



The Motherhouse of the Society of the Divine Savior

Every religious community has a central house. Some call it their “Motherhouse,” others call it their “General House.” Our Motherhouse is located in Rome, just steps away from

St. Peter’s Square. It serves as the home of the Superior General and his Council, and it houses the Founder’s Chapel as well as the archives of the Society.

Our presence in that house dates back to our Founder, **Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan**. Our Society began on December 8, 1881, at 96 Piazza Farnese, the house where St. Bridget of Sweden lived in the 14th century. Within a year, Fr. Jordan needed more room for the growing number of candidates. On November 1, 1882, he began renting rooms near St. Peter’s Basilica in the Palazzo Cesi, which then had an address of Borgo Vecchio 165.



In 1894, the owner of the palace, Duca Francesco di Paola Negroni Caffarelli, who used only the first floor, decided to sell the building. Jordan seized the opportunity to buy it. The acquisition of the property took place in the autumn of 1894, and the final agreement was signed on the July 20, 1895.

In the 1930s, the Italian government created a major boulevard – the Via della Conciliazione – leading from the Tiber River to the open arms of St. Peter’s Square. The Motherhouse, which had been facing a narrow street little bigger than an alley, suddenly found itself with a new address, fronting on one of the most important streets in all of Rome.



In 1956, the body of Father Jordan was finally transferred to the Motherhouse from Tavers, Switzerland, where Jordan had died in 1918.

The Motherhouse also has a historical name: “**Palazzo Cesi**.” The original owner, Cardinal Francesco Armellini, started the construction of the building from the years 1517-1520. The foundation was laid around the same time as the foundation of the present Basilica of St. Peter. In 1565, Cardinal Pier Donato

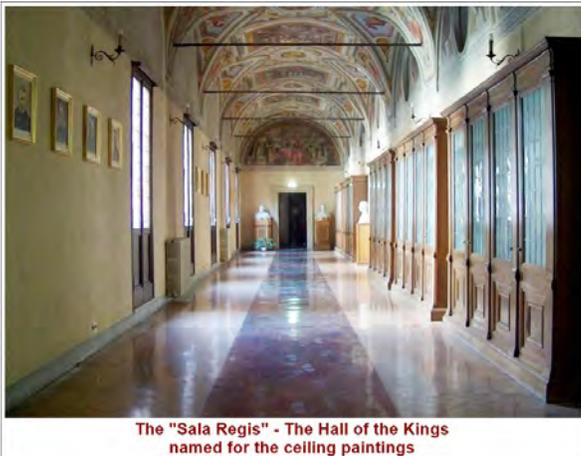
Cesi, from whom the historical name comes, bought the palace. Cesi was Bishop of Narni from 1546 to 1566. He moved to Rome to assist the Pope in various diplomatic functions, and after he was made a cardinal in 1570, he restored his palace, entrusting the task to a Lombardian architect, Martino Longhi il Vecchio. The result of his work is visible even now.

After the Cesi era, the palace changed owners several times. In the 19th century, two Graziolini brothers: Giovanni Battista and Giuseppe, owned the palace. The son of Giuseppe – Giulio – sold the palace in 1862 to Count Gustavo Candelori Moroni, who in 1875 bequeathed it to his son, Gustavo, and his widow, Amallia Rosati Kinsky. In 1879, Duca Giuseppe Caffarelli Negroni bought the palace, and three years later his son – Duca Francesco Di Paola Negroni Caffarelli – received it in bequest. Father Jordan bought it from him in 1895 and since then, this building has been the property and Motherhouse of the Society of the Divine Savior.



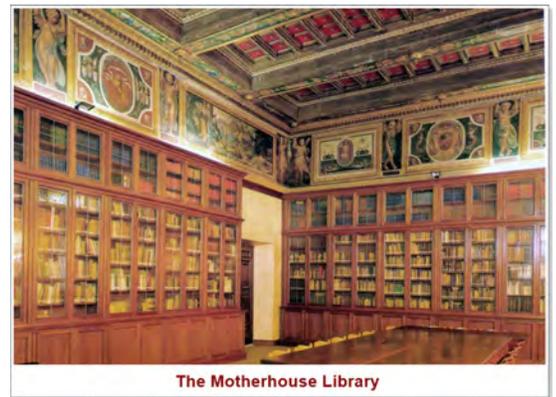
The Cesi palace was built in a square form with an interior courtyard. On the north side, a renaissance façade by Martino Longhop il Vecchio is preserved from the 16th century. At the same time that the Via della Conciliazione was built, the west wing of the Cesi palace was removed as part of the project of renewing the area. Between 1944 and 1946 the Salvatorians added a new part called “Casa Francesca” on the south side. For many years it housed Salvatorian students studying for the priesthood.

That part was completely remodeled at the beginning of the 21st century and is now the Residenza Palazzo Cesi hotel.



The "Sala Regis" - The Hall of the Kings named for the ceiling paintings

In the interior of the palace, there are many well preserved elements which give witness to its rich past. The best preserved ones are the historical ceilings in the halls on the first floor and the present chapel, library and parlor. There are 16th century frescos in the so called King Solomon Aula, and other frescos by Nicola Martinelli and Tommaso Laureti.

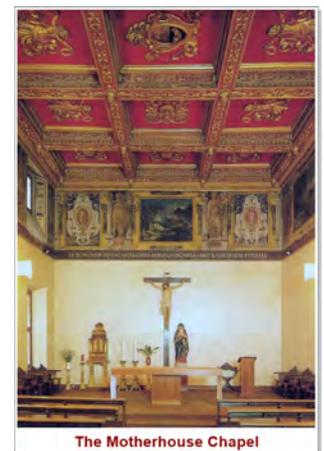


The Motherhouse Library

The street between the Motherhouse and the Vatican office building has been named Via Pancrazio Pfeiffer, honoring the memory of the Society’s second Superior General, who played a historical role as intermediary between the pope and the German high command during the occupation of Rome during World War II. His work behind-the-scenes saved numerous lives from death at the hands of the Nazi occupiers.



An exciting time for our Motherhouse comes whenever there is an election of a new Pope. All eyes turn to Rome, and one group that gets a bird’s-eye view of all the action is the General Council of the Society. From the rooftop patio you can peer over the Piazza and see the Basilica and the Papal Apartments in view.



The Motherhouse Chapel



From the Anchor Booth, temporarily constructed on the roof of the Motherhouse

The German television network ZDF – Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen – wired the house several years ago so that they could broadcast from the rooftop of the Motherhouse anytime they report on the Vatican. During hectic events like Papal elections, they spend nearly as much time at the Motherhouse as the members of the Generalate!



Relics of Blessed Mary of the Apostles
Co-Founder of the Sisters of the Divine Savior

THE MOST FAMOUS VISITOR TO THE MOTHERHOUSE

On March 19, 1999, **Pope John Paul II** came to the Motherhouse at the invitation of the Generalate. He was the first Pope to ever visit the Motherhouse. There he spoke to the community and prayed at the tomb of our Founder - Father Jordan.

This was an important sign to our community that our Founder was considered worthy of the Church's admiration.



In January 2012, **Pope Benedict XVI** issued a decree on the Virtues of Father Jordan, who can now be called "Venerable." This was a "big step" needed before the Beatification of the Founder. All that remains now is that a miracle – which was recognized by the Council of Doctors in the Vatican as having taken place through the intercession of our Founder – to be seconded by the panel of Cardinals in charge of the Cause of Saints, and then the final declaration by the Pope – and Father Jordan can be declared "Blessed."

On June 19, 2020, the miracle attributed to Father Jordan's intercession was accepted by Pope Francis and announced by the Vatican. 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 June 19:



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:





During times of festivals in the city of Rome, they will allow groups to create "sand art" along the Via from our Motherhouse into the Piazza

