



Chicago Province Mission Statement

Called by our God
Empowered by the Word
Animated by the Spirit

Inspired by our founder
Enlightened by our heritage
Enriched by those we serve

We Divine Word Missionaries of
the Chicago Province
serve the Kingdom by

- proclaiming the Word of God
- inviting collaboration in Mission
- journeying with our dialogue partners
- caring for one another
- calling and training new members

Approved by the 2009 Provincial Chapter

01

Appalachian District

Mission Statement: Appalachian District

Charleston, WV – May 2010

Vision

The Father has gathered us, Divine Word Missionaries, from many different places and peoples and has sent us here to Appalachia, *to make our home* in this land.

Jesus, the Word made Flesh, calls us to help *make the love of God visible* and to see God's presence in the people we encounter.

Missionary Commitment

The Holy Spirit is leading us to spend our lives with the people of Appalachia. We serve as leaders in the local Catholic Church, many of whose members are, like us, “outsiders” who have been transplanted to Appalachia.

We are especially committed to *rural folk, the unchurched, and the poor and marginalized*.

We work to *build up a more inclusive community* with “local folk” and “outsiders,” encouraging greater mutual trust and mutual hospitality.

In this way we *stir up a sense of the holy* for our own Catholic folk, for the unchurched and for members of the other churches.

In the Spirit we strive to *share our hope*.

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Bordentown

Mission Statement: Bordentown Community

November 2016

Called by God
Following the Word
Empowered by the Spirit

Inspired by our Father and Founder
Enlightened by our heritage
Enriched by those we serve

We Divine Word Missionaries
Of the Bordentown SVD Community
Serve the Kingdom by

- Being a sign of God's goodness and love
- Serving the pastoral needs of the local area
- Celebrating the ministry of hospitality
- Caring for one another

03

Canada District

Mission Statement: Canada District

Granby, January 2004

Called to live out the charism of our Congregation, we, the members of the Society of the Divine Word in Canada, work for the new evangelization in cooperation with the local Church.

We strive to announce the Gospel to all, young as well as adults, to the believers and to the indifferent.

Among our main activities we include especially the biblical apostolate and the care of ethnic groups.

- We want to revitalize the believers and interest the indifferent by means of retreats and biblical activities.
- We want to help ethnic groups to preserve their religious heritage and integrate their faith with the local people to enrich the Church in Canada.

Our life and work in international teams is meant to be a witness and a reminder to the Church in Canada of the universal mission and a call to the young to join in that mission.

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Caribbean District

Mission Statement: Caribbean District

St. Lucia, January 2004

Called by God
To Follow the Word
In the power of the Holy Spirit

Inspired by our Founder
Faithful to our charism
In dialogue with those we serve;

We the members of the Society of the Divine Word of the Caribbean District,
serve the Kingdom of God:

- by engaging in the work of evangelization in those islands where the Church is not well established;
- by deepening the knowledge of the love for the Word of God;
- by forming the People of God and fostering their growth to reach their full potential;
- by standing prophetically for justice and peace;
- by promoting Christian family life and vocations to the priesthood and religious life;
- by collaborating with the people in building a Church that is truly Catholic and Caribbean;
- by developing a spirit community in our District which transcends geographical distances.

05 East Troy Community

Mission Statement: East Troy Community

We, the Divine Word Community in East Troy, are the body of Christ called to:

- gather for worship,
- cherish the traditions of our faith & SVD community,
- witness the Gospel,
- minister to others,

according to each one's abilities in these retirement years.

Living out this commitment will enable each of us to enjoy our retirement years in a spirit of holiness, happiness and hospitality.

It is in this spirit that we also welcome our Confreres of other communities for days of relaxation, retreat or the like.

06 Epworth Divine Word College

Mission Statement: Divine Word College

Epworth 2010

Divine Word College, a Roman Catholic seminary in the tradition of the Society of the Divine Word, educates men and women for missionary service as priests, brothers, sisters and laypersons.

For this purpose, we offer an education that combines spiritual formation, a liberal arts curriculum, language learning and mission preparation within an environment that teaches and honors the rich cultural diversity of the world.

This spiritual, academic and experiential preparation serves the particular learning needs of our students, promotes their development as whole and responsible persons, and fosters a lifelong commitment to serving God's people.

07 Midwest District

Mission Statement: Midwest District

Fort Wayne, Indiana, September 2004

As members of the Midwest District,
We are called to give witness and proclaim
the Good News of Christ and His Kingdom throughout the world.

Involved in traditional and specialized ministries,
we lift up the grace-filled cultures and histories
of the people of God whom we serve.
We are committed to building up communities of faith
with dignity and justice.

We face these challenges in collaboration
with each other and the local church,
under the guidance of the Spirit.

08

Miramar

Duxbury MA

Mission Statement: Miramar Retreat Center
Duxbury MA

OUR MISSION

Called by our God, Empowered by the Word, Animated by the Spirit: Miramar Retreat Center is a group of women and men collaborating in service and celebration of all races and cultures:

- *Hearing and proclaiming the word*
- *Calling all people to Christian discipleship through continuing conversion*
- *Responding prophetically to the signs of the times*

OUR PHILOSOPHY

From an appreciation for our situation grows a respect for the best interests both our own members and of our employees who work with us to accomplish the purposes of the Society. We hope as far as possible, to make you feel a part of our outreach to the peoples of the world and, as well, to have you feel you are a part of our work as a needed, competent and valued individual. S.V.D. means “Society of the Divine Word.” The initials come from the Latin version of our name: Societas Verbi Divini.

These guidelines are presented, to apply to:

- 1) The principles of justice in the Gospel;
- 2) The teachings of the Church;
- 3) Civil law.

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New Jersey District

Mission Statement: New Jersey District

Adopted 2007

The Word of God calls us to be heralds of the Good News.
Supported by the Holy Spirit, we the New Jersey District, make every effort
to bring the experience of God's Kingdom to the parishes that we serve:

- ❖ By collaborating with the local church;
- ❖ By responding to the needs of the disadvantaged, the immigrant, and the marginalized;
- ❖ By preaching the Gospel to them;
- ❖ By giving witness of our prophetic vocation as we live immersed in the communities we serve;
- ❖ By striving to have a communal life as Divine Word Missionaries.

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Southern District

Mission Statement: Southern District

November 2016

The Southern District of St. Arnold
is a community of Divine Word Missionaries
within the Chicago Province committed to
the Leadership of the communities of faith
within the Roman Catholic tradition.

Dedicated primarily to the parochial ministry
of Intercultural parishes in St. Louis and Memphis
we are called to:

- ❖ **NOURISH** the gift of faith by word and sacrament
- ❖ **PROCLAIM and ESTABLISH** Justice and peace by word and deed
- ❖ **SUPPORT** in our midst the sick and needy
- ❖ **ATTEND** to the formation of the parish youth
- ❖ **REACH OUT** to others in evangelization
- ❖ **OVERSEE** parochial administration and growth

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Techny Community

Mission Statement: Techny Community

Adopted October 8, 2008

*Divine Word Missionaries of the Techny Community strive
“to make the goodness and kindness of God visible in our life and service.”
(Prologue, SVD Constitutions)*

As a community within the Chicago Province, we embrace our province’s mission and aim to accomplish its goals by proclaiming the Word of God, inviting collaboration in mission, caring for one another and calling and training new members.

Specifically, the Divine Word Missionaries of the Techny community:

PROCLAIM the Word of God through the celebration of meaningful liturgical services for ourselves, for visitors and patrons at Techny Towers and through our service to local parishes. We preach the Word of God in action by feeding the poor.

INVITE collaboration in mission through respectful and just relations with our employees, through our interactions with local civic and religious leaders, through supporting mission office and province programs of mission animation and fund-raising, by offering hospitality to members’ friends and families and to SVDs visiting Techny.

CARE for one another by ensuring quality health services for our infirm and elderly, by providing healthy and nutritious meals, by encouraging healthy fellowship within the community, by maintaining attractive and safe facilities and grounds, by offering appropriate opportunities for enrichment and on-going education.

CALL AND TRAIN new members by providing a healthy environment and community for the novitiate and by supporting province efforts in recruitment. Through their ministry of prayer, our retired members in particular pray for vocations, our sick, and our benefactors.

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Theologate Chicago

Mission Statement: Divine Word Theologate

From Formation Handbook 2013

MISSION: The Divine Word Theologate in Chicago is a religious community of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

- The Theologate community seeks to become a "living, Christ-centered community," a true reflection "of the Blessed Trinity from whom our life and mission draw their source and strength." (C. 505) The unity in the diversity of the Trinity is a model for the multi-cultural and international character that we acknowledge as our charism and cultivate as a community.
- The purposes of formation at the Theologate are the same as those described in the SVD Constitutions, 501 - 509. Constitution 503 states: "Our formation is total and integral: it seeks to bring about human maturity, professional competence, and committed faith."

GOALS: The goals of the formation program at Divine Word Theologate are to fulfill the mission given to us in the SVD Constitutions. These are:

- to prepare members in temporary vows for lifetime commitment in the SVD as religious missionaries;
- to prepare priesthood candidates for the Sacrament of Orders in the SVD;
- to provide and foster theological formation for all members of the SVD Community through their participation in academic/ministerial programs;
- to assist Associates in their vocational discernment through experiential living in a religious community and through philosophical and theological studies.
- to promote the committed faith, human maturity, social and cross-cultural awareness of all in the Theologate;
- to foster the missionary vocation through a multi-cultural and international environment and to develop an openness to, appreciation for, and dialogue with other Christian denominations, religions and cultures;
- to promote greater missionary awareness at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) and at places where we minister;
- to be a theological/missiological resource center for the larger SVD community;
- to offer hospitality to all Divine Word Missionaries and all guests.

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Washington District of Columbia

Mission Statement: Washington, DC

To be completed