

HOPE

is published by the Society of the Divine Savior for those benefactors and friends who have demonstrated a sincere interest in the organization. Thank you for being part of our Salvatorian family.

— Father Gregory SDS

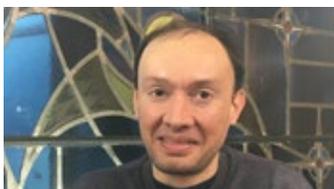
Our Mission

In the spirit of our founder, Father Francis Jordan, the Society of the Divine Savior was founded more than 130 years ago and is a Catholic religious community working to share the love and mercy of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through all possible means.

“That all may know the Savior”

New Candidates Welcomed

In a celebration at Alexian Village in Milwaukee we welcomed Marcos Palacios of Florida into our candidate formation program. Ricardo Rivera Gutierrez from Mexico will join us soon.

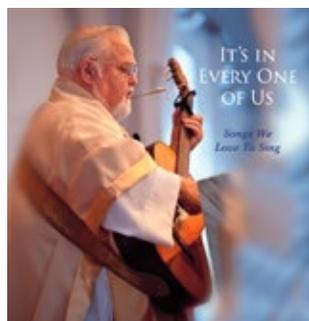


Please keep Fr. Paul Portland SDS, director of candidates, Marcos and Ricardo in your prayers, as they embark on this year of discernment toward life as a Salvatorian brother or priest.



New candidate Marcos Palacios with his sponsor, Br. Peter Farnesi SDS.

125th Anniversary Celebration



Our Years on Fire: Passion for Mercy anniversary celebrations continue. **Next up: Silver Spring, MD. on May 6.** Fr. Glen Willis will sing from his new CD, "It's in every one of us" and Fr. Joe Rodrigues will share "Mission of Mercy" favorites!

What matters to you most?

What was it that first made you look at the Salvatorians when deciding how to share your financial resources? Whatever it may have been, it was important to you.

No matter what walk of life you come from or what your income level may be, consider thinking beyond today or even the coming years. By considering a planned gift to your favorite charities, your legacy and wishes can extend beyond your own lifespan to do good works and have a lasting effect on what matters to you most. Call our planned giving officer at 800-254-4902. We welcome the opportunity to compassionately help guide you through the process with your estate planner.

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience should you want to consider a gift to the Salvatorians today.

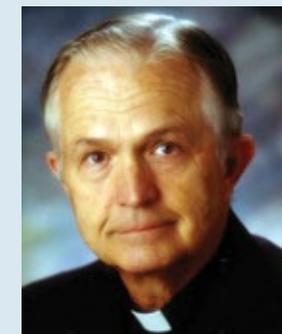
“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

HOPE

Salvatorian Newsletter

Starting Point

While reading Fr. Francis Jordan's spiritual diary I was struck by his words, "Without love you have little hope of accomplishing much! ... Oh, that you yourselves would love truly, and not treat each other severely or harshly. Therefore, love!"



Jordan was a man of great faith and perseverance. In troubling times he pushed on, much as we all need to do in today's world where unfortunately despair, poverty and wariness seem to be around every corner.

I found hope in our founder's words, written more than a century ago. Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy has concluded, but the acts of mercy he encouraged should never cease. In small acts of kindness, great love and mercy is kindled. It has a ripple effect much like a pebble thrown into a pond. The results of one small act – one small pebble – travel far. So I challenge you to love with abandon during these dark winter months and allow light – God's light – to be shared from your heart into the world.

God Bless, Fr. Gregory

Mission of Mercy

Our Mission of Mercy concert/retrospective, introducing a new commemorative CD by the same title, brought the house down in Tucson. Here are highlights from the first of several events to be held around the country celebrating 125 years of Salvatorian mission and ministry.

Our commemorative Mission of Mercy CD can be purchased online at <http://bit.ly/SalvatorianStore>, email Shop@salvatorians.com or call 414-258-1735.



Ripple Effect

Winning an eighth grade catechism Sunday quiz contest earned him a trip to St. Nazianz in Wisconsin and an introduction to the Salvatorian priests and brothers ministering there. “It was a welcoming and inspiring visit,” said Fr. Al Wagner SDS. “Of course, I was just a kid but it opened a new way of life for me and widened my perspective of the world. I returned during Christmas vacation that same year.” The rest is history.

Through the years, Fr. Al has ministered cross-country from Washington DC to California and a little in between. He embraced cultural, religious and racial diversity with each new assignment; from parish to campus ministry, youth ministry, and hospital and assisted living chaplaincies.



“No matter who you are, change is hard – you lose a bit of control. Yet with each move I’ve made, my ministry evolved, and that’s a good thing,” said Fr. Al. “New experiences; uncomfortable at first, always blossomed into something amazing.”

Recently assigned as Chaplain for St. Anne’s Salvatorian Center in Milwaukee, Wis., Fr. Al is now connecting with seniors who are dealing with the emotions, fears, and reality of circumstances due to advancing age and needing assisted living support. He has found that using his own experience of upheaval and re-adjusting each time he was asked to consider another ministry, has had significance for many that he visits with at St. Anne’s.

“Salvatorians along the way have encouraged me to be open to opportunities where God is present and see how things evolve. Life as a Salvatorian has been an ongoing discernment process for me,” he said. “I’m grateful for being exposed to a vast diversity of people.



It’s helped me see how interactions can change perspective and how that perspective can open the eyes of others to embrace inclusivity and a sense of belonging.”

“It’s not about MY ministry, it is about what ministry really is and what it means to the people we encounter,” he said. “It’s Fr. Jordan’s mission for us...to proclaim the love of God ‘through all ways and means.’”

Face of the Poor

A large part of being a Salvatorian is giving a face to the poor and people marginalized in any way. As vicar of social concerns for the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, Salvatorian Fr. David Bergner SDS has been tasked with the leadership responsibility for Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Youngstown’s Catholic Charities saw almost 35,000 people last year and helped address their basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing. The diocesan-wide CRS campaign provides invaluable financial assistance to refugees in the Middle East. CCHD supports a values-based community organization which is working for social change in the greater Youngstown area. However, outreach to the vulnerable doesn’t stop here.

Youngstown has become the incredible shrinking city with a high poverty rate! It’s not surprising to find a Salvatorian in Youngstown among those in need.

The Youngstown community is a welcoming community because of its recent immigrant history. Fr. Dave saw the shared



Fr. Ed and Fr. Dave say Mass at the dining hall.

experience of the people as an asset on which to draw. Through his efforts, Bishop George V. Murry and the Catholic community are collaborating with elected officials, Youngstown State University and the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation to help rebuild the city. They plan to do this in three ways: to resettle new immigrants from Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to establish a credit union that makes loans available to small businesses and creates jobs; and to build affordable new housing in old neighborhoods that now form a wasteland of empty, trash-filled lots.

“Wherever there are people in need, you will find Salvatorians,” said Fr. Dave. “You will also find Salvatorians seeking to fulfill the mandate of Pope Francis to evangelize, which he states simply ‘to make the Kingdom of God present in our world’ (The Joy of the Gospel), especially wherever the poor are to be found.”



(l-r) Fr. Dave Bergner SDS with Kathleen Rothman, Secretary at St. Vincent de Paul and Fr. Ed Noga, pastor of St. Patrick’s in Youngstown, touch base in the dining hall.

My Spiritual Companions

Sunday is generally a busy day for Loyda Vida. Since attending Mass and serving as Eucharistic minister, visiting healthcare facilities, home bound and a rehabilitation institution were already on her schedule, attending another liturgy was not on the radar. Yet on this particular Sunday, she found herself accepting an invitation to the profession of vows for a religious Sister of the Living Word.

“I was tired, sat quietly before the service and was determined this would be my retreat for the day. I was hoping for something different,” said Loyda. “Sure enough, the fascinating multi-cultural liturgy that followed was worth attending!” She introduced herself to the celebrant, Salvatorian



provincial, Fr. Joe Rodrigues. Intrigued by what she experienced, she wanted to learn more and began to look into what this small religious order was all about.

“Salvatorians are about who you are as a person. With communities around the world, they encourage diversity and accept people’s unique passions and desires as gifts from God,” she said. “I am in ministry. People in ministry need companions with whom they can journey. Knowing I am in their prayers gives me strength. They are my spiritual companions.”

Journey continues

Having met others from the Order and having experienced the Salvatorian hospitality and charism on different levels, Loyda prays for guidance regularly and asks the Lord why she has been drawn to the Salvatorians. “One thing I am certain of is that the initiative is not entirely my own,” she said. “As I carry experiences that have touched me the most, I feel blessed to know the Salvatorians.”

Reciprocity in giving

Her natural desire to give back to the Church and community is inherited from the generosity and example that her parents have set. As a person with years of experience in the parish and vicariate level, she reflected, “Gifts are extensions of us. There is reciprocity in gift-giving. Knowing the Salvatorians gives me assurance that I am not alone in my work. I’ve learned to seek spiritual guidance outside of my parish and knowing that their founder, Fr. Francis Jordan works with the laity and others collaboratively gives me courage.”

Loyda is a staunch patron of the Salvatorian’s formation program which prepares future Salvatorian priests and brothers for ministry.

