

# HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Fall 2024

## STARTING POINT

One of the guiding principles of our lives and ministries as Salvatorian priests and brothers is universality. This value—of the utmost importance to our Founder, Blessed Francis Jordan—essentially means that we should always be mindful of the needs of all people in all places and that we can never define ourselves by our country of birth or where we minister. As Blessed Francis Jordan reflected in a talk to our community in Rome in 1902: Salvatorians “must take into account the needs of the whole world and of our holy mother church, which so desperately requires apostolic workers throughout the world.”

This sense of universality was powerfully expressed during our recent General Chapter, as 44 delegates and other Salvatorians gathered from around the globe in Krakow, Poland, to elect our leadership for the next six years and highlight the priorities

for our Society. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the variety of ministries in which our priests and brothers are involved in 46 countries!



Beyond that, our universality is expressed in the work of SOFIA, the “Salvatorian Office for International Aid,” which supports the work of our priests and brothers in developing countries as they establish new missions, schools, clinics, and a host of other ministries.

The gifts and prayers of our friends and benefactors help us keep our holy Founder’s vision of universality alive as we strive to make the Divine Savior known among the last and the least in every part of the world.

In the Divine Savior,  
*Sr. Silas Henderson, SDS*

## XX GENERAL CHAPTER



This past July the Society’s XX General chapter convened in Kraków, Poland, bringing together Salvatorian priests and brothers from around

*Letter from Pope Francis*

the world, including the following members of the USA Province: Frs. Peter Schuessler, Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, Silas Henderson, and Scott Wallenfelsz. The theme of the Chapter, “Rooted in the Divine Savior, Apostles for today,” combined the spiritual and apostolic dimensions of our Salvatorian vocation.

*continued...Chapter*

# ACTIVE IN RETIREMENT

The unique perspectives of retired or semi-retired priests and brothers, shaped by years of service and devotion, is a testament to faith and spirituality. Their guidance, whether in private conversations or community gatherings, offers comfort and strength to those navigating life. Their spiritual wisdom serves as an inspiration, uplifting others in their own faith and life journey.

Retired members of the USA Province remain relevant as they continue to live out their Salvatorian values and charisms, participating in and encouraging collaboration within their communities, thus demonstrating the value they offer beyond formally assigned ministry.

The following are inspiring examples of Salvatorians who remain active through stages of retirement, each contributing in their unique way.

A number of our retired or semi-retired members live at Alexian Village, a retirement community in Milwaukee, WI and remain active. For example, residents Frs. Roman Mueller and Mike Shay prepare and offer Mass regularly in the onsite chapel along with other priests who offer help as needed.

Salvatorians who live at Alexian Village build friendships with the residents

by offering a ministry of presence through their compassionate, friendly, and open interactions. "Residents and staff within this community hold our members in high regard, often asking questions about faith and the Church," said Bro. John Hauenstein, SDS, who serves as caretaker and advocate for our retired priests and brothers living at Alexian.



*Members living at Alexian Village gather weekly*

Bro. Sean McLaughlin, formerly active in youth ministry and now in retirement, continues to minister through outreach calls, talking with and thanking our generous benefactors. When time permits, he ministers at hospitals

near him.

In the Milwaukee area, Fr. David Cooney celebrates Mass in Spanish and helps in ministries and bilingual parishes around his community. And, Fr. Jim Weyker, who served nearly 50 years in Africa as a missionary, is now retired and continues to minister as a member of the Society's Milwaukee-area regional board. He also celebrates bi-weekly Masses at another retirement community in the area.

Fr. Doug Bailey led campus ministry for 40 years, most recently in Florida. Now retired from teaching on campus, he continues to run Bible study classes and share his love of cooking with groups, especially in fundraising efforts for parishes and schools.

Fr. Sal Ragusa, who is semi-retired and serves at Divine Mercy Parish in California,



*(L) Fr. Sal (middle) with the Friday community group:  
(R) Fr. David (r) serves in bilingual ministry.*

*continued...Retirement*

# SOFIA

As Salvatorians, our ministries are not restricted to the USA. Our international charism is a very important part of the vision of our Founder, Blessed Francis Jordan, and his desire to make known the goodness and kindness of the Savior through all ways and means, everywhere. We are, each of us Salvatorians and friends, a part of a very global world.

An important part of the General Secretariate for the Missions based in Rome is the Salvatorian Office for International Aid (SOFIA), which was founded in 2008. SOFIA encourages collaboration among Salvatorians around the world to increase the impact and sustainability of projects in the fields of health, education, rural development, and pastoral formation.

Since its inception, SOFIA has funded and developed more than 350 Salvatorian projects, benefitting hundreds of

thousands of people. In future issues of Hope Newsletter, we look forward to bringing you updates from our projects and missions in Kenya, Venezuela, Tanzania, Madagascar, Vietnam, India, and more.

Over the last six years, nearly a million dollars have been sent from the USA Province to missions around the world, thanks in part to the generosity of our benefactors here in the USA. We truly are part of a global community and each of us has the ability to support and make an impact on our goal of working towards a more just, equitable, and humane world.



*Photos top to bottom:*

- Vehicle donated to Salvatorian Parish, Mexico
- Salvatorian education project for the poor, Manila
- Health checks at the Bl. Francis Jordan Health Center, Venezuela
- Salvatorian electricity project, Democratic Republic of the Congo



## ... Retirement

initiated community time after Friday Masses as a way for parishioners to get to know each other better. They call it "the three C's: coffee, community, conversation."

These and all of our retired priests and brothers remain a meaningful source of support among the members of the Society, the extended Salvatorian Family, and the communities where they live. Their

accumulated knowledge and insight are foundational for continuing a legacy of compassionate ministry, and are a wonderful reminder that value is not confined to past accomplishments.

The ongoing impact members have on their communities is a testament to the enduring power of faith and the human spirit. These members serve as an inspiration well into their golden years.



## ... Chapter



*Photos left to right: Fr. Silas during the Chapter's opening procession, Frs. Scott and Peter during a group session, and Fr. Raúl serving as First Vice President of the Chapter*

Pope Francis penned a letter recognizing the work of Salvatorians and those in attendance. He reminded them, "You are called to listen humbly to what the Holy Spirit is suggesting, in order to work with greater vigor in the Church and in the missionary field

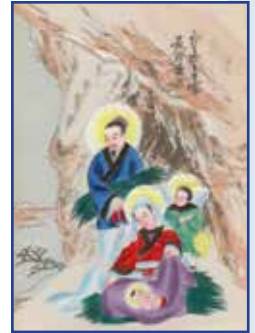
where Divine Providence has wished to send you. Therefore, do not be afraid to welcome the new things He will indicate, so that, strengthened in faith and enlightened by Him, you may make choices appropriate to today's challenges."

Fr. Joe Rodrigues of the USA Province, who has been serving as a consultor for the Generalate in Rome the past six years, was elected Vicar for the new Generalate that will take office this December. In addition, Fr. Raúl was appointed General Secretary and will be moving to Rome to serve there.

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The history of Salvatorian Missions in China is a story filled with triumph and tragedy, life and death.

The artwork to the right is titled "Nativity" and is part of our Salvatorian Archives collection from the SDS China Missions. Learn more and share a Christmas gift today at [www.Salvatorians.com/Christmas](http://www.Salvatorians.com/Christmas).



## 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. Consider a gift today - [Salvatorians.com](http://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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