

# 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”

## Celebration!

Celebrating our extended family of alums and benefactors in the Milwaukee area, the Society hosted its annual appreciation event at Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery in June. All enjoyed a fun night sponsored by BEST PLACE, Classic Casino and VISION Vocation network.



The night was full of fun with the Classic Casino dealers. | Fr. Joe Rodrigues extended our heartfelt thanks to all.

## Ministry spans decades and continents

Please join us in congratulating and thanking these Salvatorians as they celebrate milestone anniversaries with the Salvatorians, as well as their years of service and ministry to the Society, community and world.

### 60th Jubilee of profession

- Fr. Richard Driscoll SDS – Sep. 8, 1958
- Br. Peter Farnesi SDS – Mar. 19, 1958
- Fr. Andre Papineau – Sep. 8, 1958

### 25th Jubilee of profession

- Fr. Glen Sayers SDS – Aug. 15, 1993



Pictured L-R Fr. Andre, Br. Peter and Fr. Glen.

## Bottom Line – We need your help

We've been busy! The needs of this world are great, and we do what we can, when we are able. We have much to do, not only with the formation of our future priests and brothers, but within our ministries to at-risk youth, the elderly, in high schools and universities around the country, in parishes, on the streets and at the borders where those most in need continue to need not only our prayers, but our love and support.

Ministries in place now, as well as new ministries to be embraced as we respond to the needs of our times need funds to not only survive, but to thrive. Please consider a monthly or one-time gift to the Society of the Divine Savior today. If you would like more information regarding a legacy gift, please give us a call at 800-254-4902.

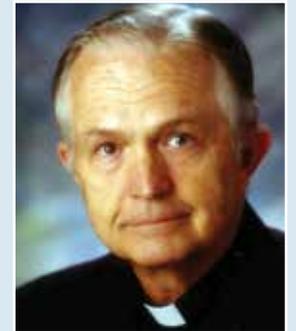
“It is more blessed to give than to receive!” Acts 20:35

# HOPE

Salvatorian Newsletter

## Starting Point

German filmmaker Wim Wenders says his documentary, “Pope Francis: A Man of His Word” is “a portrait of a deeply spiritual man, a progressive thinker, and a guy who likes a good laugh.”



Notably, many of Pope Francis’ ideas and messages related to social justice, immigration, ecology, wealth inequality, materialism, and the role of the family sound strikingly similar to our Fr. Francis Jordan’s, Salvatorian Founder vision and mission. Jordan, whose birth name was John Baptist, also adopted the name Francis due to his affinity for the Saint. It is our profound belief in Divine Providence that keeps us on track to pray about everything and to trust in His will.

On September 8, we will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the death of our founder. We are taking this year to reflect on his life, vision and mission. Our small religious order remains grass roots. You will continue to find us ministering alongside the poor and the marginalized, in parishes, hospitals, nursing homes and more. We minister side-by-side with those whom we are called to serve.

And, as Salvatorians, we too enjoy a good laugh. Relish the summer my friends!

God Bless! Fr. Gregory

## Society Welcomes New Provincial

Having served the past six years as director of Jordan Ministry Team, a collaborative Salvatorian ministry based in Tucson, AZ, Fr. Jeffrey Wocken SDS has returned to Milwaukee, WI to begin his term as the newly elected provincial for the USA Province.

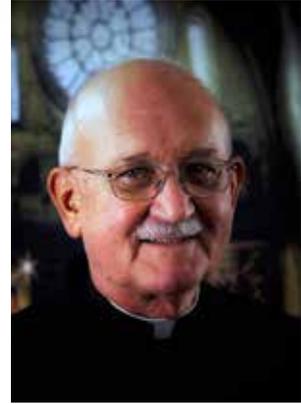
Fr. Jeff was first introduced to the Salvatorians in 1981 when his family moved to Huntsville, AL, and he became involved with music and youth ministries

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## Welcome home!

### Return to USA from Africa

Fr. Jim Weyker SDS has returned home from his ministry in Tanzania, Africa which spanned more than 25 years! Fr. Jim was the last American Salvatorian Priest serving there. He served in many parishes throughout Tanzania.



His last years there included serving the sisters in Masasi and taking care of his cashew grove.

The Salvatorian missions in Tanzania began in 1955. In these past 63 years, dozens of Salvatorian priests and brothers, dozens of sisters, and several Lay

Salvatorians have spent weeks, months and years of dedicated service to the growing Church in East Africa. Fr. Jim's return is the end of an era for our USA Province.

We can now stand back and proudly smile, knowing that the seeds that were planted there so long ago have blossomed into a strong and vibrant Church that is truly alive, truly Salvatorian, truly African.

Thank you and welcome home, Fr. Jim! And thanks to all those Salvatorians - living and deceased - who have ministered in Tanzania over the years. Some of us may still go back there now and then, though only to help in smaller ways assisting the Salvatorians there, and helping the Church in Tanzania continue to grow and flourish.



Fr. Jim Weyker SDS in his cashew grove!

## Finding more ways to help

A Salvatorian priest, along with the director of our Mission Warehouse and his wife, the president of Southwest Medical Aid and a mission nurse (all of whom are, or soon will be, Lay Salvatorians) gathered together to fly to Tanzania, Africa. The group had high hopes of establishing stronger relationships with our Tanzanian Pro-Province and finding ways to help provide medical supplies needed at various clinics and outstations.

"The kindness and generosity evident in our welcome was humbling," said Fr. Joe Rodrigues SDS. "They pointed out the many ways that Salvatorians minister to the people of the villages, and we were moved by their commitment and desire to serve with such limited resources. After praying and breaking bread together, we were inspired to find ways that we can work together more effectively in the future."

USA Salvatorians can be proud of what they started there and even prouder of our Tanzanian confreres who carry on the work with hope and zeal! It was a blessed experience to visit and deepen our charism of universality.



Dave Holton SDS, Fr. Joe Rodrigues SDS and Michael Johnson with the children in Africa.

## Ordination Updates!

Fr. Marcel Emeh, recently ordained to the priesthood, will move into full-time ministry for our Salvatorian parish of Divine Savior in Orangevale, CA. Salvatorian Deacons Patric Nikolas, Octavio Trejo-Flores, Paul Wilkin and Virginus Osuagwu are embarking on their diaconate year assignments.

We have much to do – not only with our seven men who are still in formation, but within our ministerings to those most in need of our prayers, our love and our support.

## A stand out person

When Louinel was a small boy in Haiti, managers of the Salvatorian-led Haiti Project took him under their wing. They found him a sponsor, which, in turn, opened the door for Louinel to attend the recently opened school in the village of Garcin. "Louinel was always friendly. As we started to spend extended periods of time in Haiti, he would come and visit us regularly," said Denise Snyder SDS. "He would help me practice my Creole, share meals with us and play dominos in the evenings."

"His father once worked for us so we have come to know his family well," said Bob Snyder SDS. "He didn't have regular work, and there was often not enough food at home."

As a very good student, upon completion of his studies at the primary school Louinel was accepted to the Catholic high school in town. Through the work of the Haiti Project, Louinel was matched with another sponsor and is now in his third year of high school. His English continues to improve. He has developed computer skills and stays in touch with the Snyder's even after they return home to the USA, keeping them informed of events and sending pictures of the financial reports generated at the Father Jim Bretl Agricultural Center, which is named after one of our Salvatorian fathers who had been instrumental in getting the Haiti Project off the ground almost 20 years ago. He has become very active at Church through the years and recently expressed interest in becoming a priest.

"One evening while visiting he mentioned he was having difficulty at school. When we asked him what was wrong, he shared his struggles at home and that there was no food," said Denise. "He attends two sessions of school each day and without having nutrition, it was difficult for him to study."

"There are so many hungry people in Haiti and there simply are not enough resources to be able to feed the many," said Denise. A plan was put in place to open the small library at the school on Saturday mornings. Louinel, in turn, was offered a small stipend to be the librarian. He has been a faithful worker opening the library on time each Saturday morning, helping children both select books and complete their

homework. He teaches basic skills where they are lacking and even has had adults seek him out for help at the library.

"Louinel has become a natural and confident leader in Haiti," said Denise. "We've been blessed to help him on his journey and can see a bright future for him. He plans to attend a University; the Haiti Project and its supporters hope to help him with that dream."



Louinel has become a resource to help students with reading and homework.

## Provincial - from cover

at our Salvatorian parish of St. Joseph and at our Salvatorian Camp St. Charles in Maryland. He professed vows in 1994 and was ordained a Salvatorian priest in June of 1999.

His years of service have been multi-faceted. Fr. Jeff has served as director of formation, vicar provincial, and in parish ministry at St. Pius X in Wauwatosa, WI and Divine Savior Church in Orangevale, CA in addition to his leadership role at Jordan Ministry.

"I believe the Salvatorian values of collaboration, universality and promotion of the lay apostolate are as essential today as ever in our church and world. I hope our small community will continue to be a powerful voice for these values," said Fr. Jeff. "I deeply appreciate the trust placed in me by the Salvatorian community and will do my best to grow into and fulfill the responsibilities of provincial."



Fr. Jeffrey Wocken SDS, USA Provincial