

# WHAT GUIDES US?

Our mission as members of the Society is to proclaim and teach by all ways and means the goodness and kindness of the Savior. We strive to be apostles for our times. It is through our shared values, noted below, that we work to make the Savior known to all people, everywhere.

Prayer – We are vowed men of prayer, the center of which is the Eucharist.

Providence – We trust in God, discerning and responding to the signs of the times.

Apostolate – We are called to be apostles for the renewal of the Church and the world, and we invite others to discover and respond to their call to be apostles.

Justice – We advocate for justice and peace, standing with the poor and marginalized.

Community – We support one another through mutual love and service.

Collaboration – We are servant-leaders, involving others in our mission.

Universality – We include as members of the Society people from every nation, and we are open to serve the people of any nation.

Simplicity – We live a simple lifestyle, becoming one with those we serve, especially the poor.

Celebration – We rejoice in the fullness of life.

# RESPONDING AS JESUS WOULD

During Ordinary Time, we should live each day engaged with the world, seeing it as Jesus did and responding how He would, with love, compassion, intention, and without judgment. Our Salvation and that of the world is what is at stake. So, while we may be in a spiritual winter - hibernating, resting, and recharging, we can still take action.

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

## 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.

## SALVATORIANS

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# HOPE



Salvatorian Newsletter Winter 2021

## STARTING POINT

The word “Lent” comes from the Old-English word for “springtime,” giving us insight into what the time between Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday is all about: a season when faith and the virtues of our Christian life flourish within our hearts and souls.

You may choose something to “give up,” or, perhaps this year consider opportunities for “good works.” How you can make a difference in the world, affects conversion in your heart at the same time.

During this season, I pray you will continue to immerse yourself more fully in your relationship with our Father in Heaven, and in turn, find your true self – the one God already knows you are. – In the Divine Savior, Bro. Silas



## ONE PRIEST Two Plans

When we make plans, the Lord laughs and guides us to His plan for us. “The Lord has a sense of humor,” said Fr. Paul Wilkin SDS.

“On June 23, 2019, I was ordained a Salvatorian priest, and I thought my plan and God’s were the same,” said Fr. Paul. “However, between then and January 2020, my plans kept being revised by the Lord.” The obvious goal in Fr. Paul’s heart was that three days

later, with a U-Haul in tow, he would arrive in Tucson, Arizona, to begin his ministry at the Salvatorian-led parish of Most Holy Trinity and Franciscan-led parish of San Xavier del Bac Mission. Fr. Paul was immediately needed to attend a graveside funeral for a prominent elder from the Tohono O’odham Nation. “This was a profound experience for me being able to learn more about how their culture deals with death,” said Fr. Paul. “Since that experience, I’ve learned to open my heart more to the Holy Spirit and the Lord’s plan for me.”

Newly ordained Fr. Paul became a part-time assistant priest at both Most Holy Trinity Parish and San Xavier del Bac Mission in Tucson, Arizona. As a blueprint began to evolve on how this



Fr. Paul says Mass at Most Holy Trinity

Two Plans

# INTERCESSION PRAYER

The beatification process for our founder, Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, opened in 1942. In 2011, Benedict XVI recognized Fr. Jordan's heroic virtues, declaring him Venerable. On June 20th, Pope Francis approved Fr. Jordan's beatification after recognizing a miracle attributed to his intercession. As we continue to wait in joyful anticipation for his elevation to being named "Blessed," on May 15, 2021, at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in Rome we share this prayer...

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the World, You called Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan to be your apostle, to make God known and loved by all people everywhere, using all the means your love inspires.

## TWO PLANS

bi-location ministry would work, there was an abrupt change of plans, COVID-19 came into our lives. Traditional ministries, Masses, and the administration of sacraments to parishioners all needed rethinking. There were no pandemic ministry protocols in place for how to proceed, so Fr. Paul asked for direction from the Holy Spirit concerning ways to fulfill the Lord's plan.

He has been responsible for recording Masses for participating in online viewing. This new reality has him behind the video camera and immersed in hours of pre-and post-production work for each Mass to make them engaging and viewable online. Nearly a year later, with two parish

You filled him with universal apostolic zeal, with a deep trust in God's loving providence, with a profound spirit of prayer, with a sincere devotion to Mary, Mother of the Savior, and with the courage to follow you, even into the mystery of the Cross.

Grant also to me, his follower, the grace to proclaim the Gospel in this spirit and make me an effective apostle in today's world.

Through the intercession of your servant, Venerable Francis Jordan, I ask you for my special needs...

*[Pause to recall personal intentions]*

I make this prayer through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

websites rejuvenated and over 80 videos produced, Fr. Paul has been very busy.



*Pandemic requires new approach to ministry.*

"Serving at two culturally different parishes with many diverse subcultures has been a blessing. Following the Lord's plan has given me a vast missionary experience within the US borders that was never on my radar," said Fr. Paul. "In a way, the Lord is a bit of a comedian. He smiles, telling you a story, letting you get comfortable with where you think the story is going, and then suddenly lands the punchline." The story is now different. The Holy Spirit gives you clarity, insight, and direction, helping you realize the Lord's plan is the better plan.

# LIFE OF COMMITMENT

As a young man, Harold Joseph Stadtmueller, who grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and attended St. Vincent's School, says he was always interested in religious life. At the end of eighth grade, he visited a nearby seminary run by the Society of the Divine Savior, the Salvatorians. He entered the novitiate in September 1947, took the religious name of Roman, and made his first profession the following year.

Fast forward. This past year, Fr. Roman fulfilled his 72nd year of professed life with the USA Province of the Society of the Divine Savior; Fr. Roman Stadtmueller SDS reached a milestone, making him our longest vowed member.

Now retired and living in Lewes, Delaware, Fr. Roman has led a busy and full life as a Salvatorian, beginning with his ministry as a professor at Jordan Seminary in Michigan for seven years. The Society then asked him to go to Africa, and he willingly accepted the assignment. He learned the language of the land, Swahili, and spent five years in what is now known as Tanzania. He was a missionary, and when the Benedictines, who started the mission, transferred leadership to the Salvatorians, Fr. Roman became the pastor.

He returned briefly to the USA to teach physics at St. Pius X, a Salvatorian Seminary in Galt, California, before heading back to Tanzania, helping

transition a mission in Makanya to a parish. An added challenge was the various languages of the different tribes, but with translator help from the younger villagers, they could manage any communication barriers. He remained there until 1982 except for a brief stint back home to recover from a knee injury. "I always wanted to go to Africa and was thrilled the Society leadership at the time encouraged me to follow my heart," said Fr. Roman. "I will always cherish and am thankful for my 15 years of ministry in Tanzania."

Fr. Roman then changed gears, working on obtaining his master's degree in social work while working full-time at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. as a civilian hospital chaplain. He later started commuting to Delaware to counsel people at parishes there and to help out at St. Jude's.

"Fr. Roman has always had tremendous spirituality," shared Fr. Glen Willis SDS, a longtime friend, and fellow Salvatorian. "You can hear a pin drop in the congregation when he says Mass. His liturgy style is intense, beautiful, and extremely heartfelt."

"I have always had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin," said Fr. Roman. "One of my biggest joys remains the celebration of my ordination at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C." In retirement, the 92-year-old Fr. Roman continues to share regular Mass with friends from St. Jude's.



*Fr. Roman in Africa.*

