

Silver Jubilee is a golden opportunity to reflect

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An ancient Chinese proverb states, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." "Many great endeavors start from very humble beginnings and if not for those first steps, they very well many not exist at all," shared Fr. Jeff Wocken SDS, USA provincial, during his opening remarks at the Silver Jubilee celebration of Jordan University College (JUCo) in Morogoro, Tanzania in March.

Those humble steps of mission in Southern Tanzania began in 1955 when the first Salvatorian missionaries were sent, and grew to include multiple parishes and mission stations in a variety of dynamic ministries from communications to technical education. By 1963, 34 Salvatorians were working in the area of Lindi and Tunduru-Masasi, and the first Tanzanian brother had completed his novitiate and professed his vows in the United States.

"These first steps were always in collaboration with others and often required correction and refinement," said Fr. Jeff. "The true value of these firsts is not in the people and acts which followed, leading to what is today the Jordan University College."

JUCo had its humble beginnings in the early 90's when USA Salvatorian Brothers Donald Mauer and Bertrand Hanf were hard at work constructing buildings that would become the Salvatorian Major Seminary. Fr. David Brusky SDS was named the first rector of the seminary. As the school matured, there were further changes in direction, some under the leadership of unit superior, Fr. James Weyker SDS, from the US. When it was time to form a local Salvatorian formation community in Morogoro under the Tanzanian Pro-Province, Fr. Dan Pekarske SDS, was chosen as the first local superior.

"JUCo has been a collaborative endeavor of several religious communities from its very origins," said Fr. Jeff. "Moreover, as the presence of American and European Salvatorians has decreased through the years, the journey of the Tanzanian Pro-Province and of JUCo has become increasingly reflective of a truly African Church and African Salvatorian presence in the world. It is my hope that the USA Province may continue collaborating with JUCo and the Tanzanian Pro-Province well into the future."



Celebrating the silver jubilee of Jordan University College, established in Morogoro Tanzania by Salvatorians.

