

Informationes

Society of the Divine Savior

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Called to Holiness



Dear Confreres,

Since its creation, our world is constantly changing. It is dynamic. And every period of the history of humanity has a typical and proper language. There have been concepts that had a strong resonance at one given period, that

do not have it today: or simply the concept has been reduced to its mere expression, or it has disappeared from the current vocabulary. In the nineteenth century the steam engine was much talked about as a great technical revolution of the time. Today we talk about electronics. Moreover, one of the main characteristics of our world today is the digital: thanks to the Internet, we are able to instantly exchange interesting news and even uninteresting, if not harmful.

And yet there is a reality that does not change at all: God and His word. For centuries, God, as well as his Word, is love and truth: "every good gift, every perfect gift comes from above and comes down from God, Father of lights, in whom there is no change, nor the shadow of a variation" (James 1:17). To this day, the Word of God in the Bible has not changed, except for translations and comments that improve with new discoveries to facilitate understanding.

*At the time of our Founder, the concept of "holiness" was widely used and made sense. In his exhortations to his spiritual sons and daughters, he often spoke about it. This is the case in the **Chapter Talks**: "How little attention we pay to this truth: we must be holy... Let us never forget these thoughts, this calling, this admonition, this duty. What good will everything else be if we do not strive for holiness? One holy person will do more than thousands and thousands of others" (see **Chapter Talks 1894/20/04**). In this way our Founder touched the very essence of our vocation as Salvatorians. In fact, he refers to the call of our Lord Jesus to perfection. In calling for perfection, Jesus does not seek to create a category of the perfect. The perfection envisaged here is that of the new economy, which surpasses the old by fulfilling it (see the Sermon on the Mount in Chapters 5 to 7 of the Gospel of Matthew). All are called to it (Mt 5:48). But*

*to establish the Kingdom, our Lord needs collaborators who are especially available; those to whom he asks to radically renounce the worries of the family (Mt 8:21-22) and wealth (8:19-20). In his **Spiritual Diary**, Father Jordan expresses it even better: "We must strive to do our common good, even the most common. In this consists holiness more than in extraordinary actions which, by this very fact, are extraordinary, are rare" (SD 1133). The Founder held holiness in high esteem. He worked at it seriously because he knew it was not an easy path. And he knew very well what he was talking about: it was about doing the ordinary things well, even the most common ones. That is why he goes on to say: "we must be convinced that as a rule holiness is not acquired all at once. It will only be gained through long striving and struggle" (Chapter Talks 1894/20/04).*

Most recently, Pope Francis published his 3rd Apostolic Exhortation entitled: Gaudete et exsultate. The subtitle gives us the content: "the call to holiness in the world today." With the publication of this apostolic exhortation, we can say that the concept of holiness, which had practically disappeared from our vocabulary, returns to the current language. The Pope here gives us a fundamental message, which indicates what is important in the life of a Christian and the very meaning of the Christian life: to seek and find God in all things. From the beginning of his message, he expresses it clearly: "The Lord asks for everything; and what he offers is the true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be holy and he does not expect us to be content with a mediocre, watered-down, inconsistent existence" (GE 1). The objective pursued by the Pope is simply "to make the call to holiness resonate once more, by trying to insert it in the current context, with its risks, challenges and opportunities" (GE 2). Then we can say that the language of our Founder still makes sense today. And only by listening to it will it enable us to ignite others with the fire of apostolic passion. He exhorts us to refer to our Master and Savior in all that we do. It is only at this price that we will be able to fully live our Salvatorian apostolic vocation and bring other Salvatorians to do the same.

Fr. Thomas Malal SDS
General Consultor



Generalate Travel Plans

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

Fr. Milton

10-30 JUN:	Congo Visitation
01-05 JUL:	Mozambique Visit
18-25 JUL:	Belgium ICDS General Assembly

Fr. Raúl

23-30 JUN:	Israel Holy Land Pilgrimage
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Fr. Agustín

08-09 JUN:	Tanzania JUCO Governing Board
10-30 JUN:	Congo Visitation
01-05 JUL:	Kenya Inauguration new house
17-18 JUL:	Germany Chapter Preparation at St. Ottilien

Fr. Thomas

08-17 JUN:	UK Retreat
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(GB), Agostino Maiolini (IT), and Józef Figiel (PL). Also present were Frs. Charles Mushitu (Mater Salvatoris International Study House, Tor de' Cenci), and Adam Ziołkowski (PL, translator). The overarching topic of the meeting was the future of the Salvatorian presence in Western Europe. As part of this, those present discussed the formation program at Tor de' Cenci and possible options for preparing the formandi for service in the Western European units. In addition, they discussed the need to identify an apostolate that will help the Society meet the needs of the Church in Western Europe as well as help us maintain our presence. The Superiors agreed on the necessity of organizing a symposium perhaps in 2019 which would address this topic and be open to the members of the Society with the theme "Europe, mission territory." Another necessity identified is that of better sharing of information and working together so that each unit does not see itself or act as an "island." To this end, they agreed to inform one another and invite one another to future unit chapters.

Another decision reached was the purchase of the Founder's birth house in Gurtweil which has come on the market. Although the future use of the house is still open, the firm conviction was generally shared that the Society needs to buy it. This is a unique occasion. Consequently, it was decided that each of the European units along with the Generalate will provide the needed money for the purchase (€230,000 total). It may also help with further developing the "Gurtweil Project" currently staffed by two confreres from the German Province. A "Gurtweil Commission" will

Meetings

European Superiors Meeting

The superiors of the European administrative units along with Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, and Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, General Mission Secretary, met at Krakow from 11-13 APR 18. Present were Frs. Josef Wonisch (AU), Piet Cuijpers (BG), Wiesław Stempak (CH), Hubert Veesser (D), Fernando López (ES), Richard Mway

be created at the General Chapter to help develop ideas for the use of the house.

The meeting, the fourth of this term, was marked by a good ambience, excellent discussion, and open sharing of ideas. The superiors agreed to meet next year in Rome at the Motherhouse on 01-02 MAY 19.

SDS Congress (28-30 APR 18)



Father Milton Zonta, Superior General, was a featured speaker at the first National Congress of the Salvatorian Family in Brazil. The theme of the gathering for all Salvatorians was “Father Jordan Faithful Apostle of Jesus the Savior.” The Inter-Salvatorian Collaboration (CIS) team, comprised of members of the three branches, organized the congress at the Mariópolis meeting center, in Vargem Grande Paulista, SP. Organized as part of the commemoration of the centenary of the Founder’s death, the goal included strengthening the ties that bind the members of the Salvatorian Family as well as identifying paths to follow jointly so that there is a better consolidation of the Salvatorian presence in Brazil. Fr. Milton’s speech was titled “Know the Savior and make Him

known! The compass that orients the Salvatorian apostolate.” He also presided and preached at the Eucharist on 29 APR 18, the 5th Sunday of Easter. Also present was Sr. Maria Yaneth Moreno, Vicarress General of the Salvatorian Sisters. Congratulations to the Salvatorians in Brazil for this joint initiative.

International Finance Commission (07-08 MAY 18)



The members of the IFC met at the Motherhouse in Rome on 07-08 MAY 18 for their annual and last meeting of this Generalate’s term. The members include Frs. Maciej Woś (chair), Josephat Muhoza, and Lambertus Schildt. They were joined by Fr. Scott Wallenfelsz, General Treasurer. The IFC reviewed the annual reports of the units as well as of the Generalate and Motherhouse. They were informed also of various positive and challenging developments taking place that impact the finances of the Society. As usual the meeting was efficient and well organized allowing them to finish their task a bit earlier than expected.

After their meeting they met with the members of the Generalate to give a report of their work and to discuss items of particular interest. These included the IFC members’ recommendations for the next commission to be elected at the XIX General Chapter. The members recommend among other things that the commission remain small since it is more efficient; that the General Treasurer continue to prepare the needed documents and accompany the meetings; that experts be consulted or perhaps even be part of the IFC; and, that ways be found

to stabilize the expenses and income of various entities including the Generalate, mission units, and JUCO among others. They also affirmed the proposals being prepared for the General Chapter by the Generalate regarding funds and international apostolic initiatives. The IFC is a standing commission of the Society and its composition and duties are found in GD 7.55, 7.56 and 7.79 §b. Fr. Milton Zonta, General Superior, profusely thanked the members for their great service and dedication to the Society.

Visitation

Visitation of Ukraine and Czech Republic



Fathers Milton Zonta, Superior General, and Krzysztof Kowalczyk, General Consultor, made the canonical visitation of the Ukrainian and Czech Foundations of the Polish Province from 03-09 APR 18. They started the visitation on 03 APR 18 in Ukraine where there is a community of 4 priests in the western part of the country. The visitors met with the confreres, Bp. Edward Kawa, an Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv, Bp. Antal Majnek, the Bishop of Mukachevo, and some of the parishioners. Though the community is very small they work with enthusiasm and do hope to have local vocations. They also hope to grow in the near future.



From Ukraine the visitors went on 06 APR 18 to the Czech Republic where there are 9 members. The original Czech foundation was started by the Founder himself. Unfortunately, the Communists physically destroyed the once large and active province. Many members suffered severe persecution. Some even lost their lives. That history of martyrdom is now slowly being revealed. The Czech foundation (formerly a province and then a vicariate) came under the care of the Polish Province in 2012. Currently, 8 priests work at the various parishes and one deacon is just to be ordained. After many years of Communism, they have started with the work of re-evangelization. The visitors met with all the confreres, Bp. Antonín Basler, an Auxiliary Bishop of Olomouc, Bp. František Lobkowicz,

the Bishop of Ostrava, and some of the parishioners. We are grateful to all the confreres and the leadership for their dedication and hard work with a missionary zeal and in missionary conditions.

Events

Mission Symposium Bagno (14-15 APR 18)



Yearly, the Salvatorian Formation House community at Bagno (Poland) organizes a symposium about mission. Our General Mission Secretary, Fr. Agustín Van Baelen, was a featured speaker. This year, the main topics were local and international collaboration at all levels of the Salvatorian Family, always taking as the common starting point, our beloved Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. In addition to the official lectures and the liturgical celebrations, there was time for meeting with the confreres, sisters and many young volunteers who spend a part of their life serving the Salvatorian Mission. Very encouraging!

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.

Motherhouse

Pfeiffer Anniversary Celebration



The Motherhouse community commemorated the 73rd Anniversary of the death of our Second Superior General, Fr. Pancratius Pfeiffer. He led the Society for 30 years. He died on 12 May 1945, the feast of his namesake, St. Pancratius, in Rome after a street accident on Ascension Thursday, two days prior. During the Nazi occupation of Rome in 1943 and 1944, Pfeiffer acted as an intermediary between Pope Pius XII and the German authorities. He managed to have many

people released from prison and saved many lives. Every day he would visit Regina Coeli prison and another in Via Tasso, returning with a freed prisoner, also from among those who had been sentenced to death. He tried to help all people, regardless of their religion or political views. His charitable attitude earned him the name of the Angel of Rome. He also made an important contribution towards saving some Italian towns from being bombed. The Community marked the occasion with Fr. Milton Zonta, Superior General, hanging a wreath on the street sign bearing his name next to the Motherhouse, Via Pancrazio Pfeiffer, and a prayer at the commemorative plaque in the courtyard, led by Fr. Adam Teneta, Postulator General, who also preached at the Eucharist in the morning.

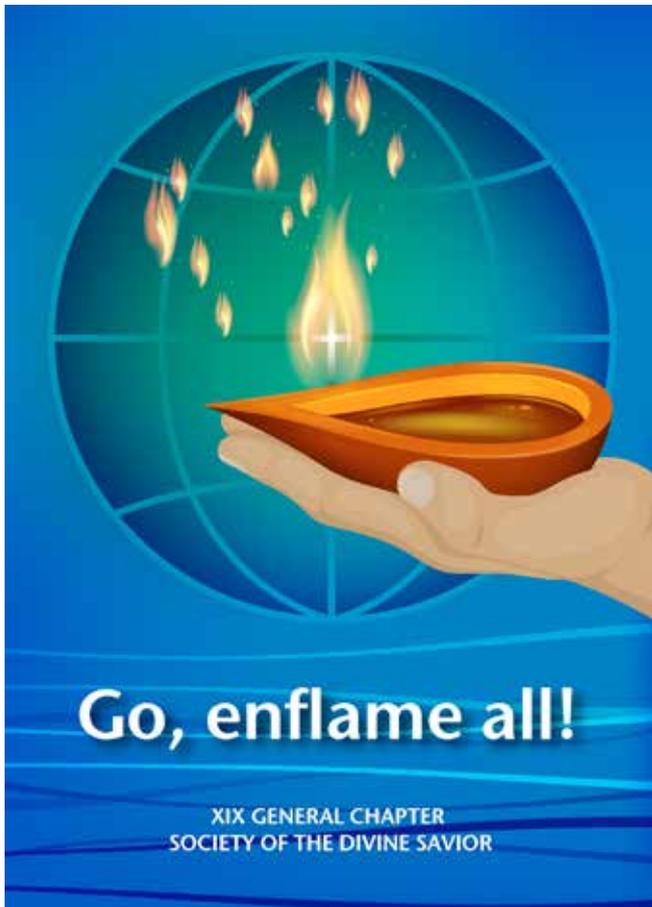
New Recruit for the General Archives

In May 2018 Sr. Melitta Kaufmann SDS, currently living in the Salvatorian Sisters' Motherhouse in Rome, started working part-time in our General Archive in collaboration with Fr. Michael Overmann. Her first tasks are evolving around the correspondence of the early Salvatorian Sisters who had an exchange of letters at that time mainly with Frs. Jordan, Lüthen and Pfeiffer. These letters will be transcribed and digitized and will consequently soon be available for historical research.



XIX General Chapter

Update on preparations



We are fast approaching the XIX General Chapter (13 AUG-09 SEP 18). The theme of the Chapter is “Go, enflame all!” and is based on an entry in Fr. Jordan’s Spiritual Diary (SD II/2). The Chapter will take place at St. Ottilien Monastery near Munich, Germany and will end with a three-day Jubilee Celebration of the Centenary of the Founder’s Death at Freiburg (Germany), Tafers (Switzerland), and Gurtweil (Germany). The General Secretariat now has the list of all the delegates and has sent the first information letter to them (dated 30 APR 18) via email. In addition, the Secretariat has received some reports and proposals from the Units and is in the process of having them translated and prepared for the delegates. Other communications will be

sent soon. Also, materials for the Chapter will be sent as email attachments to the delegates with plenty of time prior to the start of the Chapter for their review and preparation. We ask all the members of the Society to keep the XIX General Chapter in your prayers asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we may fulfill the charism and accomplish the mission given to us as Salvatorians. Thank you.

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. The blog will also be active during the General Chapter.

From Father Jordan:



The Intention of the First General Chapter:

We intend to strengthen our Society in the spirit of the Savior of the World, in the spirit of Jesus Christ crucified, which is the opposite of the spirit of the world. ... The more the spirit of the world is introduced into the Society and the less the spirit of Christ crucified prevails in it, the less it will bloom, the less fruit it will bear, the more it will be punished by lack of vocations and forfeit heavenly blessings. The closer we approach the suffering and humiliated, the prayerful and meditative Savior, the richer will be the fruits which will grow from our work in the Lord's vineyard.

(Chapter Talks 1902/10/06).

Final Words:

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

Sì, è vero, l'apostolato della sofferenza.

La sofferenza è una grande cosa.

[Yes, it is true; the apostolate of suffering.

Suffering is a great thing.] (In response

to Pfeiffer's statement about suffering:

07 SEP 1918).

Prayers

Please Pray for...

- Chapter Preparatory Commission Meeting in Rome (05-07 JUN 18)
- JUCO Governing Board Meeting in Morogoro, Tanzania (09 JUN 18)
- Congo Pro Province Visitation (10-30 JUN 18)
- Chapter Preparations Commission Meeting in St. Ottilien, Germany (05-06 JUL 18)
- ICDS General Assembly in Hamont, Belgium (18-25 JUL 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 [mailsds.org](mailto:sds.org) email address.

Why I became a Salvatorian...



...because I wanted to realize the fullness of meaning in life, by giving myself totally with joy to Christ and to others.

Fr. Daniele Cicirella, Italian Vicariate and Motherhouse Treasurer

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.”

Congratulations

Ordination to the Diaconate

Congratulations to the following confreres who were ordained deacons:

- On 17 MAR 18, Cl. Jules Kapya Kafilu SDS and Cl. Anicet Fana Tshifufu SDS of the Congo Missionary Pro-Province, at the Chapel of the Major Interdiocesan Seminary Notre Dame de l’Espérance, Bertoua (Cameroun) by Most Rev. Jean Vincent Ondo, Bishop of Oyem (Gabon).

Ordination to the Priesthood

Congratulations to the following confreres who were ordained priests:

- On 06 MAY 18, Dc. Joseph Nguyen Chi Cong SDS of the East Asia Mission Vicariate, at Ben Cat Parish, Vietnam by Most Rev. Joseph Nguyen Tan Tuoc, Bishop of the Diocese of Phu Cuong;
- On 22 MAY 18, Dc. Marcel Emeh SDS of the US Province, at Holy Trinity Parish, Tucson, AZ by Most Rev. Gerald Kicanas, Bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Tucson;
- On 26 MAY 18, Dc. Pavel Barbořak SDS, Dc. Mario Lainez SDS, Dc. Marek Sawicki SDS, Dc. Mateusz Tomasiak SDS, and Dc. Yauheni Zhukouski SDS of the Polish Province, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Trzebinia by Most Rev. Adam Wodarczyk, Auxiliary Bishop of Katowicka).

Appointment



Congratulations to Fr. Bogdan Giemza of the Polish Province, who on 13 MAR 18 was named a consultor to the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life of the Episcopal Conference of Bishops in Poland. He will serve for 5 years.



SOFIA

Salvatorian Office
for International Aid

Consistent Italian Tax Payers' Contributions

The Italian tax system is peculiar in the sense that citizens can determine in their income declaration which accredited NGO should receive a small part of their taxes: the so-called "cinque per mille" (5x1000). This boils down to an annual choice of each Italian citizen to donate half of one percent (.5 percent or 5 per thousand) to any registered NGO. As the Italian leg of SOFIA (Fondazione SOFIA Onlus) is a registered NGO, it is eligible for this kind of support. Of course, there is a fierce competition in the nonprofit sector to get a share of the pie... From 2014 on SOFIA has embarked on this kind of fundraising by sending out mailings to donors, contacting friends and supporters and involving tax advisors.

Each year's results are disclosed – and the due amount of money delivered – two years after the respective calendar year; therefore, we are now reaping the fruits of the 2016 campaign. And the results are comforting: despite the ongoing crisis, SOFIA's contributors have been stable in number as well as in their donations and have lately even increased the amount of their individual donations, giving evidence of the fact that donor loyalty is one of SOFIA's major strengths.

These are the overall figures in detail:

2016: € 9,684.45	156 individual sponsors
2015: € 8,556.20	160 individual sponsors
2014: € 9,753.66	167 individual sponsors

Unfortunately, our Society does not have a strong foothold in Italy. One can imagine the Salesians of Don Bosco (11 provinces in Italy), serving in numerous parishes and schools, reaching tens of thousands of their supporters and therefore harvesting big amounts by means of this Italian tax system. However, in 2018 SOFIA has begun developing a targeted strategy addressing a certain range of people. In 2020 we will know whether our strategy is working.

Ongoing Success of the Motherhouse Tours

Guided tours of Palazzo Cesi, our Motherhouse in Rome, were introduced in 2015 as a means to give a broader public the opportunity to be informed about the Society and our Founder and to experience the beauty and spirituality of the magnificent renaissance palace. Visitors are booking months in advance to receive their "slot" and then arrive in groups from all parts of Italy. At the end of their guided tour they learn about SOFIA and its projects and are asked for a small contribution. Many visitors are so impressed that they leave more than just a symbolic amount: as a matter of fact, the money collected on these occasions during the last years has been regularly sufficient to meet the full annual budget of the new Salvatorian mission in Kenya! Moreover, some of the visitors leave their address information. Two times a year, this group of people is called upon for donations (mass intentions around 1 November, and Christmas). A slowly growing number turns into regularly donating supporters of our works. Given the growing interest in historical Roman sites other than the "usual" overcrowded hotspots we are confident that the interest in our Motherhouse will help to financially support our apostolates also in the future.

Publications

Glorify Him in Your Church



The Indian Vicariate has published a video on YouTube with a beautiful song prepared by the students at the Father Jordan Philosophy Study House in Warangal to celebrate the 100th Death Anniversary of Fr. Francis Jordan. Titled “Glorify Him in Your Church” (Video 109) it is accessible at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfGneXSeaNM&feature=youtu.be>.

Text Collection on Salvatorian Spirituality

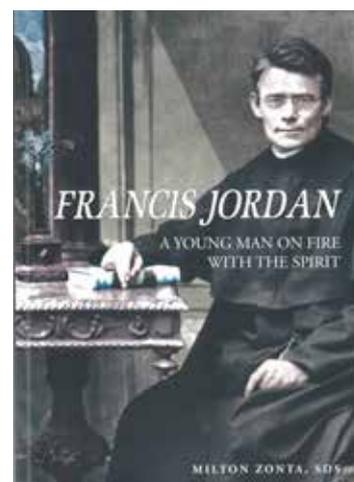
It has often been criticized that there is so little material on SDS spirituality. For General Archivist Fr. Michael Overmann this was an incentive to collect already published articles and essays and to digitally republish them in German in PDF format. The collection titled *Das ist das ewige Leben – Farben einer salvatorianischen Spiritualität* [This Is Eternal Life – Colors of a Salvatorian Spirituality], is Volume 8 of the Salvatorian archives DAS series; it is a contribution by the Archives to the Jubilee Year 2018. The individual offerings have been written by Sr. Edith Bramberger, Sr. Franziska-Maria Gruber, Fr. Karl Meier, Sr. Helene Wecker and Fr. Josef Wilfing as well as by Lay Salvatorians in Austria. The volume offers much inspiration for personal

discernment and is also a helpful resource, e.g. for homilies on SDS spirituality. Therefore, we hope that there will soon be an opportunity to publish it in hardcopy as well.

For the time being the PDF can be downloaded at www.salvatorianer.de.

“Jordan - A Young Man on Fire with The Spirit”

This successful “auto-biography” of Fr. Francis Jordan written by our General Superior Fr. Milton Zonta (original title: *Jordan – um jovem sob o fogo do espírito – see Informationes Vol XI, Nr. 25*) has now been translated into English, French and Spanish. The translators were the very sadly and prematurely late Mr. Roberto Clark, Ms. Sophie Giusti and Fr. Mario Agudelo Roldán SDS respectively. Thanks to the generous contribution of the Austrian Pro-Province as well as of the Spanish and Swiss Vicariates it was possible to outsource two of the translations and to print a sufficient number of books in each language. For copies please contact the General Secretariat at generalate-secretariat@mailsds.org.



Fr. Jordan’s Passing: Hundred Years and Beyond

Another beautiful song in honor of Fr. Jordan has been composed for the 100th Anniversary of the Founder’s Death by Sr. Silva Jaku SDS of the Italian Province (text) and Mateus Jaku (music). Its title is *Padre Jordan cento anni e oltre* and it is sung in Italian by Jozefina Guri. It is accessible at https://youtu.be/ZkmaqOXguM_s. Congratulations Sr. Silva.



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The Generalate
Via della Conciliazione, 51
00193 Rome, Italy
www.sds.org

