

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Summer 2021

STARTING POINT

Like so many Salvatorians around the world, I would have loved to have traveled to Rome for the beatification of our Founder, Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan. But, because of ongoing pandemic concerns, I was only able to take part in the celebrations from a distance. And yet, the beauty of the beatification ceremonies drew me in, as if I were there in person; I was both humbled and overjoyed. The



image of the child, healed through the intercession of our holy founder as

*Relic of Blessed
Francis Mary
of the Cross
Jordan*

she walked up the aisle of Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran, filled my heart with a deep sense of grace and awe.



The blessings that come through prayer and trust in Divine Providence were obvious to anyone who took part in these special celebrations. I invite you to think of your own prayer life: To whom do you turn for help? Are you able to trust in God's provident love? I encourage you now, more than ever, to ask Blessed Francis Jordan to intercede for you and guide you in your own spiritual journey.

In the Divine Savior,

Bro. Silas, S.O.S.

BEATIFIED!

The child, whose healing is attributed to the intercession of our founder, and her parents had front row seats for the beatification of Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, Italy, on Saturday, May 15.

In a small celebration, due to ongoing pandemic limitations, a small group attended in-person services at the

basilica, while thousands more tuned in via live feeds on EWTN and remote broadcasting to serve as witness to this holy event. Blessed Francis Jordan's feast day has been set to occur annually on July 21, which is also the anniversary of his ordination. More coverage of this memorable event is inside this issue of HOPE.

REFLECTION FROM ROME



Fr. Joe Rodrigues

Having had the privilege to participate in person at the beatification of Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, in Rome, Italy, former USA Province provincial and current member of the international leadership team, Fr. Joseph Rodrigues, SDS, was asked to share a brief reflection on his experience. Below is an excerpt of his thoughts.

“Well, it was undoubtedly a day of jubilation, but more so, a day of revelation, for me anyway.

A definition of a revelation is: ‘Making known something not previously known.’ Isn’t that what Blessed Jordan’s mission was all about? To make known the one true God and Jesus Christ, he sent to reveal him.

Another definition: ‘It is used to emphasize the remarkable quality of someone.’ How remarkable was Blessed Jordan’s relentless pursuit of holiness and trust in God! All with such humility — despite his fears.

And yet another definition of a revelation: ‘A divine disclosure to humans of something relating to human existence.’ These divine moments revealed once again to me that there

is something bigger than just our existence.

Three moments revealed the divine tenderness of God in my heart and soul: First, I was near and to the left of the altar; I did not know who was coming up the aisle until they arrived near the altar. When I looked up, the basilica aisle revealed a sweet child carrying the precious relic of the man who interceded for her miraculous healing,

which now carried her into this life. She now was carrying him in his eternal life and carrying on his legacy. I lost my breath. A tear began to flow.

Second, when the cardinal began his pronouncement of Blessed Jordan’s beatification, they slowly unveiled and revealed Blessed Jordan’s portrait. Wow! I lost my breath again.

Finally, while praying after communion with my eyes closed and listening to the lovely music, I opened my eyes. I saw translucent rays of sunshine beaming through the window that was above Jordan’s portrait. It was bathing him with a heavenly light, and it reflected on

the floor. But, not just anywhere, it was directly in front of the miracle child. I didn’t lose my breath; I just lost it altogether, and my tears flowed freely.”



Miracle child carries Jordan relic to the altar



The Generalate



Cardinal Angelo De Donatis greets the miracle child

THANKSGIVING

The day after Blessed Francis Jordan's beatification, many, including the Society's generalate based in Rome, Italy, gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Basilica of St. Peter. Curtailed by the pandemic, over 150 Salvatorians in the USA, as well as a few international guests, gathered and rejoiced in the beatification of our Founder via a special Zoom celebration.

Below is an excerpt from Fr. Milton Zonta, SDS, General Superior for the Society of the Divine Savior, words of thanks shared at the Beatification.

"Today is a wonderful day for all of us who have firmly believed in Blessed Francis Jordan's call to apostolic holiness. Our Salvatorian hearts are filled with great joy and gratitude for all that God has done for us. It fills us with emotion to think of the many generations of spiritual daughters and sons of Francis Jordan who have prayed for this day

we are living today.

Our hearts are filled with joy, knowing that thousands of people from every continent have joined us in this celebration. Today we rejoice because God wanted to manifest His love and His plan to save all through the life of Blessed Francis Jordan in the Church. A life of humble beginnings, but which became great in apostolic service to the whole world, particularly to the most distant. Indeed, as Pope Francis has said, 'It is the grace of God that changes life: it takes us as we are, but never leaves us as we are...'

Today the Church presents Francis Jordan to us as an icon of apostolic holiness. A man of

God who, through his life, made known to us the virtue of unshakable trust in God's love, evangelical meekness, self-emptying, tireless apostolic zeal, and his faithful love for the universality of the Church. Today more than ever, we thirst for these virtues of holiness to fill the darkness of the world with light."



*Fr. Milton Zonta, SDS,
General Superior*



CHAPEL

One of the major preparations in the spiritual framework of the beatification of our Founder was the transfer of his mortal remains to the main chapel of the Motherhouse of the Society of the Divine Savior in Rome, Italy.

The remodeling and renovation began several months before the beatification to offer the newly



The new chapel

blessed a worthy place. The chapel, to which hundreds will surely come to pray for Blessed Jordan's intercession, now has two new mural paintings: one of the Baptism of Jesus on the front apse and the Ascension and Pentecost on the back wall.

In the center of the chapel is the simple marble tombstone which contains the remains of Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross. ~ source sds.org

JUBILEE!

The Society and its Salvatorian Family celebrated our 2021 jubilarians virtually. We thank and recognize these faithful members of the Society who have dedicated their lives, and served in ministry, as Salvatorian priests and brothers.



(pictured l-r) 70th ~ Bro. Kilian Harrington, SDS, 65th ~ Fr. Hugh Birdsall, SDS, 60th ~ Bro. Sean McLaughlin, SDS & Fr. Michael Shay, SDS, 50th ~ Fr. Donald Loskot, SDS

STEP FORWARD

Cl. Simon Muema, SDS, was ordained a transitional deacon by the Most Reverend Jeffrey R. Haines, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, during a celebration held at St. Pius X in Wauwatosa, WI, on June 5th.

*Congratulations
Cl. Simon!
Please keep him
in your prayers.*



GLIMMER OF HOPE

Sometimes life can become overwhelming: The cost of basic necessities, health concerns, and family situations can be daunting. Our Founder, Blessed Francis Jordan, was often overwhelmed too. Yet, a look into his spiritual diary reveals his fretfulness about finding ways to make Jesus known and loved, given the circumstances of his challenging time. It literally kept him awake at night!

Jordan was passionate! His heart was on fire as he pressed members of the Society to lead by example so that others would experience God's mercy through us. Please help us continue our founder's mission and be a glimmer of hope for the individuals and families whose lives are touched by our ministries and prayers.

Consider a gift today, a pledge which can be spread out over a year, or a commitment through a planned gift. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience or give us a call at 1-800-254-4902.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of our founder, Blessed Francis Jordan, the Society of the Divine Savior was founded more than 130 years ago and is a Catholic religious community working to share the love and mercy of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through all possible means.

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