

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Fall 2023

STARTING POINT

In his 2013 apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis reflected on the essential connection between the proclamation of the Gospel and works of justice. He writes:

The Gospel is about the kingdom of God; it is about loving God who reigns in our world. To the extent that he reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal fraternity, justice, peace, and dignity. Both Christian preaching and life, then, are meant to have an impact on society. (no. 180).

Although many Christians might be more inclined to understand proclaiming the Good News as being focused on catechesis or preaching, our call, as Pope Francis highlights, is

to make the kingdom of God real here and now. We do this by combining our teaching and preaching with promoting the common good, working to relieve suffering and alienation wherever we find them.



For Salvatorian priests and brothers in the United States—and across the globe—working for justice has always been part of our mission and service. In this issue of HOPE, you will find some wonderful examples from our history and the present day.

In the Divine Savior

Bro. Silas, SDS

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

Congratulations to Clr. Ricardo Rivera Gutierrez, SDS, who traveled home in July to celebrate his ordination to the diaconate at Christ the King Cathedral in Lazaro Cardenas City, Michoacán. Back in the USA, Clr. Ricardo will be serving in Hispanic ministry throughout his diaconate year. Please keep him in your prayers as he continues his journey toward the priesthood.



Clr. Ricardo with his brother Noé (l) and Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS (r)



The Society **welcomed** Joe Pense into its Candidate program during a simple celebration this summer. Joe will spend this year learning about life in

Joe Pense and Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS (r)

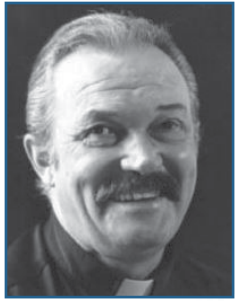
the community and delving deeper into his discernment regarding a commitment to life as a Salvatorian.

TRADITION & VISION

Social Justice & Youth Advocacy

There are perhaps no more valid words in Scripture than these, "The poor you will have always with you." ~ John 12:8. Our founder, Bl. Francis Jordan, was dedicated to preaching the Gospel through new and convincing ways to many, especially and increasingly to the poor and marginalized. More often than not, responding to the signs of the times brought Bl. Jordan and his followers in close contact with the poor.

As the 1970 Provincial Chapter got underway, social activist Fr. Luke



Fr. Luke McArthur, SDS (d. 1999)

McArthur, SDS, helped to set the tone by sharing the first ordinance, "Today, the problem areas of poverty, racism, and war stand as the greatest threats to the People of God as they seek to find a peace-giving, compassionate, forgiving and living Christ. This 1970 Provincial Chapter, therefore, charges the American Province to involvement in the present problem areas of poverty, racism, war, and other current crisis areas."

A commission was formed to educate and collaborate with other religious orders and agencies. By early 1972, the first gathering of the Justice and Peace Commission convened in Milwaukee, WI.

From 1976 through 1989, Fr. Luke ministered as pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Wauwatosa, WI. His passion was evident, and many justice and

peace initiatives and projects took root, including but not limited to welcoming two Cuban refugees to live with them in the rectory until transportation, jobs, and housing could be arranged, the formation of a group in Wauwatosa in response to concerns that the area was not open to racial integration, and support of a petition in 1982 calling for a referendum to freeze nuclear weapons.

Fr. Luke left the parish in 1989. He moved into full-time ministry, serving individuals and families who were poor and homeless through the Community Advocates and Project Second Chance program. He was a voice for the voiceless and worked to defeat the injustices he saw.

Today, Salvatorians worldwide advocate for the marginalized by continuing to support justice and peace for the poor and at-risk youth. St. Pius X Parish, led by Fr. Paul Portland, SDS, since 2013, remains meaningfully committed to justice and peace. One such example is the parish's Lenten Living Waters project which has

been helping to build wells in remote villages in Tanzania since 2012. Fr. Paul shared, "I am blessed to be a part of the St. Pius X community, as we continue the ministry of bringing the goodness and kindness of Christ to others, especially those most in need."



Fr. Luke McArthur, SDS, was a staunch advocate for social justice.



Sue Haertel, SDS, stands at a well built with help from the USA.

TANZANIA WELL PROJECT



Bro. Silas in Tanzania during a recent well dedication

Safe Water for Life and Dignity (SWLD) is a unique development program designed to provide safe water to small rural villages in Tanzania. SWLD collaborates with villagers, who take ownership to build the well and then share the water with all. Each well can serve as many as 500-1000 people. Over the last ten years, more than 50 wells have been built. Safe water improves health and results in new energy to develop a better quality of life that opens up new opportunities.

This past August, a handful of USA Salvatorian pilgrims took part in the dedication for new wells in the villages of Msumbizi, Giovuva, and Bondwa in Tanzania, Africa. The wells were built by SWLD and funded through donations from the Salvatorian parishes of St. Pius X and Mother of Good Counsel in the Greater Milwaukee area and Divine Savior Catholic Church in Orangevale, CA.

A Voice for the Vulnerable

Focused on the plight of vulnerable children and teens, Teen and Children's Team (TACT) is a Salvatorian justice group comprised of priests, brothers, sisters, and laity. The group, established in 2007 in response to a Salvatorian Charter, which affirmed a formal commitment to a corporate ministry, is designed to be a voice for this vulnerable population. Much of their work focuses on national legislation.

As secretary of TACT, Fr. Dave Bergner, SDS, helps review and track Congressional legislation involving children and teens. As a group, they determine which legislation to support. Father Dave writes the letter, and then a group of about 50 Salvatorians gets it in front of their senators and members of the House of Representatives. "In addition to writing letters, we also conduct Community Roundtables bringing together Congressional staff, educational leaders, and CEOs of

child-serving agencies," said Fr. Dave. "Collaboratively, we look at problems facing children and teens in new ways and encourage mutual accessibility so that the work on issues continues after the roundtable concludes."

This ministry group is constantly staying on top of current and new legislation. They are presently studying and reviewing the 50-plus pages of Senate Bill 1409, the Kids Online Safety Act, intended to protect children on the internet.

Who are these children, and what makes them vulnerable? "All children with special needs are vulnerable, including those with autism and hyperactive disorders, adopted children and those in foster



TACT continued ...

GIVING TUESDAY

Save the date for this year's #GivingTuesday - November 28th. Long after the turkey is gone, Salvatorians will still need your help to bring the gospel alive. Please consider your support during this season of giving which kicks off on Thanksgiving, continues on #GivingTuesday and goes through the end of the year. Thank you for your help and God Bless!



Go to:

Salvatorians.com/seasonofgiving

*"The Church greatly needs apostolic workers throughout the world... Strive to become all to all, so that you may gain all for Christ."
~ Blessed Francis Jordan*

TACT continued

care, homeless, abused and abandoned, and those with acute physical disabilities," Fr. Dave responded. He then added, "The most difficult thing is to see good legislation die in committee and, therefore, never reach the floor for a vote."

"Our work may seem boring to many, but we think it's important, especially

with how politically divided we are as a people," he said. "Our faith tells us that the sisterhood and brotherhood of humankind exists as certainly as the Fatherhood of God. We have a responsibility to one another, but especially to those vulnerable children and teens who have no one else but us to advocate on their behalf."

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 140 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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SALVATORIANS
Apostles for our times.