

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure and joy to present the Arnold Janssen Reader, a selection of quotations from the letters of Arnold Janssen, to the three congregations of the Arnoldus Family [SVD, SSpS, SSpSAP] as well as to our lay associates, our lay partners in mission, and all those fascinated by this saint. The publication of this English edition takes place in the year when we can commemorate the 180th anniversary of the birth of St. Arnold Janssen on November 5, 1837.

Arnold Janssen was often considered an efficient administrator and a strict, demanding superior. The quotations from his letters contained in this book show his human and fatherly side. They show the prudence and balance of his views, his deep understanding of human frailty, his fatherly concern and care for his members, his spirit of courageous hope based on unswerving trust in God and faithfulness to Him.

Arnold Janssen wished that his letters would provoke and stimulate thinking and growth, not just for the men and women missionaries at his time for whom he was “father, guide and founder,” but also for us who live in the present more than a hundred years later. They do indeed contain deep human and Christian wisdom, sincere words of encouragement and consolation and many useful and practical suggestions for living in challenging times and for coping with the difficulties and tribulations that come with serving God and people.

I am convinced that these quotations from St. Arnold will be very valuable and useful to the leaders (superiors and formators) of the three congregations of the Arnoldus Family as well as all members, in particular the formandi, but also to the lay associates, the lay partners in mission, our benefactors and friends in many places. I therefore sincerely hope that the book will have a wide circulation.

The major credit for the book goes to Fr. Josef Alt, SVD, historian and author of an in-depth biography of Arnold Janssen and editor of nine volumes of his letters. He had the original idea of the book and selected and compiled the more than seven hundred quotes given here. We also thank the staff of the *Steyler Missionswissenschaftliches Institut* in Sankt Augustin, Germany, for the editorial work, especially Ms. Martina Ludwig. Sincere thanks go likewise to Fr. David Streit, SVD, for translating more than one half of the quotations from German to English, Fr. Christian Tauchner, SVD, for valuable advice, and to Fr. Herbert Scholz, SVD, for coordinating the work.

January 15, 2017 – Feast of St. Arnold

Heinz Kulüke, SVD
Superior General

EDITOR'S NOTE

I. The original texts are in German. Where a published English translation exists, this has been used and the respective publication is indicated.

II. At the end of each quotation some information is given (in italics). It consists of three groups of data, the groups being separated by a slash.

1. *Historical information*: a) recipient of the letter, b) place of writing, c) date of writing.

2. *Archival sources*. Most original documents are found in the General Archive of the Society of the Divine Word in Rome. For these documents the registration number is given (e.g. 70.535) or, in case of transcribed documents, the number of the volume of transcription together with the respective page number (e.g. TR XV, 30). When the original is found in some other archive, this is indicated. A few quotations are taken from published German works instead of the archival source; in this case the German publication is given.

3. *Published English translation*. Where available, the publication in which the English translation is found is given. Texts not previously published in English have been translated for this book by D. Streit, SVD.