

BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN'S JOURNEY TO THE USA - 1896

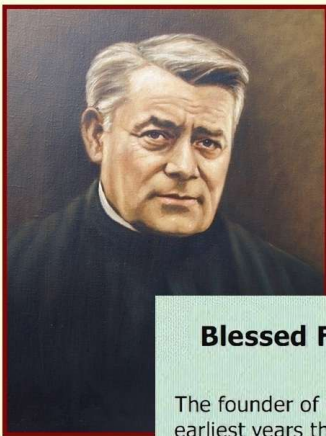
During the month of August 2026, we celebrated the 130th Anniversary of Blessed Francis Jordan's one-and-only trip to the United States. He came to establish Salvatorian presence in the village of St. Nazianz, Wisconsin. Salvatorians ministered there for more than a century.

For our 130th Anniversary Celebration, we posted daily panels on our Archives' Facebook page, inviting our Friends to travel with Jordan day-by-day during his journey in Wisconsin.

This document is that series of panels which outlines the various steps along that memorable journey.

*~ Society of the Divine Savior
USA Province Archives*

130th Anniversary of



BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

August 3-19, 1896

Blessed Francis Jordan's Only Journey to the USA (Wisconsin) - 1896 -

The founder of our Salvatorian Family, Blessed Francis Jordan, made only one trip to the United States in the earliest years that Salvatorians began ministering here. He had sent his first Salvatorian missionaries to minister in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Idaho) in 1892. Three years later, when the Salvatorian Sisters arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to begin their ministry there, they met the pastor of St. Lawrence Parish - Fr. Ludwig Barth - who, as Divine Providence would have it, had studied at a small German-language seminary in the village of St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, in Manitowoc County. The village was founded by Fr. Ambrose Oswald in 1854, when he and many members of his congregation in Baden, Germany, headed to the USA to escape the persecution of the Catholic Church in Germany in a movement that would become known as the "Kulturkampf." Fr. Oswald died in 1873, and his successor - Fr. Peter Mutz - was nearing retirement and was looking for a German-speaking religious community to take over the ministry of the village parish as well as the community of celibate men and community of celibate women who belonged to what was known as the Oswald Association. Learning from the Salvatorian Sisters (particularly Sr. Raphaela Bonheim) that there was also a Salvatorian community of priests and brothers, Fr. Barth began a dialogue that would lead to the Society coming to St. Nazianz in August of 1896. Led by Fr. Francis Jordan himself (who had also been born and raised in the Baden District of Germany like Fr. Oswald), four Salvatorian priests and brothers came to the USA to begin their ministry in the village. Salvatorian Sisters soon moved to the village as well later that year.

1895 - A "happy accident" meeting between a Salvatorian Sister and a parish priest in Milwaukee results in the Salvatorians coming to St Nazianz, Wisconsin.

Sr. Raphaela Bonheim SDS



Sr. Raphaela Bonheim was among the first of the Salvatorian Sisters to come to the United States. They arrived in Milwaukee in July 1895.

She met Fr. Ludwig Barth, the pastor of St. Lawrence Church, where the Sisters began their ministry of home nursing.

He had studied at the Oschwald Seminary in St. Nazianz.

He told her about a great need up in St. Nazianz. She told him about the priests and brothers of the Society.



Fr. Ludwig Barth

Fr. Peter Mutz, successor to Fr. Oschwald and a seminary classmate of Fr. Ludwig's, was ready to retire. The village needed a German-speaking religious community to attend to the Oschwald Community members and the parish in the village.



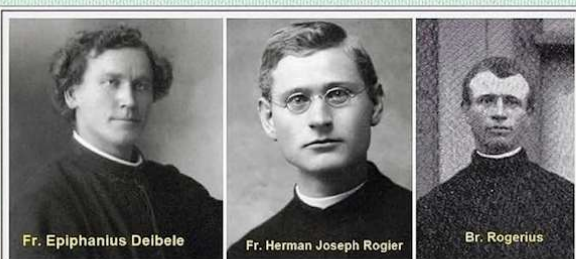
Fr. Peter Mutz

Fr. Ludwig and Sr. Raphaela went to St. Nazianz to meet with Fr. Peter Mutz.

Then they visited Archbishop Frederick Katzer in Milwaukee. He approved the arrangement and asked Sr. Raphaela to contact Fr. Jordan in Rome.

August 1896 -

Fr. Jordan accepted the invitation. He came to the USA with four Salvatorians. They met with Archbishop Katzer and then went to St. Nazianz to make all the arrangements.

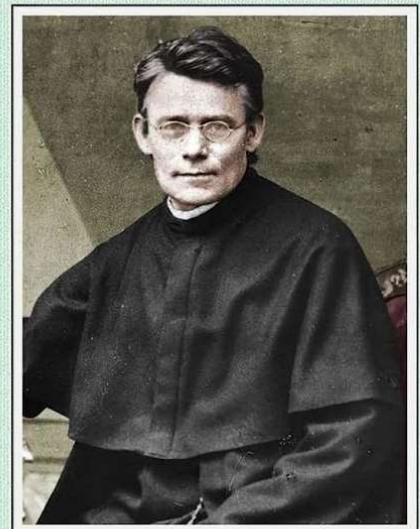


Fr. Epiphanius Delbele

Fr. Herman Joseph Rogler

Br. Rogerius

A BrotherCandidate Hoerl also came to the USA as part of the group.

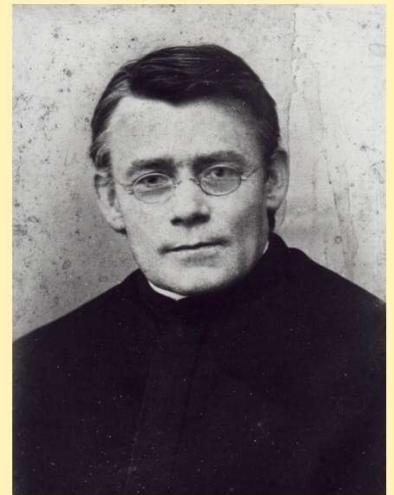


August 3, 1896

Arrival in Milwaukee from New York by train at 1:30 AM. Fr. Francis Jordan, Fr. Epiphanius Deibele, and Fr. Herman Joseph are houseguests of Fr. Ludwig Barth at St. Lawrence Parish, and Br. Rogerius Kienlinger and candidate Br. Andreas Hoerl stay at the Sacred Heart Sanitarium, a short distance away.



August 4, 1896



Fr. Jordan visits Archbishop Katzer in Milwaukee and then visits with the Salvatorian Sisters who are in the city.

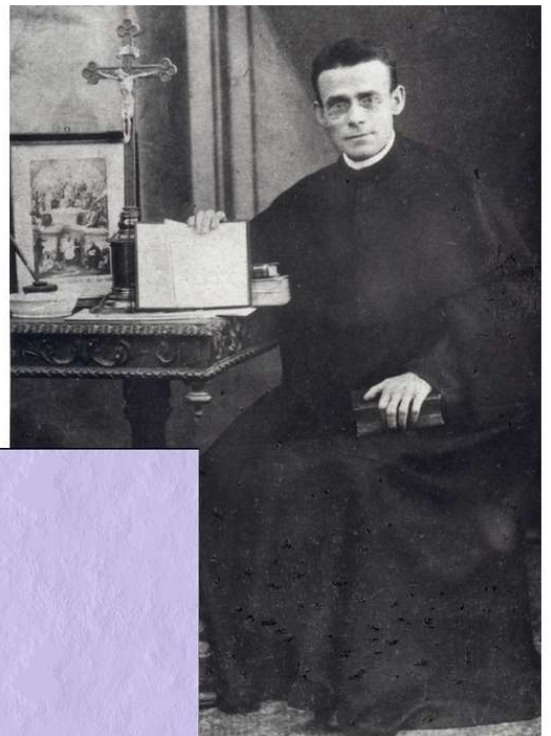


August 5, 1896

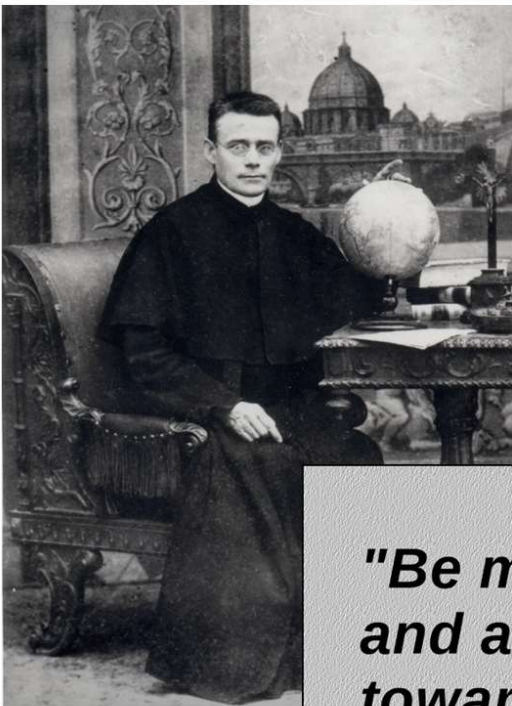
Fr. Jordan visits St. Nazianz for the first time and while visiting there he suffers from the intensive summer heat, and then rests for a couple days.

(He had also contracted an ear infection on the trip across the ocean, so that may have played a part in this ailment as well. Eventually, because of that ear infection, Jordan's hearing in one ear diminished over the years.)

BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN



"The works of God flourish only in the shadow of the Cross. Become lovers of the Cross. You know that our dear Savior saved the world through his Cross. Why would we then choose another way?"



BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN

"Be meek and humble of heart and always full of charity towards your neighbor. This is the will of God, and in this way you lead many to Christ."

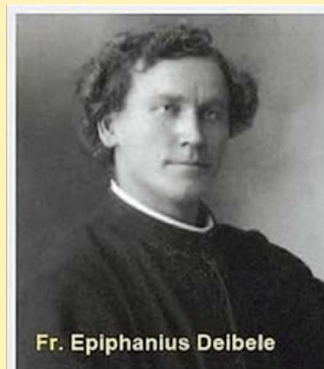


August 9, 1896

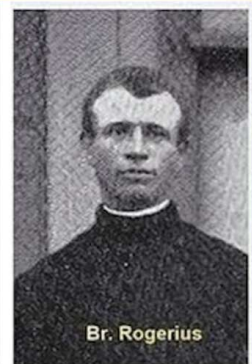
Fr. Jordan celebrates Mass for the Sisters in Milwaukee and after breakfast he conducts a visitation with each Sister. In the evening he visits Fr. Decker, the spiritual director of the Sisters.

Also that day:

Fr. Epiphanius goes up to St. Nazianz for the first time with Br. Rogerius to prepare for the arrival of Archbishop Katzer and Fr. Jordan to visit with the Oswald Association.



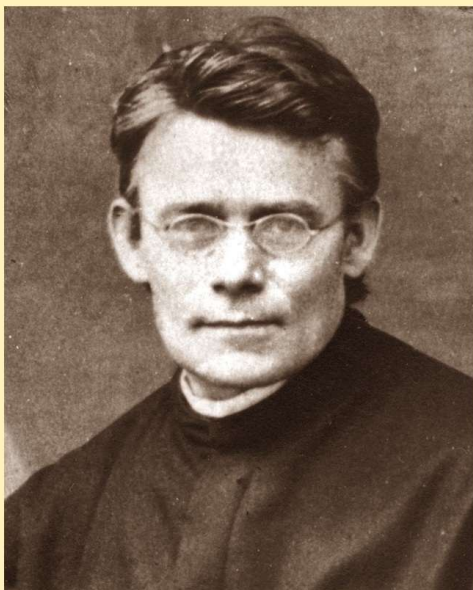
Fr. Epiphanius Delbele



Br. Rogerius



"We all need the Holy Spirit, each one of us - in our temptations, in our doubts, in our darkness, and in our weakness. We have so many needs, so many occasions, to ask the Holy Spirit to stand by us."



August 10-14, 1896

Fr. Jordan and Archbishop Katzer negotiate with the members of the Oschwald Association about transferring property to the Salvatorians who in turn assume the temporal and spiritual care of the elderly members of the Oschwald community.



Fr. Peter Mutz attends the meetings along with members of the Oschwald Brothers and Sisters and the Association.

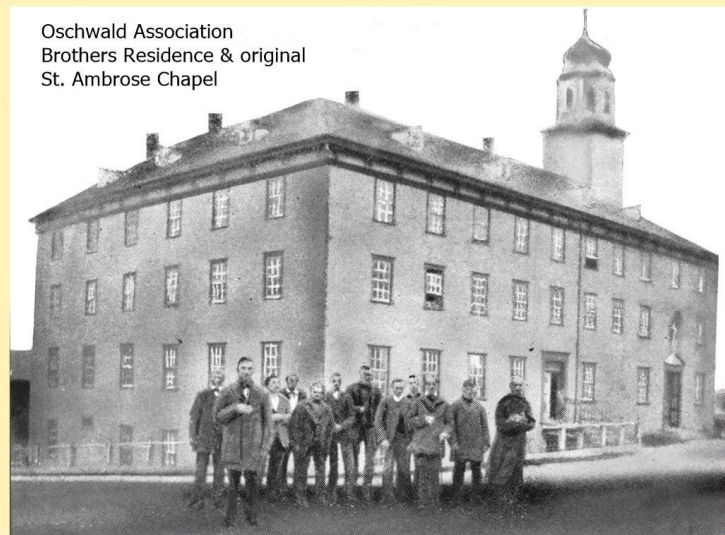




**In a 1904 photograph,
Fr. Epiphanius Deibele SDS
poses with the remaining
Brothers from the original
Oschwald community.**



Oschwald Seminary



Oschwald Association
Brothers Residence & original
St. Ambrose Chapel

**The community of the Oschwald Sisters
at Holy Ghost Convent in the village of
St. Nazianz.**



Holy Ghost Convent
Oschwald Association
Sisters Residence



(date unknown)



A statue of Mary, under the title of "Our Lady of Loretto," was brought with the original colonists who came from Germany and they frequently came together on the ship and prayed, through Mary's intercession, for safe travel to their new home.

1855



1863



1870

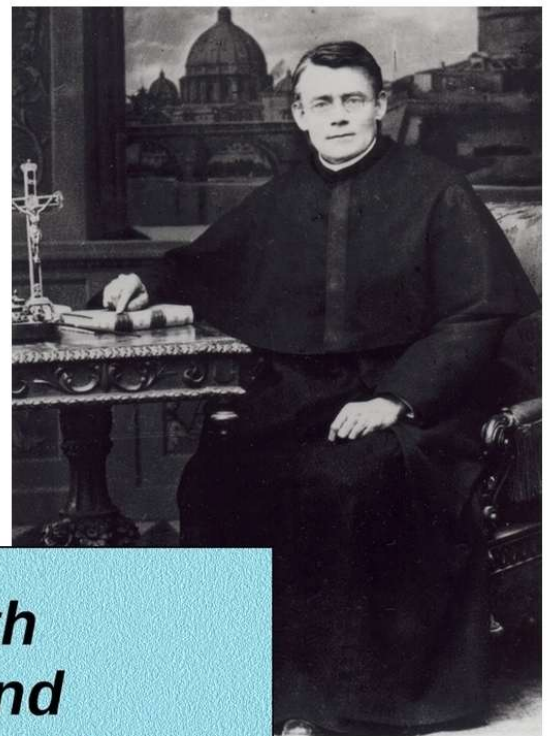


THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LORETTO



After they arrived and began building their homes and the village's public buildings, they chose a spot on the highest point in St Nazianz, which they called Loretto Hill, to display the statue. It was first placed in the hollow of a tree, but lightning later struck the tree and was destroyed; but the statue was intact. They then built a small wooden shrine for the statue, but it too was destroyed in a storm; but the statue was intact. A chapel was built to house the statue in 1870 and was later expanded. It has been designated as a Historical Landmark in Wisconsin.

BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN

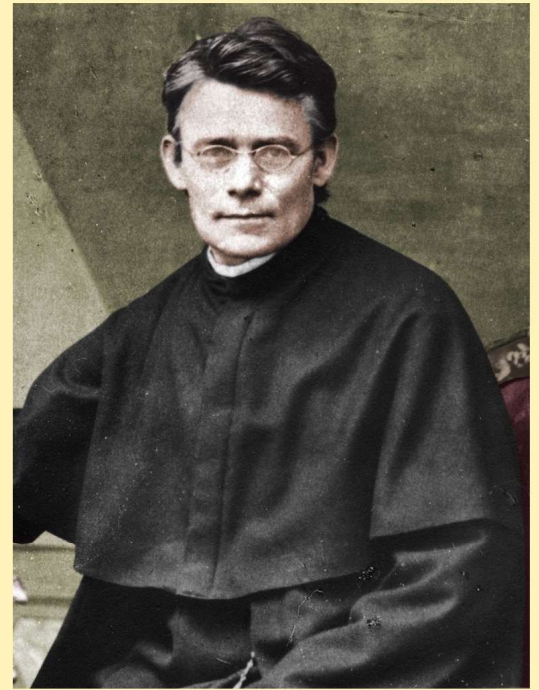


"Read Holy Scripture with the greatest reverence and devotion; not reading hastily, but with a calm, attentive soul."

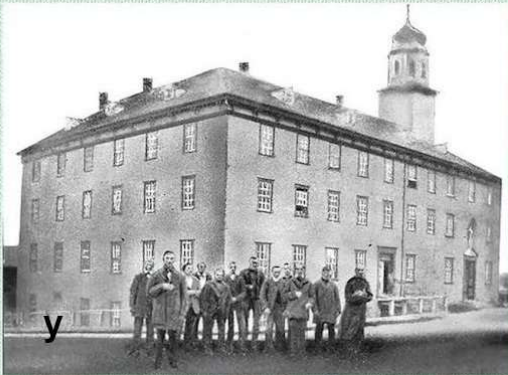
August 15, 1896



Fr. Francis Jordan celebrates a High Mass in St. Gregory's Church in St. Nazianz, establishing the new Salvatorian foundation in the village, and named Fr. Epiphanius Deibele as the Superior of the Salvatorian community.



August 17, 1896 - The legal signing over of the Oswald Association's property to the Salvatorians is completed with the approval of Archbishop Katzer.



Salvatorians began building the new St. Ambrose Chapel right away in 1896.

The Monastery was built from 1903-1905.

In exchange for the property owned by the Oswald Community, the Salvatorians agreed to take care of the remaining members of the Association until they died, the last of whom lived until 1929.



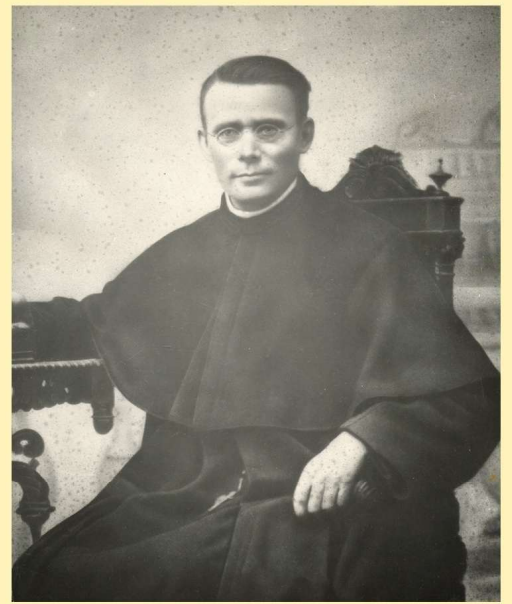
Archbishop Katzer also gave permission to the Salvatorians to begin their own seminary on the property.

The Anglo-American Province was established in 1908.

Salvatorian Seminary opened its doors in 1909.



August 18, 1896



Fr. Jordan receives the temporary annual vows of the Sisters in Milwaukee at a Mass celebrated by Fr. Deibele.



August 19, 1896

Fr. Jordan departs alone from Milwaukee by train at 7:15 AM, destined for New York.

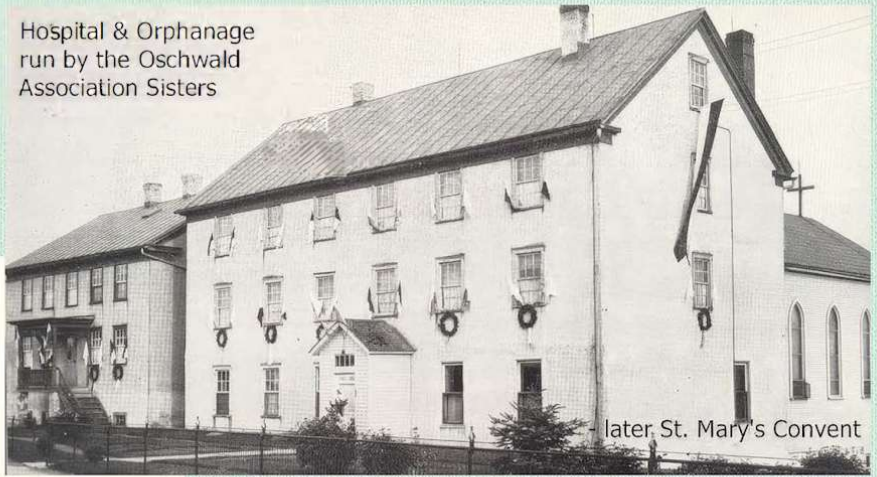
From there he returns to Rome.



Fr. Epiphanius Deibele, Fr. Herman Joseph Rogier, Br. Rogerius Kienlinger, and Brother candidate Andreas Hoerl move to St. Nazianz to begin their ministry there. In the next several months, Jordan would send more Salvatorians to join them.

The Salvatorian Sisters came to St Nazianz later in 1896 and cared for the Oswald Sisters, the hospital and the orphanage.

Hospital & Orphanage
run by the Oswald
Association Sisters



Holy Ghost Convent
Oswald Association
Sisters Residence



After the hospital and orphanage closed, the Salvatorian Sisters renovated the structures into a convent of their own.

SALVATORIANS IN ST. NAZIANZ, WI



Salvatorian priests and Brothers lived on the seminary and monastery property in St. Nazianz until 1986. The property (except for the Loretto Hill cemetery and chapel) was sold in 1991.



Salvatorian Sisters moved from the convent in 2004 but continued to minister in the village until 2015.

Salvatorians ministered in St. Gregory's Parish until 2018.



For more than a century, St. Nazianz was "home" to many Salvatorians. We were blessed to have been a part of this wonderful village's history.



On May 21, 2021, our Founder Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan was declared "BLESSED" by the Church. His beatification took place in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome.

Both Milwaukee and St. Nazianz can proudly boast that a "saint" once walked through their streets

130 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

**BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN,
PRAY FOR US!**

**BLESSED FRANCIS JORDAN,
PRAY FOR US!**

Burning Torch

(adapted from Fr. Jordan's Spiritual Diary)

Lord, Jesus Christ, Sun of Justice, enlighten and set our hearts on fire, so that our footsteps may be like the morning light that advances and grows toward the fullness of the day.

O Savior of all, may we always be burning with great love for you, so that we may enkindle others. May we be like torches that blaze and illuminate! Lord, Jesus Christ, receive our lives and everything we possess! Here we are, send us! Show us the paths so that we may lead others to you and, through your grace, bring them to salvation!

O Savior of the world! O Savior of all
— be our Savior!

