

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

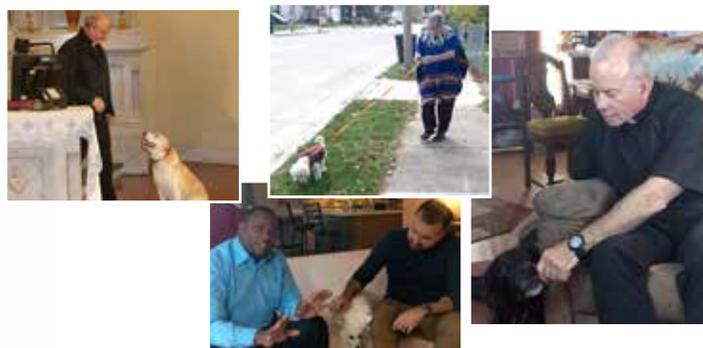
Our Mission

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 ”

All creatures great and small

Yes, even four-legged friends have a place in ministry. Whether it's Fr. Pat and Joseph; Fr. Bruce and BuBu; Br. Silas, Fr. Lukoa and Marshmallow; or Fr. Bill and R.C., to mention a few, Salvatorians have a knack for using all ways and means to minister, including calling on our furry friends to help. Just Google “Salvatorian YouTube Channel” to see/hear these fun ministry stories.



Impact is rippled

There is so much need in the world. In fact, so many of us need help in big and small ways, tangible and spiritual. It may seem like a daunting task to make even a tiny difference for a struggling member of your family, the kid on the street looking lost and way too thin or a heartbroken neighbor who recently lost his wife, let alone someone you may not even know.

Trust that through your continued prayers and support for our religious community and ministries, we are working to make Jesus known in those corners of the community – of the world – with God's presence, mercy and message of love and hope.

Obviously, your gift benefits the Society. But in fact it actually falls down to those corners where we serve – it causes a ripple effect. Because of your generosity, we carry on our ministry in parishes, apostolates and around the world. Hungry are fed, peace and justice ministries prevail, missionaries are sent and the Gospel is made concrete, as we labor in tandem, with those we serve.

And still, if a gift is given with the proper attitude, the giver, surprisingly, benefits even more. “Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

Please consider your continued support with a gift to the Society today – an envelope is included for convenient giving. You can also reach us directly at 800-254-4902. And, as you consider your estate planning needs, please remember us in your wills and trusts.

Society of the Divine Savior | SALVATORIANS | 1303 Milwaukee Drive | Salvatorian Center, WI 53062

For more information on these and other stories, you may go to www.salvatoriancenter.org

1-800-254-4902 • sds@salvatoriancenter.org

HOPE

Salvatorian Newsletter

Starting Point

These early months of the year can hold a lot of promise but they can also be a time when dreariness starts to weigh heavy on our hearts. Families have returned to their normal routines, loved ones who travelled to be with each other during the holidays have long returned home, and Christmas lights most likely have been packed away until next year. It's February, but surely you remember Christmas. It's the celebration of real hope and it should continue year round. It's always the right time to go to **HIM** with our weaknesses: physical, emotional and spiritual. To rest in the comfort of **HIS** Presence, and remember that nothing is impossible with **HIM**. God is in our world to offer us the strength to face the highs and lows of this life.



Perhaps start small. Take a one minute challenge where you shut down all the busyness, sit quietly, breathe and think only of the amazing love and mercy our Lord shines down on you. You may not feel it immediately, but if you truly give yourself at least this one minute... my *hope* is that you will start to crave this time with our Savior even more. Soon that one minute will grow into acknowledging **HIS** presence throughout your day: It may be in a smell, a breeze, a thought, a spectacular sunset or a softly falling snow. It's time to trust that **HE** truly is with you. Every day, all day, all you need to remember is to rest in **HIS** presence.

God Bless! Fr. Gregory

Ministry without confines

Salvatorian Cl. Simon Muema finally made his way back to Kenya, Africa to visit with family, but also to minister. Villagers flocked to his family home when they heard he was bringing food from America.

"Kenya has been going through political conflicts, hunger and government irresponsibility to its citizens,"

...continued on page 3 – Ministry



Simon with children from the Kabaa Village in Africa.

“Mission of Mercy” continues

The Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians) commenced its 125th anniversary celebration a little more than a year ago when USA provincial and nationally known singing priest, Fr. Joe Rodrigues SDS released his fifth music CD. It highlights our 125th anniversary of ministry in the United States and culminates the “Year of Mercy” as designated by Pope Francis. In fact, the CD was and is dedicated to Pope Francis and his inspirational messages.

Our “Years on Fire: Passion for Mercy” multi-media concert celebrations concluded at the end of 2017, but our mission continues. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to share the Salvatorian story and God’s message of love and mercy from coast to coast. Those who had an opportunity to attend one of our six events shared that it was an “inspirational, entertaining, moving, informative, and healing celebration.”

Titled “Mission of Mercy,” the CD includes sixteen contemporary inspirational songs, including “Love Take Me Over,” “Tell Your Heart to Beat Again,” “God Speaking,” “Faith Makes a Way” and a unique interpreta-

tion of “Hallelujah.” This special collection of music captures the spirit of mercy in a fresh variety of styles, sounds and rhythms. “The mix echoes the hopes and yearnings for compassion and healing within us,” said Fr. Joe. “I pray that the songs will inspire and touch the hearts and souls of everyone who listens. As the Gospel says, ‘Be merciful, as your heavenly Father is merciful.’”

“I love being a priest, I love to serve, and I love affirming and encouraging God’s people with inspirational and moving music! I have been fortunate to combine my musical interests to help spread hope-filled messages in a world riddled with fear and despair,” said Fr. Joe. “It becomes an invitation for people to consider how merciful God truly is in our lives. As Jesus says in Jn. 10:10, ‘I did not come to condemn, but to save, so that you may live life and live it to the full!’”



A



B



C



D



E



F



G

A. Practice with Divine Savior Holy Angels students prior to our Milwaukee event. B. In Huntsville, AL with Fr. Joe Lubrano SDS (l) and Fr. Bill Kelly SDS (r). C. Alumni came out in full force for our Orangevale, CA event D. Salvatorians from all branches of our Family celebrated with us. This photo is from our Huntsville, AL celebration. E. Mission of Mercy 125th Anniversary Celebrations coast to coast took us to Arizona, Maryland, Wisconsin, California, Alabama and finally Tennessee! F. Our Tennessee event showcased decades of Salvatorian history. G. Patti Munsen, also featured on the Mission of Mercy CD, joined us for our events!

Faith obvious in sculpture

A duo in sculpture for more than twenty years, Jordan Wanner’s warm smile bears a striking resemblance to that of his father’s, the late David Wanner. David, God rest his soul, was an alumnus of our Salvatorian school, St. Nazianz in Wisconsin and held his Salvatorian roots close to his heart. “I remember hearing about the Salvatorians at a young age and got the distinct impression that Salvatorians were good men, dedicated to their mission. Fr. Leo Herbst especially made a huge impression on dad and really encouraged him with his interests,” said Jordan. In just the last year, while visiting his dad at St. Anne’s Salvatorian Campus in Milwaukee, Jordan asked if he was named after the Salvatorian founder, referring to a photo hanging on the wall. Jordan said, “My dad gave an empathetic, ‘Oh yeah, absolutely!’ response.”

For more than 20 years, Jordan and his dad worked side-by-side in the family business, Wanner Sculpture Studio, which creates hand crafted bronze baptismal fonts and other sculptures for parishes and businesses across the U.S. “When my father was asked how he began his career in sculpture, he would say it started with a bar of soap. He would whittle a block of soap into small figures. He was even working on a sculpture up until about 6 months before he died,” said Jordan. “The religious connection is his background and his faith.



Jordan’s studio time with his Dad started at an early age.



Wanner Sculpting Studio was moved from the Wanner garage to a nearby industrial park in 1999.

Verdes, CA, St. John Fischer. He arrived early for the morning meeting and wandered into the old church on site. When looking around he vaguely recognized a sculpture at the back wall. Looking closer, he realized it was a piece his father had done decades earlier; he had seen photos of it over the years. Jordan looked for his dad’s name and didn’t see it; he had forgotten to sign it. The parish asked if the sculpture could be refurbished, so when it returned to its home in Milwaukee for some TLC, Jordan was sure to carve ‘David Wanner’ on the base before refinishing it.

David Wanner loved art. “His connection to liturgical pieces is relatable to his Salvatorian education and is his strong faith shining through,” said Jordan. “His philosophy was that truth comes from beauty which comes from God. When people experience beauty they come to know God.”



Strong ties to his fellow Salvatorian alumnus continued long after David’s graduation!

Ministry - from cover

said Simon. “Devastated villagers were singing songs of praise and gratitude to the Salvatorian family for feeding them from across the world.” Humbled, Simon said he understood that the hand that gives, is blessed more than the one that receives.

Simon kept busy visiting parishes and village sharing food, clothes and helping get people to local clinics for treatment. He served at Mass in his home parish, distributed Holy Communion and preached. Having lived in the United States for almost 12 years now, Simon reflected, “I relearned how to appreciate the many blessings that I sometimes take for granted.”