St. Peregrine's Parish Partnership
Hartstown • Huntstown/Littlepace • Mountview/Blakestown

WHO ARE THE 'SVD'?

You see us - Fr.'s Yanbo, Erik, Justin, & Vinod - at the altar every day and, indeed, every Sunday – but do you really know about us!

For many years, the priests serving here at St. Peregrine's have been members of a special family called the **Society of the Divine Word** – or the **SVD** for short.

But who are we? We are not just 'diocesan priests'. We are **Missionaries**.

The 'Divine Word' Family

The SVD was founded in 1875 by a Dutch priest, St. Arnold Janssen. He had a burning vision: to send missionaries to every corner of the world, to places where the name of Jesus had never been heard.

Our Logo – The Globe and the Cross

Look at our symbol. It shows a globe *(the whole world)* with a cross rising from it. It reminds us that our job is to bring God's Word to **everyone**, in every nation, tribe, and people.

What makes an SVD priest different?

We are not sent to *one* diocese for life. We are sent to the *world*. We live and work in over 80 countries. We go where the need is greatest – often to the poor, the forgotten, and the margins of society.

Our four Special Gifts (Charisms):

1. **The Bible:** We try to live and breathe the Word of God, not just read it.
2. **Communication:** We share the Gospel through media, writing, and dialogue.
3. **Mission Animation:** We believe everyone has a right to hear the Good News, and we inspire others to become missionaries too.
4. **Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation:** We stand with the poor and work for a fairer world, caring for our common home.

Why are we here in Hartstown, Huntstown/Littlepace, and Mountview/Blakestown?

Because *here* is our mission field right now. You are not just 'parishioners' to us. You are our brothers and sisters on the journey of faith. We bring to you the same energy and love we would bring to a village in Africa, Asia, or South America.

We are not just your priests. We are your fellow missionaries.

We love talking about our SVD life! Do not be shy.

- **After Mass:** If you see us in the sacristy or at the church door, simply say, *"Father, tell me about the SVD."* We would love to share our stories of mission - *the funny ones and the holy ones.*
- **The Parish Office:** Ask for a copy of our SVD magazine or newsletter. We have stories from our brothers in Papua New Guinea, Brazil, and the Philippines.
- **Question Box:** Over the next few weeks, drop a note in the offertory basket with your question: *"What do SVD priests do all day?"* We will answer them from the pulpit.

IF OUR WAY OF LIFE INTERESTS YOU – JOIN US

Is God calling *you*? It is not just about becoming a priest!

- **The SVD Lay Associates:** You can share our spirituality and mission while remaining a parent, a worker, or a grandparent. We have a lay branch for ordinary people who want to live a 'missionary' life right where they are.
- **Vocations – Priest & Brother:** Are you a young man *(or know one*) who feels drawn to adventure, prayer, and serving the poor across the world? Come and have a quiet chat with us. No pressure. Just prayer and discernment.
- **Volunteer:** Want to help our mission through fundraising, prayer groups, or parish outreach? That is 'joining us' in spirit and action.

BUT OVER ALL – PRAY FOR US

This is the most important request. Missionary life is beautiful, but it is also hard. We get tired. We get lonely. We are far from our own families so that we can be close to you.

Please pray specifically for:

- *Our SVD brothers serving in dangerous or war-torn countries.*
- *New vocations – that young men and women will hear the call to the Divine Word.*
- *Us, your priests – that we may always be joyful witnesses to the Gospel.*

A Simple Prayer for Your SVD Priests:

Lord Jesus, Divine Word, thank you for sending the SVD missionaries to our parish.
Bless them with courage, joy, and strength.
Help us to support them by our prayers and love. Amen.

➞ PRAY FOR US. ASK US. AND IF GOD IS CALLING... JOIN US. ⬅

The SVD Priests – St. Peregrine's Parish Partnership