

SVD THAILAND

Volume 2, Issue 2

May 2017

Special Points of Interest

- SVD's, known as Society of the Divine Word or Divine Word Missionaries.
- Arrival in Thailand—18 Years on.
- Expansion of SVD presence in Thailand.
- Ministries in the Diocese of Udon Thani.
- Mother of Perpetual Help Center—Nong Bua Lamphu



Inside this issue:

- Children's Programs
- Aids Education and Awareness Program with the youth in schools throughout the Province.
- Mother Mary House (Ban Mae Marie) Home for HIV teenagers and HIV Adults..
- Training program for teachers to give Aids Education.
- Hospice Care

SVD's Come to Thailand—18 Years On



Originally the Thai mission was started with the arrival of two SVD Brothers, Brother James Wilkins from Australia and Brother Damien Lunders from Papua New Guinea. In January of 2002 another American Brother Ron Fratzke arrived and has been teaching English in Government schools as a volunteer teacher. The first two priests, Father Anthony Duc Le and Father Truc Quoc Phan were to arrive in 2007.

In September of 2012 four more young priests arrived in the Diocese of Udon Thani, Northeast Thailand and after completing the Thai language studies began pastoral work in the Diocese. These priests are, Fr. Blasius Trinold from Indonesia, Fr. Bernardus Bella from Indonesia, Fr. Tuan Pham Tuan from Vietnam and Fr. Vihn Tran from Indonesia.

Divine Word Missionaries in Thailand are truly a multicultural community of priests, Brothers and seminarians. Later more priests were to be sent to Thailand to begin pastoral work in the Diocese. Fr. John Hung Le, a Vietnamese American transferred from Papua New Guinea to come to Thailand in 2014 and Fr. Duc Linh Nguyen from Vietnam and Fr. Rajasekhar R. Bobba from India. All make for a truly multicultural community as the SVD is well known for and proud to be throughout the Society, working in 70 different countries throughout the world

Overseas Training Program:

Another program to give seminarians an opportunity to experience “*Mission*” is the Overseas Training Program (OTP) where seminarians spend two years in one of our many SVD mission countries. This experience is helpful for them to decide where they might like to be of service to Church and community once they are in final vows or have been ordained. Thailand has been fortunate to have received some promising candidates for the future. In the past seminarians from Vietnam, America and Germany have experienced the Thai mission in teaching English at Government schools, caring for the sick at our hospice care facility, looking after and assisting teenagers at Mother Mary House and pastoral experience in parishes under the care of our young SVD priests.

Local Vocations:

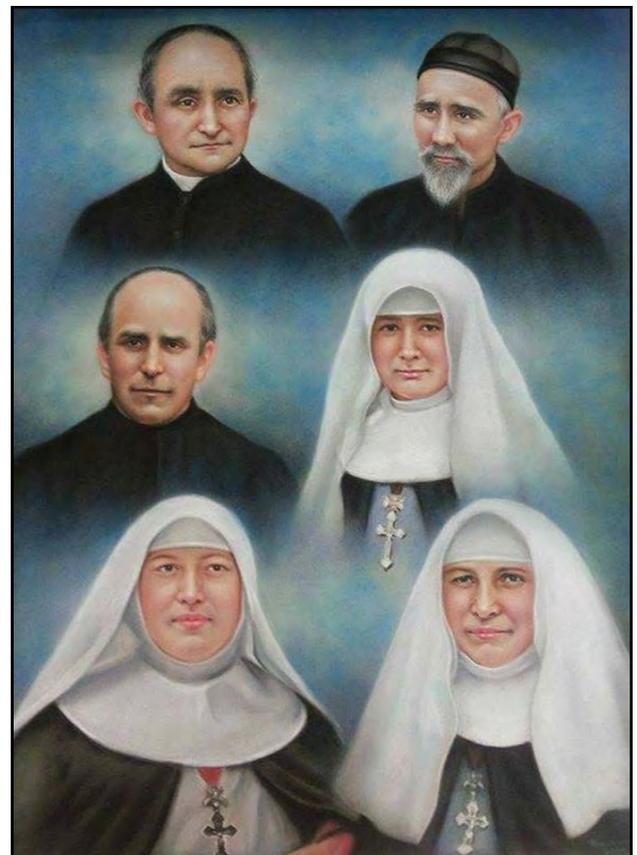
It is always the hope that local vocations to the priesthood and Brotherhood will become a reality in our mission work. After many years of mission here in Thailand our work is now beginning to bare fruit. With Laos being the closest neighbor to Thailand we now have a young Laotian seminarian who has gone through the Novitiate and now studying at our Theologate in Australia. Recently our first local Thai candidate and another young Vietnamese fellow have begun their Novitiate in the Philippines and upon completion will continue their studies in Philosophy and Theology in Australia. We are grateful for these young men taking the step to join our SVD family and giving us hope that our efforts will continue and flourish in the future.



Duc Linh Nguyen, Tuan Pham Anthony Duc Le Br. Damien Lunders



Visit from the SVD Superior General Heinz Kulueke with all our SVD priests and Brothes, Bp. Joseph, and Missionary Sistrs of Mother Teresa 2014



Arnold Janssen (Founder), Josef Freinademetz (1st two Saints), Bl. Maria Helena Stollenwork, SSps and SSps and P/Adoration Bl. Josepha H. Stenmanns, SSps (Holy Spirit Sisters)

Mother of Perpetual Help Center - Nong Bua Lamphu Northeast Thailand

In August of 2002 Mother of Perpetual Help Center along with St. Michael's Catholic Church were dedicated. With the opening of the Center as it is today many new ministries opened up to help the sick, homeless and the poor.



Villa Marie Hospice Care is one of the Center's priorities and even with the anti-viral medications we find a greater number of adults coming for care. Those now at Villa Marie are in poor condition and in need of more intensive care. With the growing number of patients, those in better health are living at our Mother Mary House with the teenagers and others living on our farm outside the city limits. Three of our patients are blind and help each other navigate around the Center.

Assisting Needy Children of HIV and Poor Families continues now into its 16th year with the number being given assistance increasing over the years. A certain number of children from each of the 6 Districts are given school clothing and supplies to help with their education. *Enfant du Mekong* scholarship program assists 38 children with a monthly scholarship of 18 Eur—this program helps with transportation to and from school and with school lunches.

Aids Education and Awareness Program also one of the Center's priorities. Initially giving Aids Education to students in schools in one of the 6 Districts each year has further developed into a training program for teachers and other interested government personnel to assist with Aids Education in the schools and villages. This year (2017) will complete the training program in all 6 Districts. To keep those having been trained up-dated and encouraged to maintain their interest, in the coming years we will continue with in-service training for others who have not yet been trained as well as bringing together those already trained. It is not always clear to see how effective and to see directly the results of bringing about a decrease in the number of HIV infections has been. Our well qualified staff are often invited by other departments and outside the Nong Bua Lamphu Province to give seminars about Aids and its effects.



Mother Mary House (Ban Mae Marie) has become a shelter also for HIV adults since the number of teenagers needing a home has decreased. These adults are the over flow from Villa Marie and who no longer can return or have a home to return to. These persons are all long term, many of them permanent. One of the women will be joined by her two daughters who had been living at a home for children which has recently been closed.

Mother of Perpetual Help Center

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Check out our
Web Page

www.aidshelpthailandia.com
www.svdmissions.org

Objective:

To be a center for the development of the body and spirit, the potentials of HIV infected persons as well as the poor in the Province of Nong Bua Lamphu, Northeast Thailand.

To assist homeless and abandoned children as well as adults with a decent livelihood and a proper education.

To assist HIV positive men and women with counseling and livelihood projects for a better life style.

To create and to promote more awareness of the HIV disease in schools and villages as a means for future prevention.

Donations can be sent through our Mission Office at Techny, Illinois

***Divine Word Missionaries
Mission Office
1835 Waukegan Road
Techny, IL 60082***

Remember Mother of Perpetual Help Center in your Last Will and Testament to ensure a long lasting service to the needy.

Villa Marie Hospice Care Center



Tom the first Aids infected child to come to our children's home spent several years under care of the Missionary Sisters of Mother Teresa. Upon becoming a teenager was sent to Mother Mary House where he lived for several more years. While at Mother Mary House Tom attended the local vocational school where he was trained as a mechanic. Becoming of age he was to leave to find work outside where he wanted to look after himself. Tom even as a child was not healthy and needed special anti-viral medications, and required supervision for taking of these medications. In fairly good health Tom was allowed to venture out to be on his own in Udon Thani city where he did find work.

For two years the Center lost contact with him. Even his closest friends had no connection and contact. Suddenly in early 2016 Tom returned to Mother of Perpetual Help Center in a very poor condition, he had not been taking his medications so became very sick, very thin. We were happy to have him back and gave him all the needed attention and care that he would have needed to recover again. As the weeks and months went by it seemed hopeful that he was improving, but on many occasions needed to be admitted at the local hospital. While I was away in America last year Tom again took a turn for the worst, he was waiting for me to return, but sadly I missed him by only two days. It happens so often when people leave the hospice or our care they stop their medications; thus, the result is not good.