

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Winter 2024

STARTING POINT

When Blessed Francis Jordan sent the first Salvatorian missionaries to America in 1892, he recalled the words of the prophet Isaiah: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of peace!" (52:7). In the span of a few short years, Salvatorian priests and brothers were to be found serving in several countries and states proclaiming a message of peace and hope to the diverse communities they served.

That missionary spirit is a fundamental part of who we are as Salvatorians, fulfilling Father Jordan's vision that "As long as there is one person on earth who does not know God / and does not love Him above

all things, / you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest."

In this issue of HOPE, we will look back on how members of the USA



Province have helped build up the Church in other parts of the world and how we continue to serve as missionaries today, both at home and abroad. Your support is an important part of our mission, and it is through the generous prayers and gifts of friends like you that we continue proclaiming the loving kindness of the Divine Savior.

In the Divine Savior,

Bro. Silas, SDS

NEW PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS, who has assumed the position of Provincial for the USA Province for the Society of the Divine Savior.

Fr. Peter has held several offices within the Society of the Divine Savior, including two previous terms as Provincial (2000-2006), and, most recently, as Vicar Provincial and Director of Formation since 2012. Outside of the Society, he has ministered in a variety of capacities, including as a drug rehabilitation counselor and counselor for runaway teens, as a teacher for children with learning disabilities, a spiritual director, and in parish ministry in Wisconsin, Alabama, and Maryland.



*Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS
Provincial*

"It's been 17 years since I last served as Provincial. Much has happened since then in the world and in the Church, and there have been many changes," said Fr. Peter. "One thing that has not changed is my commitment to Blessed Francis Jordan's founding vision of a community of men and women who are dedicated to making the love and kindness of the Savior a reality in all parts of world."

TRADITION & VISION

Missionary

A missionary spirit occupied much of our founder, Blessed Francis Jordan's thoughts. The gospel verses proclaiming, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew: 28) and "That they may know You, the one true God" (John: 17) were a driving source of encouragement for him.

Missionary work for the Salvatorian priests and brothers has prioritized evangelization, education, and humanitarian aid. Through evangelization, we work to share an understanding of the Catholic faith and bring people closer to God. Education helps to empower individuals and strengthen communities, and humanitarian aid has us responding to social injustices and offering essential aid and services. The Salvatorian mission is to bring the message of salvation and hope to those who are marginalized or struggling in various cultural, economic, and social contexts.

USA Salvatorians have served as missionaries in India, the Philippines, China, Mexico, Tanzania, and Indonesia. One very notable Salvatorian missionary was Fr. Arnold Cotey, SDS. He was ordained in 1949 and taught at our seminary in St. Nazianz. The following year, he traveled to Macao, China, fulfilling a lifelong dream to serve as a missionary. He remained there until 1954 when all missionaries, because of the rise of the Communist regime, were barred from the country.

Fr. Arnold and several other Salvatorians remained committed

to missionary work. Negotiations quickly began with the Generalate in Rome and the USA Provincialate to establish a new, or take on an existing, mission in Africa. The initial proposal was to begin a mission in Uganda, but ultimately, one year later (1955), Fr. Arnold was among the first Salvatorians sent to initiate the mission in Tanganyika, now Tanzania, Africa. He became its first Mission Superior when the Diocese of Nachingwea was formed in 1963. Fr. Arnold became its first Bishop and the first Salvatorian in history to be ordained a bishop. He played a significant role in advancing missionary work by spreading Christianity to communities worldwide, including remote villages in Africa.

In 1983, the first native-African Bishop was appointed to succeed Bishop Cotey. Bishop Cotey stayed to help the new Bishop for a year before returning to the United States. He continued to minister in the USA in parish work until his

retirement in 1996.

Salvatorians today continue fostering this missionary spirit. A great example of this is the work of the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse, which Bro. Regis Fust, SDS, started



Fr. Cotey during early days in Africa.



Cotey. The first Salvatorian Bishop.



Pope John Paul II presides at Cotey's ordination.



Bishop Arnold Cotey, SDS, arrives in Tanzania after his Episcopal Ordination.

USA MISSIONARY SPIRIT

Guided by Generalate

In conjunction with Vatican offices, Missions ultimately begin with the Generalate in Rome. USA Salvatorians who have served on the Generalate have had a hand in these global discernments. The very first USA Salvatorian to serve on the Generalate goes back a long way – even before we became the USA Province. Fr.



Fr. Dorotheus Brugger, SDS (d. 1955)

Dorotheus Brugger, SDS, first came to the USA in 1914 and was elected Provincial of the Anglo-American Province (composed of the USA, Belgium, and Great Britain) in 1919 until his election to the Generalate in 1927.

Since then, many of our USA members have served on the Generalate, including Fr. Donald (Earl) Skwor, who served as Superior General of the Society from 1969 to 1975.

Most recently, Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, served in Rome from 2012-2018.



Cotey and other Salvatorian Missionaries at our Motherhouse in Rome after leaving Macao. (1954)

“During my term as Vicar General during the first Generalate of Fr. Milton Zonta, great strides were made to expand the Society to new territories. The impetus was to fulfill our mission to make the Savior

known by all ways and means, as well as to implement our charism of apostles for our times and apt instruments of salvation. Since the time of the Founder, Bl. Francis Jordan, there has been this urgency to respond to the Savior’s instruction to go out and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19-20), that is, to evangelize by proclaiming the good news of salvation and bringing people everywhere to know the Savior,” said Fr. Raúl. “So, since early on, Salvatorians have had a missionary thrust which

continue Generalate

Tradition and Vision



Shipped container arrives!



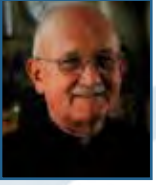
Bro. Silas recently led formation workshops in Africa.

from a closet in 1963 and managed until his retirement in 2015. The warehouse continues collaborating with several countries and missions globally to send them relief goods to support their communities. Annually several 40-foot shipping containers are packed full of donated and repackaged relief goods that are then sent to communities under duress around the world.

Another example is the work that is done to support the Tanzanian Mission. Fr. John Tigatiga, SDS, serves as our Tanzanian Mission Director in the USA by sharing news on the growth of the Salvatorian Mission and encouraging support for the formation of future African priests and brothers. And, at the end of 2023 Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS, traveled to Southeast Africa to lead religious formation workshops.

As society continues to face challenges, the missionary work of the Salvatorians remains crucial in fostering positive changes and spreading messages of faith, love, and service.

SERVANT LEADER



Fr. Jim Weyker, Salvatorian Missionary

A missionary in Tanzania for 48 years, Fr. Jim Weyker, SDS, had the opportunity to work closely with Bishop Arnold Cotey while serving in Africa. "Bishop Arnold was a true son of Blessed Francis Jordan, happy to be a Salvatorian priest and happy to be a missionary. He was a servant-leader before the words became popular," said Fr. Jim. "He was very humble, approachable by all and led a very sparse life-style. He was financially poor and did not act like a 'typical' tribal chief. Rumor has it that once, when the Tanzanian Bishops went to Zambia for an Episcopal Conference, Bishop Arnold's fellow bishops (Tanzanians) encouraged him to visit the well-stocked shops and buy clothes worthy of a Tanzanian bishop. Bishop Arnold, a white American, had no money!"

Generalate

has gained new strength in recent years. We have worked to raise our consciousness that we are Salvatorians first and members of an administrative unit second (e.g., USA Province). Also, our formation philosophy was revised so that those in formation train to be available to go wherever the gospel needs proclamation or the Church helped."

USA Salvatorians continue to serve in a global capacity for the Generalate in Rome. Fr. Scott Wallenfelsz, SDS, has

served as General Treasurer of the Society since 1999. Fr. Joe Rodrigues, SDS, currently serves as the First Consultor to the Generalate by living and working in Rome and travelling to Salvatorian Missions around the globe.



Fr. Raul served on the Generalate 2012-2018, while Frs. Joe and Scott currently serve.

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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