

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Summer 2026

STARTING POINT

Summer invites us to pause and notice God's presence all around us. The warmth of the sun, the beauty of blooming gardens, and the joy of gathering with family and friends remind us that life is a gift from God. In a season often filled with activity, we are also called to slow down and appreciate the sacred moments woven into everyday life.

As we enjoy a walk outdoors, watch a sunset, or spend time near the water, we can be reminded of God's creativity, generosity, and love. Summer encourages us to reflect on the growth taking place in our own

lives. What blessings have emerged? How has God nurtured our faith? Where are we being called to share kindness and hope?

Invitation: This summer, set aside a few moments each day to recognize one sign of God's presence. Offer a prayer of gratitude and allow the beauty of the season to renew your spirit and draw you closer to the One who fills every season with grace and hope. Amen.

In the Divine Savior,

Fr. Peter Schuessler SDS



MEET FR. PETER

A special welcome to Fr. Peter Schuessler, SDS, a native of Sea Cliff, NY, and the newest Spiritual Director for our Hope Newsletter. A Salvatorian for more than 50 years, Fr. Peter professed his vows in 1976. Before becoming a Salvatorian, he worked as a counselor for a drug rehabilitation program, learning a lot about the strengths, weaknesses, gifts, and limitations of people. "God prepares us for our work through our prior experiences," he reflected.

He holds undergraduate degrees

from York College of Pennsylvania (York, PA) and Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, PA), a Master's in Sacred Theology from The Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.), and a Master of Arts in Formative Spirituality from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA).

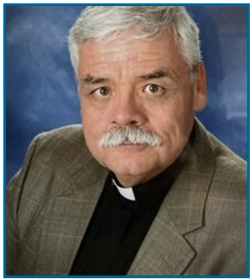
He has ministered in a variety of capacities, including as a drug rehabilitation counselor, a counselor for runaway teens, a teacher for children with learning disabilities at the Frost School in Rockville, MD,

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BUILDING THE KINGDOM

One Child at a Time



For Fr. Tom Tureman, SDS, USA Province Provincial, involvement with Unbound began 10 years ago when a friend introduced him to the organization at

the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress in California. That simple conversation led to a life-changing connection with a young man named Pedro, who lived near Lake Atitlán in Guatemala.



Through Unbound's sponsorship program, Fr. Tom helped support Pedro's education and corresponded with him through

letters and updates. Over time, the relationship became much more than financial assistance. It was a partnership rooted in encouragement, faith, and hope for a brighter future.

Founded in 1981 and headquartered in Kansas City, KS, Unbound is an international Catholic-founded nonprofit organization that connects sponsors with children, youth, elders, and families living in poverty around the world. The organization's stated mission is to support families and communities on their self-directed paths out of poverty, empowering them to make decisions that improve their lives while preserving their

dignity. Today, Unbound serves communities across Latin America, Africa, and Asia through sponsorship, education assistance, and community development programs.

Unbound was established by former missionaries Bob Hentzen and Jerry Tolle, along with Bob's siblings, after witnessing firsthand the challenges faced by families struggling with poverty. Guided by Catholic social teaching and the Gospel call to serve others, they envisioned a program that would create personal relationships between sponsors and families, while helping communities achieve lasting change.

Today, Fr. Tom serves as a parish representative for Unbound, visiting churches to share the organization's mission. His volunteer efforts include preaching at Masses, speaking with parishioners, staffing information tables, and inviting families to sponsor a child.

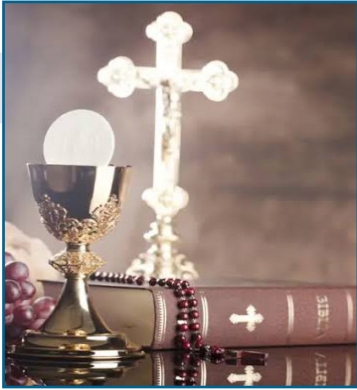
"This activity provides a balance to my administrative work," Fr. Tom said. "It connects me to people and allows me to exercise my priestly ministry outside of the office."

As a Salvatorian priest, he sees a direct connection between Unbound's work and the Salvatorian mission. "We are all called to share the goodness and kindness of the Lord," he explains. "As Christians, we are called to build the Kingdom of God. All of us." For Fr. Tom,



continued - The Kingdom

COMPANION IN FAITH JOURNEY



What really is a spiritual director? In a Catholic religious setting, it is being a companion on the journey of faith, helping individuals discern God's presence and action in their lives. Rather than giving answers or making decisions for others, the spiritual director listens attentively, offers guidance rooted in Scripture and Church tradition, and encourages deeper intimacy with Christ.

The value of spiritual direction lies in its ability to foster spiritual growth, vocation discernment, and faithful response to God's call. In an increasingly busy and secularized world, spiritual directors provide a sacred space for reflection, helping people recognize how God speaks through daily experiences, challenges, and relationships. Their ministry nurtures hope, strengthens faith, and supports the ongoing conversion that is central to Christian life.

For the Society of the Divine Savior, spiritual direction reflects the charism of making Jesus Christ known and loved everywhere. Inspired by Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, Salvatorians seek to proclaim the Savior through all ways and means the Spirit inspires. Spiritual directors embody this mission by helping others encounter Christ personally, discern God's will, and become active witnesses of the Gospel in the world.

... the Kingdom



Sponsored friends and an Unbound scholarship recipient in Mexico

Unbound is a living example of that calling. Through sponsorship, children gain opportunities for education, nourishment, healthcare, and personal growth. More importantly, they experience the encouragement that comes from knowing someone believes in them.

"The heart of our work as Salvatorians is helping others experience God's goodness," Fr. Tom reflects. "As I

tell people wherever I go, we build the Kingdom one person at a time. In this case, one child at a time."

Through faithful sponsors and dedicated advocates like Fr. Tom, Unbound continues to bring hope, opportunity, and dignity to families around the world, while demonstrating the power of compassion in action.

JUBILARIANS



*Our Jubilarians, middle to right:
Frs. Peter Schuessler, Joe Jagodensky,
Salvatore Ragusa, and Mike Burns, SDS*

This past June, members of the Society, along with our Salvatorian Family of Sisters and Lay men and women, celebrated our Jubilarians in a special celebration at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI. Congratulations to Frs. Peter Schuessler, Joe Jagodensky, Salvatore Ragusa, and Mike Burns, SDS, on their anniversaries. We thank them for their ongoing dedication to ministry and service as Salvatorian priests and wish them many blessings in the years ahead.

... Fr. Peter

and in parish ministry in Wisconsin, Alabama, and Maryland.

Fr. Peter served the Society of the Divine Savior for three terms as Provincial (2000-2006), as well as Vicar Provincial and Director of Formation from 2012 until 2024. Fr. Peter retired from full-time ministry roughly one year ago but has remained extremely active. In addition to serving as spiritual director for the Salvatorians, retirement brought a change in residence where he enjoys a little more time for reading and his book club. Music is an important part of his life. More recently, he was appointed to an international commission that is studying the mission and identity of the Salvatorians.



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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