

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES
mission
update

Volume 1 • 2025

mission stories from around the world

svdmissions.org



EDITORIAL

“Every thought, every breath, every movement of my being for the greater honor and glory of God.”



As we were putting the last touches on this issue, we got word that Father Jerry Theis SVD passed away at the Divine Word Residence here at Techny. He was 92 years old. A colleague in the Mission Center called him “one of the last remaining giants” among the American Divine Word Missionaries who had served in Papua New Guinea.

Fr. Jerry arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1961, a year after his ordination. He was one of the first missionaries sent to the Kandep Region in the country’s western mountains. “It was a vast area, just opened, where no European or trader had been,” Fr. Jerry said in a 2015 interview with Chicago Catholic.

The people of that region were still using sticks for digging and stone axes for tools. In the same interview, Fr. Jerry said, “I wasn’t looking for adventure. I knew it would be difficult—but I didn’t know how difficult. No plumbing, electricity, phone or even a stove. I still strongly say my vocation is a vocation from God. I was able to survive in the remote area in a bush hut for eight years.

In 1969 he was reassigned to the Diocese of Mount Hagen (now an archdiocese) to serve as education secretary and supervisor of schools. Among the other titles he would hold were chair of the governing council of Holy Trinity Teachers College and vicar general of the archdiocese.

He retired to the Techny residence in 2013 at the age of 81. For several years he helped out at local parishes, remaining active in ministry as long as he could.

As we remember Fr. Jerry, I am humbled to share his favorite prayer: “Every thought, every breath, every moment of my being for the greater honor and glory of God.”

Thank you and God bless you for your support.
Yours in the Divine Word,

Bro. Daniel J. Holman SVD

Bro. Daniel Holman SVD
Mission Director

Contact me anytime, my email address is
director@svdmissions.org

**Thank you
for your
prayers & support!**



Street Mission

... Bro. Paul again visited those on the streets. He saw children, hungry, finding shelter in alleyways, garbage dumps and doorways.

Jim Zabransky SVD



6

YEAR OF HOPE DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Maria Marta Przywara SSPs



10

a Face to Mission a profile on Father Jerry Orbos SVD

Jeffrey Westhoff



16

Historic Visit

Pope Francis preaches courage and joy in Papua New Guinea

Józef Roszyński SVD



STAY
IN
TOUCH



Divine Word Missionaries Mission Center • P.O. Box 6099 • Techy, Illinois 60082-6099

The Society of the Divine Word is an international Catholic missionary congregation.
 Divine Word Missionaries work in over 79 different lands on all continents except Antarctica.

Website: SVDMISSIONS.ORG

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES MISSION UPDATE • Volume 1, 2025 • issued quarterly • Subscription \$20.00 a year

Editorial Team: Bro. Dan Holman SVD ● Carmelita J. Linden ● Jeffrey Westhoff ● Jorge Zetino SVD



When he began his vocation, Brother Paul Bongcaras SVD never imagined he would have a ministry with street children in his home country of the Philippines.

While studying guidance and counseling in the southern Philippine city of Cebu, Bro. Paul became aware of the many children living on the street. Children who struggle to survive, hungry, often exposed to violence, and with lack of access to education and healthcare. These children, mostly boys, are abandoned, homeless or the product of broken families. Bro. Paul made time to get to know them and help them.

Street Mission

In 1977, Father William Liebert SVD, a Divine Word Missionary from Kansas, heard about Bro. Paul's involvement with these children and invited him to Papua New Guinea. This began a 15-year ministry with the children Papua New Guinea society called "rascals." He soon became a "big brother" to them.

By Jim Zabransky SVD

Bro. Paul looks after those shunned by society in the Philippines

Returning to Cebu City in 2001, Bro. Paul again visited those on the streets. He saw children finding shelter in alleyways, garbage dumps and doorways. They had no safe home, love or security. They needed food. They needed healthy meals. Together with a group of volunteers, Bro. Paul purchased a house that became the Children's Community Kitchen. This was Cebu City's first house dedicated to abandoned children.

Initially, Children's Community Kitchen served lunch for 30 to 40 children. The program soon expanded to include breakfast and supper. The program grew to provide housing for several boys giving them a safe place to sleep and the chance to go to school.



Bro. Paul began to see that street children lived in constant fear of capture, abuse and exploitation by human trafficking. To combat this problem, he partnered with social workers and set up a system of surveillance to intervene when a suspected trafficker approached someone vulnerable.

This team also runs a program to aid trafficking victims and survivors, helping them meet some basic needs for survival, including health checks and education. In turn, those saved by this program were trained to help others rescued from trafficking. This program continues today.

Drugs as well plague those living on the streets. The marginalized and exploited are easy targets. Bro. Paul started a local chapter of Narcotics Anonymous, where users come together for support and share their stories. Many of them, in turn, go on to help others.

Violence is another major problem in the city. When Bro. Paul learned of the Nonviolent Communication program, he introduced it as a new way of life for prisoners, former prisoners, people living with HIV, street children and families. People who serve the community are also trained, including social workers,





educators, school administrators, students, police and parents.

Overcoming violence with peaceful communication is a priority for all Divine Word Missionaries.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, senior citizens and many others were not allowed to leave their homes. As a result, Bro. Paul, along with Divine Word Missionary priests, Brothers and students, took action. They focused on housing projects, the slums and the homeless. They distributed sacks of

rice, canned goods, noodles and medicines. Every week they fed several hundred people. This program, called Friends of the Poor, continues to this day.

I joined Bro. Paul on one of his nightly visits to people in the streets. We brought along a bag of 100 cookies for the children. Hearing that we were coming, they lined up eagerly awaiting our arrival. It took all of five minutes before the cookies were gone, and so were the children. This didn't discourage Bro. Paul.



Moments later, he was having a lengthy conversation with a woman and her young child and a disabled man sitting in a fabric chair along the road.

Bro. Paul doesn't give just food and advice; he also gives his friendship. He does not judge, but offers love and acceptance to those often rejected by society. He is a prophetic reminder of Jesus the Brother, who told his followers, "And you are all brothers" (Matthew 23:8). That may be Bro. Paul's greatest gift of all. ●





According to United Nations sources, there are over 150 million street children worldwide. On the streets, children spend their days begging. On the streets children face discrimination and are at risk of exploitation and abuse. Denied access to education, essential health services, and social protection, they have little or no chance to go to school or learn skills needed for their futures. They are confined to a life of even deeper poverty and deprivation.

Divine Word Missionaries want to support children in the Philippines and all the countries we serve.

That's why we need your help.

svdmissions.org

Give a gift TODAY!
Make an **IMPACT.**
Around the world!



Want to read this story in Spanish?
svdmissions.org/mision-callejera

*Misión Callejera
El Hermano Paul cuida de los marginados en Filipinas*



**snap the
QR
code**

HOPE

YEAR OF HOPE DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

By Maria Marta Przywara SSpS



Editor's Note:
Sister Maria Marta Przywara SSpS is a Holy Spirit Missionary Sister in Ukraine. Serving in Kyiv, she has been reporting on the war in Ukraine since Russia invaded three years ago. We recognize that the situation in that embattled nation is changing quickly. This article is current as of Jan. 20, 2025.

The Holy Father has declared 2025 the year of hope. This is very apt, especially for us living in Ukraine. For us Christians, hope is a virtue that we relate first and foremost to the Lord God, placing our trust in him and in his mercy.

In Ukraine, all the people I know look forward to the end of the war and the coming of a just peace. They look forward to the return of their sons, husbands and fathers from captivity. Thousands of people are missing, and no one knows what has happened to them. Their mothers, wives and children are also waiting with the hope that they will happily return home to them.

The hospitals are filled with the wounded. Some soldiers no longer have any hope of seeing the light due to the loss of their sight. Others have no hope of returning to their previous activities due to the loss of their limbs.

When visiting wounded soldiers in hospitals, my fellow Sisters, simply try to be close to them, to bring a smile, to pray with them and to listen. Sometimes the Sisters will cook or bake a dish for the wounded soldiers they visit, to express their love and gratitude. Such simple gestures are very precious, especially to those who are far from their loved ones.

HOPE



We live in hope that after three years, the end of this terrible war is coming. Humanly speaking, there is little sign of this, but we believe that nothing is impossible for God. Not only do we believe, but we are taking spiritual action to make this request of God.

In our parish, for example, every evening at 9 p.m. many families, together with the priest and the Sisters, pray the Rosary together, connecting by telephone. There are many such spiritual armies throughout Ukraine. Soldiers often ask us to pray and testify to the miracles God performs before their eyes, allowing them to miraculously emerge from the battlefield.

The danger of loss of life or disability is real not only on the battlefield, but throughout the country, attacked al-

most every day (sometimes several times a day) by Russian drones and missiles. I never thought before that I would read the biblical words that say “two shall be in one place, and one shall be taken and the other left” (Luke 17:34-35) in the context of war. There are many situations in Ukraine where a family is staying together in a house and one member of the family is killed and another is left alive.

A few months ago in Lviv, a couple living in an apartment building took refuge with their three children in the corridor. When the father returned to their apartment to fetch water,

a rocket hit and took the lives of his entire family.

In Odessa, a woman with a small infant was killed by the fragments of a rocket. Her pastor husband, who was in another room, survived.

In Zaporizhzhia, two young people met each other in the basement when they were hiding during the shelling. They fell in love and were married. Soon after their wedding day, they were killed in their apartment. A rocket hit their building, the same building that housed our apartment several years ago when we were ministering there.

There are many similar situations throughout. In cities, the most vulnerable are very often killed: children, young people, women and the elderly.

HOPE

"The Lord will guard



At Christmastime, our Sisters ministering at St. Nicholas Church in Kyiv, along with priests and parishioners, experienced a major shock. Sister Elżbieta Rosińska SSpS was preparing the altar for the Christmas morning Mass. Just before the start of Mass, fragments of an enemy drone fell on the building opposite the church. Falling

glass littered the road and reached as far as the church. In fact, several windows in the church itself burst. A boy who was kneeling after just entering the church was knocked to the ground by the explosion's shockwave.

While Sister Viktoriia Sarkisian SSpS was still at home that morning, she heard the alarm and for a moment wondered whether to take refuge in the metro or go to church. She chose to go to Mass because the alarms are so frequent here that sometimes people wind up sitting in the metro all day and all night.

It is a seven-minute walk from her home to the church. Shortly after leaving the house, she heard the first explosion, followed momentarily by another. She stopped to take shelter between apartment buildings. Two drones hit nearby buildings. Divine Providence was watching

over her. If she had reached the church at that time, she would have been injured, if not by shrapnel, then by falling glass when the shrapnel hit the building opposite the church. In fact, none of the people who came to the 7:15 a.m. Mass that day was injured. No one arrived at the time of the explosion. "The Lord will guard your coming and going" (Psalms 121:8) says Scripture. This Word and this hope accompany us in our daily life in Ukraine.

After a recent Sunday Mass, one of our parishioners told me about an incident that took place before Christmas in Boryspil. A Russian drone had hit a supermarket depot on the outskirts of the city. The man, who works there as a security guard, was just coming off his night shift and was relieved by a colleague.

The colleague, performing his tasks conscientiously, did not allow the workers to leave early for their break in the upstairs dining room. Just as people were about to leave for their break, a drone struck the upper floors, destroying the massive freezers and everything in there. At most, people lost their documents and personal belongings. They survived, thanks to someone's attention to duty.

Living with a real sense of danger to life mobilizes many of us to live our time more consciously as a pilgrim-

your coming and going” (Psalms 121:8)

age on the road to eternity. When I go to bed, I know that I may not live to see the morning, and when I leave home, that I may not return. Money put aside or possessions accumulated can burn up in an instant. We try to value what is lasting, which includes serving others, relationships in the community, talking, laughing and helping. We try to help anyone who asks for that help or we know needs it.

During these three years of war, we have reached out to help people we did not know before. The situation has forced us to constantly go beyond the boundaries of our church, parish and town and reach out to people who have been particularly affected by the war. This often calls for distributing food, hygiene products, medicines, medical equipment, generators and the donation of used ambulances or other vehicles to the front. This would not have been possible without the sacrificial help of so many people of goodwill.

Every day we pray for all our benefactors, those who support Divine Word Missionaries as well as Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. ●



a Prayer for Ukraine

Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us
*“Blessed are the Peacemakers
for they shall be called
Children of God.”*

In this time of great worry, we fervently pray that Your Holy Spirit sustain all the people of Ukraine to be vigilant and dedicated to peace and justice. Grant their leaders wisdom and prudence. Yet, may they also have the strength and perseverance to defend their land from all adversity and foreign attacks. Help us all to live according to your Divine Will.

*O God, our Father, in the days to come, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the faithful departed into Your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask also that the Most Holy Mother of God extend her blessed mantle of protection over our Ukraine.
Amen.*

Source:
Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family

“a Face to Mission”

*a profile on
Father Jerry Orbos SVD*

By Jeffrey Westhoff



In his home country of the Philippines, Father Jerry Orbos SVD has built a ministry founded on mass communication. He has taken his message to radio, television and social media while also finding the time to write a series of popular inspirational books.

In the 1990s, after becoming head of the mission office for the Philippines—Central Province, Father Jerry went on the airwaves to promote and raise funds for Divine Word Missionaries. On the radio he presented the Missionary Minute—brief, daily stories about Divine Word Missionaries—and on television he celebrated Mass. Being on television, Fr. Jerry said, “gave a face to the mission.”

Through his radio and TV work, Fr. Jerry quickly gained a reputation as an inspirational speaker and was also in demand as a retreat leader.



YouTube

Search

God's Call to Humble Generosity | Sunday Gospel Reflection | 10 Nov 2024 with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD

Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD
3264 subscribers

Subscribe

2K

Share

Download

“I speak plain, simple and joyfully,”



“I speak plain, simple and joyfully,” he said. “I speak from the heart. I’m not afraid to speak from the heart. I believe in modern-day parables and simple messages.”

Nowadays, Fr. Jerry’s outreach is through social media. He has 321,000 subscribers on YouTube and 754,000 followers on Facebook. He made the transition online during the COVID pandemic and hasn’t looked back. “It was simple, simple” to make the change, he said. “Before we knew it, we had a lot of followers on social media.”

Fr. Jerry found himself readjusting his message as he switched to online media. “The only thing that really started selling, especially during the pandemic,” he said, “was the message of joy and the message of hope.”

He delivers his message with a deep, reassuring voice punctuated by the occasional chuckle. His YouTube videos range between homilies and short inspirational messages. Most of his videos end with the benediction, “God bless you, and Mama Mary loves you!”

Fr. Jerry was born in 1953 in San Carlos on Negros Island in the central Philippines. His journey to become a Divine Word Missionary began at home. His mother, who had three sons and two daughters, wanted a priest in the family. “That was the dream,” Fr. Jerry recalled. His older brother, Oscar, entered the minor seminary first, but left after the first year. Middle son Jerry entered the minor seminary next in 1966 when he was 12 years old. His younger brother, Tim, also would enter the seminary, but left after Fr. Jerry was ordained, joking that “I was just the backup.”

“... the message of joy and the message of hope.”

One member of the family, Fr. Jerry's grandmother, believed he was the brother destined to become a priest. He remembers her as a prayerful woman, always holding her rosary. When he entered the seminary, she told him: "Jerry, I will pray for you to become a priest. I will wait for you."



His time in formation wasn't always easy, especially his younger years in the minor seminary. "I was homesick," he said, "but there was always the call." As he continued his education, he was inspired by Divine Word Missionaries from Germany and the United States who taught at Christ the King Seminary and the "beautiful stories" they told about mission work around the world.

Fr. Jerry was ordained to the priesthood on Oct. 25, 1980. On the same day, his grandmother died at the age of 98. "She literally waited for me," he said. "My first Mass was a funeral Mass for my grandmother, who waited for me."

Fr. Jerry's first assignment was to Manila, the capital of the Philippines, but in 1983 the Generalate asked him to join the founding team of Divine Word Missionaries in Korea. The invitation came from the Diocese of Suwon. By the time the team arrived in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, on Aug. 20, 1984, Fr. Jerry was its leader.

Being the first team to enter a new mission country was both exciting and difficult, Fr. Jerry recalled. "It was an adventure," he said, "but it was where the Lord was leading us. ... There were no SVD before us. We had to learn everything."

Describing the Catholic Church in Korea as

"rich" but "structured," Fr. Jerry said, "We thought we could be some kind of witness." Specifically, they wanted to showcase the internationality of Divine Word Missionaries. The founding team consisted of two priests from the Philippines and one from Australia. They were later joined by missionaries from India and Poland.

Fr. Jerry returned to the Philippines in 1989 to serve as vocation director and then director of the mission office, a role he kept for 23 years. As mission director, Fr. Jerry oversaw fund raising for Filipino missionaries serving abroad. He noted that 120 Divine Word Missionaries from the Philippines currently serve in 40 other countries.

It was in his role as mission director that Fr. Jerry became a radio and television personality as a way to promote the missions. He became popular throughout the country. Then in 1999, he had to put his broadcast work on hold. Doctors had discovered a tumor on his throat.



“God speaks to us in simple moments. It could be an event, a song you heard, an experience, a joke. ...”

Even though it turned out to be benign, in the course of his treatment doctors had to scrape his vocal chords. He was unable to speak for months.

But Fr. Jerry didn't let that slow down his outreach ministry. If he couldn't speak, he would write. He would write a book that would prove popular in the Philippines and would also complement his broadcast ministry.

His first book, “Moments,” was published in 1999. It is a collection of easy-to-read spiritual stories, essays and reflections—what the author calls “moments.” “I believe in moments spirituality,” he said. “God speaks to us in simple moments. It could be an event, a song you heard, an experience, a joke. ... I was sharing moments of my life.”

Fr. Jerry has written 10 further books in the Moments series. The titles include “Candid Moments,” “Happy Moments” and “Cleansing Moments.” The most recent book is “Senior Moments,” a cheerful acknowledgement that he is now 72 years old.

For the next several years, Fr. Jerry's multimedia mission outreach flourished as he continued to share stories of Divine Word Missionaries and tell people, with typical wordplay, to find happiness in God's love. “That is basically what I am trying to tell people. Just to be joyful. ... Focus on the Lord, not the load.”

Then in 2018, he faced a more serious health crisis. “The game changer, in many ways,” he said, “was the cancer.”

In February 2018, Fr. Jerry was diagnosed with stage 2 lung cancer—even though he had never smoked. What followed was a long treatment that included chemotherapy, loss of appetite, many days of weakness and uncertainty. But he kept a positive outlook throughout with the slogan “Humor, not the tumor.” And then the day came that doctors told Fr. Jerry the cancer was gone and he would recover.

“The Lord planned that I would recover and stand as a witness to cancer,” he said. Fr. Jerry is now an advocate for cancer patients and for creating awareness of the disease. The book he wrote about his cancer journey, published in 2020, was titled “Healing Moments.”

Now based at Christ the King Seminary in Quezon City, Fr. Jerry devotes most of his time to his social media ministry, though he does say Mass every Sunday. He is also the superior delegate for the Philippines – Central Province, which means he keeps tabs on Philippine missionaries when they return to their home country for family visits or additional education.

Having so many followers on Facebook and YouTube has made Fr. Jerry popular in the Philippines—and among Filipino communities in the United States—but he defers his popularity to God’s grace.

“The people know me, recognize me or remember me,” Fr. Jerry said. “Well, that’s OK, but what touches me most is when people tell me, ‘Hey, I felt the presence of God in you. God spoke to me through you.’ ... That’s what I treasure most.”

He continued, **“I am happy to be an instrument, unworthy as I am. Maybe that sums up what being a Divine Word Missionary is for me.”**



Historic Visit

Pope Francis preaches courage and joy in Papua New Guinea

By Józef Roszyński SVD



When Pope Francis came to Papua New Guinea in September, the purpose of his visit was a basic one: to spread a message of courage, faith and joy.

Why did he come from so far away? He said: “I have come here to encourage the Catholic faithful to continue their journey and to confirm them in their profession of faith. I have come to rejoice with them in the progress they are making and to share their difficulties. I am here, as St. Paul would say, as a “worker with you for your joy” (2 Cor 1:24).



When his visit was announced, some of us had mixed feelings. We were joyful that Pope Francis would remember such a young church in a faraway land. Yet we were also worried. Could our poor country and church shoulder the cost of the visit and all that is connected with it? The pope’s wish to visit one of our remote dioceses while here was another worry. There were some simple questions and difficult logistics. All of our planes have folding stairs attached to the exterior doors. How would he be able to get off the plane in his wheelchair?

Pope Francis’ visit to our country was part of an apostolic journey to the Pacific that also included stops in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Singapore. As the bishop of the Diocese of Wewak, it was my privilege to travel with the pope during the days he spent in

courage, faith & joy

Papua New Guinea from Friday, Sept. 6, to Monday, Sept. 9. Yet his schedule was so compact with meetings with various groups there was no time for him to share even one meal with the bishops.

After his late-evening arrival Friday from Indonesia and brief welcome from the government in the capital city of Port Moresby, Francis went to rest in the nunciature, which is the Vatican's equivalent of an embassy.

Rousing Greeting

All the streets along the route from the airport to the nunciature were crowded with hundreds of thousands of people who assembled early to get a glimpse of the pope. People prayed and sang, waving torchlights, candles and banners as the pope passed by. The cheerful spirit was tangible. I was filled with joy to see the respect and love people had for Pope Francis. Papua New Guinea is a Christian country, and though we have many



denominations and sects, all came together to recognize this man who represents Jesus.

Saturday started with the pope meeting the leaders of Papua New Guinea's government, followed by a separate meeting with other heads of Pacific nations. After that, Francis met with 100 selected individuals from various ranks and professions, all united by their contributions to the Church and the nation. Among them were the nephews of our Blessed Peter To Rot, a catechist murdered by occupying Japanese forces during World War II. Pope John Paul II declared To Rot's martyrdom during his second visit to Papua New Guinea in 1995.

During this session, the pope took time to chat with children dressed in traditional attire. A reporter asked me what the pope was giving the children. When I asked one of the children, he said, "Lollies, sweets." Francis might be the first pope to give sweets to children. He was giving rosaries as well, but to adults.

After a short break for lunch, Francis went to a secondary school to meet with street children of Port Moresby. Many children asked, "Holy Father, why I am not as other children?"

The pope answered in a very inspiring way. He said, "In the eyes



of God we are all different. Yet God has a plan for each one of us and a mission. It is important is that we fulfill the mission in the best way we can."

The children really enjoyed themselves with the pope. As kids do, they related to him with no sense of societal barriers or limits. They danced and sang and hugged with lots of smiles.

'Closeness, Compassion and Tenderness'

From meeting with the children, the pope went to the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, which was filled beyond its capacity with priests, seminarians and bishops. He told us: "Dear brothers and sisters, let us thank the Lord together for how the Gospel has taken root and continues to spread in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Carry on your mission as witnesses of courage, beauty and hope! And

do not forget the style of God: closeness, compassion and tenderness. Always move forward with this style of the Lord! I thank you for what you are doing, and I bless you all from my heart. And I ask you, please, do not forget to pray for me, because I need it. Thank you!"

As he left, he added, "Pray for me, not against me," with a big smile.

Sunny Sunday brought an early-morning Mass at Sir John Guise Stadium. People started gathering at midnight for the morning Mass. The Gospel reading for that Sunday was about the healing of the deaf and mute. Pope Francis told us: "Courage, people of Papua New Guinea! Do not be afraid! Open yourselves! Open yourselves to the joy of the Gospel; open yourselves to encounter God; open yourselves to the love of your brothers and sisters. May none of us remain deaf or mute before this invitation."

After the Mass, Francis went to the airport to take a two-hour flight to the Diocese of Vanimo, which is on the peripheries of both our country and the world. The Australian army supplied a plane that was adapted to suit the pope's wheelchair and his entourage on this this leg of his journey.

Thousands gathered at Vanimo Airport to welcome him, to pray together and listen to his words.

At Holy Cross Cathedral, the pontiff exchanged his mitre for a traditional Papua New Guinea headdress made of kapul fur and decorated with bird of paradise feathers.



‘Experts in Beauty’

In his speech in Vanimo he said: “You are ‘experts’ in beauty here because you are surrounded by beauty! You live in a magnificent land, enriched by a great variety of plants and birds. One cannot help but be amazed by the colors, sounds and scents, as well as the grandiose spectacle of nature bursting forth with life, all evoking the image of Eden!”



“The Lord entrusts this richness to you as a sign and an instrument, so that you too may live united in harmony with him and with your brothers and sisters, respecting our common home and looking after one another.”

After a late Sunday night return to Port Moresby, Monday brought a busy morning and a return to Sir John Guise Stadium to speak to the youth of Papua New Guinea, who traveled from all parts of the country. Some trekked for two weeks, crossing mountains and rivers. Some came on bicycles.

The atmosphere and the attitudes of the young people made

it an enjoyable and memorable experience. The pope asked the young: “If one falls, do we leave him there or what do we do?”

“Lift them up,” the youth answered.

The pope continued, “Do the young do mistakes? Do they fall? Shall we leave them or what? ... No, we have to lift them up.” Then in a clever way he asked them not so much if the pope makes mistakes but if people his age also make mistakes, also fall.

The young people answered, “Yes!”

“So what do we do with them?”

“Lift them up!”

Pope Francis also stressed to his audience: “You who are young must have the restlessness of heart to care for others. You must have the restlessness of making friends with each other. You must care for the one thing that I am going to say to you now, which perhaps may seem a little strange. There is a very important relationship in the life of a young person: the closeness to the grandparents. Do you agree with that?”

The young people again responded, “Yes!”

Encouraging Words

The Pope’s attitude and words made a profound impact on our Christian nation. Worshippers of all denominations had many





positive comments about his kindness and openness. He strengthened us and affirmed us in what we do.



He told us, "The most precious gift you can share with everyone is to make Papua New Guinea famous not only for its variety of plant and animal life, its enchanting beaches and clear sea, but famous above all for the good people you meet here. I say this especially to you children, with your contagious smiles and your exuberant joy, which spreads out in every direction. You are the most beautiful image that visitors can take with them and keep in their hearts!

"I encourage you, then, to continue to beautify this happy land with your presence as a loving church."

We the bishops of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands didn't have a special moment during this final program to shake hands with Pope Francis, but we were able to interact with him each day he was here. I managed to get a special blessing for my Diocese of Wewak from him and recorded it on my phone.

After Pope Francis left for Timor-Leste, I had the privilege to return home in the small car he had used and to sit in his same seat. Escorted by a police vehicle, I waved to the people and they joyfully responded. The pope's visit with his simplicity, joy and boundless energy impressed on all of us unforgettable image of one who is joyfully sharing the Gospel. ●



1875 Legacy Society

Remembering Divine Word Missionaries in your Will is a powerful way to leave a meaningful legacy

The simplest way to support Divine Word Missionaries is through cash gifts. But creative gifts of assets can include stocks, bonds, and property. These not only provide you with charitable deductions, but often offer additional tax savings as well.

Choose the category of assets below that best fits your situation.



BEQUEST IN YOUR
WILL.



RETIREMENT
ASSETS.



LIFE INSURANCE.



DONOR ADVISED
FUNDS.



STOCKS AND
BONDS.



REAL ESTATE.

Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.

Have you already included us
in your Will?

Let us know so we can

Thank You!

For more informations about
different ways to include
Divine Word Missionaries
in your Will or estate plan call...

📞 1-800-275-0626

✉️ legacy@svdmissions.org

MASS REQUEST.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A HOLY MASS.

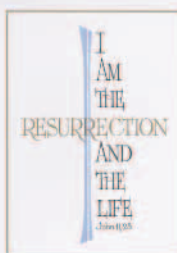
svdmissions.org online MASS REQUESTS

See how quick and easy
it is to request a Mass

Divine Word Missionaries are honored to pray with you for your special intention.

- Your Mass will be celebrated by our missionaries overseas.
- Your offering supports our missionaries and the people they serve.
- Mass requests are also available by calling 1-800-275-0626.

Mass cards can be sent to an honoree or a family member.



○ Sympathy Card 1



○ Sympathy Card 2



○ Sympathy Card 3



○ Sympathy Card 4



○ Birthday Card 1



○ Birthday Card 2



○ Get Well Card 1



○ Get Well Card 2

Divine Word Missionaries
P.O. Box 6099
Techny, Illinois 60082-6099

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Divine Word
Missionaries

Give a gift TODAY! Make an **IMPACT.**
Around the world!

Divine Word Missionaries
sesquicentennial



Give a gift on line or use the enclosed envelope at the center of this magazine. PLEASE add your name, address and GIFT CODE to the form.

**No one should
have to drink
dirty water.**

Give Once

Give Monthly

\$500

\$300

\$150

\$50

\$25

Visit our website at
svdmissions.org/water

Or send your gift by mail to:
Divine Word Missionaries/150
PO BOX 1835 Waukegan Rd
Techny IL 60082-6099

**Yet in many parts of the
world people don't have safe,
clean water to drink.**



Give the gift of clean water!