

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

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**  
Divine Word  
Missionaries

**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.**

# Make today your Mission Day



**Snap this  
QR Code or**

**call toll free  
800-275-0626**

# Divine Word

**Missionaries Magazine**

Mission Updates from around the World

Winter 2013



# Editorial



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.svdmissions.org**  
and click the **DONATE NOW** button.

Every three years, the Church celebrates World Youth Day. This year, World Youth Day will be celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from July 23–28, 2013. The Holy Father announced on August 24, 2011, that the theme would be: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28:19).

The official website of WYD ([www.rio2013.com](http://www.rio2013.com)) announces the twofold goals: “The main goal of WYD is let youth know about Christ’s message. It is also true that through them (the young people) the young ‘face’ of Jesus is shown to the world.”

On July 24, 2012, the Holy Father published the official prayer of World Youth Day.

## **PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY**

Oh, Father, You sent Your Eternal Son to save the world and chose men and women, through Him, with Him and in Him, to proclaim the Good News to all nations. Grant us the graces necessary so that joy may shine in the faces of all young people, the joy of being, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the evangelists the Church needs in the Third Millennium.

Oh Christ, Redeemer of humanity, the image of Your open arms on the top of Corcovado welcomes all people. In Your paschal offering, You brought us by the Holy Spirit to an encounter of sonship with the Father. Young people, who are fed by Eucharist, hear You in Your Word and meet You as their brother, need your infinite mercy to run the paths of the world missionary-disciples of the New Evangelization.

Oh Holy Spirit, Love of the Father and the Son, with the splendor of Your Truth and the fire of Your Love, send Your Light to all young people so that, driven by their experience of World Youth Day, they may bring to the four corners of the world faith, hope and charity, becoming great builders of a culture of life and peace and catalysts of a new world. Amen !

Divine Word Missionaries invites you to join Catholics around the world to pray for God’s blessing on World Youth Day.

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

## The Blood of Martyrs: Brother Eugene Frank SVD

*Douglas Young SVD*

2

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." These words are inscribed on the monument constructed at the site where Bro. Eugene was fatally attacked by angry, warring tribesmen on January 7, 1935.

## Caring for the Living Inside a Cemetery

*Max Abalos SVD*

6



## For It Is in Giving That We Receive

*Long Phi Nguyen SVD*

10

... we seek to help students develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, and, of course, spiritually. Twice each year, we offer students the opportunity to participate in mission service trips . . .



13



Chilean  
Dobladitas

## Trusting in God That Things Will Change

*Theresa Carson*

14

MISSION NEWS UPDATE

## A Cedi Saved Is a Cedi Earned

*Francis Kowal SVD*

16



Credit Union  
Chicken Farm  
Uniforms

## Down on the Farm *Michael Hutchins SVD*

18

In the light of today's ecological crisis, our concern for the well-being of future generations leads us to commit ourselves to working for a sustainable environment and to adopting a way of life that witnesses to the importance of environmental concerns . . .



page 16

page 9

Three cemeteries in Cebu City, Philippines, are teeming with children. Often both parents work at the cemetery as grave diggers, candle and flower vendors, caretakers, and tombstone makers.



## **The Blood of Martyrs: Brother Eugene Frank SVD**

*Douglas Young SVD*

**“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” These words are inscribed on the monument constructed at the site where Bro. Eugene was fatally attacked by angry, warring tribesmen on January 7, 1935. This ancient Christian saying describes well the life and death of Brother Eugene Frank SVD, cofounder with Father William Ross SVD, of the Highlands mission and pioneer missionary in Mount Hagen in Papua New Guinea.**

**By Eastertime 1934, Fr. Ross and Bro. Eugene had begun their mission among the Mokei, a Melpa-speaking people who live in the shadow of the towering Mount Hagen.**



A Melpa saying describes the people's first reaction to the partnership of the very tall Bro. Eugene and the very short Fr. Ross: "*Wu etemb e ken wu rulg e ken kung wantpent,*" which literally means "A short man and a tall man can't work together to carry a pig tied to a pole on their shoulders." This saying is often used to describe and even mock two people trying to do something that they cannot do together because of a physical or mental difference.

It was strange for the Mokei people to see a very short and a very tall man working together to establish the first mission station in Wilya, near the present-day city of Mount Hagen. However, the two missionaries dismissed this observation of the people and worked together very well.

Bro. Eugene was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois, on December 21, 1900. He professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary on November 1, 1924. Before coming to Papua New Guinea, he worked in

the bakery of Divine Word Seminary in Girard, Pennsylvania. Mary Mennis, who interviewed Fr. Ross shortly before his death in 1973, quotes what Fr. Ross wrote of his assistant:

Brother Eugene's work in New Guinea, both on the coast and here in Mount Hagen, is living refutation of the oft-heard statement that Americans cannot make good missionaries. He has enjoyed excellent health since he shook the dust of the Girard bakery off his apron and donned the long white cassock of the New Guinea missionary. He has had no malaria. Sound sleeper with good appetite, cheerful and ready for any hardship, punctual and faithful of work, he makes an excellent helper to the lone American priest who lives with him.

Bro. Eugene was instrumental in the establishment of the first few stations in Mount Hagen.



In fact, before his death, he was already planning to build the first school in the Highlands region.

In January 1935, he was fatally wounded with arrows and spears in the Chimbu gorge, about halfway between Mount Hagen and Bundi. The Anganere tribe, whose descendents reside in the Goglime parish of the Kundiawa Diocese, attacked him and his carriers. Although Bro. Eugene had a gun and his carriers insisted that he use it, he only shot over their heads. The nearby Barenigil people came to their rescue and the wounded party stayed with the Barenigil for nearly seven days.

Fr. Ross and Mr. Melrose, a government officer in Kundiawa, were told that Bro. Eugene and the carriers had been killed. Meanwhile, their wounds were treated with traditional medicine. Finally, the facts became clear and Bro. Eugene was found alive, but suffering from gangrene. Mr. Melrose flew him immediately to Salamaua hospital in the Morobe Province, but Bro. Eugene died on January 23, 1935. Since no priests were in the area, Mr. Melrose performed the funeral service and Bro. Eugene was buried there. Later his remains were transferred to Alexishafen, Papua New Guinea.

January 23, 2010, marked seventy-five years since the death of Bro. Eugene Frank SVD.

The Archdiocese of Mount Hagen recognizes Bro. Eugene Frank SVD and Fr. William Ross SVD as its cofounders. The archdiocese designated 2010 as a year to reflect on Christian servant leadership. Bro. Eugene is identified as a model of servant leadership and a guardian of all the church leaders.

As a jubilee project, the archdiocese and the current school board of Rebihamul Primary School, the successor to that school begun by Fr. Ross and Bro. Eugene seventy-five years ago, have embarked on the construction of a two-story building to contain four classrooms. The building will be named the Brother Eugene Memorial Building. Over the last seventy-five years, Rebihamul Primary School has produced many catechists, teachers and other leaders, who serve the nation, the community, and the Church. Paias Wingti, the first Highlander to become prime minister of Papua New Guinea, was once a student at the school.

On January 27, 2010, the archbishop of Mount Hagen, Douglas Young SVD, visited the village of the Anganere tribe and had a reconciliation service with the people. A monument was constructed to remember Bro. Eugene's death. Archbishop Young suggested that Anganere could become a site for a regular



pilgrimage so that young people would always be reminded of the great sacrifice made by missionaries to bring the gospel to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

A new elementary school at Anganere was named after Bro. Eugene. The bishops of Mount Hagen and Kundiawa will cooperate with the local people, the descendants of those angry warriors of seventy-five years ago, to build a permanent facility that might function as overnight accommodation for pilgrims. The parish priest, Father Mathew Maima, announced that a house of prayer will be built at Anganere. There the parishioners and pilgrims will be able to come together and pray and ask Bro. Eugene for his intercession, especially to overcome violence in the community. The missionary who preferred to die rather than to kill his adversaries should have some influence about this in heaven!

Presently, the Archdiocese of Mount Hagen has about 180,000 Catholics, fifteen indigenous diocesan priests, and about twenty native-born religious brothers and sisters of several congregations.

The blood of Bro. Eugene, shed seventy-five years ago in a remote valley in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, has given birth to a vibrant, missionary church today. ▼

**GIVE \$30**



**WWW.SVDMISSIONS.ORG**



## Handmade Dolls from Ecuador



Sample set of handmade dolls—no two dolls are alike. Dolls measure 13" in height. **Supplies are limited.**

Your donation will help the

**St. Joseph Freinademetz SVD Children's Center** provide...

- A nutritious daily meal
- Basic health care
- School supplies and textbooks
- A loving atmosphere based on Christian values

**DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.SVDMISSIONS.ORG  
OR CALL toll FREE at  
800 275 0626**





# CARING FOR THE LIVING INSIDE A CEMETERY

*Fr. Max Abalos SVD*



FILIPINO FAMILIES OFTEN VISIT CEMETERIES TO PRAY FOR THEIR DECEASED RELATIVES. ONE WOULD EXPECT THAT. ONE WOULD NOT EXPECT, HOWEVER, TO FIND A CEMETERY THAT IS BASICALLY A SMALL VILLAGE, WITH MANY FAMILIES LIVING AMONG THE TOMBS. WELCOME TO MY PARISH.

Three cemeteries in Cebu City, Philippines, are teeming with children. Often both parents work at the cemetery as grave diggers, candle and flower vendors, caretakers, and tombstone makers. Vendors might make the equivalent of two dollars a day. Children often help the parents with their enterprise.

The families who make their homes in the cemeteries are squatters who were evicted from other slum colonies. They found refuge in the cemeteries. Some erected makeshift huts on top of tombs; others live inside mausoleums, where they are hired as caretakers. The structures are made of light scrap materials





and some just live in push carts. Many of these families have lived in the cemeteries for over fifty years. Understandably, the residents lack even basic facilities for proper hygiene. They carry water into the cemetery from nearby stores or houses and use lampposts for lighting.

Although the parents value education, their meager resources often do not allow them to send their children to school. This is where my organization helps.

I am the executive director of Action for Nurturing Children and the Environment, Inc. (ANCE), which was started in 1982 by a group of professionals who wanted to share the blessings they received from God through charitable acts. ANCE focuses on protecting and improving the lives of children and their families, especially the very poor.





NO ELECTRICITY,  
NO RUNNING WATER

GIVE THESE  
CHILDREN A CHANCE  
TO ESCAPE FROM  
POVERTY

Although elementary-level education is free, there are mandatory fees that the poor cannot afford. Secondary school and college education are both very expensive. It is estimated that only eighteen percent of children who enroll in first grade proceed to high school, and four percent graduate from college. ANCE provides fees for elementary school children and scholarships for high school students. The organization also opened a classroom inside one of the cemeteries to provide day care and nursery school programs for children.

ANCE's ministry in the cemeteries is unusual, but we do our best to bring some normalcy to our families who live in a rather abnormal situation. ▼



Fr. Max wants to improve the lives of his "parishioners."

**Help Fr. Max pay for school...**

**Tuition: \$10 per child**

**Books: \$25 per child**

**Shoes: \$10 per child**



EDUCATION  
WILL BREAK  
THE POVERTY CYCLE  
**YOU CAN HELP!**

**Give a Gift** *Online* **www.svdmissions.org**



## For It Is in Giving That We Receive

*Long Phi Nguyen SVD*

**Since February of last year, I have been vice-rector and chaplain at Liceo Aleman del Verbo Divino, a school sponsored by Divine Word Missionaries in Los Angeles, Chile. At our school, we seek to help students develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, and, of course, spiritually. Twice each year, we offer students the opportunity to participate in mission service trips, taking on projects such as building houses for those who lost their homes in the 2010 tsunami.**

Last July during the students' two-week winter break, I accompanied a group of twenty junior high students on a mission trip to Puerto Dominguez, where two Divine Word Missionaries, Father Rafael Kpandja SVD from Togo and Brother Oscar Melendres SVD from Argentina, are serving.





## We were transformed by the love, kindness, friendship, hospitality, and faith of the Mapuches

Their parish consists of thirty mission stations. Each of these small communities has its own chapel and gathering place for community activities. Because of the distance and shortage of personnel, Mass is only celebrated in these sites every month or two. Each community is served by a local coordinator who leads the community and organizes the pastoral activities, such as preparation for sacraments and leading the Liturgy of the Word services on Sundays when a priest is not available.

The town of Puerto Dominguez is located on the shores of beautiful Lake Budi, South America's only saltwater lake. The majority of the population are indigenous people, called *Mapuches* (people of the land). The mapuches have long struggled for sovereignty. While some have assimilated into mainstream society, most have retained their language and many of their traditions within the Chilean population.

Although the natural beauty of the area is beyond measure, the Mapuche community lives in great poverty and on the edge of despair. Most rely on subsistence farming, but high unemployment and lack of health care lead to many social problems, including





alcoholism and drug abuse. Many young people leave the community in search of jobs in the cities.

One primary school serves the entire area, and there is no school bus service or public transportation which children can use to get to school. Children who do attend school must walk for hours; many do not attend school at all.

The purpose of our trip to Puerto Dominguez was to involve our students in mission projects and activities, for example, building houses, visiting the sick, Bible sharing, organizing games for kids, or doing whatever we could to build up community. Our students formed teams and set off to work with local community coordinators, often walking great distances on muddy paths.

What most impressed me and the students was the hospitality of the Mapuches. When we came to their homes, they received us with a warm welcome. Zoila Blanco, a ninety-three-year-old woman, told me how good it was to see new faces. She welcomed us into her small home and offered us *mate* (a traditional herbal drink that is shared among several people). A common cup is passed among friends and the mate is sipped through a *bombilla* (metal straw). For an outsider, this seems a little strange at first, but it is a gesture of friendship and hospitality. In every house we visited, we were treated as honored guests. Men, women, and children shared family stories of good times and the struggles they have endured. They taught us words and phrases from their native language, and we learned to pray the Lord's Prayer together.



Looking back at our mission trip to Puerto Dominguez, it seemed too short at first, and I wondered what we actually accomplished. Upon further reflection, however, I realized what an absolute blessing it was to listen to the Mapuche stories and to see how God blessed us through them. We received so much more than we gave. In our evening reflections, each student shared his or her experiences, and we all came to realize that our mission trip had changed us. We were transformed by the love, kindness, friendship, hospitality, and faith of the Mapuches.

Please join me and our students in praying for the community in Puerto Dominguez. Also pray that the students and I grow in faith as God's instruments of love, joy, and peace. ▼





# Chilean Dobladitas



Father Long Phi Nguyen SVD grew up in Vietnam and the United States. Today, he is a missionary in Los Angeles, Chile, where he enjoys delicious Chilean dobladitas, a simple, quick bread.

Try dobladitas...here is a recipe:

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- ½ cup of milk
- 1 cup of butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons of butter, melted

Directions: Preheat the oven to 450 degrees and grease a baking sheet.

Stir together the flour, salt, baking powder, milk, and 1 cup of melted butter. When the dough comes together and pulls away from the sides of the bowl, turn it onto a floured board or counter top. Knead the dough until it is smooth.

Roll out the dough to 1/8 inch thickness and cut it into 8 inch circles. Brush the circles with the extra melted butter. Fold the circles in half, then in half again, into triangles. Seal the edges.

Place the rolls onto the greased baking sheet and bake for about 15 minutes.

**Enjoy!**

Winter 2013

## Divine Word Missionaries speak the language of HOPE

*In over 70 countries  
6,000 Divine Word Missionaries*

*work to bring*

## HELP & HOPE

*to those in need.*

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!**

**Give  
a  
Gift**



at:

[www.svdmissions.org](http://www.svdmissions.org)

We'd love to hear from you: 800-275-0626





## Trusting in God That Things Will Change

*Theresa Carson*

On Christmas Day 2007, Bishop John Barwa SVD was presiding at Mass when news came of attacks on Christians in Kandhamal, located in the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, India.

At the time, he was an auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Rourkela, about 240 miles from where the attacks occurred, but his heart was in Kandhamal.

After the incident, which he calls the “first persecution,” Bishop Barwa traveled with Cardinal Teophilo Eusebio Cardinal Toppo, then-president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India and archbishop of Ranchi, to inspect the affected area and to be with the people. Bishop Barwa, a native of Odisha (Orissa), translated for him. Cardinal Toppo said, “This work is devilish. No human being of good spirit would do this.” As the cardinal stood in the ashes of a destroyed church, he told the people, “From these ashes a new church will come about, so let us pray to God, thank God for the possibility for going through this suffering.” For Bishop Barwa, the experience was empowering as well as painful and frightening.

More violence followed. Hindu spiritual leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, who advocated assaults on Christians, was assassinated in August 2008. Although Maoist rebels claimed responsibility for the swami’s death, extremists continued to blame Christians. The extremists went on a rampage.

The attack left 100 people dead, 18 of the 22 churches in Kandhamal and 4,000 homes were destroyed, and an estimated 5,000 people were displaced. Bishop Barwa’s own family was hurt by the violence. A mob of men gang-raped one of his nieces, who is a nun.

Since then, there are signs of hope. With the help of the Mission Center at Techny, Illinois, then-archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Raphael Cheenath SVD raised funds to build the homes of the 50,000 refugees. Most of the main churches, except those in remote areas, have been reconstructed. More than 3,000 houses have been rebuilt, enough to accommodate all those who returned to Odisha.

Bishop Barwa succeeded Archbishop Cheenath in April 2011.





During his first visit to the United States and to the Mission Center in August 2012, Archbishop Barwa expressed his thanks, "Americans are a generous people. I express my sincere thanks to all."

Some of the perpetrators of violence in 2007 and 2008 have had a change of heart. "Those who took part in the persecution realized that it was fruitless," he said. "They asked for pardon and forgiveness."

He knows that he himself might be a target of Hindu extremists. Archbishop Cheenath received death threats during his episcopacy. To these possible threats, Archbishop Barwa replied, "I have been saved many times. God is with me. They can kill me only once. If that happens, then I will die for my people."

Now he focuses his efforts on the youth. More needs to be done for future of the children and youth, he said. They have lived through trauma. To reassure them of the future, he wishes to develop programs that help them get job training and education for professional careers.

"I am convinced it will be done," he said with optimism. "My people come in large numbers for all the celebrations and also to demonstrate that they are not frightened people and God is with us. My people are hope-filled people. They trust in God that things will change."

One of those changes is a shift in vocations. Odisha has surpassed Kerala in having the highest number of vocations in India. Last year, the archbishop ordained thirty-three young men to the priesthood. This year, in Kandhamal alone, he ordained five deacons and three priests.

"My boys and girls, my sons and daughters are becoming missionaries with their experiences and the challenges that they have faced," he said. "They will share their faith experience and also their persecution experience in other lands. The people strongly feel that God will bless them. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the faith. They will become testimonies of our faith. They are poor economically, but rich in faith." ▼

100 people  
**DEAD**  
18 of 22  
churches  
**DESTROYED**  
4,000 homes  
**DESTROYED**  
5,000 people  
**DISPLACED**

**TODAY**  
we need to focus  
on the future.

Odisha's children have lived through trauma. To reassure them of the future, programs are needed to help them with schooling and job training.

**HELP THE  
FUTURE OF  
ODISHA**

Please send a donation  
**TODAY!**

[www.svdmissions.org](http://www.svdmissions.org)



# Chicken Farm

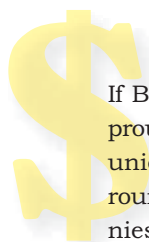


**A Cedi  
Saved  
Is a Cedi  
Earned**

*Francis Kowal SVD*



# Uniforms



If Benjamin Franklin were alive today, he would be proud of the customers of our parish-based credit union, which serves the town of Jema and surrounding villages. Old Ben knew that saving pennies, or in our case Ghanaian cedi, can lead to financial security.

Our typical customers are small farmers, masons, merchants, carpenters, or mechanics. Large commercial banks were not geared to assist our mostly poor parishioners and villagers, so we decided to establish our own credit union, the Brong Ahafo Catholic Cooperative Society for Development (BACCSOD). We offer traditional services, such as savings accounts, but we also provide mobile banking.

For mobile banking, two of our cashiers travel around Jema and two nearby villages to collect small deposits from customers. One of the cashiers, Alice, was the first to offer this service, and she currently has 178 customers.


Our credit union typically has two busy seasons: September, when the school year begins and parents need to provide their children with uniforms, books, and supplies; and Christmas, when customers withdraw funds to buy gifts and groceries for holiday celebrations.

The credit union also assists small business owners with microfinancing. One group of maize farmers, five men and two women, borrowed funds from the credit union to purchase fertilizer and seeds to expand their farm. They will repay the loan at harvest time. Tony and Rebecca used our credit union to start, and later expand, their poultry operation. The poultry farm now has 1,000 hens. Norbert, another client, used funds to enlarge his barber shop.

Some of our customers have turned to the credit union during a family crisis to cover hospital bills or funeral costs, and our latest expansion has been into student loans.

The credit union is helping people have greater financial security and prepare for the future. The interest on the loans we have made has enabled us to pay the salaries of our four staff members: the manager, the head cashier, and the two mobile banking clerks. The diocesan office provides professional auditing and supervision of the credit union to ensure the safety of all deposits.

As missionaries, we never quite know what situation we might encounter or what kind of project we might need to initiate. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for me next. ▼



# Trees

*Joyce Kilmer*

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

**(Louis Untermeyer, ed. 1919. *Modern American poetry: an introduction*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace and Howe.)**



# Down on the Farm

*Michael Hutchins SVD*

**Autumn brought clear relief to the Midwestern United States following last summer's severe drought. While ground moisture is still significantly below normal levels, cooler temperatures and some rainfall refreshed the topsoil and reinvigorated grasses and other plants. Surprisingly the dry, hot summer did not inhibit a glorious display of autumn color. The timber areas of our Divine Word Farm in Weldon were ablaze in scarlet, gold, orange, and magenta. The autumn display drew me out into the timber every day for nearly three weeks.**

After a damp, windy weekend, the deciduous trees, as if by agreed signal, shed their leaves. Unready to give up my daily timber hikes, I began attending to other features of our trees, those usually hidden by leaf cover. What a variety of textures in the bark—the rough, shaggy cover of a hickory, the silvery smooth cover of a poplar, the deeply gnarled cover of a burr oak. What a fascinating architecture of limbs shaped over many seasons on the tallest, oldest specimens. How beautiful the illumination of those textures and shapes in the autumn sunlight. Near the end of one outing, I paused before a stand of tall poplars and gazed upward to take in the tree tops



shimmering in the late afternoon sun. The effect on me was spiritual, deeply so, stirring up sentiments of praise and gratitude to the Creator, the source of this beauty and this moment.

During the eighteen months since I settled here in Weldon, I have been sorting out the elements of what might serve as my personal long-range vision for the farm. That vision is of a place, a sacred place, characterized by a continuing

sense of awe before the mystery of God glimpsed through the beauty of creation. Within this sacred space, Divine Word Missionaries, friends, neighbors, artists, and collaborators gather for prayer and recollection. Some come for private retreat and renewal. All grow in their appreciation of the

worldwide mission of Divine Word Missionaries, especially our commitment to help alleviate world hunger, malnutrition, and other social ills among God's people. All grasp that the unscrupulous exploitation of creation sets up the conditions for dehumanizing economic and social situations that too often afflict the people we seek to serve. All commit themselves to fostering the responsible care of agricultural lands and natural resources, striving to make the lands under our care models of good stewardship. It is an ambitious vision for a small farm site in southern Iowa, but it is one encouraged by Divine Word Missionary leadership as early as our General Chapter of 2000.

We recognize that one of the newest areas of missionary concern is that of working for the integrity of creation. In the light of

today's ecological crisis, our concern for the well-being of future generations leads us to commit ourselves to working for a sustainable environment and to adopting a way of life that witnesses to the importance of environmental concerns (*In Dialogue with the Word*, No. 1, September 2000, p. 39, No. 82).

The 2000 commitment of Divine Word Missionaries is echoed by the 2012 World Synod of Bishops, which recognized the interconnection of good stewardship and basic evangelization.

The Stewardship of creation also serves evangelization in many ways. It is a witness to our faith in the goodness of God's creation. It demonstrates a sense of solidarity with all those who depend for their life and sustenance on the goods of creation. It shows inter-generational solidarity with those who come after us, and is a clear witness to the responsible and equitable use of the goods of the earth, our common home (*Bulletin of the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops*, October 7-28, 2012, Proposition No. 56).

We pursue big visions most often with small steps. I read recently about a bishop in Papua New Guinea who asked each priest and deacon he ordained, each young person he confirmed, and every couple he married to plant ten trees. It was creative evangelization and practical spiritual formation! Here in Weldon, we hope also to take those small steps that will help create a sacred space where God's goodness may shine through for all to celebrate, where the care of one small piece of creation may encourage others to do the same. We will be planting more trees of our own. ▼



# MEET THE AUTHORS

**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.

**Long Phi Nguyen SVD** was born in Kien Giang, Vietnam. He came to the United States as a youth and entered Divine Word Missionaries through Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa. He professed his first vows in 2000 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2007. He is currently the vice-rector and chaplain at Liceo Alemen del Verbo Divino School in Los Angeles, Chile.

**Max Abalos SVD** was born in Inopacan, Philippines. He professed first vows in 1966 and was ordained a priest in 1971. He resides at St. Raphael Community Residence at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, Philippines.

**Theresa Carson** is the director of public and media relations for the Chicago Province of Divine Word Missionaries at Techny, Illinois.

**Francis Kowal SVD** was born in Przemysl, Poland. He professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 1980 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1986. Father Kowal is pastor of Transfiguration of Jesus Church in Jema, Ghana.

**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.

Divine Word Missionaries Mission Center

P.O. Box 6099 • Techny, Illinois 60082-6099

The Society of the Divine Word is an international Catholic missionary congregation with over 6,000 members from 70 countries.

They work in over 70 different lands on all the continents except Antarctica.

Website: [WWW.SVDMISSIONS.ORG](http://WWW.SVDMISSIONS.ORG)

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES MAGAZINE, Vol. LV No. 1 Winter 2013, issued quarterly

Divine Word Missionaries, Mission Center, Techny, Illinois 60082.

Subscription \$20.00 a year

Editor: Bro. Dennis Newton SVD Assistant Editor: Carolyn Schmit

Creative Directors: Carmelita J. Linden • Bro. Dan Holman SVD

Branch Office: Pittsburgh, PA

## PLEASE 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 you so generously supported during your life.

Our legal title is:

**Divine Word Missionaries, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 6099**

**Techny, IL 60082**

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 charities you have supported during your lifetime. If you would like to discuss your estate planning with us, please contact us:

**Divine Word Missionaries  
P.O. Box 6099 • Techny, IL 60082  
800-275-0626**