

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

### (Clerical Candidates)

Six WASSCE credits (English, Mathematics & Integrated Science inclusive)

- Diploma in Basic Education
- University graduate

### (Brother Candidates)

Six WASSCE credits (English, Mathematics & Integrated Science inclusive)

- Diploma in Basic Education
- University graduate
- Advance/Intermediate professional Training Certificate in all Technical Fields
- Higher National Diploma (HND) in all fields.

## FORMATION

### (Clerical Candidate)

The formation lasts Nine(9) years till Ordination.

It is divided as follows

- Three(3) years of Philosophy – Tamale (Ghana)
- One year Novitiate – Kwahu – Nkwatia (Ghana)
- Four years of Theology – Ghana, Kenya & DR Congo (other provinces)
- One year Pastoral Experience.

### (Brother Candidates)

The formation lasts seven years till Final Profession and it is divided as follows:

- Two (2) years of Philosophy – Tamale(Ghana)
- One (1) year Novitiate – Kwahu Nkwatia (Ghana)
- Three(3) years Professional Studies– Ghana
- One year Pastoral Experience – Ghana

## PARTICULARS REQUIRED FROM A PROSPECTIVE SVD CANDIDATE

1. A baptismal card indicating that the Candidate has received all the three Sacraments of initiation.
2. A hand written application letter stating why the Candidate would like to join the Society of the Divine Word.
3. Fill the personal data form provided by the SVD Vocation Office.
4. Candidate's examination results slip – The candidate is also requested to authorize West African Examination Council to send a copy of the results directly to the Vocation Director.
5. A letter of recommendation from the Parish Priest or his assistant ( any other priest or religious who knows the candidate very well can also give a recommendation)
6. A letter of consent from his parents or guardian
7. A letter of recommendation from a Church elder in the parish.
8. A medical report; a form is provided by the Vocations Officer for this purpose
9. A short autobiographical note
10. Birth certificate
11. A good practicing Catholic
12. A minimum period of one year contact with our Vocation Office.
13. Aged between 18 and 28 years.

For more information contact:  
The Vocation Directors  
Divine Word Missionaries  
P.O Box GP 3285, Accra  
Mobile: 0247 553 833, 0209 343 046,  
0503 096 810  
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**WHO  
ARE THE  
DIVINE WORD  
MISSIONARIES**



**ST. ARNOLD JANSSEN**

FOUNDER OF SVD, SSpS, SSpSAP  
1837 - 1909

# WHO ARE WE?

Our name in Latin  
Societas Verbi Divini  
Our name in English  
Society of the Divine Word  
Popularly known as  
Divine Word Missionaries  
Abbreviated SVD

## FOUNDER AND FOUNDATION

The Society of the Divine Word was founded by St. Arnold Janssen, a German priest, working in the Diocese of Muenster. While the government was expelling religious orders and repressing the growth of the Church in Germany. Fr. Janssen was creating a missionary training centre across the border in Steyl, Holland. The Society of the Divine Word opened its first mission house in Steyl in 1875. Pope John Paul II canonized him on the 5th of October, 2003. His feast day is January 15.

The Divine Word Missionaries came to the then Gold Coast, present day Ghana, in 1938. Today our men are preaching the Divine Word in seven dioceses in the country Archdioceses of Accra, Cape Coast and Tamale, dioceses of Koforidua, Sunyani, Techiman, Afram Plains and Yendi.

## OUR CALLING

In accordance with the words of Jesus Christ "Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21), we are willing to leave our country, language and culture and to go wherever the Church sends us. This availability is the essential mark of our missionary vocation.

## OUR SOCIETY

We are a Catholic religious missionary congregation with lay and clerical members, living in international and multicultural communities. Through our community life, we witness to the worldwide Church and to fraternal relations. Through the vows (poverty, celibacy, obedience) we bind ourselves to this religious missionary congregation.

## OUR 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 yet viable on its own. The example of Jesus, the Word made Flesh, guides us as we live out mission. Open and full of respect for religious and cultural traditions of all people, 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 marginalized
- Are of different cultures and
- Are of different religious traditions and secular ideologies

## WHERE ARE THEY IN THE WORLD

**AFRICA:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Chad, DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe

**AMERICA:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Caribbean, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, United State

**EUROPE:** Austria/ Croatia, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy/Romania, Ireland, England, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Russia

**ASIA:** China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, India, Korea, Vietnam

**OCEANIA:** Australia/New Zealand, Thailand, Papua New Guinea

Today the Society helps with the proclamation of the Divine Word in all continents of the World. We work in over 70 countries worldwide. The numerical strength of the Divine Word Missionaries is almost 6,500 men

*May the darkness of sin and the night of unbelief vanish before the light of the word and the spirit of grace.*

*And may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all people*

**St. Arnold Janssen**