

OCTOBER 1893

On October 2, 1893 the Winter Semester in St. Gabriel's began with 133 students and 9 lecturers.

Social Work of the Theology students

As in Steyl, so in St. Gabriel, theology students were in contact with the poor. In particular they visited the living quarters of the brick-makers. Among the first of these social-minded students were the later priests Giese (who became the director of the SVD directed Vienna Catholic Teachers' College) and Wilhelm Schmidt, founder of Anthropos, who worked in Mödling and in the settlement of the poor for these people.

Studies in St. Gabriel in the Winter Semester 1893/94

The program of studies had been designed under the leadership of Fr. Arnold.

Lyceum

In the so called Lyceum the students studied scholastic philosophy as the main subject and several others such as natural Sciences, languages, Mission Studies. The hand book for the latter was the five volume mission history of the Aachen (Germany) medical doctor Heinrich Hahn who at the same time was the secretary general of the Francis Xavier Mission Association, the predecessor of today's MISSIO AACHEN. Obligatory languages were German, English, Latin and Spanish. The main natural science subjects were chemistry, zoology, geology, physics, astronomy, physical geography, mineralogy. Then the students had to choose electives, such as mathematics, building, biology, French, Greek, Italian, Polish, Czech (Johannes Kraus, *Verzeichnis der Lehrfächer in St. Gabriel von Herbst 1889 bis Sommer 1960* [List of the study subjects in St. Gabriel from autumn 1889 to summer 1960], *Verbum SVD* 3, p. 175).

Novitiate

The Lyceum was followed by the one-year-long canonical novitiate. It was "the bridge between philosophy in the Lyceum and theology of the scholasticate" (Johannes Kraus, *P. Arnold Janssen als Studiendirektor von St. Gabriel* [Fr. Arnold as director of studies in St. Gabriel], *Verbum Supplementum* 5, 1968, p. 21).

Theology

The novitiate was followed by the theological studies which until 1903 took three years and from 1904 on four years (*ibid.*, p. 24).

**The GRACE, LOVE AND JOY
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL**
(H. JANSSEN)



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The Arnoldus Family Story

12 JULY 1893 - North America - USA

On this day the Treasurer General, Fr. Blum in Steyl, wrote to Fr. Arnold about opening a market for the Steyl publications (*Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote* [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], *Stadt Gottes* [City of God], *Michaelskalender* [St. Michael's Almanac] among the German migrants in the USA: "Shouldn't we think of finding a market in North America? Do you want me to take the necessary steps? In any case, it can't hurt. We would have to send one of the Brothers there to start a foundation." And there was a Brother ready for it: Br. Wendelin, Josef Meyer. Before coming to Steyl he had been a primary school teacher and a number of his relatives were living in the USA (Jos. Alt, transl. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, *Journey in Faith*, Nettetal, 2002, pp. 605-606). In his 'Notebook for items of more lasting importance' Fr. Arnold wrote: "Br. Wendelin (Josef Meyer) comes to Arnold Janssen and asks to be sent to North America in order to develop contacts for our publications and to establish a foundation. The general council gives its approval" (*ibid.*, p. 606).

July 13 - Message of Pope Leo XIII to Arnold Janssen

In an audience of June 23, 1893 Fr. Arnold had reported to Pope Leo XIII about the Steyl mission organization. He had also given a written report to Cardinal Ledochowski so that he would give it to the Pope. On July 13, the Prefect of the Propaganda, Cardinal Ledochowski, wrote to Arnold Janssen on behalf of the Pope:



Venerable Father!

"The Holy Father, in the audience of the ninth of this month [to Cardinal Ledochowski], graciously accepted the written report, handed in by you, about the missions, colleges and other works of the Society which you are leading in a worthy manner; and the joy which he got from it was not small. From the same he notices how through your efforts not only the light of the faith is spread amongst the pagan peoples, but how also piety is being promoted amongst the Christian believers. So you are achieving something that is most commendable: being concerned about the spread of the true faith amongst people living far away, you do not omit to cultivate this part of the vineyard through all your works. Therefore His Holiness praises the work that you are doing, and he gave the order to write to you that you should continue to dedicate yourself wholeheartedly to the development of the same,

as you have been doing so far. The Holy Father has no doubt whatsoever, that the Most Reverend Bishops will give you and your confreres their fatherly good will, since through your work you do not only work in the foreign missions for the spread of the Kingdom of God, but you work in the same way for the good of the faithful who are entrusted to them. Then he graciously and most lovingly gave his Apostolic Blessing to you, to all priests and lay brothers of your Society, as well as to those who are involved in the publication of your magazines and who in whatever way try their best to support your missions.” (*Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote* [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], 20, No. 12, September 1893).

July 25-26 – Bishop Schumacher from Ecuador visits Steyl

Since May 1893 the Bishop had been in contact with Fr. Arnold about the SVD starting pastoral work in Ecuador. On July 25-26 he visited Steyl to talk with Frs. Blum and Wegener who had been against the project. The visit was successful. The Bishop wrote to Fr. Arnold in St. Gabriel, “After I explained to them about the situation in our mission, they agreed to recommend my petition to Your Reverence. Fr. Prefect [Wegener] told me he would put no obstacle in the way. Fr. Wegener bombarded me with questions, all of which I had to answer. [...] Since the priests seem to be intimidated by Chone we decided to forget about it for the time being. The missionaries would first take care of the education and formation of the seminarians whom I will take with me and at the same time have a look around the country” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p.563). Fr. Wegener also wrote to Fr. Arnold about the Bishop’s visit: “Bishop Schumacher has been here since yesterday[...] I had some long sessions with him. The way he presents the matter makes it seem more acceptable. As far as I’m concerned, things can take their course. I will not object, neither will Fr. Blum. Anyway, Bishop Schumacher is a very worthy and zealous bishop” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 563).

The Bishop also visited the missionary sisters and urged them to pray that Fr. Arnold would send him some missionaries.

AUGUST 1893

August 30 – Contract with Bishop Schumacher

On August 3, Fr. Arnold returned to Steyl. The negotiations about work in Ecuador finally led to the signing of a contract between the SVD and the bishop on August 30. By then two priests had been appointed to begin the mission there: Frs. Heinrich Neuenhofen and the newly ordained Fr. Heinrich Pierlo. Fr. Arnold wrote: “On Wednesday, 30 August, about noon on the feast of St. Rose of Lima, I travelled with Fr. Heinrich Neuenhofen to Cologne, met Bishop Schumacher at the Vincentian [Sisters’] house, discussed the contract with him and drew it up in the Apprentices’ Hostel in Breitenstrasse.” By midnight the two were back in Steyl.



Fr. Arnold was most delighted that the contract was made “on the feast of St. Rose of Lima, patroness of America – and without having planned the date”(Jos. Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 563).

SEPTEMBER 1893

Bishop Schumacher

The Bishop signed Steyl’s copy of the contract on Sept. 2, 1893 (*ibid.*, pp.563-564).

Shortly afterwards the Bishop visited Steyl for the second time, and on September 8 he celebrated the solemn Eucharist “on the eighteenth anniversary of the founding of the Society” (Fritz Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, Manila, Logos Publications, 1975, p. 303).

Retreats in the convent of the missionary sisters in Steyl

After a short while the retreats for women seem to have gotten such a good name that the retreat of September 11-15 was attended by more than 150 women. Since some had come without having applied, a number of guests had to sleep on the floor during the first night. The next day some further beds could be arranged, so that all the participants had a place to sleep (Mother Maria, Helena Stollenwerk, Chronicle).

Mission sending ceremony for new missionaries

On September 17 there was the mission sending ceremony for new missionaries in St. Michael’s mission house: three who were appointed to China left in the evening of the same day; five for Argentina, three for Togo and two for Ecuador, Heinrich Neuenhofen and Heinrich Pierlo. They were to work with Bishop Schumacher of Protoviejo. For them the plan was: “As soon as they had learned Spanish and had familiarized themselves with the customs of the country, they will receive their field of work from their Most Reverend Bishop. For the time being they will stay near their Bishop to help him in the education and formation of his clergy”. With these words the Steyl mission magazine, *Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote*, introduced its readers to this new apostolate of the SVD (*Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote* [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], 21, no. 1, October 1893)

Fr. Hermann Auf der Heide

September 30, 1893 Fr. Arnold appointed Fr. auf der Heide as mission procurator. He was also Fr. Arnold’s “private secretary for more confidential matters”. Furthermore, Fr. auf der Heide became director of the Missionary and Cloistered Sisters and through that office was closely connected with the foundation years of these two communities. He was a half-brother of the Ecuador missionary Fr. Heinrich Pierlo and was also the author of the jubilee book “*Die Missionsgesellschaft von Steyl. Ein Bild der ersten 25 Jahre ihres Bestehens*” (The Mission Society of Steyl. A portrait of the first 25 years of its existence.) The “Arnoldus Family Story” has been using this book as a source for our founding history.