

HOPE

is published by the Society of the Divine Savior for those benefactors and friends who have demonstrated a sincere interest in the organization. Thank you for being part of our Salvatorian family.

— Father Gregory SDS

Our Mission

In the spirit of our founder, Father 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.

“ That all may know the Savior ”

Witness to the grace of God

Octavio Trejo Flores SDS recently shared an update on life as a new Salvatorian priest. Ordained this past summer, Fr. Octavio began ministry at the new Salvatorian-led parish community of Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Melbourne, FL, last September.

"I serve in a congregation that is very diverse and culturally expressive; that is, there are people from almost all continents, and they bring their uniqueness with them. Still, our parish family comes together to form a single community," he said. He helps to meet the needs of the entire parish, which also includes the school.

"To be a priest has been a special blessing. I have seen the goodness of people, and to be honest, it gives me so much hope because I have witnessed the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in the work and life of the people I serve here."



Fr. Octavio presides at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.

Taking care of family and faith

When planning a future gift, it's sometimes difficult to determine what size donation will make sense. Emergencies happen, and of course, you need to make sure your family is financially taken care of first. When you include the Society as a percentage of a bequest, your estate ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how its value fluctuates over the years.

We appreciate your prayers and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your financial support of our ministries and mission. We know that you want to be a part of our future by helping to sustain the valuable work we do for years to come. Would you please make a donation today, and consider a future gift, by remembering the Salvatorians in your will and trusts? Included is a reply envelope for convenient giving, or you may call our office at 800-254-4902.

Society of the Divine Savior | SALVATORIANS | 1303 Milwaukee Drive | Salvatorian Center, WI 53062

For more information on these and other stories, you may go to www.salvatoriancenter.org

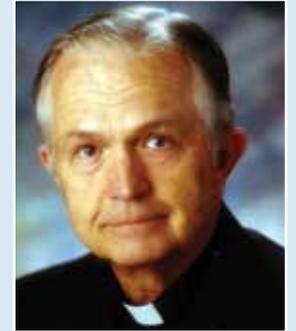
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HOPE

Salvatorian Newsletter

Starting Point

I wish it were possible to sit face-to-face with you. I'd offer hope in your daily life and remind you of your many blessings. As troubled as the world seems today, we may forget that God is present in our lives, giving us hope and letting us know we are not alone.



When we trust in the Lord – we give our anxieties to Him and ask for His help. This was the experience of Br. Peter, our oldest member, and Br. Joseph, who trusted 50 years ago in Tanzania. Trust was also at the heart of the ground-breaking reverse integration that took place at our Salvatorian parish of St. Joseph in Huntsville, AL. When this happens, we begin to experience God's grace.

In the cold of Winter St. Valentine reminded us that when you open your heart, you invite love, God's greatest gift to us. Let it flow, my friends.

God Bless, Fr. Gregory

Catalyst for Change

Honored for the role it played in the historical integration of Holy Family School in 1963, our Salvatorian-led parish of St. Joseph Church and Holy Family School in Huntsville, AL received "Catalyst for Change" awards on December 8. In recognition of Rosa Parks, who at the beginning of the civil rights movement was a catalyst for change, Fr. Joe Lubrano SDS, Pastor, accepted the award on behalf of St Joseph parish for its openness to integration. Principal Billy Roy received for Holy Family School, for education.

It all began when a Salvatorian priest was assigned to Huntsville in 1950 to establish an all-black mission; St. Joseph's Church was born. By September 1952, records indicate that approximately 18 black parishioners attended the first Mass. By May ...continued inside.



St. Joseph's Church in Huntsville was honored with the "Catalyst for Change" award.

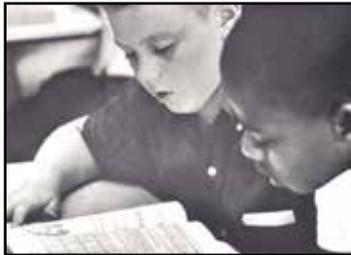
continued - Catalyst for Change

of 1953, the first wedding took place, and in the mid-'50s, the first children and adults were baptized. Holy Family School opened in 1956 as an all-black mission with 61 students. By 1963 it quietly became integrated as the first



Fr. Joe Lubrano accepting the Catalyst for Change award.

Holy Family School in Huntsville, AL welcomed white students for the first time in 1963.



white students entered the classrooms, despite high racial tensions throughout Alabama at the time.

"On the morning of St. Joseph's integration, when a dozen white grade school students began taking classes alongside their 100 African-American classmates, there was no fanfare, there were no photographers or reporters present to record this "history in the making" moment. It just happened – quietly and calmly," wrote Mike Marshall, in an article for the Huntsville Times newspaper on September 3, 2003. "Fr. Mark Sterbenz SDS, the pastor, said, 'All we're doing is teaching religion ... to whites, to blacks, to anybody who comes. It's living the gospel, plain and simple.'"

"Many black students said the significance of that day eluded them because they had seen white priests and nuns at the school since its foundation in 1956. Many whites say they were unmoved by St. Joseph's integration because their parents had taught them tolerance in a time when there was little in Alabama."

Sources:

"St. Joseph's School - Now Holy Family - Became Integrated Early, Quietly" by Mike Marshall / Huntsville Times / September 20, 2003.

FIFTY YEARS AGO – 1963 "THE QUIET INTEGRATION IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA / Salvatorian Archives

Reunification ministry

He was brought to tears, overwhelmed himself, by the helplessness and loss a family had to endure when they could not say a final goodbye to a parent. In one instance, a parent passed away shortly before a Visitor Visa to the USA was granted. They had not seen each other for more than ten years.



Novice Ricardo Rivera works on a reunification ministry.

Ricardo Rivera Gutierrez, a novice with the Society of the Divine Savior, has been working to turn that unbearable grief into an "all ways and means" Salvatorian ministry. "Migrant Mother of the Savior" is a ministry focused on reunification visits for parents or grandparents living in Mexico with their families who have been living for 10-20 years in the United States.

Ricardo and a team of volunteers work with the consulate in Mexico to obtain Visitor Visas for these elders. The hope is to allow them to travel to the USA to reunite, for a maximum of four-weeks, as permitted with the Visitor Visa. "Working closely with the Mexican Consulate, gathering needed documents, has been instrumental in moving the process along when considering who may receive a Visitor Visa," said Ricardo.

"Being unable to say goodbye... it's heartbreaking to see this grief," said Ricardo. "If we can bring them together, even if only for a few weeks, it lightens their hearts, and God's grace is present.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going

He was a cowboy, hunter, farmer, cook, and soldier before being called to religious life. When Br. Peter Farnesi SDS became a Salvatorian more than 60 years ago, no words could ever have been more real. "My Lord God, I have no idea where I'm going." His heart remained open to how the Lord needed him to serve during his first year as a Salvatorian brother. He said 'yes' to cooking at



Br. Peter Farnesi SDS and Br. Joseph Kruetzer SDS when they first left for Tanzania in 1960 and again 63 years later reunited in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

a Salvatorians' boys camp, helping on the farm and in the kitchen, working with cattle, and making bread for the seminarians. Little did he know this winding path was preparing him for his missionary life in Tanzania, which would span 24 years and leave an indelible mark not only on his soul, but on the country he came to love, and its people.

Soon after his novitiate year, the provincial asked Br. Peter to go to Tanzania, Africa, as a missionary. He dutifully received his shots, passport, and papers. He made a brief trip home to say goodbye to his family in California. Then, he and Br. Joseph Kruetzer SDS boarded a plane flying first to Rome, and then to Africa in November 1960. They went to Tanzania to help, but without any idea of how. Br. Joseph went on to Masasi and Br. Peter to Nandembo.

Even in 1960, life in southern Tanzania, where Br. Peter was stationed, was still very primitive. Working side by side with the people of Nandembo, his first project was to improve the springs for clean water. He then began to make 100,000 bricks so they could add on to the clinic.

"Seeds of faith were planted all along, not by preaching, but by living, loving and learning with God's people," said Br. Peter. "We did not

decide who should get help; we helped everyone as best we could - because you are a child of God no matter where or how you live your life."

Twenty-four years later, exhausted, but overflowing with love and compassion for the people of Tanzania, Br. Peter was ready to return to the USA. "It broke my heart to leave. They are loving, beautiful people. I trusted them, and they trusted me. It was time to go," he shared. "We built the foundation of the Christian Church, and it was then up to the Tanzanians to build the walls of their church." Br. Peter has been able to return to Africa three times. "It is always so bittersweet. I always knew that the Africans would build on the foundation we left," he said. "I never thought I would live long enough to see it. God was always preparing me for this missionary life. I finally understand all these decades later, that our Lord had his finger in this the whole time."



Making and laying 100,000 bricks to expand the clinic!

Br. Peter, with Boni, his biggest helper in Africa.



Discerning his call

Charles Wuebker of Dallas, TX, was welcomed into the first step of formation, candidature, during a special ceremony on Sunday, January 12, at Alexian Village in Milwaukee, WI. Fr. Paul Portland SDS, director of candidates, will guide Charles this next year. He will begin to understand what life would

entail, should he discern, and respond positively to a call of religious life as a Salvatorian priest or brother. Please keep Charles and Fr. Paul in your prayers.



Salvatorians welcomed Charles into our candidature program in January.