

THE LIFE OF FATHER FRANCIS JORDAN



Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, was born as *John Baptist Jordan*, on June 16, 1848, in Gurtweil, Germany, a small town in the Black Forest area of the southwestern part of the country, just a few miles from the border of Switzerland. Even in his youth, Jordan was known to be a devout young man and he often spent time in private prayer.

While working as a laborer and painter-decorator traveling throughout his homeland, Jordan became keenly aware of the difficult spiritual situation of the people in his homeland. Because the Church had been limited in its mission by the government (in what became known as the *Kulturkampf*) people were turning away from God and the practice of their faith. This only strengthened Jordan's faith and he began to sense a call to the priesthood. On July 21, 1878, he was ordained a priest in Freiburg, Germany, and, because he was known to have a talent for languages, he was sent to Rome by his bishop for advanced language studies. He became fluent in Syrian, Aramaic, Coptic, Arabic, Hebrew and Greek.

But Jordan was sensing that something else was in store for his future. He began thinking about ways to combat the growing disinterest in spirituality and religion. In September 1880, Jordan met privately with Pope Leo XIII in the Vatican, where he outlined his plan to begin a society devoted to spreading the teachings of the faith. The Pope gave Jordan his blessing to begin creating such an organization. On December 8, 1881, Father Jordan witnessed the Profession of Vows made by his first followers. This marked the beginning of the *Society of the Divine Savior*. After working several years with **Therese von Wüllenweber** (now known as *Blessed Mary of the Apostles* after her beatification in 1968), they founded a community of women in their shared cause, and on December 8, 1888, Jordan witnessed her Profession of Vows. She was known in the community as Mother Mary. This marked the beginning of the *Congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Savior*. Together, the members of their communities became known as "**Salvatorians**" – from the Latin word < *salvator* > meaning "Savior." The original plan of Father Francis and Mother Mary was to bring lay men and women into the work and mission of their community as well, but this didn't fit the vision of the Church at the time, so it wasn't permitted. Only after the completion of the Second Vatican Council was the dream of Father Francis and Mother Mary fully realized when, in the early 1970's, the first *Lay Salvatorians* made their formal commitment. Finally, the **Salvatorian Family** was complete.

The Motherhouse of the Society is just down the street from St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The Motherhouse of the Sisters is nearby, atop one of the great hills of the city. Today, more than two thousand Salvatorians around the world continue the mission of Father Francis and Mother Mary: "***To proclaim the goodness of kindness of Jesus, the Divine Savior, by all ways and means the love of God inspires.***"

Fr. Francis Jordan died in Tavers, Switzerland, on September 8, 1918, and was buried in the local church. In 1956, his body was transferred to Rome and is now entombed in a special chapel in the Motherhouse of the Society. On March 19, 1999, Pope John Paul II visited the community and prayed at the tomb of Father Jordan.

In 2011, the Vatican published the *Decree on the Heroicity of His Virtues* and declared Father Jordan "Venerable." On June 19, 2020, Pope Francis declared that a miracle in Brazil, gained through the intercession of Father Jordan, was authentic and his beatification was approved. Soon he will be known as "***Blessed Francis Jordan.***"



The miracle attributed to Father Jordan's intercession is declared authentic. The beatification of our Founder is set. We await a date and place for that beatification to take place.

The following announcement was posted publicly on our websites on June 19, 2020:



VENERABLE FRANCIS JORDAN

Soon to be called
"Blessed Francis Jordan"

GREAT NEWS FROM ROME

Today, June 19, 2020, Pope Francis has officially approved the promulgation of the decree acknowledging the miracle attributed to our Founder - Fr. Francis Jordan.

The miracle: A young couple who were expecting a baby in 2014 in Jundiá, Brazil, were informed by several medical doctors and specialists that their unborn child was suffering an incurable bone disease (skeletal dysplasia). Being members of a group of Lay Salvatorians, the parents began to pray through the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Francis Jordan, and they invited other members of the Salvatorian Family to join them in prayer.

The child was born completely healthy on September 8, 2014, the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Mother, and the anniversary of Fr. Jordan's death.

After the required canonical procedures had been successfully completed, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, declared that this miraculous healing was worked by God through the intercession of Father Jordan.

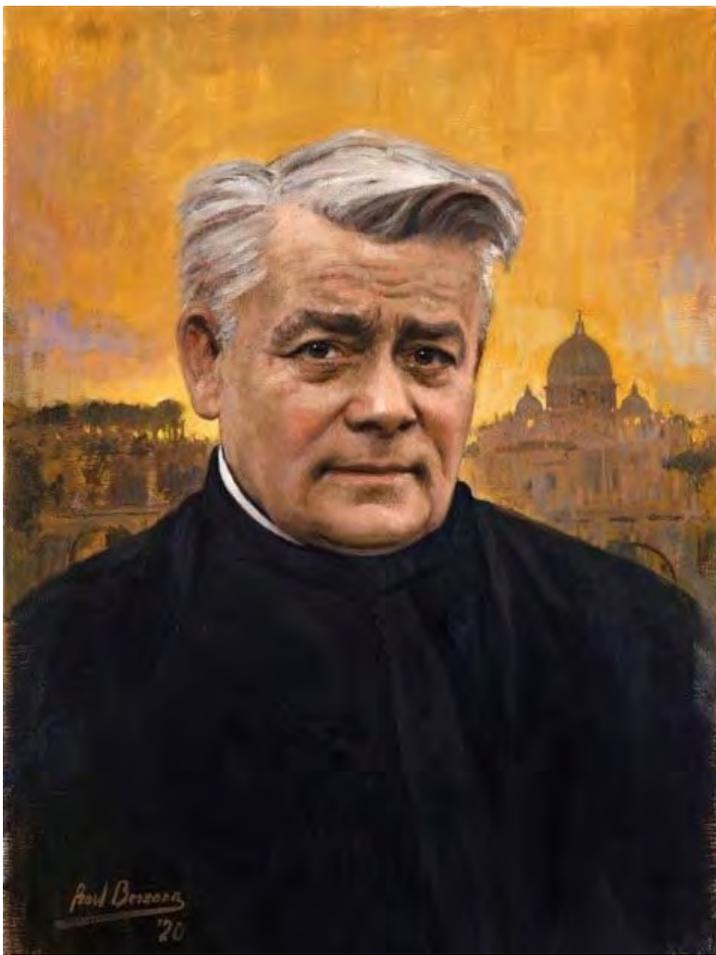
Today's declaration by the Holy Father opens definitively the way to Father Jordan's beatification. As soon as the date and place of the beatification are announced by the Holy See, we will announce it.

This artist's rendering (*newly-done*) will be the official portrait for Jordan's beatification:



Soon to be known as:

"Blessed Francis Jordan"



Beatification of Fr. Francis Jordan May 15, 2021

CEREMONY OF BEATIFICATION OF OUR FOUNDER



Society
of the Divine Saviour



Congregation of the
Sisters of the Divine Saviour



International Community of the Divine Saviour
of the Divine Saviour



It is with great joy that we would like to inform you that the Holy See has determined that the ceremony of the Beatification of our Venerable Founder, Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan will take place on **15 May 2021** at the **Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome**.

The ceremony will be presided over by Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Further information will be published at the websites of the three branches of our dear Salvatorian Family.

On behalf of the Salvatorian Family

Fr. Milton Zonta SDS
Superior General
of the Society
of the Divine Saviour

Sr. Maria Yaneth Moreno SDS
Superior General
of the Congregation of the
Sisters of the Divine Saviour

Mr. Christian Patzl ICDS
President
of the International Community
of the Divine Saviour