

PRESENTATION

I am pleased to present this book, *SVD Mission 2006*, which contains the province and zonal reports for the XVI General Chapter. This is now the second time that a book like this has been published. Its predecessor, *SVD Mission 2000*, appeared six years ago and contained likewise the province and zonal reports for the XV General Chapter. Province reports for previous general chapters were printed only in loose booklets for use primarily by capitulars at the chapter. It was felt, however, that these province reports generally contained valuable information about the entire Society which was useful not only to the capitulars but also to other people – other members of the Society, especially the younger confreres in formation, as well as the entire Arnoldus Family and its friends, co-workers and benefactors. Therefore, for the XV General Chapter of 2000, it was decided to publish the province and zonal reports in a book meant for wider distribution. Thus, *SVD Mission 2000* saw the light of day.

The great demand for *SVD Mission 2000* on the part of so many people both within and outside the Society prompted the decision to undertake a similar project with the province and zonal reports for the XVI General Chapter. It is hoped that *SVD Mission 2006* will provide the same important service as its predecessor. I wish to thank Fr. Tom Ascherman, Mission Secretary, Fr. Niels Johansen, Communications Coordinator, and Fr. Sebastian Mattappallil, Generalate Publications Director, for collaborating in coordinating the publication of this book. Many others helped in the various aspects of this project – provincial/regional superiors and zonal coordinators who prepared the reports,

translators, editors, proof-readers. To them all we express our profound gratitude.

The theme of the XVI General Chapter, for which this publication has been prepared, is *Living Prophetic Dialogue: Spirituality, Community, Leadership, Finances, Formation*. By offering an overview of the Society's varied missionary activities around the world, this book mirrors the various ways in which prophetic dialogue is being concretely lived out in the various provinces, regions and missions of the Society. The pages of this book contain a rich compilation of facts and figures and an interesting description of situations and activities. But behind the facts and figures are flesh and blood missionaries – with their joys and griefs, hopes and sorrows, successes and failures. Indeed, between the lines of this book are written the stories of SVD confreres who strive to live prophetic dialogue by sharing their lives with their sisters and brothers, often of other cultures, languages and religions.

Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, allows us to say that *Missio Caritas Est*. Mission, in its profoundest sense, is an act of love and self-giving. It is not just an obligation that we need to fulfill, or merely a service that we strive to render to people, or only an activity that we do because of our training. It is, above all, a giving of ourselves to others, an act of self-emptying, a process of dying to oneself. Seen in this way, mission becomes, in the words of *Deus Caritas Est*, an "exercise of the commandment of love of neighbor" and a "participation in the reality of God who is love". *Missio Caritas Est!* Our Founder, St.

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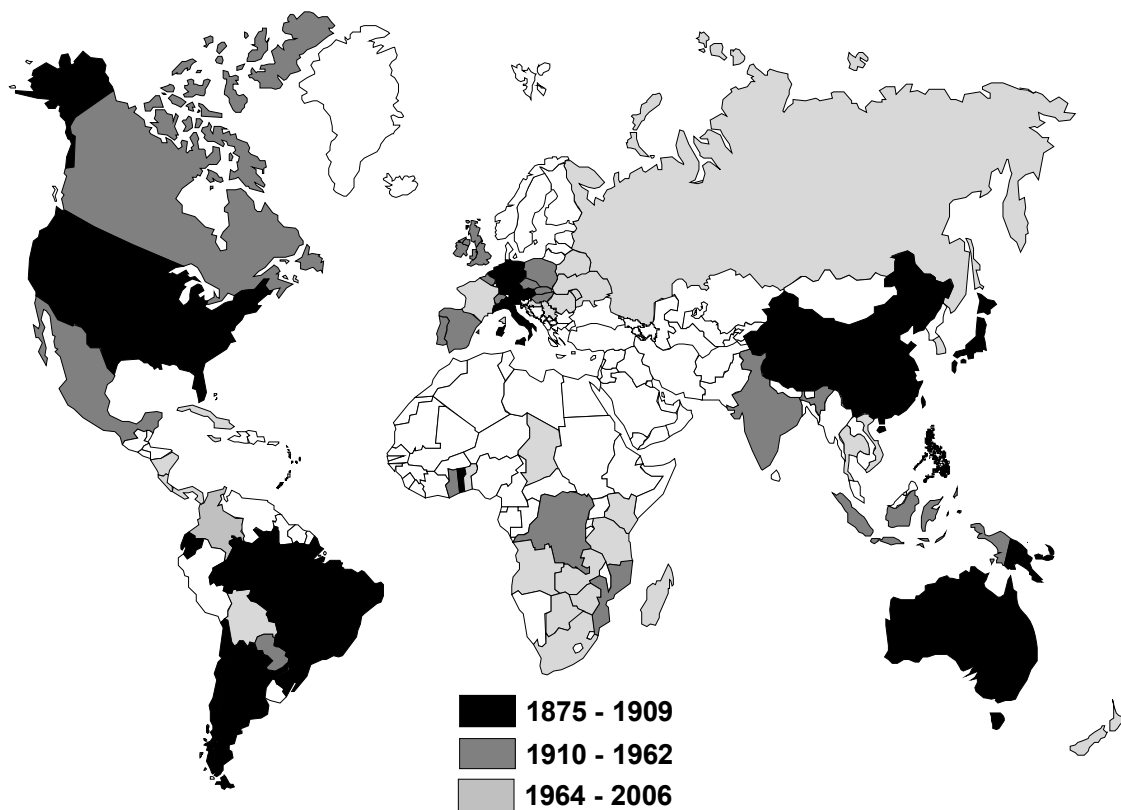
Arnold Janssen, expressed the same insight many years ago when he said: “To proclaim the Good News is the first and greatest act of love of neighbor”.

May this book be a tribute to all SVD confreres who live prophetic dialogue and witness to the fact that *Missio Caritas Est*.

Antonio M. Pernia, SVD
Superior General

15 February 2006

SVD FOUNDATIONS



SVD FOUNDATIONS

1875 SVD Foundation - Steyl

1875 Netherlands
 1882 China
 1888 Rome
 1889 Austria
 1889 Argentina
 1892 Togo (1974)
 1892 Germany
 1893 Ecuador (1962)
 1895 Brazil
 1895 USA
 1896 PNG
 1900 Australia
 1900 Chile
 1906 Japan
 1909 Philippines

1909 Death of St. Arnold Janssen

1910 Paraguay
 1911 Mozambique (1997)
 1913 Indonesia
 1920 Poland
 1920 Switzerland
 1923 Slovakia
 1924 Hungary
 1928 Belgium
 1930 United Kingdom
 1932 India
 1938 Ghana
 1938 Italy
 1939 Ireland
 1945 Spain
 1947 Czech Republic
 1949 Portugal
 1950 Canada
 1951 Congo (Kinshasa)
 1962 Mexico

1962-1965 II Vatican Council

1964 Colombia
 1965 Angola
 1965 Panama
 1970 Serbia-Montenegro
 1971 West Indies
 1979 Croatia
 1980 Nicaragua
 1981 Botswana
 1982 Bolivia
 1984 Kenya
 1984 S. Korea
 1985 New Zealand
 1986 Zambia
 1987 Benin
 1987 Zimbabwe
 1989 Cuba
 1989 France
 1989 Madagascar
 1991 Romania
 1991 Belarus
 1993 Jamaica
 1994 Russia
 1994 Ukraine
 1996 Moldova
 1998 Thailand
 1998 Vietnam (1936)
 2001 Tanzania
 2002 Timor Leste (1976)
 2003 Chad
 2003 South Africa
 2006 Costa Rica

