

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Spring 2024

STARTING POINT

When Blessed Francis Jordan called Salvatorians to make God's love and mercy known by all ways and means, he might not have imagined chaplaincy in the form it has today. And yet, over the decades, Salvatorian priests and brothers have expanded our ministries beyond the walls of parish churches and have been found serving in prisons, on college campuses, nursing homes, hospitals, hospices, and even on battlefields.

In this issue of HOPE, we share a glimpse of some of our earliest ministries as chaplains. Without a doubt, these diverse ministries have allowed our priests and brothers to

meet people in some of their darkest or most challenging moments of life, as they shared grace, peace, and hope.



Blessed Francis Jordan longed for the salvation of all. And all of us, as committed disciples of Jesus, are invited to announce and proclaim the mystery of God's unwavering love through all ways and means.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for our ministries.

In the Divine Savior,

Bro. Silas, SDS

GATHERING AS A COMMUNITY

Provincial Chapter

Gathering in community to pray and plan for the future, more than 30 Salvatorian priests and brothers from across the United States came together at the Sienna Retreat Center in Racine, WI this past March for the XXXIII Provincial Chapter of the USA Province.



During this important gathering Fr. Raúl Gomez-Ruiz, SDS, was elected Vicar Provincial, filling the position vacated when Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS, assumed the office of Provincial in November. In addition, Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS, and Fr. Raúl were elected delegates to join Fr. Peter to represent the USA Province at the General Chapter taking place in Krakow, Poland this summer.

(top) Bro. Silas and Fr. Raúl will attend the General Chapter in Poland with Fr. Peter.

(bottom) Member discussion during a breakout session



Read more at Salvatorians.com

TRADITION & VISION

Chaplaincy

Salvatorian chaplains have been integral in providing spiritual guidance and support to various communities, playing a vital role in offering comfort and solace to those in need through the years.

One notable Salvatorian Chaplain was Fr. Mike Kendall, SDS, who, even with his passion for teaching, felt called to a ministry in chaplaincy. When Mount St. Paul in Waukesha closed in 1970, his teaching assignment ended, allowing him to pursue his chaplaincy training



*Fr. Mike Kendall, SDS
d. 2008*

in California and Texas. He soon began ministry as Chaplain and Director of Clinical Pastoral Education at Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison, WI, where he remained until 1976. He went on to attend the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkley, CA, where he learned to combine his ministry to the sick with parish ministry. This allowed him to use this ministry skill at parishes in California and Oregon for eight years and for one year in campus ministry at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA.

Fr. Mike returned to hospital chaplaincy in 1988 and ministered as



*Hospital Chaplaincy -
visiting patients.*



*Fr. Sal Ragusa, SDS, during
his recent Chaplaincy at
Holy Names University*

Director of Chaplaincy Services at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno, CA. He held this position until 2000 when he, along with several

other Salvatorians, were sent to begin a new and very collaborative ministry - The Jordan Ministry Team, in Tucson, AZ. After four years with this ministry, Fr. Mike returned to chaplain ministry in Florence, AZ to begin serving as a Prison Chaplain. He remained in this ministry, while also helping at local parishes even after his official retirement in 2005, until his unexpected death in July 2008.



*Fr. Frederick Dorn, SDS
d. 1995*

Another notable chaplain was Fr. Frederick Dorn, SDS, who during World War II served as chaplain to the soldiers. He served four years of active duty in the Air Force, followed by service as a Reserve Officer until 1960. He was instrumental in counseling and supporting soldiers who were dealing with the stress and trauma of war. He retired from service with the rank of Major and received a Bronze Star.

Fr. Frederick had also been a hospital chaplain and a teacher.

Salvatorian priests have played crucial roles in providing chaplain ministry in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and military bases and campuses by offering spiritual support and guidance to a wide range of individuals facing different challenges and stages of life.

Today you will find Salvatorians in

continue...Tradition & Vision

WALK OF FAITH

Volunteering as a hospice chaplain since 2020, Fr. Dave Bergner, SDS, ministers with two providers in the city of Melbourne and Brevard County in Florida. "It's about discerning a call to make ourselves available in loving service by opening our eyes and looking for Jesus in the eyes of the dying. It's about visiting Jesus, who lives in every one of us," Fr. Dave reflected. "It's a walk of faith."

As a chaplain, Fr. Dave becomes part of the hospice care team whose goal is to give every patient the highest quality of life possible, including spirituality as an important part. In this regard, the chaplain becomes an agent of spiritual transformation.

"American society has more elderly persons who not only try to live with decreased physical abilities and limitations but also face loneliness and isolation," he said. "Hospice tries to counter the loneliness and isolation by helping the dying patient as well as



Fr. Dave Bergner, SDS

family members accept the impending loss of the loved one."

Fr. Dave offers the sick person a new sign of hope: the Laying on of Hands and the Anointing of the Sick with sacred oil accompanied by the prayer of faith from the Book of James the Apostle. The prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill, and the Lord will restore him to health. If he has committed any sins, forgiveness will be his. (James 5:14)

"Of course, for the dying person, short of a miracle, the restoration of health refers to the restoration of spiritual health," said Fr. Dave. "The sacrament is as much for the family as it is for the patient. All need spiritual healing and the eventual acceptance of God's will regarding their



loved ones. They can now perceive God's presence in a new way that comforts and protects."

BY ALL WAYS AND MEANS

Had the call to priesthood not risen, Fr. Arturo Ysmael, SDS, appeared destined to become a physician. However, when the call to priesthood became more persistent, he answered. Interestingly, he remains pulled to work in a hospital as a priest and chaplain.



Preparing for Mass at the Hospital Chapel

As a Chaplain at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, since May of 2023, Fr. Arturo is available to everyone in need of spiritual and emotional support regardless of gender, culture, age, or religious or political affiliation. "I believe in the all-inclusive, universal, truly Catholic character of chaplaincy," he said. "Between the medical staff and the religious needs of our patients, as a priest chaplain, I fill this gap. I minister to patients, their families, the hospital staff, and personnel."

Out of the ten full-time chaplains at the hospital, Fr. Arturo

continue... All Ways and Means

... By All Ways and Means

is the sole Catholic priest on duty. He specifically addresses the spiritual needs of Catholic patients, mainly within four medical units of the hospital. "I bring patients communion, hear confessions, administer the Anointing of the Sick, last rites and commendation of the dying, and celebrate Mass each week," he shared.

Fr. Arturo shares that some of the most rewarding days are when a frustrated patient gains calm and smiles, when a



*Fr. Arturo
in ministry at
Froedert Hospital*

baby is delivered successfully against all odds, or when he can hold a patient's hand after a final blessing and before a final peaceful breath.

"I am constantly confronted by the reality of death, but more so by the quiet nobility of the human spirit," he said. "Blessed Francis Jordan's mission for us as Salvatorians, to serve 'by all ways and means' certainly plays its role in this ministry."

... Tradition & Vision: Chaplaincy

chaplains roles within hospice care, hospitals, and nursing homes providing comfort and support during difficult times. You will also find us in chaplaincy ministry at universities, where we engage with students and faculty to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that celebrates diversity

and promotes understanding. Through our ongoing commitment to chaplaincy ministry, Salvatorians have been able to extend God's hand by offering support and faith to individuals and their families during some of their most difficult days.

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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