

# Where in the World are Divine Word Missionaries?

In 1875, a trailblazer named St. Arnold Janssen kickstarted an international missionary order called the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), to spread the Word of God across the globe. Fast forward to today, and 5,965 Divine Word Missionary Priests and Brothers are out there spreading love and hope in 80 countries, giving a helping hand to those in need. The heart of this mission beats at Divine Word College, drawing in students from around 20 countries each year. Through thick and thin, the SVD and Divine Word College keep the faith alive, all thanks to extraordinary people like you.

The Society of the Divine Word was founded 149 years ago. Today, it is the sixth largest Catholic men's religious congregation in the world.

## 80 Countries

The Society of the Divine Word serves 80 countries in four zones:

- Americas
- Europe
- Africa
- Asia-Pacific



## Mission Priorities

**Biblical Apostolate** - Studying, praying and preaching from the Bible

**Communication** - Dialogue, especially between different people, groups, and cultures, in order to spread the good news of God's Kingdom of love

**Mission Animation** - Helping laypeople become aware of missionary activity and encouraging their participation in it

**Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)** - Offering services in social justice causes, peace efforts and care of our planet

### Bro. Bernie Spitzley, SVD

*Jamaica*  
DWC Class of 1977

**Biblical Apostolate** - Bro. Bernie has spent more than 25 years serving in Jamaica. He's the administrator at Holy Rosary Church and leads a Bible Sharing group for parishioners.



**Fr. Fransiskus Xaverius Magung, SVD**

*Hungary*

*DWC ESL program 1999-2000*

**JPIC** – Fr. Fransiskus serves as provincial of the Hungary Province. Divine Word Missionaries there work with the Romani gypsy communities to provide education and skilled training to this poor and marginalized group that suffers from widespread unemployment and poverty.



**Fr. Giang Nguyen, SVD**

*Mozambique*

*DWC Class of 2006*

**Communication** – Fr. Giang promotes collaboration and sharing of limited resources through projects like building a long-range Wi-Fi network to share the internet with nearby parishes, schools, and a local community radio station to improve education and communication. He also helped to train parishioners to install solar pumps for water and promote sustainable, small business initiatives.



**Fr. Roger Kyaw Thu, SVD**

*Myanmar*

*DWC Class of 2018*

**Mission Animation** – Following his recent ordination, Fr. Roger plans to work in parish ministry in his home country of Myanmar for his first assignment. He hopes to encourage parishioners to remain active and hopeful despite the turmoil in the country.