

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Fall 2025

STARTING POINT

In our increasingly globalized world, it is crucial to establish connections with diverse cultures and traditions. This invites us to learn from one another, breaking down prejudices and stereotypes. By sharing experiences and insights, we cultivate a deeper appreciation for the richness of our faith expressed in different ways. International ministry embodies the universal call of the Church to reach out to all people. By engaging in mission work, we answer Christ's command to bring hope and love to those who often feel marginalized or forgotten.

This inter-cultural exchange strengthens the body of Christ, leading

to greater respect and collaboration among the faithful regardless of nationality. Whether it is through evangelization, education, healthcare, or simply a ministry of presence each act of service strengthens our commitment as a global Christian community.



As we encourage our members in the USA to serve internationally, and invite Salvatorians from other countries to come to the USA to minister, we ask that you keep them in your prayers.

In the Divine Savior,
Fr. Silas Heweran, SDS

VIETNAMESE INVITED TO MINISTER

This fall, we welcomed Fr. Peter Rong, SDS, into our USA Province Community. Fr. Peter was born into a Vietnamese Catholic family of seven. He was an altar server in his youth, a ministry that may have been the catalyst for his vocation to priesthood. "Being close to good priests inspired me to join the Salvatorians in 2009," said Fr. Peter. "As of that moment, we did not have any community in Vietnam, so I went to the Philippines to begin



Fr. Greg Coulthard, SDS, had been a mentor to Fr. Peter while in the Philippines.

the Salvatorian formation. I spent almost a year learning English." It was during his time in the Philippines that he met the late Father Gregory Coulthard, SDS, who was one of his first formators. Ultimately, he made his final profession in June 16, 2020, and was ordained a deacon the following day. Nearly a year later, on April 10, 2021, he was ordained a Salvatorian priest.

Shortly after his ordination, he was

continued "Vietnamese"

THE MAKING OF A MISSION

An energetic graphic designer and priest eager to spread God's message of love and hope, Fr. Paul Wilkin, SDS, has had a missionary heart since before his days in formation with the USA Province of Salvatorians. Ordained in 2019, Fr. Paul is 60 years old and introduces himself as an "old, new priest" in Indonesia, where he is currently missioned in starting the first SDS Mission there (IDN Mission). Traditionally, many priests have gone to Minor Seminary (high school) or entered religious life right out of high school. However, Fr. Paul was a "late vocation," entering religious life at the age of 46.

In 2022, he was asked by then General Superior, Fr. Milton Zonta, SDS, to start the IDN Mission. He was joined by two Salvatorians, one Filipino and one newly ordained Indonesian, to build the foundation of this mission.

Building a mission takes time. There are uncertainties, ups and downs along the way. The first step is to be welcomed into a diocese by a Bishop. The first ministry is one of presence while the priests find various ways to help the Diocese. The hope is that Salvatorians can build a formation house, to help men discern their Calling to religious life and that more men will be accepted into the vocation.



Fr. Paul was decked out in traditional clothes and accessories for this formal photo.

"We are finding men in Indonesia who are feeling the call to serve and make Jesus known," said Fr. Paul. "Most are coming through referrals at this time, and we greet them with joy!"

Priests of the IDN Mission have been granted official ministry faculties by the Bishop

in the Archdiocese of Kupang, so they can serve the faithful more fully as priests and share their Salvatorian charisms in their ongoing ministry of presence.

The greatest gift we can bring into any room isn't advice, fixing, or perfection. It is presence. A peaceful, loving, safe harbor for another soul. This is the way of Jesus — the One who does not judge, but who sits with us in our needs and prayers. The One who bears our burdens and calls us to bear one another's, too. Simply being there is a physical extension of God's hand.

We were never meant to do this life alone. The presence of Christ within us becomes the comfort

we offer each other.

Please keep Fr. Paul and his fellow missionaries in your prayers that they may be that steady presence—the warmth in the room, the calm in the chaos, the reflection of His peace.



*(l) Fr. Paul helping students with English class.
(r) Taking time after Mass to "hang out."*



Vietnamese

sent to Madrid, Spain, to help in the Theologate. Just three years later, with the dedication of two formators and two formandi, a new community there had grown to 12 members coming from three continents and 10 nationalities. Seeing the need for missionaries in Peru, the Salvatorian Generalate at the time asked Fr. Peter to join the mission work being done there upon completion of his contract in Spain. For nearly a year, he, along with two other Salvatorians, ministered at a remote parish, caring for the spiritual needs of some 30 villages.

Most recently, Fr. Peter was asked to travel to the USA Province to assist with ministry. He arrived in September and has been welcomed into the Provincial House community and Headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As he acclimates to life in the USA, he is taking a course on pastoral counseling in a multicultural Church at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. He is helping with Masses at nearby parishes and being a very active member of



(l-r) Fr. Peter at his ordination in the Philippines and during his first community assignment in Spain.

his new community. He is preparing to move to full-time parish work by early next year.

"Fr. Peter brings to our Province and the people we serve a unique perspective of the Church that will broaden our experience of Christ in our world," said Fr. Tom Tureman, USA Province Provincial. "His gift of pastoral care and formation will go a long way in making the savior known in the communities we serve."

Fr. Peter shared his favorite quote from Blessed Francis Jordan's Spiritual Diary: "Live and act each day as if it were your last." He said, "This reminds me always to be grateful to God and to live fully each new day."



Fr. Peter (back row) with his family in Vietnam

SOFIA IN AMERICAS

The Salvatorian Office for International Aid (SOFIA), has strong roots in the Americas. One of those areas is Brazil which has a highly diverse population. They have come a long way to change the state of poverty. However, high unemployment levels, political scandals and inflation remain. SOFIA has supported the Coelho Neto Agricultural Cooperative in this area, which helps enhance agricultural skills. Additionally, a tractor was provided, fishponds created, a goat farm fenced, and vegetable gardens planted. The project has made a substantial contribution to the health of many people.



Classes at the Agricultural Cooperative

FOR UNTO US IS BORN

As another year comes to a close, we remain grateful for the opportunities to collaborate with others in fulfilling our Salvatorian mission. We have a strong trust in Divine Providence, and with your faith and trust in us, we remain focused on our Founder's call to minister through all ways and means.

We are grateful for the generous gifts we receive at this time of year. Your support makes our work possible. During the holidays, we are especially aware of your generosity. Thank you! May the

blessings of the Christ Child fill your hearts with His love all year long.

You play an essential role. Please give a gift today to the USA Province. Your help means the world to us.



Designate your gift to support

** USA Province Building Fund*

** Immigration*

** Member Formation*

** Member Health Care*

Bit.ly/ChristmasGift2025

MINISTRY NOTE

The Society is happy to announce the following ministry news for the USA Province.

Fr. Simon Muema, SDS, began ministry at St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Roman Catholic Church in Tucson, Arizona, recently. Bishop Gerald Kicanas, of the diocese of Tucson, has appointed Fr. Simon to be administrator for the parish.



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

Society of the Divine Savior

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