

HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Winter 2023

STARTING POINT

When Blessed Francis Jordan established the Apostolic Teaching Society in 1881, one of the defining aspects of his vision was a collaborative movement within the Church which brought together priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay women and men from all walks of life to proclaim the loving kindness of the Savior in the spirit of the Apostles. In time, the Apostolic Teaching Society evolved into the three branches of the Salvatorian Family of priests and brothers, sisters, and lay members. The commitment to evangelization, faith formation, and service remains the same.

Father Jordan desired more than anything to share with others the graces and blessings that he himself had received. In this sense, he is like the great missionary-saints of the Church's history. Rather than devoting himself to vague theological

abstractions or ideas, he was dedicated to proclaiming a person: Jesus Christ. This commitment to proclaiming the Divine Savior was his great legacy to us Salvatorians and we continue that work today.



In this issue of HOPE, we celebrate the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers' tradition of education. Like Father Jordan, our mission is to hand on what we ourselves have received and invite others to grow in their love of the Divine Savior. The support of friends and benefactors like you helps us to continue this important work. Thank you for your prayers and the many gifts that allow us to continue the legacy of Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan!

Bro. Silas, SDB

TRANSFORMATIVE JFK Prep Alum Shares

Growing up on a dairy farm about 15 miles west of St. Nazianz, Mr. Rich Kolbe attended a two-room grade school at St. Martin's Parish. Salvatorian Fr. Arnulf Buck served there as the pastor at the time and held weekly religion classes. Fr. Arnulf was also a faculty member at the nearby

Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz. At the ripe old age of a sixth grader, Rich took note of Fr. Arnulf, feeling that he too might be called to the priesthood; he began to research various religious orders, zeroing in on one in Indiana by the time he was in eighth grade. Rich's

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TRADITION & VISION

Education

Education became a prominent ministry for the Salvatorian priests and brothers in the United States, going all the way back to the 1890s. Their teaching approach aligned with the community's basic charisms, which took it to a level beyond the academic basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and philosophy. As a result, the Society adopted a commitment to developing well-rounded individuals with the tools to succeed in life, regardless of the path of life that each young man later chose, whether it be priesthood, religious life, or the lay apostolate.



Frs. Gabriel Stapleton & Edward DeBruin, SDS, leading students and faculty members in a prayer service procession at Mother of the Savior Seminary.

A great leader in Salvatorian education was Father Edward DeBruin, SDS (d. 2001) who attended Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, and entered the Society's novitiate there in 1946; he was ordained a priest in 1953 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. In his many years of



Fr. Edward DeBruin, SDS (d. 2001) eventually lead the Salvatorian Education Association.

service, Fr. Edward served as a teacher and administrator at Mother of the Savior Seminary in Blackwood, New Jersey, and Divine Savior Seminary in Lanham, Maryland. Fr. Edward reflected, "Maybe ten percent of our students would go on to become brothers or priests. So, we wanted to be sure to tend to

not only that ten percent but to all of them so that they learned good study habits, discipline systems, and how to be good humans. We were not there to serve as second parents but to help them learn to make sound decisions for themselves." (Salvatorian Education Association files in the Salvatorian Archives - RG 620-01)

Fr. Edward became a significant influence in the approach of providing a Salvatorian education, eventually leading the Salvatorian Education Association (S.E.A.), which, by his design, included rectors of all the major seminaries operated by the Society, as well as select teachers from the Salvatorian institutions who could make impactful decisions.



Study hall at Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, WI. Freshman and sophomore classes.

Key components of the plan guaranteed a continuity of education and vision that united all the province's schools. At that time, members of the community were regularly asked to take on different assignments,

Education continued ...

... Education

depending on their greatest needs at any given time. This could create a potential disruption of education for those students. However, with the work of S.E.A., all the seminaries were aligned and could produce complementary education plans and results, helping to insure the excellence of the Salvatorian seminaries in the United States.

Through the years, our members have continued this dedication to education through ministry in seminaries, on college campuses, in diocesan programs, and in elementary and high school settings. Even today, Salvatorians continue the legacy of

Fr. Edward in places like Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, WI, where Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, ministers as President-Rector.



Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS, President-Rector at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, speaks to seminarians at the Oct. 19 Déhon Lecture by Cardinal Turkson.

... Transformative

dad, Clem, encouraged him to attend the more local option in St. Nazianz for at least a year before making the long-distance transition and commitment. "I never brought up the idea of another religious order again," said Rich. "I was fully immersed in all I was learning at the Salvatorian seminary."



*Richard Kolbe
Class of 1969
JFK Prep*

The seminary environment, which required daily living in a small community, forced a dynamic where students in close quarters made resolving differences paramount to survival, ultimately leading them to supporting and respectfully getting along with one another. "You never knew who you would be doing your afternoon chore with, so it was always good practice to get along with everyone," said Rich.

The faculty's quality, commitment, and energy made Rich want to give his best back, by excelling in subjects he knew well and working as hard as he could to learn the more challenging classes. "For example, Fr. Colin Kahl was my English teacher and coached the cross-country team," said Rich. "I was not a runner, but in Fr. Colin's quiet leadership quality, he encouraged me, believed in me, and presented me with opportunities which translated into my English class. I ended up inside on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in the spring, working on a 1,000-word essay on King Lear. I just refused to let Fr. Colin down with a mediocre essay."

At some point during his junior year, Rich discerned that the priesthood was not his calling. However, even without the commitment to religious life, as a 1969 graduate of JFK Prep (renamed from Salvatorian Seminary during Rich's

Transformative continued

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senior year) he remained committed to his faith roots instilled at the Seminary. He married his wife, Susan, shortly after graduation from the University of Wisconsin - Madison where he earned degrees in Math and Computer Science, and he pursued his technology career working at Harley Davidson, Square D Company, and Briggs & Stratton through the years. "We built a life in Mequon, raising our children, actively supporting our Catholic schools, serving our parish in various roles," he said. "And, I've always felt that my role in senior management allowed me to set the tone for office interactions, so I tried to maintain a



Rich Kolbe (c) and his family.

Christian attitude in the workplace."

The Salvatorian priests and brothers, beginning in high school, changed the trajectory of his life. "They had a huge impact on what I learned over the years:

believing in myself, becoming aware of the gifts I was given, developing my leadership qualities, finding and developing the gifts of others, staying true to my faith, and working to pass those gifts forward," he said. "The reason I've stayed connected to the Salvatorians is simple. Every time I have encounters with them, I leave feeling like I am in a better place."

MONTHLY MEDITATIONS

With the start of the new liturgical year in November, Salvatorians began sharing "Monthly Meditations" which are brief notes focused on what is happening in the Church during any given month. The monthly email offers readers an opportunity to reflect. Guest writers will include Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS, and Frs. Paul Portland, Joe Rodrigues and Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, SDS. If you would like to receive your copy, please email us at MissionAdvancement@Salvatorians.com.

Please remember the Society of the Divine Savior in your will

A bequest is a wonderful way to support the mission and ministry of our Salvatorian Priests and Brothers, and is a testimony of your care and concern for them. Our legal name is "Society of the Divine Savior, Inc." and our taxpayer number (EIN) is 39-0806210.

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.

SALVATORIANS

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Apostles for our times.