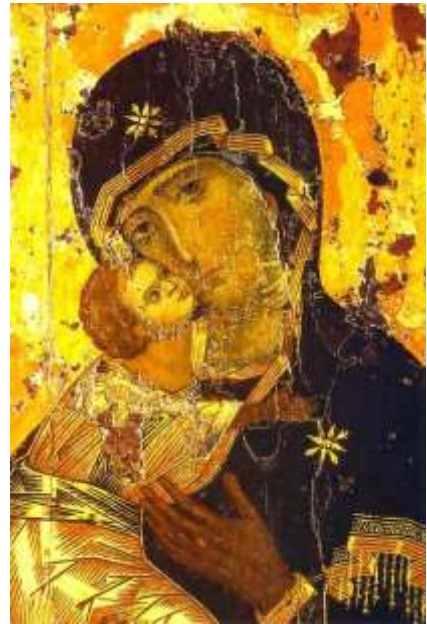


Mater Salvatoris

October Reflection by Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS

On 11 October 1962, St. Pope John XXIII officially opened the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council at St. Peter's Basilica, steps away from the Society's Motherhouse. It was the liturgical feast day of Mater Salvatoris, Mary Mother of the Savior, one of the principal Marian avocations honored by Salvatorians.

Who could have foreseen the tremendous changes in the Church's ecclesiology, liturgy, and pastoral ministry that ensued from Vatican II? It certainly occasioned important changes in both the Society and Congregation as we returned to the roots of our Salvatorian charism with the encouragement of the Council. This helped us in the US, inspired by Bl. Francis Jordan, to promote the concept of lay members. They first gathered under the auspices of the Society beginning in 1970 and now form the third branch of the Salvatorian Family as the International Community of the Divine Savior, officially recognized by the Holy See in February 2023.



Though the feast day of Mater Salvatoris on 11 October was eliminated from the Church's universal liturgical calendar after Vatican II, and is now the feast day of St. Pope John XXIII, it continues to be part of the Salvatorian liturgical calendar observed by all Salvatorians worldwide. With Bl. Francis Jordan who wrote in his Spiritual Diary on 11 October 1908 we pray: "Oh Mother of God, you are my Mother! Help, defend, protect me! Oh my Mother!" (SD II/119).

Pray for us!

Fr Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS



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Professed in 1982, Fr. Raúl ministered for nearly 25 years at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST). He then moved to Rome, Italy to serve as vicar general and general secretary to our international Society of the Divine Savior for six years. Upon his return to the USA, he was appointed the new president-rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST), where he continues to serve. In addition, Fr. Raúl is currently a USA Province Provincial team consultant.