

# HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Fall 2021

## STARTING POINT

The cold, dark days and long nights of later fall and winter can feel a little overwhelming, especially if you are the kind of person who loves the sun and warm weather! But changes in the season are reminders that the season of thanks, love, and the gift of a Child will soon be here. So likewise, the warmth and lights of Christmas remind us that the cold and dark seasons of our lives are not the end of the story.

Despite the difficulties we may face in life, these holy days remind us that we also have much for which we can be thankful. Thanksgiving, the hope-filled days of Advent, and

the wonder of the Christmas Season are opportunities to say "thank you" for the many gifts that God gives us, especially the infant, born in a stable and laid in a manger. This is God's greatest gift.

As we accept this wonderful gift from God, allow your life to become the gift that God intends us to be for one another.

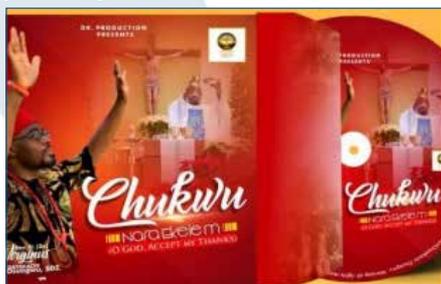


Fr. Silas, SDS

## O GOD, ACCEPT MY THANKS

This summer, Nigerian native Fr. Virginus Osuagwu, SDS, launched his first music CD, with all original songs, at his parish, Church of the Resurrection, in Maryland. The title of the album, "Chukwu Nara Ekele M," translates to "O God, Accept My Thanks."

It summarizes, through song, Fr. Virginus' gratitude for God's sustaining presence during the many challenges he has faced in his life and religious vocation journey. "I cannot say I have a favorite song because the circumstances behind the meaning of each song are unique," said Fr. Virginus. "However, the track 'Bianu Lee,' which means 'Come and See,' is special to me because it is based on Psalm 66:5, which allowed me to recognize the many mighty deeds of God in my life."



Fr. Virginus' CD

Having sustained a gunshot wound that nearly took his life in November 2003 is just one

*continue ...*

# HUMBLE LIFE —

## Bro. Kilian Harrington SDS

A native of Antigo, Wisconsin, Bro. Kilian Harrington, SDS, became a Salvatorian candidate in 1947 and made his first profession of vows in September 1951. Bro. Kilian was influenced by a parish priest in his hometown who steered him toward the Salvatorians to pursue a vocation: initially, as a seminarian and ultimately, as a brother. He celebrated his 70th jubilee this past September. "I had a special inclination to work with people, to be a good worker and to lead by example," said Bro. Kilian. "Fr. Jordan's faith in sending missionaries impressed me as well as his deep concern to make Jesus known to everyone. It was important to me to imitate the early Salvatorian life of poverty."

Following his profession, he began to serve our Salvatorian community as a farmer, a gardener, and an orchard grower, those ministries totaling more than 30 years.

Bro. Kilian moved to Minnesota in 1985 to begin service at a Camphill Village, an international movement with beginnings in Scotland in 1939 in response to a question that arose regarding what would happen to children with cognitive disabilities when they reached adulthood. The Sauk



*Bro. Kilian on the farm*

Center location of Camphill Village opened in 1980 as an agricultural community for adults with cognitive challenges.

He worked as a mentor

*Bro. Kilian in his workshop & on the grounds*



in agriculture for a few years before taking a position as the manager for a homeless shelter in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, from 1988-1990. He returned to the gardens at Camphill in the early 90s and worked until his retirement in 1998. He continued to live at Camphill Village until 2019 when Minnesota's cold and harsh snowy winters became too much for him, and he came home to Wisconsin. Bro. Kilian now lives with his Salvatorian Family at Alexian Village in Milwaukee.

"Salvatorians are inclusive," he said. "I am grateful to have witnessed the beatification of our Founder, and that now we have an intercessor in heaven to pray for us."

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## PRAYER for the Season



Dear Lord, as we gather together in the coming season of Thanksgiving, Advent and the birth of our Savior, may we be reminded of the many graces, blessings and friends which God has placed in our lives. We pray through the intercession of Blessed Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, that our world may find peace and healing in the year ahead.

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Following twenty-two years as chaplain at Alexian Village of Milwaukee, Fr. Joe Jagodensky, SDS, was temporarily assigned to Queen of Apostles in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Then, a little more than a year ago, he was asked to serve at St. Catherine of Alexandria in Brown Deer.

“The Vicar of Clergy said, ‘I think you know the neighborhood,’” said Fr. Joe. “Since it’s half-mile from Alexian, I replied, I think you’re right.”

Fr. Joe’s predecessor was a lay parish director planning for her retirement in August 2020 after fourteen years. He began a few months early, in June, when the director passed away due to Leukemia. Virus restrictions remained substantial; therefore, a simple funeral for family only was allowed. The parish family missed the opportunity to ritualize their gratitude for her and their grief. Fr. Joe tried his best to maintain a calm, uplifting spirit.

In the year he has been ministering at St. Catherine’s, Fr. Joe has worked to build connections. “Relationships have got to be among the top callings for a Salvatorian,” he said. “They are

built, no matter how short the time, and touch people’s lives.”



*Fr. Joe preparing to share the Gospel*

Fr. Joe attests that it is his writings and sermons that help him develop relationships. “Baked in my head and written at 350 degrees is a mixture of scripture and current affairs, sprinkled with bits of humor to keep their

attention. I hope, each time, for a ‘taste and see’ from them and hope their digestion is shared in their relationships during the new week,” he said. Being in one city for a long time allows him to see relationships continue to blossom and expand. For example, years later, the principal of Christ King School told him that he baptized his son at St. Sebastian’s. He says, “It’s the person who stops you at a wedding, recalling a sermon given thirty years ago. It’s the son who contacts me because I buried his grandfather, and his mom just died. And it’s the principal of a school that remembers I baptized his son years ago.”

Relationships make the Body of Christ a living food and proof of Christ among us. All it takes is a listening ear and a hearing heart.

## ... O God

of the trials Fr. Virginus has endured. “While in the town of Gwagwalada Abuja, I was shot in the head, needed two major eye surgeries and general surgery to remove iron pellets from my head. God saved me!” he said. Throughout his challenges,



*Celebration of Music*

it is the Word of God and spirit of joy that sustained him.

He shared, “I have come to understand the meaning of grace, that is, how Jesus walks into the lives of ordinary people like me and transforms them into usable instruments to promote the reign of God.”

# YEAR OF JORDAN

July 21, 2021 ~ July 21, 2022

The beatification of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan, remains a celebration for the entire Church as it goes beyond even our Salvatorian Family.

It's the witness of apostolic holiness for all the People of God. And, for us as Salvatorian fathers and brothers, it is an event of the Spirit of God that has become our way of life and mission.

As a way of giving thanks for the witness of apostolic holiness of our spiritual Father, we announced a "Year of Thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan" that began on July 21, 2021, and last until July 21, 2022. It will be a time of grace for all Salvatorians around the world. It is a time for us to be united in a diversity of initiatives that will lead



us to deepen our precious apostolic vocations, strengthen our ties of indispensable collaboration, and revitalize our humble but firm

missionary service in the Church. We ask that you please keep us in prayer, as you remain in ours.

## SAVE THE DATE!



Giving Tuesday is an annual Day of Giving which takes place this year on Tuesday, November 30th. Join us on social media at [Facebook.com/Salvatorians](https://www.facebook.com/Salvatorians) and be a part of this global day of making a difference.

## HOPE, HEALING & FAITH

We exist to serve you and your loved ones - to provide hope, healing, faith and to share the grace and love of God. We work to be there for all people we encounter through our ministries, whether they face an urgent spiritual crisis, need reassurance that God had not abandoned them, or seek to improve their relationship with Him.

Please accept our gratitude for your constant prayers and support and know that your gift is extremely important to our small order of priests and brothers. It provides us with the resources we need to help those to whom we minister during these interesting - and tough - times.

As you consider your year-end gifts, would you please be as generous as you are able? If reviewing your estate plans, we pray that you please keep us in your thoughts. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

### 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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