Help Divine Word Missionaries bring God’s love to people living in extreme poverty. You can be part of change, both physical and spiritual, for some of the poorest places on the planet.

Snap this QR Code or call toll free 800-275-0626
“Together with Blessed John Henry Newman, I would like to pray: ‘O Lord, accompany your missionaries in the lands to be evangelized, put the right words on their lips and make their labours fruitful.’ May the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and Star of Evangelization, accompany all Gospel missionaries.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Message for World Mission Day 2012
The 17th General Chapter elected Father Heinz Kulüke SVD the eleventh superior general of Divine Word Missionaries.

Fr. Kulüke was born on September 29, 1956, in Spelle, Germany. After his schooling in Spelle, he studied electronics and finished a year of military service in the air force.

Heinz joined Divine Word Missionaries in 1979 and professed his first vows on May 1, 1981. He was ordained in 1986 and assigned to the southern province of the Philippines. After three years of pastoral work, he was sent to the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., to obtain a master's degree in philosophy. For the next two years, he taught at the University of San Carlos in Cebu, Philippines. He then completed a doctoral degree in philosophy in Rome and returned to San Carlos as a professor of philosophy.

In 1998, Fr. Kulüke was elected provincial superior of the Southern Philippine Province and was subsequently reelected in 2008 and 2011.

While serving as a professor and later as a provincial, Fr. Heinz showed a deep commitment to the poor. He demonstrated this commitment by serving a community of over 1,000 men, women, and children who lived on a huge dump site in Cebu. Initially, he got to know the people by living there for a month in a small shanty. The children taught him how to become an effective scavenger. Although he is a brilliant philosopher, he admits the children filled their baskets with recyclable materials quickly, while his remained virtually empty.

After this introduction to life among the poor, Fr. Heinz devoted himself to advocating on their behalf, while still returning frequently to celebrate the sacraments, share a meal, and share in the lives of his impoverished parishioners.

Fr. Heinz will surely miss his teaching and his friends and parishioners at the garbage dump, but he will bring his love and commitment to the poor to his new job as leader of our missionary community.

Please pray for Fr. Heinz as he begins his new ministry.

Yours in the Divine Word,

[Signature]

Bro. Dennis Newton SVD
Mission Director
Contact me any time; my e-mail address is: director@svdmissions.org
Accused of Witchcraft
Phanuel Myers Agudu SVD
Eldery women, particularly those who have had difficult lives in poverty... Some also behave oddly because of old age... As a result, people think they are witches and make accusations against them.

Fu Shenfu Center: The Language of Love Is Spoken Here
Jan Wróblewski SVD
Fr. Olecki also met numerous migrants from Vietnam. It was providential that a young Divine Word Missionary from Vietnam, Father Vo Thanh Khanh SVD, had recently been assigned to the Polish Province, so he was able to minister to them.

Visiting Our Muslim Neighbors
Hendrikus Bala Wuwu SVD

The Missionary Dynamism Is Alive
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Pope Benedict XVI made an historic visit to greet the delegates at the 17th General Chapter of Divine Word Missionaries in Nemi, Italy.

Down on the Farm
Michael Hutchins SVD
The immediate aim of our garden project was the production of vegetables for distribution to area food banks.

Diamond Jubilee for a Gem of a School
Maximus Manu SVD

“Called to radiate the Word of truth”
(Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei, n. 6).

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We’d love to hear from you. 800-275-0626
In an August 2009 report to the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, attorney Philip Alston reported on the mistreatment of women and children accused of witchcraft. He wrote, “In too many settings, being classified as a witch is tantamount to receiving a death sentence.” Mr. Alston called the practice a “significant phenomenon in many parts of the world” (A/HRC/11/2, May 2009).

Accusations of witchcraft are most common “in countries that have suffered years of conflict, where traditional social structures have disappeared, and where child soldiers have often emerged as a threat” (Jill Schmoebele, Witchcraft Allegations, Refugee Protection and Human Rights, UNHCR, January 2009).

Divine Word Missionary Phanuel Myers Aguda SVD writes about one parish’s response to the unjust treatment of women accused of witchcraft in the Diocese of Yendi, Ghana.

The United Nations estimates that there are approximately 1,000 women and 700 children living in six camps in northern Ghana, where they have fled from threats and violence in their home communities. [Ed.]
Christ the King Parish is located in the Gushiegu District of Ghana, within the Diocese of Yendi in the Northern Region of our country. One of the scourges that our parishioners confront is the horrible treatment of women and children accused of witchcraft.

In many cultures, people believe that nothing happens by chance and that there must be a cause for everything that happens in life, good or bad. When something unfortunate happens, such as an accident, sickness, or death of a young person, people search for a cause. Perhaps a person dreams that she or he is being attacked, and the image of the attacker in the dream resembles an elderly woman in the village. After a series of misfortunes, a village may employ a soothsayer to identify witches in the community.

Sadly, women, especially poor women, become scapegoats. Elderly women, particularly those who have had difficult lives in poverty, often show physical signs of their hard life. Some also behave oddly because of old age. As a result, people think they are witches.
and make accusations against them. Rivalries, jealousy, and quarrels also result in accusations of witchcraft. After an accusation has been leveled, a victim is apprehended. Since these women cannot defend themselves against the accusations, they may be beaten, maltreated, psychologically tortured, or banished from their communities.

To accommodate the banished women, some NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) have established crude, primitive camps. Five camps for banished women exist in our diocese and three of the camps are in our parish at Gushiegu, Nabuli, and Kpatinga. The conditions in the camps are deplorable since most of the camps have no potable water, toilet facilities, or electricity.

Father Mariusz Pacula SVD and I enlisted the help of parishioners to bring some relief to the women by drilling a bore well and building proper sanitation facilities for one of the camps.

When the projects were completed, our parishioners and the women held a commissioning ceremony. Bishop Vincent Boi-Nai SVD of the Diocese of Yendi officiated. Members of the Gushiegu

...Bishop Boi-Nai condemned the evil treatment of the women and called on everyone to treat one another with love and dignity, just as Christ would do.
Those who continue the evil practice of accusing women of witchcraft must be confronted so the practice is eliminated.

parish, the local chief and elders, and representatives of the area’s council of churches also attended the ceremony.

In his speech, Bishop Boi-Nai condemned the evil treatment of the women and called on everyone to treat one another with love and dignity, just as Christ would do. The leader of the women expressed gratitude to the bishop, priests, and parishioners of the Gushiegu parish. On behalf of the other women, she appealed for assistance in obtaining food, healthcare, and lighting.

Here in Christ the King parish, we have accomplished some good things, but much remains to be done. The women in the camps must be given proper treatment and protection. Those who continue the evil practice of accusing women of witchcraft must be confronted so the practice is eliminated. This can be done through legislative action, awareness-raising campaigns, and education. First and foremost, we must never grow tired of overcoming the evil of superstition, false accusations, and cruel treatment with the love for one another that Jesus taught, “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you” (Jn. 15:12).
The present time, in fact, calls upon the Church to embark on a new evangelization also in the vast and complex phenomenon of human mobility. This calls for an intensification of her missionary activity both in the regions where the Gospel is proclaimed for the first time and in countries with a Christian tradition.

(Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the 98th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2012)

Already in the 1980s, Divine Word Missionaries in Poland were ministering to migrants and refugees, mostly foreign workers who were employed in the auto industry. By the 1990s, larger numbers of migrants and refugees were arriving from Chechnya, Ingushetia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and a number of African countries.

Father Edward Osiecki SVD, along with some Missionaries of Charity, began visiting centers where the refugees were housed. Fr. Osiecki also met numerous migrants from Vietnam. It was providential that a young Divine Word Missionary from Vietnam, Father Vo Thanh Khanh SVD, had recently been assigned to the Polish Province, so he was able to minister to them. Recognizing the growing needs of the
many groups of migrants. Divine Word Missionaries decided to open a center for refugees and migrants.

We dedicated the center to St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD, the first Divine Word Missionary to China, whose Chinese name was Fu Shenfu (fu means “happiness” and shenfu means “priest”). When he went to China in 1897, he was only twenty-seven years old, and he knew he would never return to his beloved homeland of Tyrol. He would become, in his own words, “a Chinese to the Chinese.”

We envisioned that the Fu Shenfu Migrant Center would be a place where people from many countries and cultures could come for support and assistance. We felt somewhat
“The language that all people understand is that of love.”

inadequate as we began to serve people from so many countries and cultures, but we took courage because of the words of St. Joseph Freinademetz: “The language that all people understand is that of love.”

The center provides assistance in several key areas: legal advice and assistance; help in finding employment; Polish language classes; as well as pastoral ministry and catechetical programs.

The center is busy all day long, buzzing with people and ideas. Visitors drop in for a cup of tea, use our computers, or just watch a little television.

We recently opened a chapel outside of Warsaw to cater to the large group of Asian migrants living there. On Saturday evenings, about 120 Vietnamese Catholics gather for Mass.
Divine Word Missionaries speak the language of HOPE

In over 70 counties, 6,000 Divine Word Missionaries work to bring HELP & HOPE to those in need.

We also offer Polish language classes for Vietnamese and Chinese speakers.

Our staff is organizing a symposium for Divine Word Missionaries in other European countries who are engaged in ministry to migrants.

Five Divine Word Missionaries work at Fu Shenfu Center: Brother Piotr PLiedziewicz, and Fathers Joachim Vo, Joseph Nguyen, Damian Chichy, and Jan Wroblewski.

The Divine Word Missionary Mission Center in Pińiezno is the chief financial supporter of the center, and we also invite our friends and benefactors to help us. Our provincial, Father Andrzej Danilewicz SVD, has established a registered foundation, which we hope will give us greater financial stability in the future. ▼

From Australia to Zambia, Divine Word Missionaries are there to help with guidance, courage, and the strength of God.

Help and hope are delivered through immediate needs such as food, clothing, medicine, and shelter.

You can help by giving a gift: to the poor and neglected to those who are hungry and in need.

Please use the enclosed envelope and GIVE A GIFT TODAY! at www.svdmisions.org
Visiting Our Muslim Neighbors

Hendrikus Bala Wuwur SVD

St. Joseph Parish is a very young parish established in 2007 in the Diocese of Djougou, northwestern Benin. There are thirteen mission stations located quite far from one another and from the parish center in Sonaboulou. Assode is one of those mission stations. It is a small village with a mostly Muslim population and a Catholic community of only twenty parishioners.

During the Eucharistic celebration in Assode on Sunday, November 6, many Muslim neighbors were drawn to the chapel by the music from the drums and the voices of the children’s choir. On the same day, members of the Muslim faith were celebrating their feast of Eid al-Adha.

After Mass, the catechist told me that we were invited to visit the Muslim community and the village king. The children, the adults, Sister Katarina of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, and I set out for the king’s palace. It is called a palace, but it is
actually a simple, traditional, brick building with a grass roof. Soon, a party-like spirit of joy and celebration swept over the town as people gathered with us and began to sing and dance.

The king and his advisers welcomed us and thanked us for joining them for a celebration. When it was my turn to speak, I said, “Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatulaihi Wabarakatu” (Peace be upon you . . .), the traditional Arabic greeting used by Muslims. This was natural for me, since I am from Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim country. They were so amazed at my greetings that they did not answer with the customary response. I thanked them for the friendship and fellowship they extended to us. After the formalities, we were served food and drink.

When it was time to leave, they did not want us to go. They were so happy to have us with them. We promised to come back for another visit. We were filled with joy from our experience of this exchange of friendship and dialogue in the simplicity of the West African context.

During an earlier visit to Assode, the Catholics asked me to show them the movie “Jesus of Nazareth.” In December, I returned there, bringing the equipment, including an electric generator, wires, projector, and loudspeakers, all donated by the Mission Center in Techny, Illinois, thanks to the kindness of a benefactor. I found out that the Catholics had informed the king that they were going to watch a movie about Jesus.
Having heard this plan, the king urged them to have the movie shown in the palace. I wondered if I should show this movie there. The catechist, however, assured me that they really wanted to watch the movie about Jesus and to be able to see the face of Jesus, since they have never seen the face of their great prophet, Muhammad.

I should mention here that, although Muslims do not believe all that we do about Jesus, they do respect Jesus as a prophet and honor Mary, his mother, as can be found in the Qur’an, their sacred scriptures.

When we arrived at the palace, I was amazed to see the crowd. There were about five hundred people, which included the twenty Catholics from the mission church!

I decided to meet briefly with the catechist and the Catholics to find out more about the situation. I asked whether the Muslims really accepted this situation or if they were angry. With a big smile, the lay minister convinced me that the Muslims themselves asked if they could watch this movie with us and were extremely excited. I felt very peaceful and set up the equipment. Before showing the movie, I gave a short speech as an introduction. I told the crowd that I came to show this movie about Jesus because the Catholics in the area had requested it. I also shared with them that if I had known that my brother and sister Muslims would join the Catholics to watch this show, I would have brought a different movie. Then I promised that I would come back to show a movie about Abraham, our common spiritual ancestor.
An elder among the Muslims raised his hand and confirmed that they were so happy to watch the movie about Jesus. As the film began, a parishioner informed me that not everyone understood French. I asked the catechist to interpret for the people as we watched. There was no microphone, so it was not easy for people in the back row to hear. However, all eyes were wide open and there was no noise. Everyone was silent and watched intently.

Some time later, I was very surprised when I looked at my watch. It was already near midnight and we were not close to the end of the movie. I asked the people whether we should stop and continue it at another time. No one gave me a response. They continued to watch until the end. Finally, I closed down the open-air movie theater. Everyone was so grateful and they asked me to come back again. I renewed my promise to return and show a movie about Abraham.

For me as a missionary, it was very inspiring that Muslims and Catholics shared this experience together. Even though we had different religious traditions, we gathered in friendship with a spirit of respect for one another. Our common faith in God united us and brought greater understanding between us. Whether they were Muslim or Catholic, genuine interest and spiritual desire opened people’s minds and hearts to God’s message made known in the life and teachings of Jesus. God was truly present and at work, calling us all to share together in his life, goodness, and love. I am glad that, in my work as a missionary, I help make that possible, for God’s mission is my mission. ▼
The Missionary Dynamism Is Alive

Dennis Newton SVD

On Monday, July 9, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI made an historic visit to greet the delegates at the 17th General Chapter of Divine Word Missionaries in Nemi, Italy. The pope arrived by car from his summer residence at nearby Castel Gandolfo.

The Holy Father was welcomed by the superior general, Father Antonio Pernia SVD, and Father Heinz Kulüke SVD, the superior general-elect, then proceeded to the chapel, where the 150 delegates greeted him with long and sustained applause. Pope Benedict spent a few minutes in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and then Fr. Pernia delivered some brief remarks.

In his address to the delegates, Pope Benedict recalled his first visit to our community at Nemi. As a young theologian, he was invited there to join the group of Cardinals, bishops, and theologians who drafted the decree on missions during Vatican Council II. The Holy Father said, “I have often thought of those days in Nemi which for me, as I said, were an essential part of the experience of the Council. And I’m happy to see that your Congregation flourishes—Father General spoke of six thousand members in so many countries, from so many nations. Clearly the missionary dynamism is alive, and it is alive only if there is the joy of the Gospel . . . Thank you for this dynamism of yours.”

On behalf of the superior general and the entire community, Father Felix Sunartha Kadek SVD and Father Antonius Eko Yuliantoro SVD presented to Pope Benedict a beautiful statue of the Blessed Mother that was crafted in Indonesia.
To read Pope Benedict’s message for World Mission Day, please visit our website: www.svdmmissions.org. Click on “Pope Benedict’s Message for Mission Sunday.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the celebration of World Mission Day has a very special meaning. The 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council and of the opening of the Year of Faith and of the Synod of Bishops on the theme of the New Evangelization contribute to reaffirming the Church’s desire to engage with greater courage and zeal in the missio ad gentes so that the Gospel may reach the very ends of the earth.

... the proclamation of the Gospel also becomes an intervention on behalf of one’s neighbour, justice for the poorest, the possibility of education in the most remote villages, medical aid in isolated places, emancipation from poverty, the rehabilitation of the marginalized, support for the development of peoples, overcoming ethnic divisions, and respect for life in all its stages.

From the Vatican, 6 January 2012
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

Make every day Mission Day...
Please remember our missionaries and the people they serve in your prayers.

Share Your Faith!
Down on the Farm

Michael Hutchins SVD

Divine Word Farm in Weldon, Iowa, profiles the commitment of Divine Word Missionaries around the world to care for God's children in need. Through its various undertakings, the farm seeks to exemplify the ministries of our missionaries, especially their good work among people facing some of life's severest challenges. A special farm undertaking this past summer was the development of a large vegetable garden.

The immediate aim of our garden project was the production of vegetables for distribution to area food banks. For different reasons, many individuals and families, even here in Iowa, have only limited access to nutritious, garden-fresh produce. From our garden, if in just a small way, we could address that deficiency.

Gardening is an interest many Iowans share. Equipped with a little knowledge about vegetable cultivation, one can strike up conversations just about anywhere. The garden project provided a familiar platform from which we could demonstrate the global concern of Divine Word Missionaries for issues of world hunger and malnutrition.

Summer 2012, with its record-breaking high temperatures and drought, did not provide ideal conditions for establishing the garden. Those conditions would have been insurmountable but for the exceptional skills and dedication of our two "sister gardeners," Sister Y Hu Tran LHC and Sister Que Thi Nguyen LHC. Both are currently students at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa. Born in central Vietnam, Sr. Y and Sr. Que acquired gardening skills at an early age. They and their siblings, from age ten on, shared in family gardening responsibilities. While the primary crop was rice, their families supplemented their diet and earned needed income by raising...
cabbages, cucumbers, green beans, tomatoes, and many kinds of lettuce. The demanding work required many hands for tilling the ground, carrying water, clearing weeds, applying natural fertilizers, and removing harmful insects. After entering the Lovers of the Holy Cross, the sisters continued to enhance their gardening skills by growing vegetables for community consumption and flowers for chapel decor.

When offered the opportunity to spend a summer at Divine Word Farm, the sisters responded positively. As Sr. Y expressed it, “Planting vegetables for the poor, hoping to bring them a little help, motivates me, brings me joy.” Their desire to care for the poor kept the sisters going to the garden every day. In the evenings, after sunset, they called upon those skills that they first learned in childhood and removed every weed between every row of peppers. They watered each of the seventy-four tomato plants and carefully plucked insect pests wherever they appeared. When asked how she might relate her gardening and her religious calling, Sr. Y responded, “Well, I pray for the poor while I do my work. I watch the vegetables grow as part of God’s mysterious creation.” The sisters brought clear know-how and religious inspiration to the Divine Word Farm garden project.

On a Sunday in late July, the sisters packaged up lettuce and zucchini for a trial distribution at a nearby parish. Within minutes every item had disappeared. Tomatoes, eggplants, and melons are still ripening as the sisters prepare to return to Divine Word College. But early indications are that the sisters helped promote the aims of this year’s Divine Word Farm garden project: A passionate care for the poor and a respectful cultivation of the earth. These are elements of a potentially transforming Gospel vision that all Divine Word Missionaries share.

Many of our missions rely on agriculture to provide food for the needy.

Help a mission become self-sufficient!

A gift from you today will transform whole communities and help eliminate hunger and poverty.

GIVE $21.40 and a mission farm could purchase TEN DUCKS

$25.72 could BUY A PIG

GIVE $52.63 and it could feed twenty pigs!

To give a gift TODAY—
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.svdmmissions.org
and click the DONATE NOW button.
Divine Word Missionaries opened the Fu Shenfu Center in Warsaw, Poland, to assist refugees and migrants. Complete the word search and learn more about Poland.

**Countries which border Poland**
- BELARUS
- CZECH (Republic)
- GERMANY
- LITHUANIA
- RUSSIA
- SLOVAKIA
- UKRAINE

**Highest point in Poland**
- RYSY

**Capital of Poland**
- WARSAW

**Colors on the Polish flag**
- RED
- WHITE

**Poland's primary agricultural products**
- POTATOES
- WHEAT
- POULTRY
- EGGS
- PORK
- DAIRY

ANSWERS: inside back cover
Diamond Jubilee
for a Gem of a School
Maximus Manu SVD

St. Paul Major Seminary, founded on May 5, 1937, celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on September 8, 2012. Built on a hill called Ledalero (a place where the sun is leaning), the seminary is located in the region of Sikka on the island of Flores in Indonesia.

The seminary has educated hundreds of Divine Word Missionaries, members of other religious communities, such as the Carmelites, Scalabrinians, Regationists, Camillians, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, as well as lay women and men who are committed to spreading the Gospel through their various professions.

The curriculum at St. Paul Major Seminary focuses on academic instruction; community and personal spiritual development; and mission theology and spirituality.

The large campus includes six large auditoriums for instruction, a library, campus center, administration building, and the recently dedicated Heinz Mundhenke Language Center, a gift from the Mundhenke family in Colorado.

St. Paul Seminary has experienced great successes and many achievements, but there have also been many challenges. Perhaps the greatest challenge came in December 1992, when an earthquake and deadly tsunami destroyed seventy percent of the campus. The rebuilding took years.

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and students of St. Paul Major Seminary, I extend our deepest gratitude for the support from our benefactors in the United States. I pledge our prayers and ask you to continue your prayers for us.
Handmade Dolls from Ecuador

HELP FUND

St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD Children’s Center with a $30 donation and receive a set of handmade dolls from Ecuador.

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The help the center achieve its four goals:
• Provide children with a nutritious meal each day
• Offer basic health care
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• Create a loving atmosphere based on Christian values

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OR CALL toll FREE at 800 275 0626
Douglas Young SVD is archbishop of Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea. Archbishop Young was born in Brisbane, Australia, and professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 1970. After his ordination in 1977, he received his mission assignment to Papua New Guinea. He was appointed archbishop of Mount Hagen in 2000.

Phanuel Myers Agudu SVD is from Fadome, Ghana. He entered Divine Word Missionaries in 2004, professed his perpetual vows in 2008, and was ordained to the priesthood in 2009. He is currently assigned to Christ the King Parish in Gushegu, Ghana.

Jan Wrablewski SVD was born in Chrozow, Poland. After profession of first vows in 1977 and perpetual vows in 1981, he was ordained a priest in 1982. Father Jan is currently rector of the community residence in Warsaw and vice provincial of the Polish Province.

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.

Maximus Manu SVD is from the island of Flores, Indonesia. Father Max professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 1993 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2000. After serving in parishes in Louisiana, he returned to Indonesia to serve on the staff of St. Paul Major Seminary in Leddero.

Remember Divine Word Missionaries in your Will

When you are preparing your Will or estate plan, please consider including Divine Word Missionaries. Through your legacy gift, you will help Divine Word Missionaries continue the Church's missionary work so generously supported during your lifetime.

You may plan a specific bequest. For example:

"I bequeath the amount of $____ to Divine Word Missionaries, a nonprofit corporation located in Techny, Illinois."

You may designate a more general bequest. For example:

"I bequeath ___% of my estate to Divine Word Missionaries, a nonprofit corporation located in Techny, Illinois."

A residual bequest directs that Divine Word Missionaries will receive all (or a specified portion) of your assets remaining after funeral costs, medical expenses, specific bequests, and administrative costs have been paid.

You may also discuss with your legal or tax advisor other options in your estate planning, for example using life insurance, retirement plans, and other financial resources to benefit the causes you have supported during your lifetime.

If you would like to discuss your estate planning with us, please contact us at:

Divine Word Missionaries
P.O. Box 6099 • Techny, IL 60062
800-275-0626