

SVD THAILAND

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2018

- **Christmas and New Year Greetings.**



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



It's time to say **"Thank You"** once again to so many of you who continue to give support for Mother of Perpetual Help Center through prayers and financial donations. All who benefit from your support are so grateful.

Please know that throughout the year you are remembered in our daily prayers. This is only a small token for which way we can show our appreciation.

Christmas is a special time of giving and sharing not only with our loved ones but with others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Let us be thankful for the gift of family and friends. Christmas is a time too when we think about the birth of Christ and as to how His birth affects our lives. Thank you, and God bless you always!

In the Word,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Lunders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Br. Damien Lunders, SVD

Returning Missionary to Thailand:

Truong Le, SVD has recently returned to the Thai District in Nong Bua Lamphu after spending the past two years completing his theological studies in the U.S. Truong previously had two years experience in the Overseas Training Program here with our SVD confreres. His positive experience brought him to the decision that he would like to continue his missionary goals by serving the people here in Northeast Thailand.

During his previous experience, Truong was involved with the parish at St. Michael's as well as with The Mother of Perpetual Help Center and caring for the teenagers at Ban Mae Marie. He will now continue to be involved at the parish and assist Brother Damien Lunders at The Mother of Perpetual Help Center. The SVDs in the District **"Welcome"** his return.



Hospice Care at Mother of Perpetual Help Center:

Villa Marie Hospice Care at the Center remains with a steady flow of needy patients. We no longer assist only those persons with HIV/AIDS, but welcome other needy men and women who are in particular need. Many of those coming for care is in very poor health, elderly and often homeless. The center opens the door to all who need help. Mother of Perpetual Help and Villa Marie Hospice are well known, even the local government appreciates the services that the center provide. Many who come for care are recommended and sent to us by the local government hospital as well as other hospitals in other Provinces; some are referred to our care by other religious in the Diocese and other Provinces.



Overflow of patients from Villa Marie being accommodated at Ban Mae Marie with our remaining teenagers. These are patients in better health, but no home to return to.



Mr. Chai.....a long term patient still at Villa Marie after more than 10 years.

Assistance Needy Children of HIV and Poor Families:

Seven years have passed since the Center joined the “*Enfant du Mekong*” project with sponsors from France who contributed 22 Euro each month for a needy child. Each month their contribution is distributed to the child. At the end of each quarter, all the children assemble at Mother of Perpetual Help Center where they would write their “Thank You” letters. These letters are sent to an office in Bangkok to be translated into French and sent to each of their sponsors. Much of their monthly contribution will be used for their transport to and from the school as well as for their school lunch.

Another project from the Holy Childhood in Rome gives a grant each year to assist needy children supplying them with school supplies, clothing and transportation. This project gives assistance to about 300 plus children.



Divine Word Missionaries:

Cuong (from Vietnam and joined the SVD in Bangkok) and Chalerm (first SVD Thai candidate) took first vows as Divine Word Missionaries in July. They completed their Novitiate in the Philippines and are currently with the SVD in Nong Bua Lamphu waiting on their visas to enter Australia where they will do extra English refresher courses before continuing with their theological studies with other SVD seminarians in Melbourne.



Mother of Perpetual Help Center

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www.aidshelpthailandia.com
www.svdmissions.org

English Ministry:

Br. Ron Fratzke, SVD has been teaching English in local Government schools in Nong Bua Lamphu since his arrival in Thailand some 18 years ago.

Ron also enjoys cooking for the community and takes pride in his cooking skills.



Donations can be sent through our Mission Office at Techny, Illinois (Designate for Thailand Mission)

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 Feature



Mr. Ken, an elderly gentlemen who is HIV negative, was sent to Villa Marie Hospice in May of this year, shortly before I went to the States for this year's fundraiser. When Ken came to the hospice, I was sure that he would not last more than two weeks—here it is almost seven months later, and he is still with us. Ken cannot speak; he is bed ridden and is fed only liquid through a tube inserted into his nose. Ken is practically skin and bone but has a positive and good spirit. He will acknowledge you at times with a simple smile or a squeeze of the hand.

Our local government hospital requested that we care for him—he is a delight to look after. His family told us not to contact them until he dies.....that was not easy to hear, but recently some of his family are coming to visit him again. Ken is one of three patients completely bedridden.