

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 ”

Special visit

The Salvatorian-led parish of St. Margaret Mary (SMM) in Milwaukee recently hosted a concert featuring the well-known American song writer, and composer of Catholic liturgical music, Mr. Daniel Schutte. Dan has composed more than 150 popular songs, including “Here I Am Lord,” also known as “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky.”



l-r: Deacon Paul Wilkin SDS, Fr. Romanus (Pastor of Blessed Savior parish), Dan Schutte and Fr. Patrick Nelson SDS

A day in the life - from page 3

An intercommunity day takes place weekly; allowing for regular interaction with other religious communities of men and women. This allows them to keep their eyes open to see similarities and differences as a way of assisting with their own discernment of where God is calling them to serve.

Fr. David readily shared a quote from Fr. Jordan’s spiritual diary that helps to embrace novitiate. “Let nothing shake or disturb your inner peace; but always be eager to discern the inner voice. Always be on the lookout where you can do something for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.”

Is it better to give than to receive?

Our Founder, Father Francis Jordan, called us to minister using “all ways and means which the love of Christ inspires.” We remain true to that vision today.

We’re missionaries both at home and overseas. We’re teachers, pastors, chaplains, spiritual directors, and camp counselors. You’ll find us on high school and university campuses, in parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and with those on the streets, supporting communities and reaching out to those on the margins of society.

We’re committed to justice and peace, including efforts in anti-human trafficking, immigration issues, and providing medical supplies and food to those in need around the world.

We continue to succeed thanks to you, the diverse array of individual talents and gifts of our priests, brothers and deacons, and by the grace of God. As you consider your first gifts of the New Year, please be as generous as you are able. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Feel free to contact us at 800-254-4902.

HOPE

Salvatorian Newsletter

Starting Point

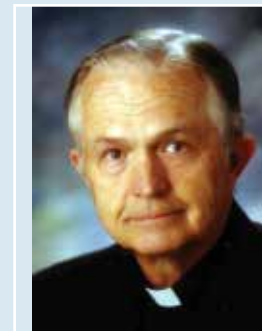
Each time I sit down to mull over what to share with you, I try to put myself in your shoes by simply acknowledging the way I feel too. The world is a very complex and troubled place – it has been for a while. Admittedly, the struggles which we face with one another on personal, national and international levels are real and can be overwhelming. So honestly I believe that this very simple HOPE newsletter, delivered from our small but vibrant religious order, is just that... a dose of HOPE.

Be hopeful my friends. Four men, now serving as deacons, are working toward ordination to the priesthood – That’s good news!

Fr. David Cooney SDS has taken the novitiate program under his wings, and is guiding two men through this critical year of discernment. They are learning what it means to embrace the charism of our founder. Lives of young students are being impacted through meaningful campus ministries and our mission warehouse is expanding its reach by getting needed supplies to Syria and hopefully soon, into Chile.

Be hopeful. God is great and definitely present in our lives. May your burdens be light, may your faith raise you up and may you feel His amazing grace and mercy in every day.

God Bless! Fr. Gregory



Success! Shipment to Syria arrived safely.

Container arrives in Syria

For Achraf and other Syrian refugees who have settled in the U.S., the joy felt in finally getting their families to safety is tempered by the memories of all those left behind. But it is through these relationships that the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse (SMW), located in New Holstein, Wisc. is able to get relief goods into Syria when very few organizations are successful.

The warehouse sends donated relief goods to

...continued on page 3 – Syria

Novitiate news

By way of a grandmother's encouragement toward religious vocation, and several religious within his family, Fr. David Cooney SDS, novice master shared, "The atmosphere growing up was alive with contemplation toward life as a religious. I had early intuitions about the possibilities before me."

Fast forward, Fr. David left Wisconsin for the first time in 1959 to begin his novitiate year with the Salvatorians in Colfax IA. "It was in the middle of nowhere: The big excitement was the railroad," he said. "It wasn't easy but we had great support from one another."

Now celebrating 58 years of profession and 51 as a priest, Fr. David has had a long history of ministry. It began in New Jersey and encompassed teaching, parish work and leadership roles in Indiana, Alabama and Arizona, before wrapping up 11 years in Tennessee and heading back to Wisconsin in 2017. Still full of energy, Fr. David continues his work with the Hispanic community and, most recently he answered the call to serve as novice master for the Society. "With my background in spirituality, I see this opportunity for ministry as walking with the men, and sharing experiences of adjustment and perseverance from my own novitiate year," he said. "It can be a real challenge to adjust to community life; learning how to cooperate, step up to serve and contribute in all ways possible."

Those in novitiate are older these days, often discerning their call to religious life after having had successful second and third careers. One of the big questions is to discern whether or not the apostolic life of a Salvatorian is their calling. Fr. David was happy to step up, welcoming the opportunity to contribute to his religious community. "Religious life can be a challenge, but it can also be very fulfilling," he said. "I hope to instill in our novices, Liam and Ricardo right now, the importance of putting themselves out there to help, having no regrets for choosing this Salvatorian life."

A day in the life

Each day begins with prayer and Mass. There is a daily emphasis on our Salvatorian charisms to help novices understand what guides our members in their respective ministries. A great deal of time is spent on the

diaries of Fr. Francis Jordan, our founder, so the men begin to know him more deeply and to understand and appreciate the passion with which Fr. Jordan accepted his call. Regular discussions about the vows of profession; poverty, chastity and obedience take place and the men are invited



In community, preparing meals together is an important aspect of family. (l-r) Nv. Ricardo Gutierrez, Nv. Liam Helms and Fr. David Cooney SDS, novice director.

to become deeply and personally spiritual as they continue to discern life as a Salvatorian.

Hands-on ministries are incorporated to provide novices the chance to engage fully with their Salvatorian Family as well as to those whom

we minister, giving them practical experience. Fr. David holds conferences with each novice two to three times per week to challenge them, invoke questions and encourage deeper understanding.

...Continued on back page.

Reaching millennials in campus ministry

Whether it is on a secular or religious campus, helping young adults find ways to embrace, and live their Catholic faith daily is clearly at the heart of this ministry. The Society has three men serving in campus ministry, with combined years of service spanning 70 years!

"I became a Salvatorian because I wanted to teach. However, during my formation years our Salvatorian schools and universities had to close," said Fr. Doug Bailey SDS, recently retired but still active in campus ministry at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). "As a campus minister, I could still be involved in the life of the University and at FIT I was even able to teach!"

"I believe it was grace and the Holy Spirit that bought me to campus ministry as a Salvatorian. It was not on my radar," said Fr. Sal Ragusa SDS, campus minister at Holy Names University in California. "However, after a year-long campus ministry internship, I had a powerful transformative experience. It was through these young adults that God made clear that this was to be my particular vocation.

The students, faculty and staff are rich soil for growth in the faith. Youth are the future of the Church."

Well-known for his research on adolescent spirituality, Christian Smith, Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, recently shared his study on why millennials stay in the Church. It was noted that if young adults had three primary experiences in their lives they were more likely to be practicing Catholics as adults. Reasons young people stay included: They had a mentor in the faith outside their family who took an interest



Fr. Sal with the HNU community.

in their faith development; spending time outside of Sunday liturgy exploring what it means to be a disciple such as small faith group or Bible study; and having had a personal experience of God in their own life. "If we want to create disciples, we need campus ministry to reach our youth," said Fr. Doug.

"We are planting seeds for the future of the faith, the Church and its leadership," said Fr. Sal. "As campus ministers, being with the students at Mass, events, or in the dining hall for example, we are the presence of the Savior and we model how each member of our campus community is called to be the presence of God for each other."



Fr. Doug with FIT students.

Syria - from cover

missions around the world. The ministry, started by Br. Regis Fust SDS in 1963 continues today under the direction of Lay Salvatorians, Dave and Heather Holton SDS, and with the support of the Salvatorian Family. On average, one 40 foot shipping container is sent per week from the facility. The first attempt at sending a container to Syria came in 2016 but was hindered by the receiving group's lack of funds. Although the goods were ultimately distributed, the receiving group chose not to try for another container. In 2018, Dave and Heather were connected with Achraf through a local Refugee Support Community and he expressed his desire to help friends and family still in Syria.

The first 40 foot container was sent from SMW in May 2018 and shipped to a port in Turkey. Upon arrival, it was cleared through customs by an associate of Achraf's and then transported into Syria near where Achraf's

sister runs a school. This first container held a mix of paper products, clothing, food, school supplies, and medical equipment totaling 30,000 lbs. Achraf explained to Dave and Heather that any aid destined for Syria, if routed through

[other groups] seldom finds its way to the Syrian people. He said, "Being able to work with the warehouse and see that the intended shipment of humanitarian goods was received by those most in need was a blessing." Given the success of this latest distribution, additional containers were sent.

A container with 56,000 lbs of rice was quickly arranged, delivered and distributed to over 5,000 children from a school in northern Syria. At the same time, another container was packed with new Land's End® winter coats to arrive just as harsh weather hit the region, keeping thousands warm.

The fourth and final container to Syria in 2018 was a collaborative effort between the warehouse and the Hanan Refugee Relief group in Milwaukee. New winter clothing and blankets were collected and brought to the SMW. These items were combined with other donations at the warehouse to fill another 40 foot container.

The impact of these relief goods in Syria is just one story of many coming through the warehouse. Over 30 containers were sent from New Holstein in 2018 totaling 800,000 lbs of goods.



"Children in Syria received Land's End® winter coats from a recent shipment."