

May, 2022

Council Corner # 23



Society of the Divine Word Southern Province of St. Augustine: USS

Some inspirational thoughts

“I believe that the struggle against death, the unconditional and self-willed determination to live, is the mode of power behind the lives and activities of all.

St. Arnold's Wisdom
FOR DAILY LIVING

MAY 15



Everyone of us
must say: I wish to
please God the Lord
through a faithful
fulfillment of all
which it is my duty
to do the whole
long day.



Courtesy: EWERTZ. Trans. Rudy Heckel. *God's Holy Will Alone*, Steyl, 1995.
@ Fr. Dixson Lawrence D'Souza SVD, AJS Coordinator, INE

Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is the letting go. I have always believed, and I still believe, that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value.

Our mind is capable of passing beyond the dividing line we have drawn for it. Beyond the pairs of opposites of which the world consists, other, new insights begin.

Learn what is to be taken seriously and laugh at the rest.

There is no reality except the one contained within us. That is why so many people live such an unreal life. They take the images outside of them for reality and never allow the world within to assert itself.

You are only afraid if you are not in harmony with yourself. People are afraid because they have never owned up to themselves. Within you, there is a stillness and a sanctuary to which you can retreat at any time and be yourself.”

- *Hermann Hesse*

Annual Retreat:

Our next encounter as a Province is our annual retreat from **June 5th– 10th.**

Our own Bishop Terry Steib will facilitate the retreat for which we are very grateful.

From your evaluations of our last assembly and retreat; we have decided to postpone the beginning of the first talk until **3: PM Monday the 6th. of June.**

This is to give time to those furthest away and those who have mass on Sunday evening to make it on time. So do please make every effort everybody to be here for 3: PM on Monday, so that we can start together.

As usual it will finish with our Mass on Thursday afternoon followed by a banquet to celebrate our Jubilarians and our brotherhood.

Please plan to leave on Friday morning. The schedule is included in this 'Council Corner' and liturgy assignments will be sent to the district Superiors later.

Please collaborate with the amount \$300 per person for the retreat days, as usual you can send it to our Provincial treasury.

Let us pray to God that it will be a spiritually enriching experience for us all individually and as a province, and open ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

I can do ALL THINGS
through *Christ*
who STRENGTHENS me.
-Philippians 4:13

St. Arnold's Wisdom
FOR DAILY LIVING

MAY 18



“ With prayer you can open the way to heavenly goods: "For which you ask the Father in my Name" and further, "Ask and you will receive." Naturally, you must be of such a mind that you plead in the Name of Jesus and can say truly: "Our Father ..." You must therefore be true children of God and remain in his grace always. ”

 Courtesy: EWERTZ. Trans. Rudy Heckel. *God's Holy Will Alone*, Steyl, 1995.
@ Fr. Dixon Lawrence D'Souza SVD, AJS Coordinator, INE

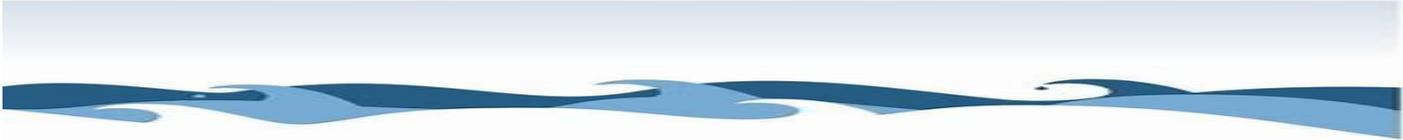
Fort Worth / Mobile Diocese's

Since we regretfully have to vacate the Diocese of Fort Worth TX by the 1st of July the provincial council is discerning take up a request that has been pending from the Archdiocese of Mobile AL.

You may remember we were approached over a year ago to take an African American parish in Montgomery AL. However after visiting the parish the Provincial Council declined to take the offer as it did not seem to have much missionary potential and was over-burdened with many empty buildings needing constant maintenance and financially burdensome. It was also geographically a long distance away.

Since then the Archdiocese, (*understanding our priorities*) have approached us again to staff a multicultural parish close to Mobile Alabama (*on route to Florida*). Having visited the parish it is very much in line with our mission statement recently re-visited in our Provincial Assembly. It's only an hour & a half from Bay St. Louis. Archbishop Rodi, also expressed that in the coming year or two there is potentially an African American parish in Mobile that could also be available to us.

The Provincial Council are consulting and looking at suitable personnel and will soon take a decision on it.



Annual Interview with the Review Board and Assessment from Praesidium

Having completed our first year accredited to Praesidium we underwent an assessment and evaluation. Certain files were re-visited, up-dates given and recent events reported. That was followed by an interview with 10 members of the Review Board who give recommendations, and follow-up on past reporting and commitments.

Our files can be audited at any time without prior notice to ensure we keep our commitment and to verify that all files are up-to-date .

Brothers; this can only be done with your collaboration and commitment to safe-guard the interests of our Province by following protocol and policies regarding safe-environment, suitability letters, on-line training up-dates, etc., There must be files to prove all the commitments are fulfilled. Incessantly the Code of Ethics and Behavior for Priests & Religious who minister in parishes and beyond is been monitored and scrutinized. Bishops are also increasingly under pressure and are scrupulous that all guidelines are followed.

I thank you for stepping up and plead with everybody not to let our guard down and to learn from past failures.



District / Local Superiors—Pending

The General Council approved the Protocol of the Visitation to our province prepared by Bro. Guy Mazola Mido and Fr. Mark Weber upon the conclusion of their General Visitation here.

All members should take time to go through it and I ask the District Superiors to make a special effort to read and reflect on this important document in your districts/community.

As the norms for the General Visitation say: *“The Protocol should be discussed at the earliest convenience in districts/communities and its implementation initiated immediately”*. You will find special concerns outlined in this Council Corner. Please send in your comments those districts / community that have still not had a chance to do so.

General Chapter:

Please remember that the questionnaire sent out for our district / community for your reflection as a preparation for the next General Chapter in Rome. Upon reflecting and sharing on the questionnaire, please send in your reports to the Provincial in the next couple of months.

Solidarity with the Ukraine



The total amount sent to Rome in solidarity with the Ukraine from our Province came to \$8,000 . Thank you to those who so generously contributed. The Province also contributed, topping up the amount

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>5th-10th June 2022</i>	<i>Provincial Retreat</i>	<i>Bay St. Louis</i>
<i>28th-29th Oct. 2023</i>	<i>Centennial Celeb ...</i>	<i>Bay St. Louis</i>

Special Concerns raised by the Generalate from the General Visitation as outlined in the Protocol



* The SVD presence in the USS Province since its foundation has been to care for the African American community. Without the SVD, many of the African American churches could have been closed. We invite you to move beyond a sacramental focus towards the service to the wider community, to be creative and outward-looking. The human needs in the neighborhoods around our parishes are great, and thus offer great opportunities to find creative ways of addressing those needs, collaborating with other denominations and organizations. This is the SVD mission.

Over the past fifteen years or so, you have taken parishes that are multicultural in nature. Is there a possibility of reconciling the different communities you are serving without having to sacrifice one for the sake of the other? We would like you to highlight, in your ministry, the extraordinary potential we have Intercultural Congregation. Acting constantly with this charism can not only enhance the apostolic effectiveness of our mission, but in a fragmented and wounded world, it can witness the reconciliation in solidarity of all the children of God. as a

* Finance: “As SVD, we have a strong history of international solidarity in personnel and finances. Through the vow of poverty, we commit ourselves to place all that we have at the service of our intercultural life and mission” (17[^] GC, #36). It is encouraging to see that your province is trying to be financially self-reliant.

We would like to encourage you to continually evaluate your lifestyle and to ensure that you give effective witness to solidarity with the poor and with the confreres living and working in poor provinces. This can be possible only if you live your vow of poverty as a witness to God’s gifts to be share by all (see 18^{'''} GC, #35). Hence, we invite you to assess your salary policy and use the funds in your possession with responsibility, transparency, and accountability. The parish money has to be used according to the regulations of the diocese.

* As part of the introduction of new missionaries they should receive an appropriate language course and a sufficient introduction to the culture, history, and the practices of the province. Recognizing individual limitations, we also invite each one to make a personal effort to better learn the language and the culture.

* Sexual Abuse The sexual abuse remains a serious issue in the province. Some have been trapped by their naivety. We urge you to familiarize yourselves with the policies and guidelines both of the diocese and of the province regarding Safe Environment, especially Proper Conduct, Boundary Violations, Home Visits, Having Guests at Rectory/Residence, Use of the Internet, and social media, etc. Although regular audit of confreres is done by “Praesidium”, ongoing formation program related to the issue can be arranged for all confreres in USS.



Annual Retreat Schedule

USS Province - 2022

Sunday, June 05th —Arrival

5:30 pm Dinner (*Please give Fr. Joseph notice if you are coming for dinner*)
7:00 pm Social in Community Lounge in Residence

Monday, June 6th

07:00 am Prayer & Eucharist in Community Chapel
03:00 pm Midafternoon Prayer & 1st Conference (*Conference Hall*)
05:00 pm Evening Prayer (*St. Augustine's Chapel*)
05:30 pm Dinner

Tuesday, June 7th - Wednesday, June 8th, 2022

07:45 am Morning Prayer (*St. Augustine's Chapel*)
8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am 2nd Conference
10:00 am Holy Hour (*St. Augustine's Chapel*)
11:15 am Celebration of the Eucharist
12:00 pm Lunch
4:00 pm 3rd Conference
5:15 pm Evening Prayer (*St. Augustine's Chapel*)
5:30 pm Dinner
7:30 pm Social (*Except Wednesday*)

Thursday, June 9th, 2021

07:45 am Morning Prayer (*St. Augustine's Chapel*)
8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am 4th Conference
11:00 am Bible Sharing
12:00 pm Lunch
3:00 pm Provincial Information & Updates
4:00 pm Jubilee Eucharist
5:00 pm Drinks ...
5:30 pm Banquet (*Residence Dining Room*)

Friday, June 10th, 2021 – Departure after Breakfast

7:00 am Prayer & Mass (*Community Chapel*)
8:00 am Breakfast

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

May Birthdays

- 13- Fr. Mario Roberto Rasonabe, SVD
- 17- Bishop Terry Steib, SVD
- 26- Fr. Peter Phong Nguyen, SVD
- 26- Fr. Sebastian Myladiyil, SVD

May Death Anniversaries

- 24- Father Mark Figaro, SVD



Our Jubilarians 2022



- * Fr. Arockiam Arockiam (*25 years vows*)
- * Fr. Tarsisius A. Puling (*25 years vows*)
- * Bishop Curtis J. Guillory (*50 years priest*)

Congratulations!