

under the German protectorate. "So I expressed my readiness to write to Mgr. Anzer", Fr. Arnold remarks. (*ibid.*).

This was only the beginning of a long series of negotiations about a mission in Africa and it was only in 1892 that the mission in Togo was entrusted to the Steyl missionaries.



### MEETING WITH LUDWIG VON WINDTHORST

In Berlin Fr. Arnold also met the leader of the Catholic Zentrum (Centre) Party of Germany, Ludwig von Windthorst. Arnold informed him about the negotiations with the government and asked him "to keep up his interest in the freedom of Catholic missions in the German colonies". Furthermore he asked him why the German government itself was "taking steps to promote Catholic missions in its colonies." Windthorst told Fr. Arnold that he had demanded that the act regarding freedom of religion be applied in the German colonies. If the

government gave in to his demand they would have to admit the Jesuits, who had been expelled from Germany at the beginning of the Kulturkampf (cultural war). But the government does not want that, and so "they want other Catholic missionaries to come in so that they can say, We do not need the Jesuits" (*ibid.*).

### CALL FOR THE FOUNDING OF A SEMINARY FOR AFRICA

On April 20, 1890 Pope Leo XIII wrote to Archbishop Krementz of Cologne expressing his wish that the Catholics in Germany take "a stronger interest in mission work in Africa. To this end the German bishops should open a seminary specifically for Africa" The Archbishop then invited Fr. Arnold to visit him which Fr. Arnold did on May 2 and 3 (*ibid.*, p. 629).

### LATEST NEWS FROM STEYL – APRIL 1890

From April 2-5, 1890 a retreat course was preached in St. Michael's mission house for teachers and students. 134 teachers and 30 students attended.

From April 5-8, 1890, 108 men attended the retreat for married men (only) (*Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote* [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], vol. 17, May 1890).

*On April 14, the summer semester begins in Steyl with 266 students (ibid.)*



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### The Arnoldus Family Story

#### DECEMBER 8, 1889 - A SPECIAL DAY IN STEYL AND IN CHINA

##### *In Steyl*

December 8, 1889 Helena Stollenwerk and her five companions spent the first day in their new convent, the former capuchin monastery, nearby St. Michael's mission house. From that day on they were no longer workers employed by the mission house who hoped to become missionary sisters one day. Rather now they were sister candidates destined for the formation of a religious institute. Today we celebrate December 8, 1889 as foundation day of the SSpS missionary sisters.

##### *In China*

On December 8, 1889 in Puoli /South Shantung, Bishop Anzer ordained the first two priests from and for the Apostolic Vicariate of South Shantung entrusted to SVD. They were the deacons Matthew Chao Yung-yung and Joseph Hsia Wenlin. "The pontifical High Mass and the rite of ordination were uplifting for all who attended. The two candidates for ordination were in tears, so greatly were they touched." Singers and musicians, gun salutes and fireworks gave the celebration a festive framework (Richard Hartwich SVD, *Steyler Missionare in China* [Steyl missionaries in China], *Analecta SVD* 61, Rome 1983, p. 158).

#### ARNOLD JANSSEN - MISSIONARY FOR THE WORLD

##### *St. Gabriel/Austria*

On December 6, 1889 Fr. Arnold wrote to the Rector of St. Gabriel, his brother John, that the confreres in St. Gabriel had to pay the expenses for their upkeep themselves and they had to collect money for a further building. To this Arnold's brother John replied on December 11 with the suggestion to begin with a printing press in order to generate an income.

On December 26 Arnold answered: "Naturally, you do not have to worry as if I was going to let you down... It is clear that you have to build, but with what? The Lord must send the money" (Josef Alt, *Die Geschichte des Missionshauses St. Gabriel* [The history of St. Gabriel's mission house], p. 46).

And so on March 24, 1890 the cornerstone for a second building was laid. "Full of gratitude, at the end of the ceremony the residents of St. Gabriel sang the song of praise of our dear Mother of God, 'My soul glorifies the Lord!', for from now on one stone after the other will be added to the sanctuary of St. Gabriel and it will grow high

up to his and the Highest God's honor and serve the growth of the kingdom of God" (Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart, vol. 17, April 1890).

### South Shantung

Bishop Anzer wanted the Franciscans working in the Apostolic Vicariate of North Shantung to leave some communities of those who had long been Christian to South Shantung. But they did not want to. So on December 12, 1889 Fr. Arnold suggested to Bishop Anzer to send the mail concerning this matter to Rome via Steyl. "If you send all this via Steyl, it will give me the opportunity to add my own opinion. You will get results only when both the Franciscans and Propaganda see that they HAVE to. So you can boldly write them both, saying that this is a life-and-death issue for your mission, and therefore, you felt obliged to repeat this petition until it finds a hearing. The letters do not have to be long, but decisive in presenting convincing reasons" (Josef Alt, ed., transl. Frank Mihalic, Vincent Ferrer, *Arnold Janssen, Letters to China*, vol. I, 1879-1897, *Analecta SVD* - 83/1, p. 288).

### Argentina

#### Letter of January 18, 1890

On January 18, 1890 Fr. Arnold wrote to Superior Becher in Argentina: "How are you over there in a foreign country? Have the first difficulties been overcome? Or is it as if only now they really are beginning? And how are things with your courage and trust in God? I think they are not wavering and divine help will not be lacking. Try to win your confrere [Rev. Löcken] over to yourself! One of the means for that is: Try to get to know his wishes and fulfill them where and how you can with personal sacrifices on your part, in so far as it seems possible for you..." (Josef Alt, ed., *Arnold Janssen SVD, Briefe nach Südamerika* [Letters to South America], *Analecta SVD* -65/1, vol. I, Rome 1889, P. 3-4).

#### Letter of February 1, 1890

Fr. Arnold wrote another letter to Argentina: Dear Rev. Becher! Dear Rev. Löcken! [at the time the Latin word Pater / Father in English, which in Germany was the title of a religious priest, was not yet used in the SVD]. Dearest friends and confreres in the Lord! So the Lord God has led you, happy and healthy, to the other hemisphere, and when you receive this letter you will already have been there 5 months and at least in one *Departamento* you got to know the country and the people. I am sure you have acquired some knowledge of the language during this time. I think furthermore that you have tried your best to observe those pious exercises which are partly prescribed in our congregation or commonly used, for instance daily meditation and examination of conscience twice a day, spiritual reading, weekly confession and similar things. And if once in a while you have not been able to do all this, you must not let it become almost daily routine ... To accept pastoral work in the whole province cannot be our goal. The result would be a lot of envy and persecution. In my opinion religious have to be like flying troops or like salt, sprinkled here and there, in order to influence the surrounding spiritually (*ibid.*, p. 6).

**Togo** (Remote preparation for the Steyl Mission in Togo)

### Prince Bishop Kopp of Breslau and Fr. Arnold Janssen

On February 16, 1890 the Prussian envoy to the Holy See informed Cardinal Simeoni, the Prefect of the Propaganda, that the German colonies of Cameroon and Togo were open for German Catholic missionaries. Prince Bishop Kopp of Breslau, who had good connections with the government in Berlin and was even a member of the Prussian House of Lords, heard about this. So on March 5, 1890 he wrote to Fr. Arnold: "I believe it likely that Your Reverence will be invited to Berlin in the near future to give your views on various matters to a certain government department. Topics to be discussed will include acceptance of mission work in the German colonies and protectorates, whether it is necessary or not to establish a mission seminary in Germany itself and many other matters. Your Reverence will then be in a position to submit proposals and make requests, and you will have considerable bargaining power." If he, Kopp, were informed early enough and if he could, "I would come to Berlin and brief you in detail before you begin the discussions, perhaps accompanied by me" (Arnold Janssen, transl. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, *Journey in Faith*, Steyler Verlag, Nettetal 2002, p. 624).

#### Fr. Arnold answers the Prince Bishop

On March 14, 1890 Fr. Arnold replied to the Bishop: "In connection with the business you mentioned, I spent the first few days after the receipt of your letter doing some research on the German colonies. I notice, however, that due to the small number of people and the unhealthy climate these territories are not exactly attractive for permanent residence." But these countries, too, need to find their own missionaries who will work for their Christianization. He was also happy that the German government believed in the valuable contribution which missionaries could make. Since the German government wanted German missionaries for the German colonies, he was willing to send his missionaries there, but only under certain conditions (*ibid.*, p. 625).

#### Fr. Arnold in Berlin

As Prince Bishop Kopp had guessed, Fr. Arnold was invited to Berlin. On March 28 and 29 he was in Berlin. To his brother John in St. Gabriel he wrote on March 29:



"I arrived here yesterday morning and had two meetings with Mgr. Kopp who conducted the negotiations with the Minister of Education for me. My conditions, which he fully and entirely supported, were: 1. Protection of the missionaries, their support by provision of land, free travel in the mission or at least cheaper fares. 2. The permit to establish a mission house in Germany and exemption of a) priests and b) lay brothers from military service" (*ibid.*, p. 628). Bishop Kopp reported "that points 1 and 2a) would encounter no difficulties; concerning point 2b) the minister wanted to negoti-

ate with other ministers." But in return the government demanded that the Steyl missionaries would give up the French protectorate in China and place themselves