



# SVD CHINA PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

天主教聖言會中華省通訊

July 2011

願天主聖三生活在我們和眾人心中

Issue No. 62

SIN Provincialate: P.O. Box 4-13, Dapinglin, Xindian 231, Taipei County, TAIWAN, ROC

## A Word From The Provincial

### Mission and Eucharist:

*Who We Are as Divine Word Missionaries*

**O**n June 8 and 10, many of members of our province in Taiwan had the opportunity to attend the lectures given by Father Stephen Bevans, SVD, first at Fu Jen University in New Taipei City and then at Wenzao College of Foreign Languages in Kaohsiung. Below I have reproduced the text from three of Steve's power point slides from the first lecture, "The Mission has a Church."

Then, amazingly...

*We* are called to continue the mission of the Spirit and of Jesus

Mission calls the church into being...

...to accomplish God's purposes in the world

To be a sign and instrument of God's Reign

What the church would be like if we really believed this

1st – church is not about the church!

We are most church NOT when are building up the church

When we are spreading joy, hope, healing, inclusion in the world

Loving parents, loving spouses, honest workers, treating patients with care, going extra mile with students, witnessing to God's love, fighting for justice, being ecologically responsible, etc.

The church is MOST the church when it is in mission!

How the liturgy—especially Eucharist—would be celebrated

Gregory Augustine Pierce—Eucharist is the result of, preparation for, an act itself of mission

"The Mass is Never Ended"

We do liturgy in church to worship God in our lives!

***“the Church is most church when the people of God are gathered around the table of the Eucharist to hear the word of God and to share in the sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Eucharist.”***



Today the Church in Taiwan celebrates the feast of *Corpus Christi*. I often begin sermons on the Eucharist by asking a rhetorical question: “Where is the church most church?” My answer is that the Church is most church when the people of God are gathered around the table of the Eucharist to hear the word of God and to share in the sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

I have not changed the answer to my rhetorical question. But Steve’s lectures have caused me to broaden my understanding of the Eucharist. We share in the Eucharist to go out in mission and the culmination of our sharing in mission is celebrating the Eucharist together. If the celebration of the Eucharist is simply about ourselves, we have missed an essential aspect. If in all our work we forget

the Eucharist, we have forgotten who we are as Catholic Christians.

There is another question that has been on my mind especially in these three years since I have been provincial. What is the special mission of a religious-missionary congregation in today’s world? We are members of a congregation of brothers and priests. But in recent years the clerical component of our congregation has gradually increased in numbers relative to the lay brothers. At the same time, there have been other challenges facing Catholic Christianity. In most countries of the world, there is a shortage, often severe, of priests. Under these circumstances, it may seem that the role of the missionary-religious priest is to fill the gaps occasioned by the lack of diocesan clergy.

I wonder if part of the answer to this dilemma does not lie in rethinking our understanding of Eucharist as suggested by Steve Bevans in his lectures. The Eucharist is both preparation for mission and the culmination of mission. And the special vocation of the missionary-religious, both priests and brothers, is to be present in this inward and outward flow. In this religious missionaries stand in a special relationship to lay Catholics. For lay Catholics are the primary agents of mission. They work to build the kingdom of God in families and in the workplace, in the political and economic structures of society. Many would argue that the most important agents of evangelization are lay Catholics, sharing their faith among family, friends and acquaintances by word and example. The religious-missionary stands with them, working both in the secular world and the realm of the institutional church.

The contemporary religious-missionary is heir to a long history at this interface. Think of the sacred tradition of prayer and manual work of the Benedictines of the early middle ages as they worked to “modernize” agriculture in early medieval Europe. Think of the followers of Francis and Dominic as they moved from town to town to share the good news. And in our own times, when most people think of the Jesuits and the many congregations of men and women founded in the last few hundred years, they will think of education and caring for the sick. Schools and universities, hospitals and clinics, these institutions stand at the interface between the Church gathered around the Eucharistic table and those working for the kingdom of God in the larger society.



I suggest that we as SVD religious-missionaries are called to serve at this interface. Of course it is a team effort. Some of our members will be working in apostolates where the center is literally the Eucharistic table – parishes, retreats, spiritual direction. But they must never forget that their ministry should always open up to the larger society. Others will be working in more secular areas – education, justice, peace and integrity of creation, social development, caring for the sick, the poor and the marginalized. They must not forget that they are working for Jesus Kingdom and not a secular utopia and that for us as Catholic Christians, the center of the Kingdom here on earth is the Eucharistic table.

Let me close by quoting Constitution 402:

402 In the celebration of the Eucharist the glorified Lord becomes present to his church by the power of the Holy Spirit. In it we proclaim his life, death and resurrection, offering to God the sacrifice through which we are reconciled with him.

Christ gives us a share in his life and unites us with his offering to the Father for all. In this way the Eucharist deepens our life with the Lord and becomes the source of strength for our apostolic service and our union with all.

*They must not forget that they are working for Jesus Kingdom and not a secular utopia and that for us as Catholic Christians, the center of the Kingdom here on earth is the Eucharistic table.*

Frank Budenholzer, SVD  
 Feast of *Corpus Christi*  
 June 26, 2011

## Taipei's Fu Jen meets Bohol's Holy Name

Dan Bauer  
Fu Jen Catholic University



Many years have passed since I disappointed a friend of mine, a Jesuit colleague here at Fu da (FuJen University), by saying “No thanks.” I said those words in response to his request that I organize English Department students for exchange programs abroad.

I already felt busy enough at the time with work in my own small garden. I also wanted to focus on improving my classroom skills. My personal goal was to establish a good academic, not a good travel career.

And, to be frank, I was concerned about the financial burdens that exchange programs might add to the families of our students.

Now, some 20 years later, I find myself in a different place on the question. Six days and nights at Holy Name University in Bohol, the Philippines in the waning days of June opened my eyes in a dramatic way.

If we can book rooms and tickets at group rates, and if we stay close to home, we SVDs might well achieve new goals in our ministries that are close to the center of our charism as a missionary society. The Saint Arnold Janssen passion to mix

cultures and proclaim the universal truth of Jesus and his Gospel came home to me in new and vital ways in Bohol.

Students typically grow up in Taiwan with a distorted view of the Philippines as a country, and of its people. This is largely the fault of a sensationalistic media which tends to focus on Filipinos in news reports either as “local foreign workers” alone, or as victims of horrible natural disasters. The idea of millions of Filipino people living and working in lives that are very similar to our own is simply inconceivable for many, if not most of our students, and, I may add, their families. I say this mostly on the basis of 12 years of experience in teaching professional and personal ethics at Fu Jen. Countless students have responded with skepticism or disbelief in my classrooms to my efforts to break down stereotypes and to challenge attitudes that smack of prejudice and racism.

Thus, I jumped at the chance when top SVD university representative James V. offered me the opportunity this past semester to accompany a group of 29 Business Management majors and 3 colleagues for a week-long intensive English course at Holy Name University in Bohol.

Our Fu Jen group was extremely impressed by the open hearts and smiles which welcomed us and stayed with us till our last goodbyes. Father Francisco Estepa SVD, president of Holy Name University, and former Taiwan missionary Father Teodoro Gapuz SVD were among the SVD officials and Holy Name faculty members who met our plane. After we climbed onto an air-conditioned bus with “Holy Name University” emblazoned on the side and headed to our hotel “downtown,” I asked the students if they realized who

they had just met. That enthusiastic and smiling young “shen-fu” who went around shaking their hands was the university president, I told them. The students went a little gaga over that, as we say in American English. And I confess I did too.

We attended 3 hours of class every morning of our stay with the exception of the one “24 hours for fun” stint which we invested in swimming, rides around town in “tricycles” (motorcycle-cart taxis), visits to a beautiful and historic church, a bee farm, “Chocolate Hills” (our students were sad the hills were not actually made of candy), a dinner afloat and river cruise, and posing for pictures by a kidney-shaped pool. On Saturday we held class sessions for 2 extra hours in the afternoon for student presentations. Holy Name then treated us to an unforgettable dance performance, during which our hosts, in colorful costumes, performed traditional dances, including an especially touching “love song” play.

That evening Father Estepa hosted a festive farewell banquet at the SVD residence, complete with roast pig, wine, San Miguel beer, and a band good enough to make it one day (in my view) into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

A particularly important experience was our mixing with Holy Name students who helped us with our touring, several class activities, and peer-centered language coaching for student presentations.

Three Holy Name University professors deserve special mention. Patpat Espiritu was the overall coordinator, and took special care of our food and lodging needs. Professors Socorro Anne Revella Zaluaga, Sheryl Dulhao-Gatal, and Rose Sabijon Rara offered carefully prepared and well-executed class sessions.



# **Japanese students safe in Taiwan while country suffers back home !!!**

Dan Bauer  
(March 20 edition of The China Post)

I had recently heard that a group of 27 students from the Asian Studies Department of Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan was studying Mandarin for a three week period at my university. As the past days progressed and the news from Japan grew grimmer, I began to contemplate how the tone and content of their days in Taiwan had changed so abruptly. I began to wonder how they felt about what they and their loved ones in Japan are going through these days.

At first, it didn't seem difficult to imagine that, at least to a certain degree, I could identify with their situation. Then I gave that notion a second thought.

Many of us have at one time or the other received hard news from afar and felt the bite of a very particular kind of isolation. We have found ourselves away from home when loved ones have fallen into trouble of one sort or another, a sudden catastrophe or death in the family, perhaps.

But, wait just a minute.

An earthquake and tsunami scenario that take the lives of over 10,000 people in one fell swoop and leave unimaginable wreckage in their wake? And, added to this, the very real possibility of a horrific nightmare of nuclear energy and radiation run amuck?

I was able to meet for an hour and a half Thursday afternoon this week with 12 of the total group of 27 students from Nanzan. One of the students, Natsumi Inagawa, comes from Shizuoka, scene of the earthquake that followed a few days after the first quake on March 11. Ms. Inagawa said her family had relieved her of her worries, by the way. They and their home are safe.

All 27 of the Nanzan students were attending a class in Chinese martial arts when the earthquake hit on the afternoon of March 11. As they were leaving their class building in a group to head across campus, a friend ran up to them and, out of breath from excitement and fear, burst out the news of the disaster. The students used cell phones to call their families for news, but lines were badly jammed for the first hour or so. Finally contacts smoothed out. By supper time, most had gotten news that with the bulk of the damage occurring in northern Japan, their areas in the south, Nagoya City, Gifu City, and Tsu City, had survived the earthquake and opening onslaught of the tsunami unscathed.

One of the students had an agonizing Friday evening. Her efforts to contact Japan were all in vain. Frantic and near exhaustion, at 12:30, she received an e-mail from the Nogoya area. Her family had asked "a friend" to send news that they were safe.

The students told me they were touched that in the days that followed, practically everyone they knew in Taiwan asked about their families and their welfare.



Fr. Dan with his students

“Many people pledged to make donations in the fund-raising drive at Fu Jen yesterday,” wrote freshman Hori Yurina for me, “and my heart is full of thanks. I hope Japan can get back on its feet (‘hui hui fu’).”

I asked if they had trouble focusing on their studies this past week. The students replied that, basically, ignorance is bliss. “Unable to know all that people back home are able to, we feel a little ‘protected,” they said in the voice of Rio Shimizu, whose English appeared to be the best among her peers.

Among the words that Juri Ishida jotted down for me were these: “Many Taiwanese are now worried about Japan . . . At first I was very anxious, because I’m a foreigner. But people here are very kind. Many are saying, ‘Fight on!’ I’d like to express my gratitude to you all.”

“My part of Japan escaped damage,” wrote one of her classmates. “But so many Japanese are suffering so badly now. I simply cannot believe such a tragedy has happened. The generosity of the people of Taiwan makes me feel braver.”

The 27 students from Nanzan are due to leave Taiwan on an Eva Air Lines flight to Chubu on Sunday morning. I believe I speak for many of us as I say our hearts are with these young friends and their loved ones. We wish them well in the difficult days ahead.

# Thinking About Mission Today

Workshop on "Thinking about Mission Today" By *Fr. Stephen Bevans, SVD*



*Introduction to  
Constants in Context  
Taipei – June 8, 2011  
Kaohsiung – June 10, 2011*



Congratulations Fr. Paskalis Bako, the new Parish Priest of Shulin Church

<http://www.svdchina.org/>