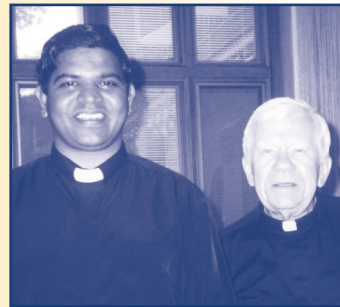


Bells chimed on June 7, 2003, for the Anniversary of Mount Grace Chapel and Convent celebrating 75 years of uninterrupted adoration of the “enduring presence” of Jesus in the Eucharist. On June 7, 1928, Mrs. Theresa Backer Kulage’s desire to establish Perpetual Adoration in St. Louis was finally realized. The dream she envisioned materialized into the Chapel on a “MOUNT” overlooking the Mississippi Valley with a constant stream of “GRACE” pouring forth from His Eucharistic throne upon Archdiocese of Saint Louis and

beyond. We praise and bless the Lord for the gift of Theresa Kulage’s inspiration and generosity. The Sisters have a unique spiritual partnership of prayer with the Legion of Adorers. Many, many visitors call upon the Lord to hear their petitions in this house of prayer. Archbishop Justin Rigali participated in our joy by concelebrating Mount Grace’s Diamond Jubilee Mass. Our Chapel was filled to capacity with many faces that became one heart in Christ celebrating a festive Eucharistic Liturgy of thanksgiving. This was a memorable day for all. After Mass it was our delight to greet many old and new friends in the Marian Hall. A spirit of excitement gladdened our hearts as we prepared for the celebration and it remained until we said our last grateful goodbye. Our 75th Anniversary was marked with lasting memories for us to cherish and share for years to come.

Fr. Christu-Raj, SVD visited our chaplain, Fr. Felix. Both are spiritual sons of St. Arnold. He offered to give the Sisters a conference and he took us across the ocean to the Divine Word Centre in Muthangi village of Medak District, one of the most backward areas of Andhra Pradesh State of South India. Father Christu-Raj is the Director of this “spiritual power house” as named by Archbishop S. Arullappa of Hyderabad. Thousands of people flock there weekly to receive the word of God. “Fr. Christu-Raj is an inspiring speaker-”...when a person kneels and prays, Satan is defeated. The joy of the Lord is your strength-Rejoice! Don’t allow evil to take over your mind, Rejoice!” The Centre’s motto is, “See and serve God in the human face.”



Daughters of St. Arnold, Sr. Mary Reinhilde and Sr. Lisa are celebrating Sisters in Mount Grace’s Jubilee Year. In November 2003, Sr. Mary Reinhilde celebrates her Golden Jubilee and Sr. Lisa becomes a Novice. They share their joy because the joy of one Sister is the joy of the other.

CONGRATULATIONS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND BEST WISHES JUSTIN CARDINAL RIGALI!

Holy Father, may the Lord bless you abundantly for 25 years of faithful and fatherly service to the universal Church and for your good example of imitating Christ. Cardinal Rigali, you will wear the “Red Hat” well in serving the Pope and leading the Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Saint Louis will forever remember Pope John Paul II’s visit to Saint Louis in 1999. God reward you and be assured of our prayers.



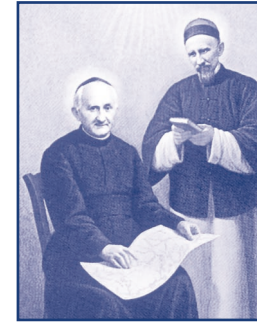
“May the darkness
of sin and the night
of unbelief vanish
before the light of
the Word and the
Spirit of grace and
may the Heart
of Jesus live in
every heart.”
Saint Arnold Janssen, SVD

You and your loved ones will
be gratefully remembered in
our Advent and
Christmas Liturgies
December 16 to 24 and
December 26 to January 3
and in our
Eucharistic Celebrations
on Christmas Day.

*All the Sisters wish you
and yours a Holy Season
filled with Joy, and may the
blessing of Jesus’ love flow
through the New Year.
Season’s Greetings.*

Mount Grace Newsletter

May to October 2003
Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters
1438 East Warne Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63107
Visit our Web Site:
www.mountgraceconvent.org

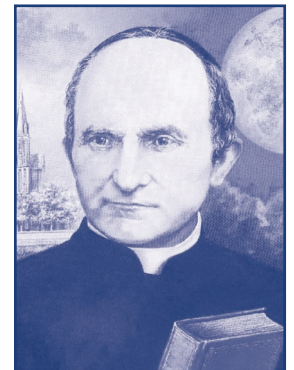


Bells have been tolling first for Arnold Janssen’s three Congregations, secondly, for the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters, and thirdly for Mount Grace Convent.

The Divine Word Missionaries, the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters and the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters have declared March 25, 2003 to March 25, 2004 as a Year of Grace for the Arnoldus Family. This is a blessed time for our Communities and a time to give

praise and thanks to the Holy Triune God. It is a time to celebrate, remember and reflect on the holiness and lives of the first Saints of our Steyl Congregations. First and foremost Arnold Janssen, our Founder, and Joseph Freinademetz his 1st missionary to China, were canonized in Rome on October 5, 2003 by Pope John Paul II. Both were born into large devout Catholic families. Saints Arnold and Joseph were humble, men of prayer, hardworking and dedicated to their missionary call. “To proclaim the Good News is the first and greatest act of love of neighbor.” (St. Arnold Janssen) “To be a missionary is the finest task in the world.” (St. Joseph Freinademetz) In the lives of the saints God speaks to us in different and unforeseen ways. St. Arnold and St. Joseph led modest lives and it was through their lives that God made exceptional things happen.

Arnold Janssen was born on November 5, 1837 in Goch, Germany, and was the second child in the family. He was ordained a priest for Muenster on August 15, 1861, and assigned to teach natural sciences and mathematics in secondary school. His devotion to the Sacred Heart led to being the Diocesan Director of the Apostleship of Prayer, developing in him a deep concern for the universal mission of the church. He was bothered that Germany did not have missionary training. Resigning his teaching position in 1873 he devoted his life to mission work. He printed a magazine rich with information that soon had many subscribers. Bismark unleashed the anti-Catholic “Kulturkampf”. In this chaos Arnold Janssen proposed that expelled priests could go to the foreign missions or help prepare missionaries. Bishops encouraged him and eventually he could see God’s will for him in this difficult situation. Arnold inaugurated St. Michael’s Mission House on September 8, 1875 in Steyl, Holland-thus began the Divine Word Missionaries. “The Lord challenges our faith to do something new, precisely when so many things are collapsing in the Church”



Volunteers at the mission house included women. Their wish was to serve the mission as Religious Sisters. Their faithful, selfless service, urged Arnold to found the “Servants of the Holy Spirit” on December 8, 1889. Blessed Maria Helena Stollenwerk their co-founder was among them. In 1896 Father Arnold selected some Sisters to form a cloistered branch-”Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration”. This included their co-founder, Mother Mary Michael. Their apostolate was uninterrupted, day and night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, praying always for the church, and for priests and missionaries. In the last years of his life Saint Arnold Janssen suffered from severe diabetes and died on January 15, 1909. He was respected and esteemed for his firm principles and purposeful activity, for his openness and uprightness. He had a great confidence in Divine Providence. In seeking God’s will he researched and studied carefully before beginning new undertakings. His hard work has been blessed. The communities he founded now have: more than 6,000 Divine Word Missionaries in 63 countries, more than 3,800 Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, and more than 400 contemplatives-the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters.

Joseph Freinademetz was born and baptized on April 15, 1852, in a hamlet, in the Dolomite Alps known as South Tyrol then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. In his seminary years he began to think of the foreign missions. He was ordained a priest on July 25, 1875, then assigned an area near his home and soon he won the people’s hearts. Longing to be a missionary and with his bishop’s permission, Joseph entered St. Michael’s Mission House in Steyl, Netherlands, in August 1878. He received the mission cross and departed for China in March 1879 with another SVD Missionary. The two prepared themselves in Hong Kong for their assignment. In 1881 they travelled to a new mission in South Shantung with 12 million inhabitants and only 158 Christians. For Joseph these were hard years marked by long, arduous journeys, assaults by bandits, and once severely beaten and left half dead. The work of forming new Christian Communities was very difficult. As soon as one was begun he would receive orders to leave and begin another one elsewhere. Soon Joseph committed laity, especially catechists for energy to their formation and prepared same time, he put great effort into the ongoing education of Chinese priests was marked by an effort to become a so that he wrote to his family: “I love among them and be laid to rest among tuberculosis began for Joseph workload and many other hardships. At he was sent to rest in Japan and to regain his health. He returned to China somewhat recuperated but not cured. When the bishop had to travel outside of China in 1907, Father Freinademetz took on the added burden of the administration of the diocese. During this time there was a severe outbreak of typhus. Joseph, like a good shepherd, offered his assistance and visited many communities until he himself became infected. He returned to Taikia, the seat of the diocese, where he died on January 28, 1908. He was buried at the twelfth station on the Way of the Cross, and his grave soon became a pilgrimage site for Christians. Joseph learned how to discover the greatness and beauty of Chinese culture and to deeply love those to whom he had been sent. The first Chinese cardinal, Thomas Tien, said of Saint Joseph Freinademetz, “He was always there for others and then he was totally there just for them, completely selfless and forgetful of himself.”



Our Mass in honor of Saints Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz on October 5 was quiet and beautifully simple. Our chaplain, Father Felix Eckerman, SVD, had a touching homily that only a spiritual son of Saint Arnold could deliver. Two larger celebrations are scheduled for late October and early November and these events will be shared with you in the next Newsletter. “The saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments of the Church’s history.” Indeed “holiness is the hidden source and infallible measure of her apostolic activity and missionary zeal.” It is the Holy Spirit-the bond of union in the Blessed Trinity that brings about the oneness of our three Congregations irregardless of our multicultural communities.

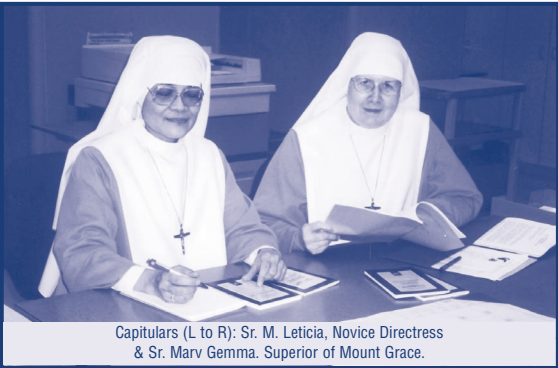
Bells rang out again and this time for our Congregation. In July the capitulars gathered at our Generalate in Bad



Superior Generals outgoing & incoming (L to R): Mother Mary Aurora and Sister Mary Cecilia

Driburg, Germany for the 10th General Chapter resulting in the election of our new Superior General. After generously and selflessly serving our Congregation for 34 years Mother Mary Aurora was ready to hand her commander’s staff over to Sister Mary Cecilia, our new and 5th Superior General. Sister ended her poignant acceptance speech with this request: “For most of us, Mother Mary Aurora is the only Mother we have known and there will always be only one Mother in our hearts, and so I request you to

continue to address me as Sister Mary Cecilia.” Sister Mary Gemma and Sister Mary Leticia felt privileged to represent the Mount Grace Community at this grace-filled General Chapter. Mother Mary Aurora pictured this meeting to be “a praying Chapter” and so it was. The Holy Spirit was frequently invoked for enlightenment and for the grace needed to discern the Father’s will in this election. We were overjoyed with the good results. The canonization of our Founder, Arnold Janssen, is considered a confirmation of our service in the Church as contemplative-missionary Sisters. Father Peter McHugh, SVD, was the perfect Chapter Moderator. He is an expert on the life and spirituality of Saint Arnold and he gladly shared a wealth of information with us. Father McHugh was guide for the capitulars on a pilgrimage to Goch, Saint Arnold’s birth place. On that day time was spent recalling the blessings of our heritage and our awareness was heightened of the great legacy of Saint Arnold’s profound Trinitarian spirituality. Sister Mary Gemma related to us a marvelous World War II story about Father Arnold’s neighbors in Goch. The town was being bombed and the house next door to the Janssen house was hit hard and the family was buried in rubble and they were trapped and suffocating. They prayed and asked Father Arnold to intercede for them in their dilemma. A short time later another bomb hit the Janssen quarters. The force of the explosion blew the debris off of them. The family was so very grateful that their lives were spared. They voluntarily took on the responsibility of opening and closing the Janssen house for the pilgrims who journey to Goch and pay their respects to Saint Arnold which gives honor and glory to God. The house is now owned by the Divine Word Missionaries.



Capitulars (L to R): Sr. M. Leticia, Novice Directress & Sr. Marv Gemma, Superior of Mount Grace.