

Informationes

Society of the Divine Savior

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Dear Confreres,

In October we are celebrating with the Church thirty-one days destined to inform about and promote the missions. That is a good opportunity to think about our participation in the great mission of the Church, which is to be a sacrament of

salvation. As Salvatorians we humbly participate in this mission, making Jesus known as Savior to all peoples with adequate and effective means, responding to the reality of the people entrusted to us.

We, the Salvatorians, maintain and build up our missionary work to encounter Christ, the only Gospel, the reason for the existence of the Church and, therefore, of our religious family. It is God himself, whose love and charity unequivocally manifested themselves in Jesus Christ, which impels us to be close to his people. No one who opens himself to the love of God, who has heard the voice of the Father and received the light of his Spirit, can remain inert and unfruitful in view of the gift received. I believe this is one of the main objectives of initial and ongoing formation, which is enriched by academic and professional studies. Let this be our driving force: to keep the heart of the Salvatorian candidate or confrere ardent and passionate for the mission, at the service in the Church and of the people who are in search of God. The missionary work of our charism is closely linked with formation! There is no mission without formation; and what would be the purpose of formation if there were no mission?

In our times, one of the main challenges we face is indifference and disbelief with respect to the question of faith. However, as Salvatorians we are called to inspire faith in the hearts and minds of our fellow man. This gift of God cannot be taught by means of scripture only, but needs the contribution of living testimony in the practical situations of everyday life. May our life in common be filled with love, unity, joy, and suffering,

which drives others to wonder: why do they live like this? What holds them together? These are questions that lead us to the heart of the mission: to witness faith and to love our neighbor.

As long as we are faithful witnesses of the Gospel, filled with God and empty of ourselves, we can give some of the light that has been given to us in the encounter with Him. Our lives will be loadstones for the society that cries like sheep without a shepherd and especially for those young people who are in the midst of the vocational desert, full of doubts and yearning to give themselves to others. In this way, mission and our way of being missionaries are closely linked to vocation promotion.

In Jesus Christ, God manifested His love and tenderness that included even his death on a cross. As Salvatorians we are called to make this fundamental dimension known to the people of today. Only in the one who has experienced the love of God a desire arises to share this experience and to bring Christ to others, even in the most adverse realities. We must constantly ask ourselves if others, the little ones of the Kingdom, can deduce from the reality of our lives the warmth of faith and, by the expression of our face, the great joy of the encounter with the Savior!

Let us never forget that the Salvatorians are not the protagonists of salvation. We are like the moon, illuminated by the sun, we reflect the light that we have received to share it with those who live in the dark. We are at the service of the mission of God, in the Church, sent to the people, to spread unreservedly the gifts that we have freely received to where they are most in need of salvation. We do not consecrate ourselves as Salvatorians for the sake of doing so, for the privileges of a safe and comfortable life. Our mission necessarily passes through difficulties, through the Cross and the grave, but with the assurance that it will lead to the True Life in God.

*Fr. Agustín Van Baelen SDS
General Mission Secretary*



Generalate Travel Plans

The members of the Generalate will be away from the Motherhouse on these dates in October and November:

Fr. Milton:

- 08-14 OCT: **Merano, IT**
Annual Planning Meeting
- 01-06 NOV: **Morogoro, TA**
Inauguration of new building
JUCO
- 11 NOV-
03 DEC: **Brazil**
Canonical Visitation

Fr. Raúl:

- 08-14 OCT: **Merano, IT**
Annual Planning Meeting
- 17-25 NOV: **Bogotá, CO**
Provincial Chapter
- 26 NOV-
03 DEC: **Cartagena, CO**
SDS WYD '19 Planning Team

Fr. Chris:

- 08-14 OCT: **Merano, IT**
Annual Planning Meeting

Fr. Agustín:

- 02 OCT: **London, UK**
Donor Meeting
- 06-07 OCT: **Bolzano, IT**
Donor Meeting
- 08-14 OCT: **Merano, IT**
Annual Planning Meeting
- 01-10 NOV: **Morogoro, TA**
JUCO Governing Bd.
Inauguration new building JUCO
SAUT Board of Trustees Meeting

Fr. Thomas:

- 08-14 OCT: **Merano, IT**
Annual Planning Meeting
- 11 NOV-
03 DEC: **Brazil**
Canonical Visitation

Generalate

XIX General Chapter 2018 Convocation

Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, will be sending a letter to all unit superiors on 11 OCT 17 regarding the convocation of the XIX General Chapter to be held at St. Ottilien, Germany from 13 AUG to 06 SEP 18. Please keep the preparations for the Chapter in your prayers that it may be a fruitful experience for the entire Society.

Jordan University College (JUCO) Leadership

Due to a term limit regulation, the Generalate has engaged in a search for a new Principal of JUCO to begin service in October 2017. The search was begun in summer 2016. This has been met with success.



Consequently, Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, with the deliberative vote of the General Council, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Bertram B. Mapunda as Principal of JUCO beginning on 01 OCT 17 until 30 SEP 21. He comes with extensive experience and many years as a Professor



and administrator of the College of Humanities, University of Dar es Salaam. He has also served on the JUCO Governing Board since 2010 and is very familiar with the progress of the college. In this role, he has been instrumental in moving the college forward in terms of better management and financial stability. Professor Mapunda earned a BA in archeology at the University of Dar es Salaam, an MA and a PhD in history, archeology and anthropology from the University of Florida. He was a seminarian as a young man and continues to practice his faith. His goal is to make JUCO one of the leading universities in Tanzania during his term. We offer him our support and best wishes.



In addition, Fr. Milton with the deliberative vote of the General Council, is happy to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Bernard Witek as the Deputy Principal for Finance and Administration at JUCO beginning on 01 OCT 17 until 30 SEP 21. We are grateful for Fr. Bernard's work over the course of the last two consecutive terms

as Principal. During his tenure JUCO has grown from a seminary to a university college offering preparation not only to seminarians and religious in philosophy and theology, but also to numerous laymen and women pursuing careers in business and administration, education, and other fields. In 2010 there were 696 students enrolled at JUCO and now there are over 3,800. This new appointment promises to provide continuity and stability for JUCO as it progresses toward becoming an important university in Tanzania. We express our great gratitude for his past service as well as for his commitment to JUCO as he takes on these new duties. Many blessings.

We are grateful also for the work of Fr. Marcel Mukadi SDS who served as interim Deputy for Finance and Administration for the last two years while needed administrative changes were being made. He will continue to teach and help with administrative duties at JUCO. We wish the new administration much success.

Meetings

Salvatorian Youth Movement – RMS (13-16 JUL 17)

Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, was a featured speaker at this annual gathering. The event involved 400 youth for a week at Dobroszyce (PL) under the leadership of Frs. Maciej Szeszko SDS and Łukasz Anioł SDS. The organization was superb as was the methodology. Each day had a combination of prayer, lectio divina, recreation activities and spiritual guidance. We congratulate our confreres of RMS for a job well done.

Chapter Preparatory Commission (19-23 JUL 17)



Delegates will be gathering next year in St. Ottilien, Germany from 13 AUG to 06 SEP 18 for the XIX General Chapter. This gathering requires much planning and preparation. Consequently last year (July 2016) the Chapter Preparatory Commission was established to do this work. It is comprised of Frs. Milton Zonta (Superior General), Raúl Gómez Ruiz (General Secretary), Agustín Van Baelen (Generalate), Charles Mbumba Mushitu (Congo), Vinoy Thottakkara (India), and Mirosław Stanek (Poland). Sr. Dulcelene Ceccato SDS and Fr. Dennis Thiessen SDS facilitate the work of the Commission. There have already been three previous meetings.



St. Ottilien is about 45 minutes west of Munich in the state of Bavaria and in the famous Diocese of Augsburg. It is the worldwide headquarters of the St. Ottilien Missionary Congregation of Benedictines. Like many Benedictine abbeys, it is in a bucolic setting, surrounded by countryside, a small village, and much beauty. The monks engage in their famous “ora et labora” (prayer and work) following a regular schedule of liturgical prayer interspersed throughout the day and night. In addition, the Rule of St. Benedict calls for them to receive guests and to offer spiritual guidance. Consequently the monastery grounds have a nice guesthouse.

There is also a very large retreat center where we will be able to hold the General Chapter comfortably. The members of the Commission spent a very intense week hammering out the details of logistics, daily and weekly schedules, organization of the chapter room, processes for the consideration of reports, number of work groups, prayer, translation needs, processes for

the election of the new Generalate, and recreation opportunities. They made great headway but much more still needs to be done in future meetings already scheduled on their calendars.

As part of their visit to the site, they also reviewed preliminary plans for the Jubilee Celebration of the Centenary of Death of our Venerable Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan, which will take place on 07, 08 and 09 SEP 18 in nearby St. Peter’s Seminary (Freiburg, Germany), Tafers (Switzerland), and Gurtweil (Germany) respectively. At the end of the week, the members spent some time with our confreres at the Provincialate of the German Province in Munich. Here we also have St. Willibald’s Parish. They ended their time in Germany by concelebrating Mass in the parish followed by a cookout in the garden.

Joint Generalates Meeting (04 AUG 17)



The members of the Generalates of the Society and of the Congregation met at Villa Maria in Rome to consider and discuss proposals to be presented to the Joint Leadership Meeting scheduled for 18-20 OCT 17. The proposals are related to the Salvatorian Family and its future as well as Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. This was the last meeting of the two Generalates for 2017.

Visits

Vietnam (27-31 JUL 17)



Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, and Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, General Mission Secretary, were in Vietnam to inaugurate the new Mater Salvatoris formation house in the Province of Binh Duong. While there they had an opportunity to meet with the local bishop and local civil authorities in order to take further steps to establish the Society more firmly and thereby serve the local people better. The Vietnamese confreres are currently a community of the East Asia Mission Vicariate with Dcn. Dominic Bui Dung Tien as the local coordinator.

Kenya (13-19 AUG 17)



In the middle of the troubles and tensions, straight after the presidential elections, from 14-19 JUL 17, the General Mission Secretary, Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, was in Kenya for meetings with the confreres who live and work in our Otto Hopfenmüller Mission at Osorongai. Thanks to short and long range planning, done at the start of this mission, an objective evaluation could be made of goals that have been achieved or still are underway, and other issues which still have to be faced.

Apart from the daily pastoral work done by our confreres, Fr. Justine Tesha (TA), Fr. Elphas Mukhanatsi (KE), Fr. Dieudonné Zeng a Zeng (DRC) and Fr. Patrick Mgumba (TA) in the huge parish and the nearby schools, other very important developments have taken place: the registration of our Society as a civil entity, the purchase of land with a school, which will be run by the Salvatorians and bring local income, a water well was dug for the presbytery... And last but not least, through their work, witness and explicit activities regarding vocation promotion, the first candidates of this Mission will go for the first phase of their initial



formation to Namiungo. Maybe it is interesting to mention also that, apart from Fr. Patrick Mgumba, who finished with success his first year of the Masters Business and Administration program at the Catholic University of Eldoret, last year two Salvatorians from the East Asian Mission Vicariate, Cl. James Jimenez (PH) and Cl. Paul Trung Tin Tran (V), did their year of regency and had a very rich experience in this still young Salvatorian mission.



The result of these meetings, apart from the fraternal sharing of course, is again a very clear planning with goals and objectives to be achieved in the near future and beyond. Thanks to all involved, but mainly to those who are giving the best of themselves in this sometimes difficult mission area.

Visitations

Visitation to Sri Lanka (12-17 AUG 17)



The visitation to Sri Lanka was the beginning of the general visitation to the Indian Mission Vicariate. The visitors were Frs. Raúl Gómez (Vicar General) and Krzysztof Kowalczyk (General Consultor). The first house of the Society was established in Chilaw on 16 JUN 2010 as part of the Indian Vicariate. A second house was established in Jaffna in 2011. The community is comprised of five native Sri Lankans, one of which is working in the Philippines, and one member of the Austrian Pro-Province. There are several students in formation completing their secondary education in Jaffna and a smaller group in Chilaw. There are also two candidates currently in the Philippines studying philosophy. The Salvatorian Sisters have been in Sri Lanka since 1954 and have their Provincialate at Kurunegala. They have been instrumental in recruiting and promoting vocations to all three branches in Sri Lanka and we are very grateful.



In addition, to formation work, our confreres do pastoral work attending to the significant Tamil-speaking minority in predominantly Sinhalese-speaking Chilaw Diocese offering a unique service to the Church in Sri Lanka since very few priests speak Tamil fluently. There are many challenges in this regard partially due to the long civil war between Tamils and Sinhalese that only ended in 2009. However, there is an atmosphere of peace and growing prosperity particularly as expatriates help contribute to the economy.

Our community is on the verge of growing and developing apostolates that will meet the needs of the local people. It has the potential to become a Vicariate perhaps in 10 to 15 years if things continue to develop as they are. We are very grateful to our confreres for their warm welcome, openness and commitment to the Society. We are also grateful to the Salvatorian Sisters we met and to the bishops of Chilaw and Jaffna who gave us their valuable time during which they praised the Salvatorian presence in Sri Lanka.

Comoros Islands (19-23 AUG 17)

The Superior General, Fr. Milton Zonta conducted the Canonical Visitation of our communities on Comoros Islands, together with the General



Mission Secretary, Fr. Agustín Van Baelen from 19-23 AUG 17. In 2010, the Holy See erected the Apostolic Vicariate of the Comoros Archipelago, and continued entrusting the pastoral and administrative responsibility to the Society of the Divine Savior and appointing our confrere Rev. Charles Mahuza Yava SDS as its first Apostolic Vicar in this very strong Islamic area. In order to help the Bishop, the Generalate asked the Missionary Pro-Province of Congo to staff the Salvatorian communities in the Apostolic Vicariate.



The Salvatorian presence is mainly felt in the pastoral field of parishes. Together with the Salvatorian Sisters, our confreres help in the health center of Caritas and in a school for capacity building, mainly for women and girls. Due to its

nearness to Madagascar, upon the request of the Generalate and with financial help of the Polish Province, a process of vocation promotion was started in the biggest island of Africa by one of the confreres working at Moroni. This has resulted already in some good fruits: on 08 SEP of this year, the first novice from Madagascar has professed his vows in the Society! We thank Bishop Charles and the confreres for their faithful witness and pray God to grant them all the grace of perseverance and patience.

Cameroon (24 AUG-01 SEP 17)



In the frame of the Canonical Visitation, the Superior General, Fr. Milton Zonta and the General Mission Secretary, Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, were in Cameroon from 24 AUG until 01 SEP, where they could meet with the confreres and observe what they are doing in this Mission of the Missionary Pro-Province of Congo, started in 2007, this year exactly 10 years ago. In this moment the mission consists in two communities: one in the Extreme North, at Hina, which is almost at the boarder with Nigeria and another one in the central southern part: Ndikinimeki. Our mission in Hina is very much characterized by the strong Muslim presence and the anti-western movement Boko Haram. At the border of our parish is one of the camps with 58,000 refugees coming from Nigeria fleeing violence and trafficking: children without parents, adults without perspectives for work, far from their homes. It is worth mentioning that courageous confreres are working in these precarious areas and a forgotten part of the world.



The central and southern part of the country is more Christian. Our confreres are developing two parishes at Ndikinimeki but at the same time, with the help of SOFIA and the Salvatoriaanse Hulpactie (Belgium), a first part of our own house was built and serves as the house for the first stage of formation. At this point it is good to mention that the first novice from Cameroon has professed vows on 08 SEP and four candidates have just started their novitiate.



During our stay, two scholastics from the Congo who are studying at diocesan seminaries in Cameroon, Cl. Anicet Fana Tshifufu and Cl. Jules Kapyka Kafilu, professed their perpetual vows in the hands of the Superior General, in a solemn Mass. It was presided by the General Mission Secretary, in the presence of the Provincial Superior of the Missionary Pro-Province Congo, Fr. Floribert Mulikita, other confreres, religious, and faithful. Thank you for your service and missionary zeal!

New Formation Houses

Vietnam



Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, inaugurated the Mater Salvatoris House, the first formation house of the Society in Vietnam on 29 JUL 17. Joining him and the local members of the community were Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, General Mission Secretary, Fr. Vara Prasada of the East Asia Mission Vicariate, several guests, and friends. Among these were relatives of our Vietnamese confreres and representatives of different church and civil entities. Congratulations to our confreres for their hard work, perseverance and patience and thanks to our Salvatorian Office for International Aid, SOFIA, who helped in the preparation of the project, its funding and realization.

India

In a joyful ceremony on the occasion of the start of the Jubilee Celebration of the Centenary of our Venerable Founder's Death, Frs. Raúl Gómez Ruiz (Vicar General) and Krzysztof (Chris)



Kowalczyk (General Consultor), were present for the inauguration of St. Joseph Minor Seminary, our new formation house in Chullikara (Kerala) on 09 SEP 17. The house was blessed and the chapel consecrated by Most Rev. George Njaralatt, Archbishop of Thalassery (Syro-Malabar rite). Members of the Vicariate leadership and other confreres were present as were students who will be living and studying in this house dedicated to philosophical studies. The rector and vice rector of the house are Frs. Sebastian Cheeramvelil and John Vallomprayil respectively. Fr. Raúl also had the honor of accepting 13 new candidates into the Society in the house chapel on 08 SEP 17. This was indeed an auspicious start to the new house of formation in the Indian Mission Vicariate.



Italy



Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, has appointed Frs. Charles Mbumba Mushitu and Deogratias Sayon Rukuguru as the new Rector and Vice Rector respectively of the Salvatorian International Formation House Mater Salvatoris at Tor de' Cenci (Rome) which will be officially inaugurated on 08 DEC 17. In order to prepare for the arrival of five theology students from Congo, Philippines and India, our confreres began preparing the house and working on the formation program in early September. After one year of Italian language study, the scholastics will be studying theology at the local Franciscan university and will be engaged in pastoral experiences as time permits in nearby S. Carlo Borromeo parish where our confreres will also help. We are grateful for your service to the Society in this new endeavor. Count on our prayers for abundant success!

Prayers

Please Pray for...

- Salvatorians in Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo undergoing persecution due to their faith
- Fruitful preparation for the XIX General Chapter in 2018
- The Official recognition of the ICDS by the Dicastry for Laity, Family and Life
- Generalate Planning Meeting, Merano, Italy (08-14 OCT 17)
- Joint Leadership Meeting in the Motherhouse, Rome (18-20 OCT)
- European Joint Vocation/Formation Meeting in Hasselt, Belgium (18-20 OCT)
- SOFIA Advisory Board Meeting in Rome (23-24 OCT)
- Ad Hoc Patrimony Commission Meeting in Rome (25 OCT)
- International Vocation Team Meeting in Rome (07-10 NOV)
- JUCO Governing Board Meeting in Morogoro, Tanzania (03 NOV)
- Visitation of the Brazilian Province (11 NOV-03 DEC)
- Colombian Province Election Chapter, Bogotá (19-24 NOV)
- Salvatorian World Youth Days 2019 planning, Cartagena, Colombia (27-30 NOV)
- Successful yearlong celebration of Fr. Jordan's Centenary of Death
- Those in Formation and their Formators
- Acceptance of a miracle for the beatification of Fr. Jordan
- Unit General Chapter Preparation Chapters
- Our deceased confreres

Please note that we are posting death notices on the SDS website (www.sds.org). We also send them to each member at their mailds.org email address.

Motherhouse

Comings and goings



Sr. Teresilla Wasilewska CST

The community bid farewell on 31 AUG 17 to Sr. Teresilla who has served in the kitchen for the last six years and as the superior of the Teresian community for the last three years. We are very grateful for her presence among us and will miss her great cooking but especially her prayerful and joyful presence. We pray that God bless you in your new apostolate in Poland.



Sr. Felicia Radzewicz CST

The community welcomed the new superior of the Teresian community on 25 AUG 17. Prior to coming to our Motherhouse, Sr. Felicia worked in Gioia del Colle (Bari, IT) ministering in the hospital dedicated to patients suffering from

Hansen Disease. Joining her are two familiar members of the community who also have been assigned to work at the Motherhouse: we welcome back Sr. Maria Goretti Rogowska and Sr. Veronica Mróz. We wish them all a pleasant and fruitful time with us.



Frater Karol Matecki SDS

The community was happy to welcome Karol who spent two weeks during the month of August with us to help organize the photo database about our missions. The goal of the work is to put the many pictures at the availability of confreres and collaborators who work all over the world and make our missionary work known. More than 20,000 pictures about Salvatorian missions were classified and tagged in a proper way, to make research and publications easier. Thank you for your time with us and count on our prayers for your continued progress as a Salvatorian as you engage in your continual formation.

Congratulations!

We heartily congratulate Fr. Charles Mbumba Mushitu on the successful completion of a Masters degree in Psychology from the Salesian Pontifical University, Rome. He defended his thesis on 28 JUN 17.

We also joyfully congratulate Fr. Sayon Rukurugu on the successful completion of his Licentiate in Liturgy from the Pontificio Istituto Sant'Anselmo, Rome. He defended his thesis on 17 July 2017. He will continue with doctoral studies at the same institution.

Centenary Fr. Jordan

Inauguration Centenary Fr. Jordan



The yearlong, Jubilee Celebration of the Centenary of Death of the Founder was inaugurated at the Motherhouse with a Triduum which concluded with a solemn Mass followed by an aperitif and festive meal on Saturday, 09 SEP 17. We were honored to host His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and Bishop Paolo Lojudice, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome. Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, welcomed the many guests including members of the three branches of the Salvatorian Family, and other invited guests and friends who joined the motherhouse community for this event. The Mass was streamed live via Internet and is now available on www.sds.org/Centenary of Fr. Jordan. After the Mass, the visitors had the opportunity to tour the exposition on Fr. Jordan's particular virtues, *Diventa grande dinanzi a Dio e*

non davanti al mondo, [Become great before God, not before the world!] designed especially for the start of the Jubilee year.

We encourage the members to mark the 8th of each month through next year 08 SEP 18 with special prayers or other events. The yearlong celebration will culminate with special events at St. Peter's Seminary (Freiburg, Germany) on 07 SEP 18, in Tifers, Switzerland on 08 SEP 18, and in Gurtweil, Germany on 09 SEP 18. We also invite you to submit photos and brief texts to the Centenary and XIX Chapter Blog at chapterblog@mailsds.org.

Centenary & XIX Chapter Blog

Please remember: materials for use by members for the celebration of the Centenary of Death of Fr. Jordan are available at www.sds.org.

From Father Jordan:

Fr. Jordan and the Veneration of Mary:

"...venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen of the Apostles and our mother with childlike love and devotion. She has stood by the side of our Society from the very first moment of its inception with her mighty protection and sweet help. Therefore, every child of our Society should render Mary deep veneration and tender love. Wherever the footsteps of our Society fall, Mary's praise and honor should resound."

(Chapter Talks, 1890/12/12)

"All peoples, all nations, all races, all tribes, everyone – You are a debtor to all! Do not rest until everyone knows, loves and serves Jesus the Savior. Oh Mother of the Savior, pray for us!"

(SD II/70: 14 February 1904)

Last Words

(See Postulation Press, no. 10, July 1998):

"My Jesus, I love you! Everything as God wants it!"

(when seized with severe pain on 04 SEP 1918).



Painting by
Fr. Juan Carrasquilla
Ossa SDS

Why I became a Salvatorian...



...because I wanted to be at the service of my brothers.

Br. Basile Kahande Ikonga, Congo Missionary Pro-Province.

To see other statements and photos go to sds.org/vocations and click on each of the first four categories: “Called by God,” “Consecrated Religious,” “To be a Salvatorian” and “Formation Stages.”

Travelling to Rome

Members needing a visa in order to enter Italy are asked to note the following:

- One is required to provide the following information: the first and last names of the member as they appear in his passport; the member's place of birth (i.e., city/state/country); the number of the member's passport and dates of arrival and departure from Europe.
- This information should be sent directly to Father Krzysztof (Chris) Kowalczyk at the Generalate (krzysztof.kowalczyk@mailsds.org). Since it takes some time to complete all the steps, please send this information sufficiently in advance of the planned visit.
- Members planning to visit the Motherhouse are asked to contact directly the local superior, Father Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, in order to request guest rooms and make other arrangements. Father Juan can be reached at:

E-mail: juan.carrasquilla@mailsds.org

Fax: +39 (06) 68629.400

Telephone: +39 (06) 68629.213

- Please be advised that because of the planned papal celebrations and audiences, we may be unable to meet you at or take you to the airport, especially on Sunday and Wednesday.

Congratulations

First Profession of Vows

Congratulations to our new confreres who recently made their first profession:

- On 01 JUN 17, the Clerics (Joseph) Ho Trong Hoa SDS, (Anthony) Thai Viet Huyen SDS, Cyrilus Eko SDS, Geovanni A. Haresco SDS and Francisco Edwin Overee SDS of the East Asia Mission Vicariate at the Mother of the Savior House in New Manila, Philippines to Rev. Adam Januś SDS, East Asia Mission Vicariate Superior;
- On 08 SEP 17, the Clerics Arsène Lumuna Kishala SDS, Déogratias Mutoni Ngobela SDS, Gauthier Kalamba Mema SDS, Hyacinthe Kasomb Kasomb SDS, Julien Adjia SDS, Justin Wangba SDS, Patient Kisulo Mbuyu SDS, Paul Tshinish Kasong SDS, René Fwamba Espoir SDS, Romeo Ngael Bissenikon SDS, Samuel Tokiniaina Ambinintsoa Andriamnalina SDS, and Zéphirin Ngoy Kalay SDS of the Congo Missionary Pro-Province; at the Cathedral of Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo, to V. Rev. Floribert Kalinda Mulikita;
- On 08 SEP 17, the Novices Cl. Stanisław Franczak SDS, Br. Sokol Gilaj SDS, Cl. Manuel Marku SDS and Cl. Mateusz Ogrodniczuk SDS of the Polish Province at the Parish Church in Bagno, Poland to V. Rev. Piotr Filas SDS, Superior of the Polish Province.

Final Profession of Vows

Congratulations to the following confreres who made their final profession of vows:

- On 02 JUN 17, Clerics (Paul) Hoang Van Ngoc SDS and Cleric Florencio Ompad Jr. SDS, of the East Asian Mission Vicariate at Mother of the Savior Study House Chapel, New Manila, Philippines to Rev. Adam Januś SDS, East Asia Mission Vicariate Superior;

- On 13 AUG 17, the Clerics Patric Nikolas SDS and Octavio Trejo-Flores SDS of the US Province at St. Pius X Parish, Wauwatosa, WI to V. Rev. Joseph Rodrigues SDS, Provincial Superior;
- On 27 AUG 17, the Clerics Jules Kapya Kafilu SDS and Anicet Fana Tshifufu SDS of the Congo Missionary Pro-Province at the Salvatorian Mission in Ndikinimeki, Cameroon, to V. Rev. Milton Zonta SDS, Superior General;
- On 08 SEP 17, Br. Krzysztof Konecko SDS and Cl. Marek Sawicki SDS from the Polish Province at the Parish Church in Bagno, Poland, to V. Rev. Piotr Filas SDS, Superior of the Polish Province;
- On 15 SEP 17 Br. Sorin Vranceanu from the Romanian Region of the Austrian Province, at the Catholic Church in Timisoara, Romania to V. Rev. Milton Zonta SDS, Superior General.

Ordination to the Priesthood

Congratulations to the following confreres who were ordained priest:

- On 15 JUL 17, Dns. François-Xavier Kibende Kipampe SDS, Narcisse Mbayo Ilunga SDS and Onésime Tshieyi Mukengay SDS of the Congolese Province at the Cathedral St. Peter & Paul, Lubumbashi, DRC, by Most Rev. Jean-Pierre Tafunga, Archbishop of Lubumbashi;
- On 20 JUL 17, Dns. Jeremiah Msaki SDS and Seraphine Kissima SDS of the Tanzanian Mission Pro-Province at St. Joseph Namiungo Formation House, Namiungo. Tanzania by Most Rev. Castor Paul Msemwa, Bishop of the Diocese of Tunduru-Masasi;
- On 16 SEP 17, Dn. Nirmal Suranjan SDS of the Indian Mission Vicariate at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Chilaw, Sri Lanka by Most Rev. Justin Gnanapragasam, Bishop of Jaffna.



SOFIA

Salvatorian Office
for International Aid

Salvation through Education New expansion for the WOKOVU school complex in Bel Air Lubumbashi, D.R. Congo



“Wokovu” is Swahili and means “Salvation”. Through the means of education, the Congolese Pro-Province is helping the work of salvation for over 6,000 children and teenagers.

The Wokovu Educational Complex

The Congolese Pro-Province created a Salvatorian school complex in the Bel Air district of Lubumbashi, using the spacious piece of land around their novitiate house. The Bel Air quarter has more than 60,000 residents, of which more than half are children under 15 years of age. The educational infrastructure is simply not sufficient and where it exists, often of poor quality. Responding to continuous requests from families to invest in the education sector, the Salvatorians set up first a kindergarten in 2009. This was followed by a primary school three years later, the capacity of which has doubled in 2014. As we speak, there are around 600 children attending the KG and nearly 950 the primary school. During the past year, the first phase of a new technical secondary school has been constructed, with the assistance of SOFIA Global and managed by the SOFIA Congo



office. On 06 SEP 17 the new school year was inaugurated at the Wokovu school complex. Much to their joy, the first 175 children started using the new building with 9 classes.

Wokovu Technical School

Why opt for a *technical* secondary school? Before the actual start of fundraising, two independent experts carried out a needs assessment with regard to the need of secondary education in the area. The outcomes were very clear:

- there is an urgent need for more secondary education places;
- there is a growing need to focus on technical education in order to cater to the growing technological demands and transformation of society – the overall problem is the underdeveloped technical education across the DRC including the Katanga Province;
- in line with the official governmental policy, the Salvatorians wish to increase the enrolment of female students, especially with regard to technical education.

Based upon the actual societal needs in the town of Lubumbashi and the wider region surrounding it, it was decided to offer specialized education in computer sciences, electricity (to become an electrician), and electronics (to become an electrical technician). The intended outcomes of this project will be:

- enhancement of the technical skills of youth;
- improved infrastructure & technology;
- creation of job opportunities for women;
- concretely influence society towards a more just income distribution;
- general contribution to economic growth.



The past 8 years have shown a very good track record of the Salvatorian educational efforts in the quarter of Bel Air with the positive evaluation of the pre-school and primary education which the Pro-Province offers. The completion of the full school cycle with a secondary department is therefore only the logical continuation of the past initiative.

Planning and execution of the project

The construction of the full secondary school infrastructure is foreseen over a 5 year period and is spread over three phases. September 2017 saw the completion of the first phase, which consisted of the construction and the equipment of one building with nine classrooms. The construction was completed within the set time frame and within the planned budget.

The next two phases consist in the construction and furnishing of

- one additional building with five classrooms;
- the administration block, which includes also a library and a computer laboratory;
- the auditorium of the school complex.

The auditorium will be used by all the schools in the Wokovu educational complex, as well as for extracurricular activities and the organization of events (social, religious and civil). By having a strong impact on the education of thousands of youth and by using the auditorium facility for all kinds of gatherings, the Salvatorian community at Bel Air will obtain a high visibility and holds in its hands an instrument, which will influence for the better the entire surrounding quarter.

Track record in-country

From the beginning of the Salvatorian mission in Congo in 1954, our members have been involved

in education and schools. Every mission station and every community has primary and secondary schools attached to them, or at least the missionaries and parish priests serving the area are involved in the management and oversight of the schools. The mission of the Salvatorian schools is to give formation to youth by providing quality education facilitating a smooth integration into



society. It is with such a holistic approach that we hope to empower the young generations of Congolese into becoming drivers of socio-economic transformation.

In the town of Lubumbashi and the surrounding area, the Wokovu school complex does not stand isolated on its own. The Salvatorians lately became quite active in creating more schools under their direction. Additional schools are under construction in the suburbs of Lubumbashi to cater to the need for more pupil places. With the help of SOFIA in project formulation and fundraising, the Pro-Province recently established or expanded

- the Fr. Jordan secondary school at Kashamata, in addition to the existing primary school;
- the St. Christophe secondary school at the parish St. Abraham in Kilobelobe;
- the Mkombozi primary school at Golf Maïsha.

School governance

Each Salvatorian school has a management committee, composed of the prefect of studies, the financial manager, the cashier and a representative of teachers. On the level of the Pro-Province a *Salvatorian Schools Commission*

functions as an important governing body. Based on the Salvatorian vision of education, this commission deals with various topics relating to the schools, proposes solutions, and provides general guidance in the running of the schools. Its members are:

- the Executive Board (the provincial superior, the president of the Salvatorian Schools Commission, the provincial treasurer, the SOFIA Congo officer of the Salvatorians);
- the prefects of study of each school;
- the principals and head teachers of schools;
- teachers' representatives;
- administrative staff.

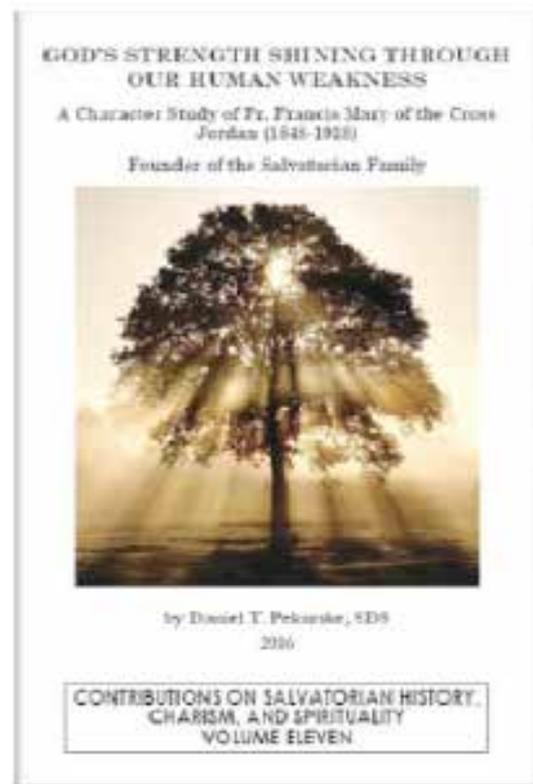
Sustainability

Despite the volatile socio-economic situation in the DRC and the fact that the Congolese government does not pay the teachers and other staff, the Wokovu schools function autonomously thanks to their effective, lean and non-commercial management. As a result, running costs and school fees remain low and the teachers' salaries are adequate and paid consistently ensuring a high quality. To cover extraordinary expenses, a school fund was created for all the schools run by Salvatorians in the DRC. This is a sort of solidarity fund, to which each school makes a small yearly contribution and can request aid if needed. The present Wokovu schools realize already an annual profit, which is used to help cover the Pro-Province's ordinary budget.

It is nice to see a young unit engage in basic education of the young generation, not only building the future of the nation, but also realizing in a specialized apostolate the Salvatorian mission of making the Savior known: "This is eternal life, to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (Jn. 17: 3). In order to be able to know, people need to be taught and instructed. That is why our focus on proclamation by all ways and means, one of them being formal school education.

Publications

God's Strength... A Character Study Of Our Founder



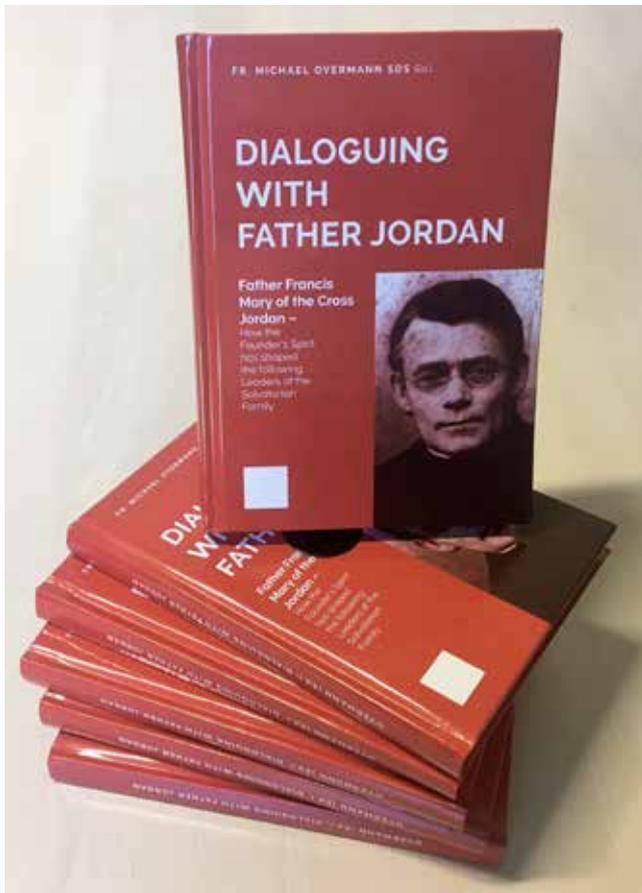
The late Father Dan Pekarske's book on Father Jordan entitled: *God's Strength Shining Through Our Human Weakness: A Character Study of Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan (1848-1918), Founder of the Salvatorian Family* is now ready for distribution, "just in time" to begin the year-long commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Founder's death from 08 SEP 17 – 08 SEP 18. It is 125 pages of historically based reflection on Fr. Jordan's life, an insightful contribution to a fuller appreciation of our beloved Founder and as such well worth reading.

Please contact sds@salvatorians.com for details about distribution in the USA. On the international level, both the Society and the Congregation will have some copies of the book available once it has arrived in Rome. Additional copies of the book can be ordered directly from the Print-on-Demand

BookPatch website. These are paid by the one placing the order. The book will be sent directly to that person. See the following link to order: <http://www.thebookpatch.com/BookStore/gods-strength-shining-through-our-human-weakness/bf193f89-268e-43ba-b9d6-6804ed3296af>.

The study can also be downloaded in electronic form under <http://salvatorianfamily.us/Members/MembersResources.asp>.

Dialoguing with Fr. Jordan

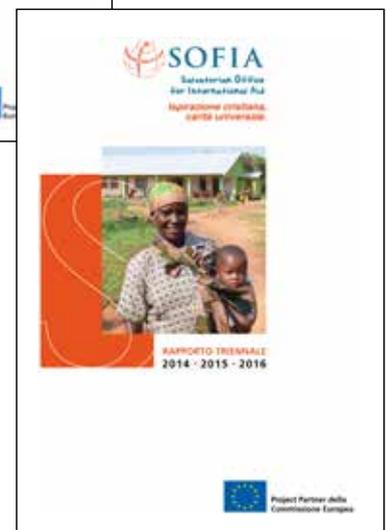
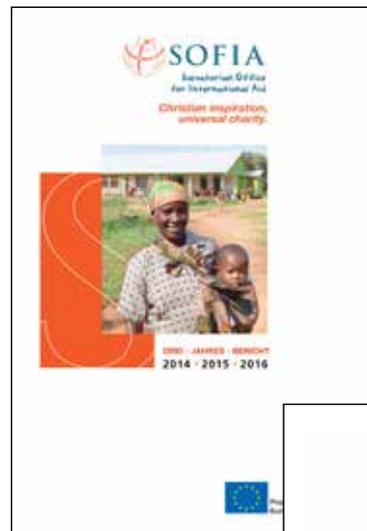


Fr. Michael Overmann, General Archivist, has edited this attractive book in honor of the Centenary of Death of Fr. Jordan. The subtitle is “How the Founder’s spirit has shaped the following leaders of the Salvatorian Family!” It contains articles by current and former Superiors Generals of the Society and the Congregation, leaders of the International Community of the Divine Savior, and Vicars Generals.

The book, a project supported by the International Historical Commission, was published in Munich/Rome on 08 SEP 17, the 99th Anniversary of the Founder’s death. Wydawnictwo Salwator, the Salvatorian Publishing House in Krakow, printed it. The book is available in English, German and Polish in hardcover with color plates of original artwork by Sr. Heidrun Bauer SDS. Please contact the General Secretariat generalate-secretariat@mailsds.org for copies. They are available at cost of printing and shipping (about 5 euro each).

Report SOFIA: German and Italian Issue

SOFIA’s Tri-Annual Report about project activities during the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 (see *Informationes* no. 28) is now available on www.sds.org also in German and Italian. In any language, please go to the SOFIA News section of the website.





Informationes

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