

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Spring 2023

STARTING POINT

On May 1, the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, Catholics in the United States celebrated “Religious Brothers Day.” This annual celebration honors the many contributions that brothers make through their lives of prayer and service. Although religious brothers are often – and incorrectly! – thought of as a sort of “silent workforce” in religious communities, the impact they have cannot be overstated. This is certainly true of our Salvatorian Brothers who have ministered on nearly every continent, working as missionaries, educators, nurses, farmers, librarians, printers, authors, and so much more.

While the day-to-day life of brothers might be very different than what it was, the commitment to compassion, service, and accompaniment of the poor and those in need remains

the same. It’s also important to remember that the vocation of religious brothers and sisters reach back to the origins of religious life (which was originally a lay movement) and they speak to us of the universal vocation to holiness and service that all Christians share.



As you reflect on your own call to holiness and service, I hope that you will find in these pages inspiration for your ongoing journey of faith. Regardless of our age or state of life, the Lord is always calling us to follow him more closely, especially in the loving care we offer to our neighbor.

In the Divine Savior,

Bro. Silas, SDS

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!



Salvatorian Brothers have had a long history of ministering at Camp St. Charles in Maryland and fulfilling important roles.

The camp, sponsored by the Salvatorian Priests and Brothers, is celebrating its 70th anniversary this summer. Since those early years in the 50’s, new cabins have been added, a new pool built, a horseback riding program came

Bro. Roger Nelson, SDS was dubbed St. Francis of the Salvatorians. Bro. Marvoin Kluesner, SDS kept campers busy with ceramicis and crafts.

to fruition, a ropes course took kids to the trees, and girls

Camp continue...

TRADITION & VISION

Brothers – A Ministry of Service

As we think of the history of the Salvatorians in the United States, we see the presence of Salvatorian Brothers in every area of ministry: in day-to-day “worker” ministries, tending fields and caring for livestock, in classrooms, and on campuses, working at summer camps, serving individuals with disabilities, maintaining farming implements and generators, as missionaries in Africa, and so much more. The presence and service of our brothers are a vital part of the Salvatorian mission in the United States and beyond!



*Bro. Gerard Langenberg, SDS
(d. 1994)*

Brother Gerard Langenberg, SDS, is an example of a Salvatorian Brother whose quiet service touched countless lives. As a young man, he entered our brothers’ formation program in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, but had to leave soon after because of health concerns. However, he was able to return to the community in 1935 and made his profession of vows in September 1937. Throughout his life, Bro. Gerard’s primary ministries included gardening, farming, and managing the orchards for our communities at St. Nazianz, Divine Savior Seminary in Lanham, Maryland, the Salvatorian Novitiate in Colfax, Iowa, and at Mother of the Savior Seminary in Blackwood, New Jersey. He also served at a parish in Oregon and



*Bro. Julian Landolf,
SDS, working the
farm at St. Nazianz.*



*Brothers working
the presses at the
Salvatorian Center
in St. Nazianz.*

took care of the grounds at Mount St. Paul College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, until it closed in 1970. Bro. Gerard eventually “retired” to Arizona but returned to Wisconsin in 1983 to serve at the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse in New Holstein, Wisconsin, until old age and infirmity prompted him to move into a nursing facility. Bro. Gerard died peacefully in November 1994.

When asked about Bro. Gerard, Salvatorian archivist, Fr. Mike Hoffman, SDS, shared the following reflection:

Oh man, what a joy!

During my four years [at St. Nazianz], Bro. Gerard was among the most admired Salvatorians, by the seminary students. He was in charge of the large orchard on the property. He was also the caretaker of the beehives. It was common for a handful of students to get together to “go help Bro. Gerard” during free time after classes each day. He was usually quiet and reserved, but he loved telling the students stories about life in the monastery and the work he did through the years.

His story was much like the story of many of the brothers to the students in the seminary. While we knew the priests who were our teachers much better, the brothers

Brothers continue ...

... Brothers

were often the ones we spent more free time with and admired. They didn't have an agenda with us. They weren't formally teaching us in class, but they taught us by their example and their friendship. Working with them was the fun part of our day, and there were no expectations or grades to worry about.

Even today, at our class reunions, when we talk about all the Salvatorians who were with us during our four years in St. Nazianz, our memories of our connections with the brothers are the ones we seem to cherish the most.

Salvatorian Bro. Sean McLaughlin, among his many ministries, was also committed to helping with the visualization and establishment of an organization promoting the vocation of religious brothers, the Religious Brothers



Bro. Sean McLaughlin, SDS, co-founder of Frost School & Center, which focused on helping the cognitively challenged.

...Camp St. Charles

joined the adventure thanks to the work of Lay Salvatorian Steve Blaine. Through the changes, the values and mission of Camp St. Charles remain unchanged: Create an environment that expresses Christian values in a setting poised for personal growth, connecting campers with God and His Creation, and unplugging from the busyness of modern life.

Many Salvatorians have impacted camp life, including two memorable Brothers who, through their ministry of service, helped kids flourish. Now retired and



As a Scholastic, Fr. Octavio Trejo-Flores, SDS, asked to ministered at summer Camp.



-- Fr. Glen Willis, SDS, enjoys saying Mass with the campers.

Bros. John and Tom at Alexian Village. Bro. George tending the beehive. Bro. Silas with his newest book.



Conference (RBC), which educates the Church about lay religious life for men, including sponsoring Religious Brothers Day on May 1.

Today, brothers remain an integral part of our mission. You will find them ministering in retreat work and catechesis, as well as writing, serving among Native American communities, in prisons, supporting our aging confreres, and in the ministry of prayer.

UGANDA PASTORAL CENTER

The initial proposal in the 50's was to begin a mission in Uganda, but ultimately the Generalate decided that Tanzania was the best location. So that mission grew, and a new diocese was formed and named Nachingwea. An American Salvatorian, Fr. Arnold Cotey, SDS, was chosen to be its first bishop.



A young Salvatorian priest ministers at the Salvatorian school in DC Congo.

quality formation to those wanting to join Salvatorian religious life from African countries.

Salvatorians subsequently opened missions in other African countries such as DR Congo (1955), Cameroon (2010), Mozambique (2005), Kenya (2015), and Madagascar (2018). As a result, the African Church is vibrant and promising, and the Salvatorian missions in African countries are thriving with new vocations and apostolates. Therefore, Salvatorians felt the need to establish an international novitiate house to provide

The scope of a newly proposed Salvatorian mission in Uganda is to establish an International Novitiate House, in Africa, for the candidates from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, and eventually from other African units. Furthermore, it responds to the needs of the local Church to establish a pastoral center, focusing on the formation and accompaniment of priests, religious, catechists, and more who will minister in the local communities.

To support the Uganda Pastoral Center go to Salvatorians.com.

"Be strong and constant in spirit, like a rock set in the sea which, although surrounded by storms and lashing waves, remains immovable and unconquered." ~ Blessed Francis Jordan

Please remember the Society of the Divine Savior in your will

A bequest is a wonderful way to support the mission and ministry of our Salvatorian Priests and Brothers, and is a testimony of your care and concern for them. Our legal name is "Society of the Divine Savior, Inc." and our taxpayer number (EIN) is 39-0806210.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of our founder, Blessed 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.

SALVATORIANS

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