

Informationes

Society of the Divine Savior

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To begin again from Fr. Francis Jordan



Dear Confreres,

Dear brothers, this year 2018 we celebrate the first centenary of the death of our venerable Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. At this time, we remember in prayer and with deep feeling his passage to life in its fullness, the life that has no end. It is not only a matter of remembering the

date of his death on 8 September 1918; in reality it is an opportunity for us to remind ourselves of the face of the Founder which we have engraved on our heart and mind. It is a special occasion for us to go back to our roots and to deepen the meaning of our existence and of a more intense apostolic life. How much good it would do us if we could share in our communities what Fr. Francis Jordan means, how he encourages and inspires us to read the reality around us with his eyes of faith and to have that apostolic fire that burned in his heart!

So many times, while praying in front of his tomb, I have set myself to meditating on the most important moments of his life. How was he able to do so many things? Where did he get the energy in view of the many weaknesses he had? Like leaven that works silently, he had the virtue of allowing himself to be guided by the fire of the Holy Spirit who transforms our lives. What pertained to him was to respond to the apostolic impulse to "save everyone." For him the secret to happiness was to help all to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ. In reality, this is the flame he lit in our hearts and that we today want to keep lit. Consequently, his history has not ended with the cold stone of his tomb in the Motherhouse, rather it continues to invite others to cultivate an interior dynamism and to make their life a gift and to love without measure. "... Oh, only if all of us truly had the spirit of the holy apostles, the world could quickly be changed..." (Francis Jordan, 5 April 1882: see DSS X, no. 104).

How poor and distant from the Founder is a selfish life, comfortable in its surroundings. Salvatorian life is a call to an encounter, to interaction and to communion... "Go and enflame all," announced Fr. Francis Jordan. He, more than anyone, knew that it is tragic when the life

of a person goes forward without direction, without a clear sense of one's identity. In reality, the Founder makes us see that the encounter with the person of Jesus Christ is what changes our life, transforms our heart, and moves us to go out to encounter those who suffer, to give them back their dignity as beloved children of God. This for me is one of the most beautiful teachings of our Founder: to not live only for ourselves, to think only on what benefits us personally, but rather to live in a sacrificial way becoming all for all. The best way to give meaning to life is to put one's life at the service of others, because as Jesus said, the grain of wheat that does not die, will rot and does not multiply the thousands of latent potentialities inside.

I would like to invite you, therefore, to not lose sight of the gift we have received of our vocation, because the life of every Salvatorian is like a river with two banks. The bridge used for crossing from one side to the other is built daily by means of a prayerful attitude, of fraternity, and of compassion for others. We should be very attentive so that the spirit of the charism of Fr. Francis Jordan is not extinguished in us, because "The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives" (Albert Schweitzer). May our passage through the world not be in vain, rather let us live intensely our apostolic life, leaving footprints wherever our feet step. What are those footprints we want to leave in the place where we live today?

In the midst of so much work, I hope we will have very present the tenacity of the spiritual life and the apostolic audacity of Fr. Francis Jordan, as two dimensions that give full meaning to all that we are and do today. I invite you to look upon the Founder as one who helps us understand life as a mission. Let us enter the way of service to others until we give completely all that we are. Because as he said himself, oil only gives light as it is consumed, simply and quietly. Consequently, I believe that nothing can enflame the Salvatorian apostolic vocation more than to begin again from Fr. Francis Jordan.

Dear brothers, I send all my best wishes for a Good Easter to all of you. May the celebrations of the centenary of the death of our Founder, renew in our hearts the joy of living intensely our Salvatorian apostolic identity in order to help others know the Resurrected Jesus Christ who walks with us!

Fr. Milton Zonta SDS
Superior General



Generalate Travel Plans

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

Fr. Milton

- 03-10 APR: **Czech Republic & Ukraine**
Canonical Visitation
- 11-13 APR: **Krakow**
European Superiors Meeting
- 27-29 APR: **Brazil**
SDS Family Congress

Fr. Raúl

- 25-28 MAY: **Poland**
Priesthood Ordinations

Fr. Chris

- 03-10 APR: **Czech Republic & Ukraine**
Canonical Visitation
- 13-21 APR: **Vietnam**
Priesthood Ordination
- 28 APR –
05 MAY: **Poland, Germany & Switzerland**
Pilgrimage Footsteps of
the Founder

Fr. Agustín

- 03-10 APR: **Mexico**
Visit
- 11-13 APR: **Krakow**
European Superiors Meeting



*Resurrection – Painting by
Doménikos Theotokópoulos (El Greco)*

Meetings

Chapter Preparatory Commission

A subgroup consisting of Frs. Milton Zonta, Raúl Gómez Ruiz, Agustín Van Baelen, and Hubert Veesser met along with Sr. Dulcelene Ceccato and Fr. Dennis Thiessen, facilitators, on 23-25 JAN 18





at the Motherhouse to continue working on various details of the XIX General Chapter 2018. In a very productive meeting they were able to organize the overall calendar of the General Chapter, most of the weekly calendar, and the daily schedule. In addition, they reached decisions about materials to be sent to the delegates prior to the Chapter and about invitations of guests for the different aspects of the General Chapter as appropriate. In addition, the subgroup reviewed the plans devised by our German confreres for the Celebration of the Centenary of Death of the Founder that will close out the General Chapter. The next meeting will take place from 05-07 JUN 18 but was rescheduled from St. Ottilien to Rome. The entire Preparatory Commission will be present to review what has been accomplished in the meantime, the reports and proposals sent by the units, and to finalize the liturgy and committee assignments, among other things. Please continue to pray for the success of the preparations as well as for the Chapter itself.

Tanzania (26-30 JAN 18)

After the General Chapter Preparatory Commission meeting, the General Mission Secretary, Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, went to Dar es Salaam on 24 JAN 18 to participate in the biannual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Universities of Tanzania. Our Society has a seat at the table since JUCO is one of 19 university colleges that are academically supported by St. Augustine University of Tanzania. Each director of the university's colleges, as a member of the board, makes a report at these meetings regarding the state of academics and finances of the college.

As such, despite many challenges, we can report that our university college, JUCO, continues to grow toward becoming an independent university in and of itself.



After the Board of Trustees meetings, the trip continued to Morogoro, where Fr. Agustín presided at the meeting of the Board of Directors. One of the significant points addressed is surely that of the implementation of strategies needed to continue offering the programs that were called into question by the Tanzania Commission on Universities. In order to comply with the requirements of this legislative organism, JUCO will have to make a double investment: first, recruit more professors so that the ratio of professors to the enormous number of students is balanced; and second, recruit professors who have the requisite qualifications as stipulated by the laws covering universities in Tanzania. In the long term this investment will surely give good results, but it requires us going through a difficult passage. Consequently, it is becoming more and more clear that an institution of this size needs the help of experts in academics, finances and management. As a result, together with the Provincial Superior of Tanzania, Fr. Ponder Ngilangwa, the Generalate is searching for possible experts who are trustworthy as candidates to strengthen the JUCO Board of Directors. The goal is to provide the best service possible to the 3,000 students currently attending our university institute.

Mission Procuras & Treasurers (19-21 FEB 18)



The Motherhouse hosted the annual meeting of the mission procurators (19-21 FEB 18), convoked by Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, the General Mission Secretary. Due to family reasons, Fr. Agustín was unable to attend. He expresses his gratitude to Frs. Piet Cuijpers and Scott Wallenfelsz who helped conduct the meetings in his place. Joining the meeting were representatives of SOFIA and the mission treasurers of the Missionary Pro-Provinces of Tanzania and DR Congo, as well as from the Missionary Vicariates of India and East Asia who presented their ordinary budgets and balances. Although great efforts are being undertaken in the field of our traditional mission procuras and their fundraising, the total they are able to raise for the ordinary budgets of these units covers less than half of what would be needed. Luckily SOFIA also kicks in with contributions for the ordinary budget along with the international funds of the Society. Combining all of our funding resources,

80% of the requested budgets will be covered this year. Some of the missionary units involved already have developed local sources of income of various types. We see that these sources are slowly growing, which is a welcome development.

The meeting ended with a visit to the offices of the St. Egidio community in Trastevere. We are very grateful for the great efforts which the Salvatorian mission procuras and SOFIA are making, principally in Europe and the US in order to provide the needed money which helps maintain our missions! Congratulations to all for yet another year with so much energy and commitment to the cause of our young units and their apostolates.

New Leaderships

Vicariate of Venezuela



After consultation of the members of the Vicariate and the deliberative vote of the General Council, Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, has appointed Fr. Efraín Corona as the Vicariate Superior for a three-year term beginning on 01 FEB 18. Fr. Efraín is 61 years old, professed for 15 years, and ordained for 8 years. In addition, Fr. Milton has appointed Frs. Elvis Alzola (Vicar), Oscar Anaya (Secretary), and Luis Domingo Díaz to the



Council. Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, General Mission Secretary and liaison to the Vicariate, was present for the Vicariate Chapter (02-05 JAN 18) at which these names were proposed to the Generalate. Fr. Milton also accepted the proposed membership of the Vicariate Finance Commission, which will serve for a three-year term as well. They are Frs. Mario José Pérez (chair), Willy Polders, José Vásquez, and Wilmer Velasco. At the Chapter a welcome decision was made to establish a Salvatorian Office for International Aid (SOFIA) for Venezuela which will take place as soon as possible during the three-year term. We congratulate the new Superior and Council and wish them much success as they undertake this important service to our confreres in Venezuela. We also thank Fr. Willy Polders for his six years of leadership as the former superior.

Provincial Chapter in Poland



The Polish Province held its XXXII Provincial Chapter in Kraków (19-23 FEB 18). The Generalate was represented by Fr. Krzysztof Kowalczyk, General Consultor and Generalate liaison to the province.

At the beginning of the Chapter, Fr. Adam Teneta, Postulator General and a member of the chapter made a presentation titled “On the way to holiness with Fr. Francis Jordan.” As the members of the Society of the Divine Savior, we fulfill our vocation, given to us by Christ, following the footsteps of our Founder and many Salvatorians before us. The speaker inspired the capitulars to renew our effort, so that the heritage left to us will not remain only a beautiful history but may find its realization in the practical witness of our lives and in our apostolates. It was a good introduction to the Chapter in the year of the Centenary of death of our Founder.

The Chapter addressed the current issues of the Province and undertook future planning.

As Fr. Józef Figiel had been already elected provincial by all members of the Province at the end of the last year, the Chapter elected the Provincial Council. The new consultors are: Frs. Karol Kulczycki (Vicar Provincial), Sławomir Noga (Provincial Secretary), Dariusz Partyka (Provincial Treasurer), Tomasz Račkos, (Consultor for Formation) and Mirosław Stanek (Consultor for Apostolates). The new leadership began their term of office on 10 MAR 18. Congratulations, and count on our prayers!

The Chapter also discussed themes concerning preparation for the General Chapter and elected delegates: Frs. Piotr Filas, Adam Teneta, Jerzy Kołodziej, Maciej Woś, Ambroży Skorupa, Artan Seli, Karol Kulczycki and Mirosław Stanek.

Frs. Edward Seremet, Aleksander Jasiński and Piotr Zeman were elected to the Finance Commission.

All the meetings during the Chapter – those official at the plenum or in working groups and those informal in the cafeteria – were indeed fraternal, constructive and joyful.

USA Province



The US Province held its XXXI Provincial Chapter from 26 FEB to 02 MAR 18 at Racine, Wisconsin. Fr. Raúl Gómez Ruiz, Vicar General, attended as a member of the Province as well as the Generalate's liaison. The Chapter featured preparation for the upcoming General Chapter as well as the election of leadership for the next three years. The capitulars elected Fr. Jeffrey Wocken as the new Provincial Superior. The Council includes: Fr. Peter Schuessler (Vicar), Br. Sean McLaughlin, Fr. Paul Portland, Fr. Scott Wallenfelsz, and Fr. Douglas Bailey. Their term begins on 22 JUN 18. They also elected a new Finance Commission comprised of Fr. Dennis Thiessen, Cl. Paul Wilkin, Fr. David Bergner, Fr. Mike Shay, and Br. Tom Meyer. And they elected Br. Sean McLaughlin and Fr. Joseph Rodrigues as delegates to the General Chapter. Congratulations to the new leadership and count on our prayers!

As part of the preparation for the General Chapter, Sr. Carol Thresher SDS and Fr. Thomas Knoebel spoke on mission from the perspectives of the Founder's understanding and from a Christological understanding respectively. Based on Fr. Jordan's Spiritual Diary, Chapter Talks and writings, Sr. Carol noted that the Founder, though not a systematic thinker nor theologian, knew intuitively he was "sent" as an "apostle" to enflame people to knowledge of and life in

God and that this was a God-given mission. In his writings she noted there are four elements that provide Salvatorians with a distinctive focus toward mission, understood as apostolic life:

1. Grounded in knowing God;
2. On fire with a passion to make God known and loved;
3. Uncomfortable with setting limits; and
4. Expecting to encounter hardships.

Fr. Knoebel noted that being the Society of the Divine Savior gives us a special bond, not only with our Founder and his charism but with the charism and mission of Jesus Christ. While examining the biblical and early Church sources he noted that there are three aspects in terms of Jesus' mission:

1. His self-understanding;
2. The new testament writers' understanding; and,
3. The patristic understanding.

All three provide us with the foundation of our Salvatorian mission. Fr. Knoebel observed that Francis Jordan's conviction that Salvatorians should carry out their mission "by all ways and means" enables us to remain most true to the Church's understanding.

He also observed that based on the biblical-Christological evidence there are three considerations that appear crucial to Jesus' understanding of his mission:

1. It must be carried out in community given that he sends them out two-by-two;
2. It is for the entire world particularly those who are in most need of God's mercy and love; and
3. Jesus does not "cling" to his category so that he can accomplish his Father's will, which is primary.

He challenged the capitulars to see what we Salvatorians are clinging to and what is needed in order to respond to the needs of today. Both talks were illuminating and helpful for later discussions and decisions.

Visits

Mater Salvatoris International House of Formation – Morogoro (28-30 JAN 18)



Among the various meetings related to our university college JUCO, at the invitation of the formators, Fr. Paulin Monga wa Matanga and Fr. Lazarus Msimbe, the General Mission Secretary Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, had a meeting with our 24 young confreres who come from Tanzania, Congo, Uganda, Kenya and India. In addition to our Salvatorian community, two other formation communities live in the building, renting part of the installations: Benedictines (10) and Passionists (8). It truly was very gratifying to see how enthusiastic and open our young members are, as they follow closely the developments of our Society world-wide.

Indian Mission Vicariate Chapter (02-09 MAR 18)

In the frame of the preparation for the XIX General Chapter, under the motto “Go and enflame all!”, the respective confreres from the Indian Mission Vicariate gathered, together with Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, who is the liaison between the Generalate and this Administrative



Unit, in Bangalore, from 02-06 MAR 18. As it was suggested by the Generalate, an expert in matters of the Mission, Fr. Xavier E. Manavath CMF, introduced the capitulars during an entire day to the topic of the mission proper to religious. In a special way, he spoke of the mission of the spiritual sons and daughters of Fr. Francis Jordan, whose hundredth anniversary of his death we celebrate this year. During the following days, the capitulars discerned about this topic and reached certain conclusions and made pertinent proposals which will be sent to the Generalate for approval. Taking advantage of the opportunity, in a mature and fraternal atmosphere, possibilities for financial investments were discussed, as well as the foundation of a new mission of the Vicariate in the South of the country.



Motherhouse

Fr. Juan's 50th Anniversary Celebration



On Sunday, 11 FEB 18, the Motherhouse feted Fr. Juan Carrasquilla Ossa, Superior of the Community since 2015, with a celebration of his Golden Jubilee of Vows. He professed his first vows on 25 JAN 1968 in Bogotá, Colombia as a member of the Colombian Province. After completing his theological studies in 1977, he studied Fine Arts in Colombia and in Germany. Afterwards he came to Rome where he completed a doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from the Gregorian University in 1987. Fr. Juan previously served as the Provincial Superior of the Colombian Province for three terms (1999-2002, 2008-2011, 2011-2014) as well as Motherhouse Superior (2002-2008). Guests always comment on his warm welcome and hospitality. He is also



well known for his distinctive artwork, which has been shown in various exhibitions, as well as his passion for justice and peace issues. Currently he serves as the Generalate's representative on the Salvatorian Joint Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission as well as represents the Society on the JPIC Commission of the General Superiors of Men's and Women's Congregations in Rome. The community was pleased to have the community from Tor de' Cenci and his fellow JPIC commission members join us in the festivities, including Eucharist, aperitif, and lunch. Ad multos annos!

Fr. Roman Wróblewski

The Generalate welcomes Fr. Roman Wróblewski of the Polish Province who is helping us with various duties throughout this year including Spiritual Director for the International Missionary House of Studies at Tor de' Cenci. He is also working two days a week in the General Secretariat helping with preparations for the XIX General Chapter (St. Ottilien, 2018). In addition, he is helping in the development of the School for Formators of the Society. Fr. Roman arrived in Rome on 31 JAN 18. Thank you for your service to the Society!



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.

From Father Jordan:



On Dejection:

"...giving up is so common, it happens in all institutes if not every seed that is sown bears fruit. Few of our efforts, works, and undertakings ever yield the expected results. But sometimes, maybe only after a few hundred years, sacrifices and sufferings endured for the right purpose do bear the fruit for which you suffered."

(Chapter Talks, 1897/01/15)

Final Words:

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

"Sister, it is the mercy of the Lord if we get to heaven, the mercy of the Lord."

(Reply to a Sister caring for him regarding a prayer request when he would be in heaven: 06 SEP 1918).

Reminders

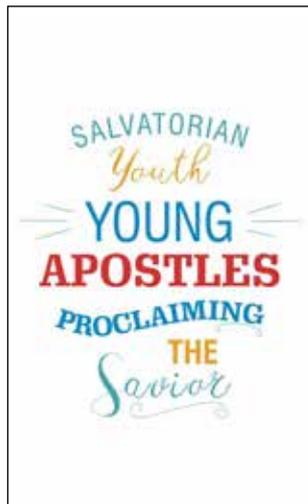
Centenary & XIX General Chapter blog

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

The Chapter Blog is accessible at <http://www.sds19.org/>. And if you would like to contribute to the blog please send photos and brief reports to chapterblog@mailsds.org.

Salvatorian WYD in Cartagena 16-21 JAN 19

Registration is open for both the Salvatorian World Youth Days (SWYD) gathering at Cartagena, Colombia at and the official WYD event in Panama. Registration will stay open up to 15 DEC 18.



A letter has been sent to the unit superiors asking them to promote and encourage the Salvatorian event along with instructions on registration. If someone plans to participate in both the Salvatorian gathering in Cartagena and the event in Panama City, they must register separately for both events. Registration for the Salvatorian event can be done by following the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GGSbJpWsmzLHKLH3>. In terms of registering for the official WYD gathering in Panama, please indicate in the proper place that you will be part of the Salvatorian group. For more information or help please contact the coordinating team at: jmjsalvatoriana@gmail.com.

Why I became a Salvatorian...



... because of the charism of the Society of the Divine Savior, I saw in it a great possibility to realize my vocation!

Fr. James Wilson de Oliveira, Brazilian 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.”



Pentecoste – Painting by Emil Nolde

Prayers

Please Pray for...

- German Province Preparatory Chapter for the XIX General Chapter (02-05 APR 18)
- Colombian Province Preparatory Chapter for the XIX General Chapter (03-05 APR 18)
- Czech Republic/Ukraine Communities Visitation (03-10 APR 18)
- European Superiors Meeting in Krakow, Poland (11-13 APR 18)
- 10th Anniversary of SOFIA (18 APR 18)
- SDS Family Congress in Brazil (27-29 APR 18)
- International Finance Commission Meeting in Rome, Italy (08-10 MAY 18)
- International Historical Commission Meeting in Rome, Italy (28 MAY-01 JUN 18)
- The success of the new Salvatorian community in Xoxocotla, Mexico
- The official recognition of the ICDS by the Dicastry for Laity, Family and Life
- 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
- 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 mail.sds.org email address.

Congratulations

First Profession of Vows

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

- On 25 JAN 18, Cl. Deiro Yornedy Álzate Ruiz SDS and Cl. Santiago Echavarría Gutiérrez SDS of the Colombian Province at Divino Salvador Parish, Bogotá to V. Rev. Alfredo Tinoco Rivas SDS, Provincial Superior;
- On 25 JAN 18, Cl. Tito Bernabé Morales Tomás SDS of the Guatemala Mission at the Cathedral of San Marcos, to Rev. Rodolfo Cabello SDS, local superior;
- On 03 FEB 18, Cl. Francisco de Oliveira da Costa SDS and Cl. Romildo Dalcim Tófano of the Brazilian Province at Santo Antônio Parish, São José dos Pinhais, to V. Rev. Álvaro Macagnan SDS, Provincial Superior.

Ordination to the Priesthood

Congratulations to the following confreres who were ordained priests:

- On 07 JAN 18, Dc. Ambrose Damian Pynshai Lamin SDS of the Indian Mission Vicariate at Ka Syiem Jingsuk Parish, Amlarem by Most. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Bishop of Jowai;
- On 13 JAN 18, Dc. Susairaj Anthony SDS of the Indian Mission Vicariate at St. Joseph's Parish, Kommedu by Most Rev. Malayappan Chinnappa SDB, Archbishop Emeritus of Madras-Mylapore;
- On 20 JAN 18, Dc. Kitboklang Myllem Umlong Khunsiem SDS of the Indian Mission Vicariate at the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Laitumkrah, Shillong by Most. Rev. Dominic Jala SDB, Archbishop of Shillong.



SOFIA

Salvatorian Office
for International Aid

SOFIA's Tenth Anniversary



The hiring of SOFIA's first employee on 18 April 2008 can be considered its hour of birth, after the idea was conceived and approved during the XVII General Chapter. In comparison to the lists of our jubilarians which are published in *Informationes*, 10 years is not much. Nevertheless, this is a moment to pause, to look back and to look forward into the future.

Teamwork

Starting out as a one-man office, with a general mission secretary who was continuously on the road to visit and manage the many new and young missions and foundations, after 3 years SOFIA reached the point where there was a need to assume a second full time person. Over time the number of personnel grew, and after recently experiencing some turnover, now stands at 4.5 FTE (3 lay FTE and 1.5 SDS FTE). As the number of project applications

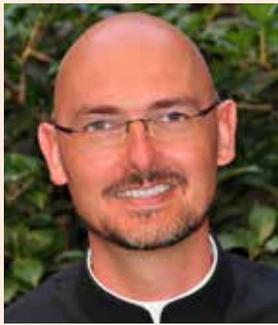


grew, also the workload grew. This is because developing and writing an application is one thing. Then executing and helping manage the project is another. And finally reporting and



measuring impact constitute again another set of specific skills. That is why SOFIA quite naturally organized itself into 4 desks: Africa French, Africa English, Asia-Latin-America, and Academic Development. Three desks are





geographically oriented, one thematic. In order to be successful SOFIA has to act as a team. That is why an open team spirit and flexible group dynamics are important and



are promoted. The team of SOFIA is able to communicate in no less than 7 languages: English, Italian, French, Malayalam, Spanish, German, and Dutch.



Network

Due to the increasing number of contacts and work SOFIA has grown into a network. In 2011 the Fondazione SOFIA (for Italy) and in 2012 the Stiftung SOFIA Swiss (for Switzerland) were created. In 2012 SOFIA Congo started operations. And in 2018 SOFIA Venezuela, SOFIA Tanzania and SOFIA India will become operational. That is a nice birthday present. It also shows, that the spillover effect is taking hold. Additional spillover effects are: gradual strengthening of grant readiness in the units; better skills concerning project and human resources management; more professional accounting and reporting; awareness that finances have to be found for our projects and apostolates; and, that they should not only be found in the developed countries.

Point zero

Of course, SOFIA or the Society did not invent the wheel. Nevertheless, it has to be stated, that within the Society's fundraising efforts, SOFIA introduced something quite new: to approach funding agencies, of private, public, governmental, ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical nature in a professional and structured way. In the past and up until today, SDS fundraising was taken care of by our mission procuras, which all worked the same way: with a database of small individual donors. Most of these databases date back to the 1950's or 1960's and are ever more rapidly ageing and shrinking. This happened at the same time, when the needs in our missions and new foundations grew because of the enthusiastically approved "expansion of the Society" in the general chapters. It was clear that some action had to be taken, in order not to end up in a financial failure concerning our expansion. SOFIA in a certain sense is the result of this process.

Results

In its first ten years SOFIA has raised little over €9,000,000. The contribution of the Society for the functioning of SOFIA has been €785,000. It means that the Society for every euro invested received a financial return of €11.4 for its projects and apostolates. But there are many more than only financial results. To name but the most important:

- Accompaniment of major projects: ELKAP, Wokovu and Kashamata schools, Lubumbashi clinic Lay Salvatorians (Congo); JUCO; Namiungo dispensary (Tanzania); Laitkynsew school and community center (India); Puso Sa Puso (Philippines); Caracas schools and shelter homes, Art and Sports Project (Venezuela); Comoros hospital (Comoros Islands); Apostles of Jesus HIV/AIDS programs (Kenya); Lay Salvatorians' Medellín project for women (Colombia)
- Increased awareness of the Salvatorians and their ministries among benefactors and support agencies
- Accounting and financial management assistance to the General Mission Secretariat
- Strategic support to the General Mission Secretary
- Acquisition of external advice for all sorts of matters of the Society and the Motherhouse to come to informed decisions

Lots of work has been accomplished, while a lot still remains to be done. SOFIA looks with confidence toward the future. Whatever happens, it will further serve the Society and its works.

Publications

RATIO – The Next Steps

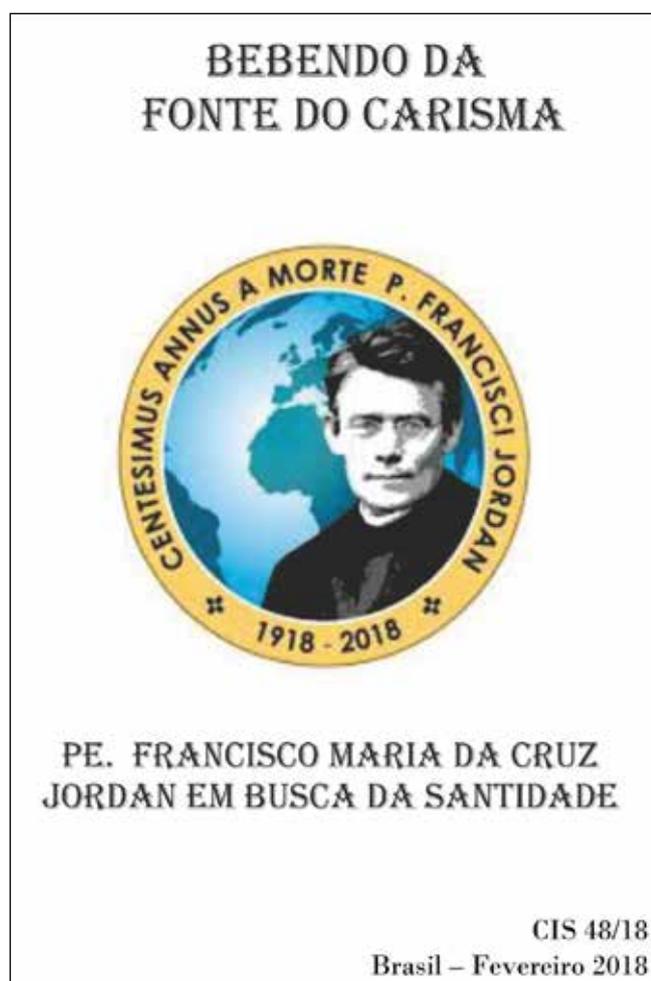
The XVIII General Chapter (2012) decided that the *Ratio Institutiones Generalis* should be revised. See the Exhortation to Ordinance #10. In addition to other things, the International Formation Team has taken on this task over the last few years. After analyzing the present situation of formation and ongoing formation in our Society - in particular, after analyzing the initial formation which respects the different traditions, cultures and regional particularities of our Units, and the increasing international initial formation taking place - it has been decided to divide the RATIO into three volumes. The first volume is to establish the binding foundations of formation for our Society as a whole. In this way it follows the Priority to Ordinance #11 of the XVIII General Chapter, which demands the unification of initial formation. Based on Volume 1, Volume 2 will be a “Handbook for Formators and Superiors,” which allows room for regional differences. Volume 3 will be a compendium of central Salvatorian texts, which will help to make clear our charism and our spirituality. Prior to approbation and publication, Volume 1 is to be presented to all Units for discussion so that there is a solid basis of agreement on the Ratio. Incoming comments from the Units can then be integrated into the text.

In the next few weeks the Generalate will forward a suggestion for Volume 1 to the Superiors of the Units which has been prepared by the International Formation Team, supported by experts. An accompanying letter will explain how the comments should be made. The Superiors will be asked to find an appropriate way as to how the suggested text should be discussed and how a common statement for their Unit should be made. We thank you for your support.

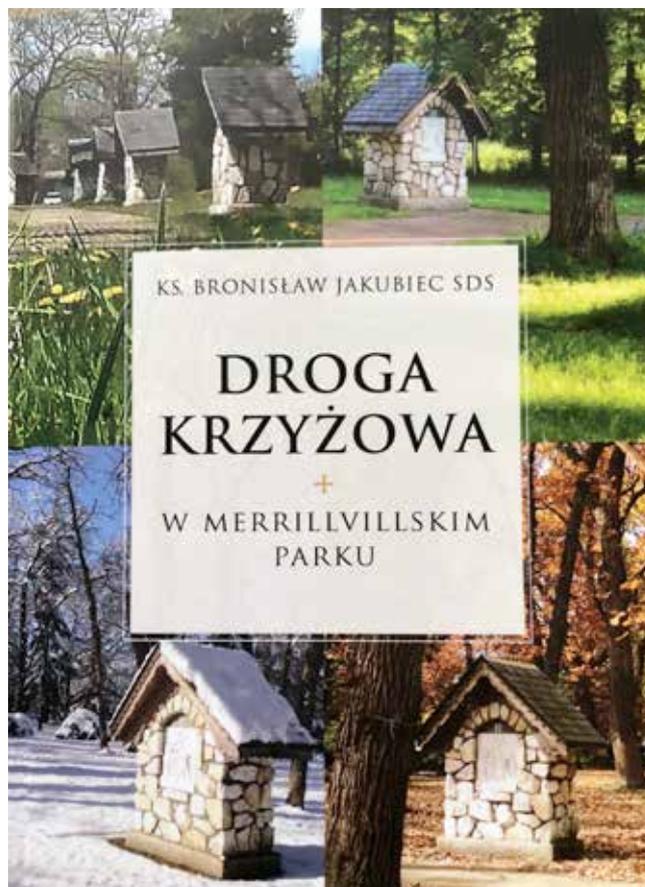
Drinking from the Source of the Salvatorian Charism

Bebendo da Fonte do Carisma Salvatoriano [Drinking from the Source of the Salvatorian Charism], published by the Joint Salvatorian Charism group of the Salvatorians in Brazil, is a series of reflections for community or individual use. The booklet is part of the CIS almanacs (serial number 48/18-2018), and the present issue honors the Centenary of the Founder's death. It elaborates on ten topics, structured as "encounters" composed of several steps each and with particular suggestions with respect to the procedures to follow.

The publication has been delivered electronically in PDF (text) / JPG (cover) format to all superiors who may distribute it to their respective units' members.



The Stations of the Cross in the Merrillville Park



The Salvatorian community house and Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa at Merrillville, Indiana (US) is surrounded by lovely grounds. The 100th anniversary of the death of Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan became an opportunity to publish this book on the Way of the Cross on the grounds of the house and shrine. It contains the history of the Way of the Cross, the tradition of the sign of the cross, and the history of the relics of the cross, etc. The book titled, *Droga Krzyżowa w Merrillvillskim Parku*, is available in Polish and will be translated into English. It is available by contacting merrillville@salwatorianie.us.



Informationes

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