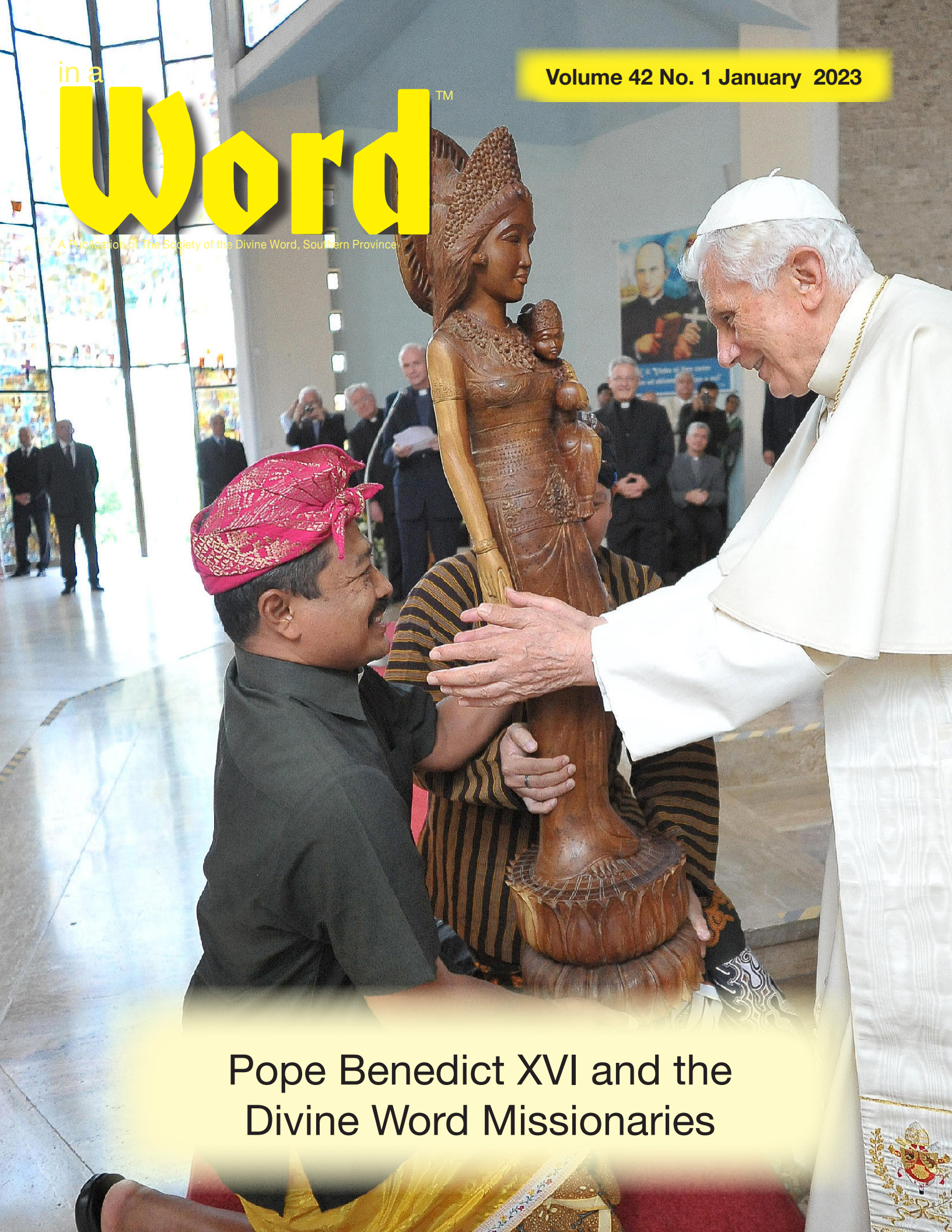


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WordTM

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Pope Benedict XVI and the
Divine Word Missionaries

Pope's World Peace Day message: There is light even in our darkest hour

Pope Francis released his message for the World Day of Peace celebrated on January 1, 2023, and recalls that all crises are interconnected and that we must not forget any of them, but work for the good of humanity.

The following selected quotes from the Pope's World Peace Day message are found below:

Covid-19 plunged us into a dark night. It destabilized our daily lives, upset our plans and routines, and disrupted the apparent tranquillity of even the most affluent societies. It generated disorientation and suffering and caused the death of great numbers of our brothers and sisters.

Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. Consequently, we urgently need to join together in seeking and promoting the universal values that can guide the growth of this human fraternity. We also learned that the trust we put in progress, technology and the effects of globalization was not only excessive, but turned into an individualistic and idolatrous intoxication, compromising the very promise of justice, harmony and peace that we so ardently sought. In our fast-paced world, the widespread problems of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalization continue to fuel unrest and conflict, and generate violence and even wars.

Even so, at the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the Covid-19 pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity. We witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: another war, to some extent like that of Covid-19, but driven by culpable human decisions. The war in Ukraine is reaping innocent victims and spreading insecurity, not only among those directly affected, but in a widespread and indiscriminate way for everyone, also for those who, even thousands of kilometres away, suffer its collateral effects – we need but think of grain shortages and fuel prices.

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected.

What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. **We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common.**

In order to do this, and to live better lives after the Covid-19 emergency, we cannot ignore one fundamental fact, namely that the many moral, social, political and economic crises we are experiencing are all interconnected, and what we see as isolated problems are actually causes and effects of one another. Consequently, we are called to confront the challenges of our world in a spirit of responsibility and compassion. We must revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all.

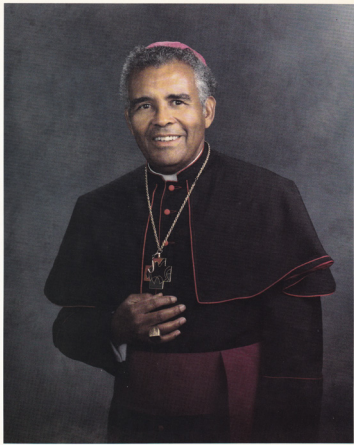
We must promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death. We urgently need to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change. We need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty. The scandal of entire peoples starving remains an open wound. We also need to develop suitable policies for welcoming and integrating migrants and those whom our societies discard. Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace.

To all men and women of good will I express my prayerful trust that, as artisans of peace, they may work, day by day, to make this a good year! May Mary Immaculate, Mother of Jesus and Queen of Peace, intercede for us and for the whole world. – Pope Francis



Saint Augustine's Seminary produced a number of Bishops for the Church.

All shown here are graduates of St. Augustine's



Bishop Joseph Francis, SVD



Bishop Harold Perry, SVD
First African American Bishop in modern times



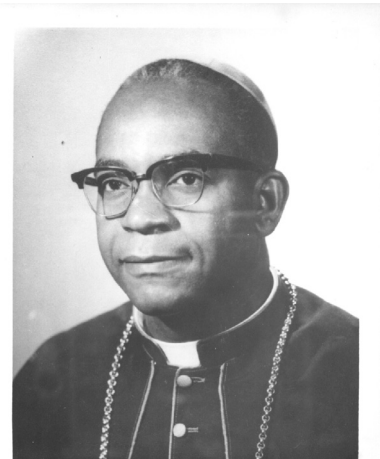
Bishop Joseph Bowers, SVD



Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD



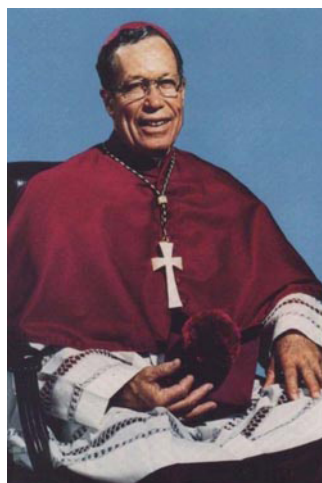
Bishop Dominic Carmon, SVD



Bishop Carlos Lewis, SVD



Bishop Terry Steib, SVD



Bishop Leonard Olivier, SVD



Bishop Raymond Caesar, SVD

in a word or two



Write the Vision
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE
THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

Congress XIII Gathering
July 20-23, 2023

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
National Harbor, MD

Divine Word Missionaries remember Benedict XVI

Front cover photo of July 9, 2012 visit of pope Benedict XVI to Nemi, Italy for the 17th General Chapter of the Divine Word Missionaries and 50th anniversary of Ad Gentes a Vatican II document on mission.

In a short unscripted speech to the 140 capitulars gathered at the Divine Word Missionaries Ad gentes centre, he revealed how in 1965 as a “a very young theologian of no great importance”, to his eternal wonder he was invited by the then Superior General of the world-wide order and Council Father, Johannes Schütte, to take part in an “important and beautiful task, to prepare a decree on mission”.

Pope Benedict said : “I am truly grateful for this opportunity to see this house in Nemi once again, after 47 years. I have fond memories of it, perhaps the most memorable of the whole Council. I lived in the center of Rome, in the Collegio dell'Anima with all the noise. This too was nice, but staying here, surrounded by this greenery, having this breath of nature, this fresh air, was in itself a beautiful thing. And then, in the company of many great theologians and a such an important and beautiful task, to prepare a decree on mission.”

Pope Benedict XVI concluded his remarks “So, with these memories I have often thought of those days of Nemi that, as I said, are an essential part of the Council for me. And I’m happy to see that your Society flourishes – the Father General spoke of six thousand members in many countries, from many nations. Clearly the missionary dynamic is alive, and it lives only if there is the joy of the Gospel, if we experience the good that comes from God and that must and wants to communicate itself. Thank you for this dynamism.”



Pope Benedict XVI with SVD Chapter participants

Divine Word Missionaries is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Arkansas.

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Electronic messages to our inawordsvd@gmail.com. IN A WORD is not published during July and August.

Web page can be found at <http://www.inaword.com>

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Introduction to Scripture
WEDNESDAYS IN 2023 @5:30 P.M.
JANUARY 11, 18, AND 25

Virtual: Zoom - registration is required; email nganduleon2001@yahoo.fr for registration link

In Person: St. Bartholomew Church
1622 Marshall St, Little Rock, AR

Fr. Leon Ngandu, SVD
USS Biblical Apostolate Coordinator

