

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 ”

Become Great Before God

The Society of the Divine Savior's Generalate invited USA Provincial, Fr. Joe Rodrigues, to host a film documentary on Father Francis Jordan's life, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of our founder's death. The documentary, titled "Become Great Before God," is being produced by Studio Katolik of the Polish Province, in collaboration with a director and writer from Los Angeles, who have come together through the sponsorship of the Generalate to produce this documentary.

Filming began in 2017 on location in Germany, Switzerland and Italy and wrapped up in Jerusalem - the Holy Land earlier this year. The production will have its debut at the Society's General Chapter in August 2018.

We pray this documentary will profoundly capture the life and spirit of our founder. Until then, visit <http://bit.ly/BecomeGreatBeforeGodSDS> to learn more and view a trailer for the documentary.



At the childhood home of our founder, Fr. Jordan, in Gurtweil, Germany.

In the Holy Land, outside the prison of Christ.

Spring Cleaning

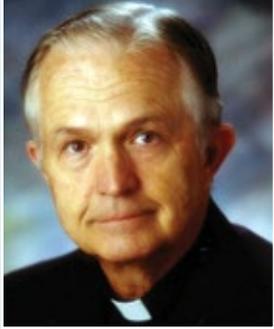
Is spring cleaning part of your annual tradition? If so, once the closets, basement and garage are in order, why not consider making some adjustments to your financial plan as well. Did you know you can make a huge difference with a monthly gift without even thinking about it? Or, that you can support our mission with a deferred gift designated through your will or estate planning? Ensure that your legacy lives on with family and causes near to your heart. Set up a monthly gift at <http://bit.ly/FrGregoryMonthlyGift>. Or, contact us today at 800-254-4902 to let us know you plan to remember us in your estate plans, and let us include you as a member of our Francis Jordan Legacy League.

HOPE

Salvatorian Newsletter

Starting Point

Hope doesn't perish in the heat of summer, go dormant in the fall or freeze in the deep of winter, yet it seems like spring is the season that rejuvenates us - calls out and awakens us physically and spiritually, and gives us "hope."



Why is that do you think?

Perhaps it's the rains that come which metaphorically may wash away what weighs us down, or is it the longer hours of sunlight which have us stretching our necks and faces to heaven as we savor its brilliance and warmth.

No matter how you choose to think about it, the rain and the sun together result in new growth for our earth - and this bounty that greets us in spring truly gives us energy and new hope. Our Savior planned it that way...just as He forgives and loves us without end, He also knows that we need cues to forgive ourselves, to get up - not give up, and be present in our own lives so that we may be present for others.

To do His work, we need that renewal of our own spirit.

It's spring, the time when "... we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm..." -Hebrews 6:18-19

God Bless! Fr. Gregory

Journey toward priesthood

Putting into practice all the lessons learned during his seminary studies, Cl. Marcel Emeh took time to reflect and share insights from his diaconate year, which immersed him into every aspect of parish and community life at Most Holy Trinity in Tucson, AZ.

"It was a busy and fruitful diaconate year for me. I was honored to celebrate baptisms and committal services, to preach for Masses all week long and teach,"



"Fr. Marcel enjoys the celebration of baptism."

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Servant among us. Savoring the gift of Brother George

From picking apples in the orchard to giving talks at the local chemical prevention center, Br. George Maufort is considered a Christ-like “jack of all trades” when it comes to religious brothers.

“It is really simple,” he said. “You name it and I do it or have done it! I do carpentry, maintenance projects, repairs, plant trees and all kinds of other things. I’m trying to make the parish grounds look like a park! In the past, I ran a soup kitchen as well.”

For the past 23 years, our diocese has been bountifully blessed by the service of Br. George, a deacon and a member of the international Salvatorians Society of the Divine Savior, at the Catholic Indian Mission and the Church of St. Peter in Fort Yates.

“Brothers aren’t easy to come by these days,” said Fr. John Paul Gardner, Pastor of the Church of St. Peter. “To find a good one like Br. George is something really special. Everyone knows him. It doesn’t matter whether you are Catholic or not, you know Br. George and what he stands for. He is very faithful to his prayer time, although he is discreet about it. That is the heart of his day. He loves to pray for people, and he has a great love for Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego.”

Br. George has a creative edge to him, a real servant’s heart, and a simple way of shining rays of joy on all those around him.

“He has a trailer with pigeons that he keeps as a hobby, and everyone is fascinated by them!” Fr. Gardner said. “He reminds me of St. Joseph. He also keeps bees, in a time when bees are dying and being neglected around the world. He is making a lot of honey right in Fort Yates. This fact resounds with the story of his life—that he has devoted his life to helping those who are struggling. He is very close to nature and the environment as well. He knows every tree by name, and he knows their needs.”

Faithful to his call to the diaconate, Br. George also visits shut-ins and brings them Christ’s presence in Holy Communion.

“What is so important is that we are offering a Catholic presence here at the mission in Fort

Yates; we are connecting with real people and real people are connecting with Our Lord,” Fr. Gardner commented. “A good notion in the mission field is to appreciate the beauty and goodness that are inherent in the people you are working with, which is exactly what Brother George is so good at doing. What we do for them in return is bring them Our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Since Br. George first befriended the Native Americans, he has reaped a harvest of blessings and found great peace in walking alongside of them.

“I like journeying with my first nation relatives,” Br. George said. “I have been involved with the Indian culture since 1986. Indian grandmas have taught me bead work, traditional men’s dancing, and sewing. They have also helped me understand the meaning of their Indian ceremonies.”

Over the years, he has also learned some commendable life lessons from his Indian friends. “When I first came here, a Dakota friend told me to remember these things: to walk humbly with the people; to remember that no one is any worse or any better than the person next to them; to know that it starts when it starts and it ends when it ends; and to not do for the people what they can do for themselves.”

Looking back, Br. George continues to be profoundly grateful that he opened his heart to the divine call of God many years ago, and would never take back the leap of faith he made. Through experience, he has found that his vocation is built on the foundation of God’s love, and that through this love, it can flourish beautifully.

“God chose me to be a brother,” he says. “All I had to do was to say, ‘yes.’ I was 21 when I entered religious life, and I walked away from my family and what my father wanted me to do. My life as a brother has been wonderful. If you read the Song of Songs in the Old Testament, you will see what my vocation is all about!”

The faithful are invited to lift in prayer Brother George as he continues his tireless work at the Indian Mission and the wonderful people he reaches out to.

By Amanda Evinger

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One of Br. George’s “jobs” is resident beekeeper.

Who are these people?

Eighteen years ago, a church collection for the people of Haiti drew the interest of Bob and Denise Synder, SDS Lay parishioners at St. Gregory in Nashville, TN. When they asked Fr. Jim Bretl, Salvatorian pastor at the time, about these people, he told them to go find out. So they did. They learned that the needs of this poverty stricken area in the northern part of Haiti were overwhelming and they were determined to do something.

New Developments

Despite challenges they face as a community, the Haitian people continue to be welcoming with what little they have. Just within the last six years the Haiti Project purchased land and developed the Fr. Jim Bretl Agriculture Center, named in his honor. The property was enclosed with a chain link fence and concrete walls, a pavilion and storeroom were built to hold formation workshops and process vanilla; a caretaker house was constructed, as well as an outdoor kitchen, an office and a separate composting toilet.

In addition, erosion control systems have been put in place and many different trees have been planted as well as a variety of yams, which are a staple in the Haitian diet. They have been blessed to be able to hire two full time employees and the aid of an agronomist to help with soil management and crop production, including irrigation and the use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. And, after receiving a truck from a Lay Salvatorian benefactor, they have been able to move necessary supplies around the mission and collaborate with others working in Haiti... They have become the local ambulance!

Project Haiti continues to:

- Support five schools which now buy much of their food from locally grown sources rather than rice and beans from America
- Hold annual workshops for farmers and women in the area
- Support the 500 farmers who organized an association to work through problems and introduce new farming methods
- With permission from the Bishop, distribute communion on Sundays when there is not a priest present at one of the two chapels.

“Education remains very important,” said

Bob. “Most of the adults we work with have very little education. This affects many aspects of change.”

“The goal of Project Haiti is giving these families a way to feed themselves and gather the respect that comes with being self-sufficient,” said Denise.



A. Denise Snyder, Lay SDS administering to the sick in Haiti. B. Lavalas, guardian at the Fr. Jim Bretl SDS Center, looking over the vanilla with Delise, who is the Center manager. C. Bob Snyder, Lay SDS and Lavalas looking over the double dug gardens at the Ag Center.

Journey - from cover

he said. Ministering to the homeless and hungry through social justice programs and providing part time pastoral care at the local hospital provided practical occasions to pray, listen, counsel and help people at the parish and the surrounding area.

“I love the words of baptism, most especially where the minister says, ‘I claim you for Christ, and I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit’; that is through the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity,” said Marcel. “I have been called on to celebrate committal – graveside ceremonies; my empathy for the families grieving for the death of their loved ones is great.”

As Marcel prepares for life after ordination he noted, “My takeaway is that collaboration with the laity and others is essential in our ministry as Salvatorians.”