature." I hope that eventually the Weldon site might afford others short-term retreat experiences attentive to the beauty of rural Iowa.

Pastoral involvement in the Diocese of Des Moines offers further opportunities to meet Catholic leaders and communities with a likely interest in the farms and the international outreach of Divine Word Missionaries. Bishop Richard Pates has extended a warm welcome to the Divine Word Missionaries now ministering in the diocese.

I feel privileged to take up my new ministry as a member of the Divine Word Farms team. The objectives are big enough to challenge all involved in this ministry. Effective financial management and productivity, creative social networking, strong teamwork, and challenging educational exchange, all centered in the vibrant spirituality of Divine Word Missionaries, will in time show the Divine Word Farms to be a rich resource for the care of God's children and the formation of Christian community. □



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MEET THE AUTHORS

Robert Riemer SVD is originally from Chicago. He professed first vows in 1952 and was ordained a priest in 1960. Father Riemer has served in education ministry in a variety of posts in Japan, including Nanzan University. Fr. Riemer holds a doctoral degree in sociology from Notre Dame University.

Anthony Rebello SVD was born in Nairobi, Kenya. He professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 1971 and was ordained in 1977. He is currently assigned to Divine Mercy Catholic Mission in Metsimothabe, Botswana.

Michael Hutchins SVD from Dubuque, Iowa, is assigned to the Divine Word Mission Center and resides in Weldon, Iowa. Father Hutchins professed first vows in 1972 and was ordained at Techny in 1975. For nearly his entire career, Fr. Hutchins has been involved in education, teaching high school in Los Angeles and later serving as president of Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Iowa.

Sergio Morales Rangel is from Riverside, California. He is currently a sophomore at Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa, where he is majoring in cross-cultural studies.

Valanarasu Arockiasamy SVD was born in Tamil Nadu, India. He professed first vows in 1991 and was ordained a priest in 1995. After ordination, Father Valan was assigned to Hong Kong where he spent the first two years studying Cantonese. From 1998 to 2003, he was involved in parish work. After graduate studies in London, Fr. Valan returned to Hong Kong. Since 2008, he has worked full-time as a chaplain to seafarers.



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