

## **The Society of the Divine Word – SVD**

The Society of the Divine Word, popularly, Divine Word Missionaries, is an international Religious Missionary Congregation founded by a German priest, Arnold Janssen in 1875. Though initially it was a German Mission Society, soon it became an international congregation. Today there are over 7000 members hailing from over 80 countries and working in 84 countries, Myanmar being the latest one.

Being a missionary congregation with lay and clerical members, internationality is its basic characteristic, lived in international and multicultural communities. Through this we witness to the worldwide church in fraternal relationship and mission. We work especially in areas where the gospel has not yet or has only insufficiently been proclaimed, and where the local church is not viable on its own or where we are invited for a specialized missionary apostolate.

We seek dialogue with all and share the good news of God's love with them. Our particular service is to enter into dialogue with people who do not have a faith community and are faith seekers; are poor and are marginalized; are of different cultures or are of different religious and cultural traditions.

Rooted in the Word, Committed to His Mission, is our motto and this is expressed through four primary apostolates: Biblical apostolate, Justice and Peace, Dialogue with religions and cultures and Communication. They are the characteristic dimensions of the SVD.

His Eminence, Cardinal Charles Bo, SDB invited us to the Yangon Archdiocese for Biblical apostolate in 2016. The House in Hmawbi was blessed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Currently four SVDs coming from Vietnam, Philippines, India and Poland are learning Burmese to be involved in biblical and pastoral work.