

for the rest of my life.” To these words Fr. Alt adds: “From that it seems that the Founder clearly spoke about plans for opening a brothers’ department, but left open the actual form and time for such a move. He appears to have been hoping and waiting for quite a good number of candidates” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 311). All three of these first postulants left after some time with Keichel having stayed the longest.

### DAILY SCHEDULE IN 1877

On April 30, 1877 Fr. Arnold dictated a daily schedule whose major points will be presented in the following:

- 4.10: Rising
- 4.30: Morning Prayer, Meditation, I Holy Mass
- 5.00: II Holy Mass
- 5.30: Silentium (silence)
- 7.00: Breakfast
- 7.15: Free time (house cleaning)
- 8.00: Classes
- 10.15: Free time (walking about until 10.30)
- 11.00: Mondays and Wednesdays mathematics class
- 11.55: Particular Examen
- 12.00: Lunch, afterwards adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12.30: Various things until 3.30
- 3.30: Afternoon Coffee
- 3.45: Silentium (strictum) - Strict Silence
- 4.15: II Latin Class
- 5.00: Free time (Cleaning of shoes)
- 5.20: Silentium (strictum)
- 7.15: Evening meal, afterwards free time (cleaning of shoes for group II)
- 8.15: Evening devotions, evening prayer and retiring
- 9.45: Locking up the house. Students between 17 and 20 are allowed to stay up until 9.30 and those who are 20 years until 9.45 (*Bornemann, Einige der ersten Bewohner des Missionshauses (Some of the first residents of the mission house, Verbum vol. 4, 1962, p. 343).*)

Also on April 30, 1877 Fr. Arnold dictated a timetable for the classes of the whole week. It contained a special Sunday schedule order; furthermore an afternoon schedule which was different for the individual weekdays.

On October 15, 1877, together with the timetable for the winter semester, a new daily schedule was introduced which began with “rising at 4.35” (*ibid.*).

Fr. Nikolaus Blum, who after Fr. Arnold’s death became his first successor, found it very difficult to accept these many changes. In his own words: “Very difficult for me was his [Fr. Arnold’s] great unreliability, that is his great love of changes, be it in studies, be it in the daily schedule. There was no day of which you were sure. What today was proclaimed as order, tomorrow was no longer suitable. I always had a great love for order and that I did not find here.... However, Fr. Rector had also first to learn and that excused him very much (*ibid.* p. 344).

Fr. Arnold was considered a strict man. However, Fr. Bornemann adds, the students “and already the beginners knew of his soft spots. The following undated report verifies this... When Steger who did poorly in learning did not know how to give an answer, Holthausen whispered to him: ‘Köbes [nickname], start crying.’ Then they knew that the Rector would become merciful” (*ibid.*).



## The Arnoldus Family Story

### Buildings in Steyl:

#### Renovation of the old and construction of a new building

On August 17, 1876 newly ordained John Baptist Anzer turned the first spadeful of earth for the planned new building. In the December issue of his mission magazine “*Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote*” (Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart) Fr. Arnold announced to his readers: “End of November 1876. Just now the roof is being placed on the new building the construction of which was begun on August 17. Let us thank God that he has helped so far.”

Under the heading “Über die Neubauten am Missionshause (Ein Rückblick auf das Jahr 1876) – (About the new buildings at the Mission House - Looking back over the year 1876), in the January 1877 issue of the “Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart” Fr. Arnold described the building activities in Steyl:

First the annex to the old inn had been renovated; stable and barn had become chapel, sacristy and dining room. Under the roof 14 cells had been prepared for the students. A further house, the workshop complex which they could use from August 1, 1876, and which was formerly a storage place for quicklime and a workshop for making cigars was renovated and housed the printing press, bookbinding and type-setting departments, carpentry shop and the workshop of the blacksmith. Finally, a new building was begun on August 17, 1876.

“On the garden side, the new building measured 23 meters {73 feet} long and on the road side 18 meters [61 feet] wide; on the second floor, there were eight windows at the back and five at the front” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p.157). On December 21, 1876 they celebrated the finished exterior of the building.

After this description of the building activities, Fr. Arnold revealed to his readers how he saw the further development of the mission house. He wrote:

*“It is a difficult thing when you have an old building which you begin to extend. You have to answer the question: What else will you do in case the work grows still more? Further extensions are usually already included in the first extension. Therefore, if you want to go ahead wisely, at the time of the first structural extension you have already to make plans for future ones.... And as God gives his blessing, we will one day get to the point where we have to add a second and third one to the first ....”*

Finally, Fr. Arnold addresses the question of money. “This is a matter which also concerns the reader. For, to make it short, we want to say that in this matter we must still count on him and with him. Until now we have been able to pay all urgent bills and

we hope that we will be able to do so also in future. For there is something singular about buildings which are to serve God's works. Those who wait until they have in cash in front of them all the money required to construct a building, which is needed to serve the honour of God and the salvation of souls, will progress only with difficulty and slowly. But something quite different is achieved by one who has courage and trust in God. Naturally, everything has its limits; generally the words of the late Bishop John George Müller of Muenster are true .... To his parish priests ... who needed a new church he used to say: "Gentlemen, just begin and remember this: The money is already there, it is in the pockets of the good people who will give it to you in due time."

"Trust in God is that virtue from which a missionary must draw all his strength and help. Yes, a missionary must be a real hero of trust in God. Therefore it is good that from the beginning to the end our mission house is founded on that virtue. Go and look for the worldly and human supporters upon whom its existence is founded. There aren't any. And yet, the mission house isn't missing anything if God is not missing from it."

## FURTHER GROWTH

### *The Residents of the Mission House*

St. Michael's mission house did not only grow through its buildings. The number of its residents grew as well. In the February 1877 issue of the "Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart" Fr. Arnold wrote:

The mission house "at present numbers four priests, furthermore 17 students attending five different levels of education, from the lowest high school class up to the first course in philosophy inclusive. According to nationality, of the latter, three are Dutch and the other 14 are German." Kitchen and laundry were taken care of by the Sisters of Divine Providence. Furthermore, there were 6 workers, among them one apprentice; they mostly worked on a voluntary basis in the garden, printing press and carpenter shop (Bornemann, *Einige der ersten Bewohner des Missionshauses* [Some of the first residents of the mission house], *Verbum*, vol. 4, 1962, p. 384 and Arnold Janssen, *Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart*, February 1877).

### *Still further "growth"*

"The Sisters soon put in an urgent request for farm animals. Many expenses could be eliminated and the kitchen scraps could be put to good use. First there were chickens, then by the end of 1877, two goats, a dairy cow and two pigs. The Sisters took charge of the livestock, except the chickens; these were cared for by a student" (Bornemann, *Arnold Janssen*, p. 112).

Fr. Arnold's brother, Br. Juniperus Janssen, describes how he bought the dairy cow:

*"There was not enough milk to meet the needs of the growing mission house community." "The Sisters who were in charge of feeding the goats, repeatedly asked the rector to buy a cow. Eventually he agreed to do so and ordered me to make the purchase. I travelled to Venray [near Venlo] where there was a cattle market. I bought a cow from a farmer for 135 gilders. A stable had meanwhile been constructed. A few days later a calf came into the world and with it an abundance of milk. The goats were still kept; they were housed in the stable next to the cow. The reason for this was*

*simple enough: The cow and the goats would then eat better and be less choosy"* (Bornemann, *Remembering Arnold Janssen, Analecta SVD* – 42, Rome 1978, p. 80).

Fr. Arnold also thought of beautifying the mission house environment; for he bought 250 spruce seedlings (Bornemann, *Arnold Janssen*, p. 112).

## GOOD BYE TO STEYL

### *Bro. Juniperus, Wilhelm Janssen OFM Cap: May 8, 1877*

When the Capuchin monastery in Muenster/Germany had to be closed due to the *Kulturkampf* (cultural battle), Fr. Arnold's younger brother, Bro. Juniperus, Wilhelm Janssen got permission from his superiors to help his brother Arnold in Steyl at the time of the founding of St. Michael's mission house. In Steyl he "performed the same tasks as in the Capuchin monastery: cooking, working in the garden, keeping the house in order, going on begging tours [for gifts for the mission house]. The gifts formerly intended for the Capuchin monastery were now solicited in behalf of the mission seminary." He wore a rusty coloured if not actually red beard and he dressed in civilian clothes. "He remained at Steyl until 8 May 1877. Then, after 21 months, he returned to his Order in South Germany where the Prussian Law of the dissolution of the monasteries was not in force. ... He died aged 73, on 7 March 1914, half a year before his golden jubilee" (Bornemann, *Remembering Arnold Janssen, Analecta SVD* – 42. S. 457).

## CONSECRATION TO THE MISSION WORK

The above-mentioned four priests of the mission house were Frs. Arnold and John Baptist Anzer who, on June 16, 1876, had consecrated themselves to God for life for the purpose of the mission work of the new mission house, as well as Frs. John Janssen, Fr. Arnold's youngest brother, and Hermann Wegener. When they came to Steyl they had first joined the mission house provisionally; however they thought of joining permanently and so they were doing a kind of novitiate according to the statutes from May-June 1876. On June 16, 1877 they dedicated themselves to the mission work for three years (Bornemann, *Einige der ersten Bewohner des Missionshauses* [Some of the first residents of the mission house], *Verbum* vol. 4, 1962, p. 384).

## NEW RESIDENTS OF THE MISSION HOUSE IN 1877

### *The first Brother Postulants*

In 1877 Fr. Arnold started the "Brother's book" with the names of all those who had been accepted as Brother postulants. The first three names are *August Keichel* who entered on May 4, 1877, *Friedrich Müller* who came on May 5, 1877 and *Johannes Bachl* who came to Steyl on May 12, 1877. August Keichel was a former Trappist Brother, Johannes Bachl had worked as a gardener in a Benedictine monastery.

About a year after his arrival in Steyl Keichel wrote to Fr. Arnold: "Since I know little about the brothers' institute, I just accept what we were told up to now – that brothers will be introduced and organized as religious and that I have been accepted as a postulant; after a year the novitiate begins and then two years of vows. [...] If it is God's will that the brothers later also go to the missions I am ready; if that is not the case, many souls can be saved through prayer and sacrifice here." Anyway, he was "firmly resolved to consecrate myself to the Lord in this house, serving as a brother