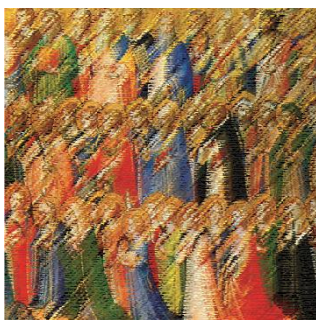


Role Models to Guide Us

Reflection by Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz SDS



As we prepare for the annual liturgical celebration of our Founder, Bl. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan on 21 July, you might wonder why we commemorate the saints at all. In general, because they are models who can guide us on our particular paths to holiness to which we are all called. As the Savior tells us in the scriptures, we are to be perfect as his heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48). That is, in our humanity we are to be holy, to be fully what God intended for us to be at our creation. And, in the humanness of those recognized by the Church as saints, we see that holiness is achievable by us all.

Our baptism marks the onset of our path of holiness. As a colleague of mine noted in a homily "...in our infancy, those who loved us decided that we should be marked with the sign of faith in baptism, that saving sign from the Book of Revelation, showing to the world that we were sealed by holy love, that we belonged to God, that we didn't just look like one or both of our parents or relatives, but that we bore the image of God." (J. Mack, 1 Nov 23).



Blessed Francis Jordan took the call to holiness very seriously and followed the path assiduously. Furthermore, in founding the Salvatorians, he "...aspired for us to be holy, to be a saint, to live in closeness and friendship with God and neighbor and stranger. Not to be perfect in ourselves, but rather resembling Jesus who bore the perfect image of the Father, with compassion, mercy, and reconciliation, as has been seen in the great and vast Communion of Saints, especially among those unrecognized except by a heavenly gaze." (Ibid.)

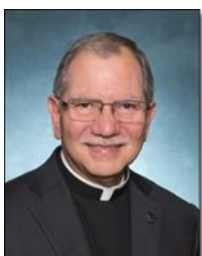
Yes, all of us are called to holiness, to be saints. One of the first aims which the Founder had in gathering people together was for their growth in holiness surrounded by others aspiring to holiness and desiring to support one another along that path. And not just for holiness in itself, as worthy as that is, but so that we could come to know intimately the one true God and he whom he sent, Jesus Christ and then go forth to make the Savior known more effectively by all the ways and means his love inspired.



This year on 21 July through 20 August, the Society of the Divine Savior will celebrate its XX General Chapter. The theme of this gathering of Salvatorians from around the world is "Rooted in the Savior, Apostles for our Times." A General Chapter is a time for those gathered to reflect on the state of the Society, to consider revisions as needed to our rule of life, and to identify plans that will help us be more firmly rooted in the Savior as we go out to make him known as apostles. The delegates also elect the successor to our Founder along with the team who will help him guide us toward the holiness and wholeness, the fullness of life, that the Savior wants for us. Please pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding the delegates will be strongly felt by them.

In the Divine Savior,

Raúl Gómez-Ruiz
Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz SDS



Fr Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS

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 served until June 30, 2024. Fr. Raúl was elected and continues to serve as Vicar for the USA Province.