

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Summer 2024

STARTING POINT

In a talk given to the Salvatorian community in Rome on New Year's Eve 1898, Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan reflected: "In the year ahead, let us work to lead a conscientious life fulfilling the duties of our vocation. This way, at the end of the next year (if we are granted another year), we can say: I journeyed on the way to heaven."

The idea of our lives as a journey recognizes that, here and now, we are not where we are meant to be. In fact, we travel through life as pilgrims, seeking the Homeland that is the goal of our journeying.

Seeing ourselves as pilgrims—whether it is in that broad sense or

on a special journey to a holy shrine—helps us to focus our attention and energy in a special way. It reminds us that the here-and-now is not all that there is, nor is it all that we are made for.



And yet, even as we travel along our pilgrim way, we also remain mindful of the opportunities the Lord gives us to care for our fellow travelers, and of the call we each have to invite others to join us on the journey.

In the Divine Savior,

Fr. Silas Henderson, SDS

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

The celebration of priestly ordinations this summer for Fr. Ricardo Rivera-Gutierrez, SDS, on May 31 at Mother of Good Council Parish and Fr. Silas Henderson, SDS, on June 24 at the Basilica of St. Josaphat, both in Milwaukee, served as joyous occasions and hope for the future!



(l-r) Fr. Ricardo receives a blessing from Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS. | Fr. Ricardo with his family, Aux. Bishop Most Rev. James T. Schuerman, and Salvatorians Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz and Fr. Peter. | Aux. Bishop Most Rev. Jeffrey Haines blessing Fr. Silas. | Fr. Ferdinand Lukoa, SDS, General Consultor with Aux. Bishop Haines, and Fr. Silas.

DEEPENING FAITH THROUGH PILGRIMAGES

Pilgrimages impact Christians by giving them an opportunity to deepen and strengthen their connection to God. Whether journeying to a shrine or a holy site, pilgrimages offer a time dedicated to spiritual renewal and growth through prayer, reflection, and devotion. An individual or group can make a pilgrimage focused on Jesus, the Blessed Mother, a saint, or some combination of these.

Various sites of religious importance, such as the Holy Land in Jerusalem or the shrines of saints and martyrs, serve as sacred reminders of the sacrifices and teachings of Jesus Christ. They provide a physical connection to the history and heritage of the Christian faith. The chance to walk in the footsteps of those who have come before them by visiting places mentioned in the Bible allows people to personally experience the history and significance of their faith, giving them a deeper understanding of the teachings of Christ.

Pilgrimages surrounding the Blessed Mother, a Marian devotion, expand on a significant aspect of our Christian faith by deepening our connection with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, and seeking her intercession in prayers.

A third-party travel company

generally organizes larger pilgrimages. However, Salvatorians such as Fr. Reed Mungovan, Fr. Tom Tureman, and Fr. Pat Nelson have led and participated in various pilgrimages with their parishioners and others who were interested in deepening and living out their faith in God in concrete ways.

Fr. Reed, the pastor at Mother of Good Counsel in Milwaukee, WI, serves as a spiritual director on these pilgrimages. He recently traveled to Mexico City to see and experience Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is a Marian-based pilgrimage. "Pilgrimages are important because they allow the believer to go beyond himself and get to know God in new ways and places," he said. "I see my role as helping the pilgrim to be open to what God wants to teach them. My hope for myself and others on any pilgrimage is that God's presence in the place we visit would draw us closer to Him."

One of the most profound pilgrimage experiences Fr. Reed shared was his concelebration of Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which had over 1,000 people in attendance! He hopes to make a pilgrimage to Rome in the fall of 2025



Fr. Reed Mungovan celebrating Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe



Fr. Tom Tureman has accompanied pilgrims to Mexico, the Holy Land and Rome



Fr. Pat Nelson traveled to Our Lady of Champion Shrine in Wisconsin

continued...Pilgrimage

THE ROSARY MAKER

Fr. Don Loskot, SDS

As an altar boy at his home parish, Fr. Don Loskot, SDS, met monthly with other servers for training and activities. One month, a religious sister arranged for them to help an elderly parishioner make rosaries to send to the Africa Missions. "This is where I first learned how to make a chain rosary."

As a student at the Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, WI, supporting the Salvatorian Mission in Tanzania was a focus for all who attended. Using his rosary-making skills, Fr. Don joined a group dedicated to repairing donated broken rosary parts and packing the restored rosaries for distribution to the Salvatorians in Africa. He always kept a pair of rosary pliers on his desk to repair rosaries for students or faculty. However, graduation ended his rosary work and, after his ordination to the priesthood, other ministry priorities continued to keep rosary making on hold.

... Pilgrimage

to mark the beginning of the Church's Jubilee Year.

Fr. Tom, the pastor at Most Holy Trinity in Tucson, AZ, has led and participated in pilgrimages to the Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the Holy Land, and Rome, to name a few. "Guadalupe was magnificently meaningful; the Holy Land helped to make real so much of what we read about our Lord, despite witnessing the painful realities of Israel today, and with Rome, we worked to take in

continued...Pilgrimage



Fr. Don selling his rosaries and cards

Years later, as a parish priest in Tennessee, he started making rosaries again. His inventory grew, allowing him to start selling them and making them a part of his ministry in the formation process for new members of the Society.

He began selling the rosaries at several church festivals and craft fairs annually. "I've become identified as a rosary maker," he said. "I make them as much as I can."

Recently, Fr. Don was asked to make a rosary for a young woman struggling with a substance addiction. "I chose specific beads, centerpiece, and crucifix: rainbow-colored beads as a sign of God's enduring promises to his people; a centerpiece of St. Jude, the patron of difficult causes; and a Crown of Thorns crucifix to remind the user of the Divine Savior's sanctifying love for us," he said. "I later learned that the young lady loved the rosary. That was a profound moment to learn that the rosary I made helped her during a difficult time in her life."

BISHOP VISITS



Bishop Lazarus with Salvatorians Fr. Tigatiga and Bro. Peter

Bishop Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, from the Catholic Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania, visited the United States this summer. Bishop Lazarus was the first Salvatorian Missionary, originally from

Morogoro, to become the bishop of that Diocese in May 2021 when he was appointed by Pope Francis.

... Pilgrimages

the traditional spots while also creating a Salvatorian experience by visiting our international headquarters and helping people get to know our founder, Blessed Francis Jordan, on a more personal level," he shared. "Ultimately, the value of any pilgrimage is that it offers us a retreat into the roots of our faith and spirituality, while providing an understanding within the context of history."

In 2023, Fr. Pat, pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Milwaukee, WI, led his parishioners to Our Lady of Champion Shrine in Champion, WI, the site of Marian Apparitions that occurred in 1859. In 2016, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the grounds as a National shrine. "Each year, we make a pilgrimage to a holy site where we can experience firsthand the history, talk about our experience, and celebrate

Mass at the sacred location," said Fr. Pat. "We are currently getting details on touring holy sites in Milwaukee for later this year."

There is definitely a Salvatorian connection between pilgrimages and the charisms that lead us. "Our Founder, Blessed Francis Jordan, and Co-Foundress, Blessed Mary of the Apostles, wanted all people to know Jesus," said Fr. Reed. "When we go on a pilgrimage, our main aim is to know Jesus more deeply and then to share with others what we have learned and experienced.



Fr. Reed with a group of pilgrims from Mother of Good Counsel

"Show me, Lord, the path I should walk.

Trust in God, trust in God, trust in God." ~ Blessed Francis Jordan

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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. Consider a gift today - Salvatorians.com

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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