

Informationes

Societas Divini Salvatoris

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Dear Confreres,

Our main feast, the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, is nearing. This year, for many of us it will be a different celebration, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The corona virus has brought many parts of our world into darkness, loneliness and sadness. In many families and religious communities, there will be an empty chair during the Christmas celebration, because one of their loved ones has passed away due to the unpredictable corona virus. Let us remember them in our prayers!

We cannot deny that this situation has made all of us reflective, getting aware that ideas and plans do not always have the last word, or quoting Pope Francis: "reality is more important than the idea" (Evangelii Gaudium 231). This whole situation has taken us to the point of rethinking about what is really important and essential in life. It is good to see that many confreres have shown flexibility and have reorganized the way of being apostolic today.



It remains a fact that this year 2020 has become utterly tough for many, notwithstanding simultaneously precious initiatives were taken and made people and their good hearts flourish. The use of digital means of communication helped immensely to overcome isolation, to cultivate the sense of belonging and to work together. Also, the fact that a significant number of young people all over the world joined our Society by taking first and definitive vows in the Society fill our hearts with joy. These are events of great importance for all of us. They make us grateful to God who manifests himself in our lives in different ways and makes us move forward with renewed enthusiasm and hope.

We are still under the spell of the pandemic and we don't know when restrictions will be over, nor what exactly will happen. Let us take this time not to complain, but as an opportunity to reflect about our life, our vocation and God's possible plans, like Joseph and Mary did. In the Christmas painting by Fr. Marko Rupnik SJ, we see Mary and Joseph together with their hands on their faces. This gesture symbolizes that they are meditating in their hearts on the plans of God who completely transformed their lives. In a similar way, in this year's Christmas Feast, we are called to aim, meditate and understand reality in the light of our Faith. We are invited not to contemplate abstract ideas, but in a deep spiritual way all these real events of suffering as well as the joys of 2020. Let this be our attitude when we remain silently meditating and praying before the Christmas manger this year.

The Generalate wishes you all a Blessed Christmas and a New Year full of opportunities to do well becoming a blessing for all the people you will meet!

GENERALATE AND GENERAL SECRETARIATS



Agenda of activities



WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	WHO
1-12 December	Meetings JUCo	Morogoro	Fr. Agustín and Fr. Lukoa
3 December	Generalate Meeting	Motherhouse - Rome	Generalate SDS and general secretaries
8 December	Foundation Day	All communities	All confreres
10 December	Generalate Meeting	Motherhouse - Rome	Generalate and general secretaries
17 December	Generalate Meeting	Motherhouse - Rome	Generalate and general secretaries
24-25 December	Main Feast Society	All communities	All confreres
24 December - 7 January 2021	All offices are closed	Motherhouse - Rome	Generalate and general secretaries

MEETINGS



Online meetings



As reported in the previous issue of *Informationes*, the Generalate organized online meetings with the unit leaderships. Some of those meetings took place in the past two months and therefore we want to share a bit more of its content with all the members of our Society. There is no doubt that it was very important that these meetings and dialogues took place. The Generalate believes it is essential to listen and share with the leaderships the concerns that we have in the middle of this crisis that we are experiencing in the world. In his overview, our General Superior, Fr. Milton, expressed that *“the COVID 19 pandemic is similar to a storm that strikes everyone, but with bigger consequences for the most vulnerable and poor.”*

He also stated that *“As in any other moment of crisis, we need to be united in what is essential for us. In other words, our vocation as companions of the same charism at the service of the mission in the Church. None of us will be saved alone!”*

In the framework of a general overview of what is happening in our Society, Fr. Milton shared briefly a list of some of our concerns and also of our joys, while being restricted to our Motherhouse.

He started to with listing five negative consequences of this global crisis that led to cancelling our meetings, our projects and the canonical visits of our agenda for this year 2020.

“1. First consequence. We had to cancel our ordinary General Synod, which was scheduled for the month of July, in Rumania. We also had to suspend the second stage of the School for Salvatorian Formators.

2. Second consequence. We are facing a strict economic crisis with no resources for the payment of employees at Jordan University College (JUCo) in Morogoro. We have never been so close to the possibility of having to finish the activities of this institution and closing it down.

3. Third consequence. We were careful to accompany those Salvatorians and family members who were infected by the coronavirus. So far, some confreres in different parts of the world, mainly in

Europe, but also in Latin America have been infected with the virus and very few have died because of this pandemic.

4. *Fourth consequence. We have fewer missionaries. Right now, we urgently need Salvatorians in Guatemala, Madagascar, Peru, Mexico, Surinam ... We are asking for help for these Units, even if it would be only for a limited time.*

5. *Fifth consequence. We are struggling to carry out the international Salvatorian Formation Program due to the closing of borders in some countries. We are looking for alternatives to this situation.*”

Despite this moment of crisis, there are also small or bigger lights we can clearly see. Mentioning them, Fr. Milton wanted to encourage all the confreres to move forward with enthusiasm and renewed hope. He continued:

“1. *First signal. The announcement of the celebration of the beatification of our Founder, for the month of May next year. This unique event invites us to live our apostolic spirituality more intensely. In the same context of beatification, we are completely remodelling our Mother House Chapel.*

2. *Second signal. We received with joy the news of the appointment of father Karol Kulczycki of the Province of Poland to be the new bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie, in Australia, as well as the appointment of Fr. Lazarus Msimbe as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Morogoro. For us it is a sign of recognition of the apostolic service that we offer the Church in those countries.*

3. *Third signal. We are in the process of opening new houses of formation. Soon we will open a new formation house in Madrid, in Spain, preparing confreres to be sent as missionaries to Latin America. We are planning a new formation house in Sri Lanka. In September, we are going to start a formation house in Vietnam. We are already making initial contacts for a new foundation in Uganda where we want to start a new mission, which could be of help even in the bigger frame of international formation to be the site of Africa’s international novitiate.*

4. *Fourth signal. Although the revision of the General Formation Program for the Society (Ratio Formationis) suffered some delay, we are working to finalize the process of revising this important document and publishing it for the coming year.*

5. *Fifth sign. We are ready for the creation of a new vicariate in Western Europe. This Vicariate will be made official on December 8 this year joining the units of Switzerland and Italy. After a period of discernment and planning, we are happy that with the financial help of the Society, the construction of a brand new Salvatorian spiritual formation centre in Cracow (Poland) will be started next 15 October. I myself was invited to put the first brick and I really hope that this centre will be for the good of so many who are serving in formation at religious and diocesan level, but also at the level of the personal and spiritual growth of many people who are seeking for God.*

In spite of all, Fr. Milton made clearly visible that “in the middle of this pandemic storm, we also have good reasons to look to our future with faith and hope.” “I am convinced”, he concluded, “that once this crisis situation is overcome, we will be more aware of the importance of walking together, praying together and working together.”

CONGRATULATIONS



DIACONATE ORDINATION

CONGO - INDIA - TANZANIA



Most Rev. Telesphor Richard Mkude, Bishop of Morogoro, ordained the following confreres, who all live in the International Formation House Mater Salvatoris at Morogoro, deacons on 21 November 2020:

- Faustin Mwema wa Banze, Patrick My Lord Amsini Juba and Albert Makosa Mazanga from the Congo Mission Pro-Province;
- Robert Marwein and Wester David Marbaniang from the Indian Mission Vicariate;
- Sosthenes Ainamaani, Deusdedit Mbilinyi and John Nseny from the Tanzania Mission Pro-Province.

The celebration took place at the Chapel of Jordan University College in Morogoro. We wish them all a spirit of perseverance and deep commitment as deacons in the Church at the service of the people.



POLAND

On Saturday, 7 November 2020, our confrere Karol Matecki from the Polish Province was ordained a deacon in the historical Basilica of St. Hedwig at Trzebnica. The solemn celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Jacek Kiciński, Auxiliary Bishop of Wrocław. May the spirit of service and availability always accompany our confrere Karol.

OUR DEPARTED CONFRERES



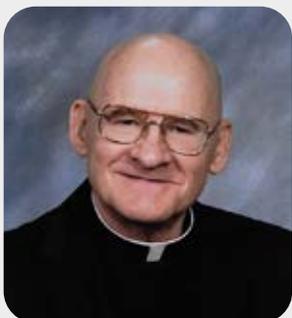
WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED CONFRERES:



Fr. Luis Francisco Pinzón Sierra was born on 28 June 1934 at Charalá, Santander in Colombia. He did his secondary studies at the Salvatorian Minor Seminary “La Estrella” in Medellín. After that, he entered the novitiate at Monterredondo-Cundinamarca, where the later General Superior Fr. Maurinus Rast was his novice master. He professed his first vows on 2 February 1953 at Monterredondo. He studied philosophy at the Javierana University in Bogotá and Theology at the Gregoriana University in Rome, where he was ordained a priest at the St. John Lateran Archbasilica on 19 December 1959. Once he returned to Colombia, he started to work in education in “La Estrella” in Medellín and formation in “El Divino Salvador” at Bogotá. Nevertheless, the biggest part of his apostolic life, Fr. Luis Francisco worked in the setting of pastoral care of the parish at Bucaramango in Santander. The evening of his life was characterized by illness and suffering. He passed away on 12 October 2020, accompanied by his confreres and nurses who took care of him during the last months.



Fr. Bernd Dangelmayer was born on 10 April 1950 at the town Salach in the district of Göppingen, Baden-Württemberg in southern Germany. Once he had concluded primary school, he went to the Salvatorian Minor Seminary of Bad Wurzach. After that he decided to join the Society of the Divine Saviour, entering the novitiate which he finished by the profession of his first vows at Klosterberg in Passau on the Feast of Mater Salvatoris, 11 October 1970. He was ordained a priest at the cathedral of Passau on 27 June 1976. After his first pastoral and pedagogical training, Fr. Bernd became apostolically active in the field of education and pastoral care at Gartlberg and Bad Wurzach, both Salvatorian educational institutions. From 1996 he was fully oriented towards parish work, first in München and then in Berlin. In both places, he was very much involved in issues of reorganization as well as remodelling of buildings. His fine sense for details helped him a lot in those sometimes-complicated tasks. His death came suddenly in spite of many efforts from medical doctors. Fr. Bernd finished his earthly pilgrimage on the memorial of St. Teresa of Avila, 15 October 2020.



Fr. Eliot Nitz was born at Hammond, Indiana, USA, on 8 December 1941, the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the day the members of the Society of the Divine Saviour were celebrating the 60th anniversary of their founding. After having attended parish grade schools, he began his high school studies at Salvatorian Seminary in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, where he became acquainted with the Salvatorians. When he finished his second year of college there, he entered the Salvatorian novitiate in Colfax, Iowa, where he made his first profession of vows on 8 September 1962. He completed his studies for the priesthood at Divine Saviour Seminary in Lanham, Maryland, and Catholic University in Washington, DC. He was ordained a priest in St. Mary’s Parish in Landover Hills, Maryland, on 6 September 1968. Over the years, Fr. Eliot has served in numerous places and in various ministries: he was active as a chaplain for the US Army Reserve, he was pastor, chaplain, retreat master and he served as novice master. Fr. Eliot enjoyed spending time with people, sharing stories, and even getting

into deep discussions with anyone who wished to do so. He was a “people person”. It’s why others were so drawn to him wherever he ministered. He died on 26 October in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was 78 years of age, and he was a Salvatorian for 58 years.



Fr. Hubertus Görgens was born on 4 September 1932 at Hagen/Westfalen in Germany. In 1949, he came to the Salvatorian boarding school at Steinfeld for his secondary studies, which he finished at the Salvatorian College at Bad Wurzach in 1955. From there he went straight to the novitiate in Passau, which he concluded by the profession of his first vows on 1 May 1956. He studied philosophy and theology at the Katholische Hochschule in Passau and was ordained a priest on 12 March 1961. Fr. Hubertus worked apostolically as a pastor and teacher in different parishes. Within the community, he was several times the local superior. Between the years 1972 and 1986, he was the Superior of the North German Province for several mandates, which allowed him to know well the Society at international level, while participating in different international meetings. Fr. Hubertus died on 26 October 2020 at the hospital of Mechernich, a town near to Steinfeld. He was 88 years old and had been for 64 years a Salvatorian.



Fr. Józef Pyrek was born on 17 February 1932 in Raclawice near Olkusz in Poland. After completing primary school, he went to the secondary school of Wladyslaw Sikorski, led by the Salvatorians in Krakow-Zakrzówek. He finished his novitiate professing his first vows on 8 September 1949 in Bagno. After that, he was sent to complete his secondary studies at the Salvatorian minor seminary in Mikołów. From 1951 until 1957, he studied philosophy and theology at the institute of the Dominicans in Krakow, the city where he was ordained a priest on 7 October 1956. One could define his apostolic life based on two main pillars: Fr. Józef was spiritual director, confessor and teacher for many years at our seminary in Bagno. However, he was also a very good writer and author of numerous articles and publications on catechetics, spirituality and social and political problems. He worked for many years in the Salvatorian Publishing House in Krakow. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fr. Józef died on 30 October 2020 in Krakow, at the age of 88 and after having been for 71 years a Salvatorian.



Fr. Bernard Green was born in Bilbrook, Staffordshire in England on 22 February 1940. He had already finished his academic career of Philosophy before he came to know the Society of the Divine Saviour at the Salvatorian College in Abbots Langley. There he made his year of novitiate finishing it with his first profession of vows on 8 September 1965. After completing his seminary studies, he was ordained a priest on 9 September 1973 and started serving as an Associate Pastor in Thornburry and the Director of Ecumenism for the diocese for three years. Attracted by working abroad, Fr. Bernard went to the United States of America he served as a chaplain at St. Mary’s Nursing Home in Milwaukee, a ministry of the Salvatorian Sisters. After having obtained the proper academic training, Fr. Bernard worked from 1983 on mainly in the field of counseling and became a professor, trainer and counselor at different institutes in Wisconsin and Iowa. Between the years 1992 and 2011, he was active among the native Americans in the desert lands of Arizona. Besides that he was a prolific writer. He published numerous books and articles in scholarly magazines about counseling and about faith. In 2011, Fr. Bernard, having become a member of the USA-Province, returned to England, where in the Fall of 2017, his health worsened. He died peacefully on 9 November 2020 at the University Hospital in Hartshill in Great Britain. He was 80 years old and had been professed for 55 years.



Fr. Jean Bawin was born at Lummen on 5 January 1937. After elementary school, he joined the boarding school of the Salvatorians at Hamont and straight after having finished his secondary studies in 1956, he went to Passau in Germany for his novitiate. He professed his first vows in the Society through the Belgian Province on 8 September 1957. He studied Philosophy and Theology in Louvain and was ordained a priest on 31 March 1963 at the chapel of the Salvatorian Sisters in Hasselt. Being a young priest, he was sent for one year to Paris in France, to obtain pastoral experience and after that to Montet in Switzerland, where he worked as a teacher at the Salvatorian boarding school. In the meanwhile the Salvatorians were entrusted a parish at Solingen in Germany where Fr. Jean became the vicar parish priest and after a few years the parish priest. During his further life, Fr. Jean would remain pastorally active in this region. The evening of his life was characterized by illness, but Fr. Jean never lost his joyfulness and fine sense of humor. He died at Bergisch Gladbach in Germany on 10 November 2020.

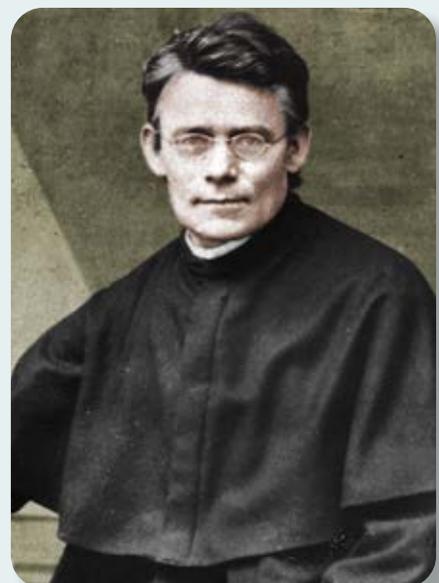


Fr. Andreas Emil Mohr was born on 6 November 1937 at Lustenau in Austria. After his elementary and secondary studies, he entered the novitiate in Passau. He professed his first vows in the Society of the Divine Saviour at Passau on the feast of Mater Salvatoris, 11 October 1958. Once he had finished his studies of philosophy and theology, he was ordained a priest at the cathedral of Passau on 29 June 1964. When the Austrian Provincial Superior was asked by the Generalate if a confrere from his unit would be willing to go to Taiwan to support the Salvatorian Mission at Taipei, Fr. Andreas, who had expressed his wish to become a missionary already beforehand, saw this as an opportunity and put himself at the availability of that Asian Mission. He was active as a missionary from 1965 until 2000, mainly working with the natives at Wulai, where he built among others, a unique church in Chinese style. At the beginning of the new millennium, Fr. Andreas came back to Europe. First, he lived and worked at Timisoara, until he went to Kaisermühlen in 2003, where he became the pastor of the Chinese community in Vienna until 2014. From that year on, because of his need for help after an accident, he lived at the Father Jordan Haus in Kaisermühlen. Fr. Andreas died in the middle of the Corona pandemic at the Wiener Rudolf Spital on 17 November 2020. He had just turned 83 years old and was for 62 years a Salvatorian.

FROM FATHER FRANCIS JORDAN

*“We must train ourselves to do
our everyday tasks well,
even the most ordinary.
For holiness
consists more in this
than in extraordinary actions...”*

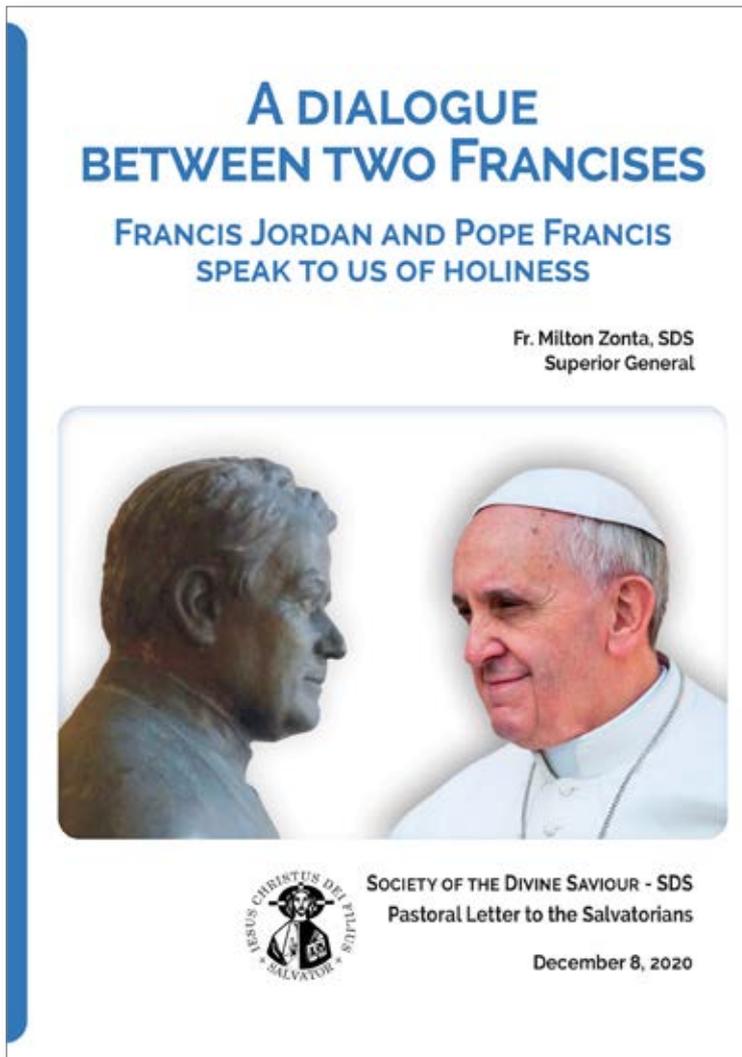
SD I/33



PUBLICATIONS



Pastoral Letter of the General Superior



During the past years, it has become an annual tradition that our General Superior writes a pastoral letter to the confreres. Such a letter for sure has unifying effects and furthers the sense of belonging to the Society. Also this year, Fr. Milton has addressed all the confreres focusing on the topic of apostolic holiness, bringing Pope Francis and our Founder, Francis Jordan, together in a dialogue. It is very interesting to see the affinities that exist between the teachings of Pope Francis and the spiritual notes of our Founder. By his pastoral letter “A dialogue between two Francises”, Fr. Milton wants to offer us some reflections that help to perceive the deep relationship that can be established between the key elements of the call to holiness, presented by Pope Francis in the document “*Gaudete et Exsultate*”, and some concrete facts of the life of Fr. Francis Jordan. Both Pope Francis and Fr. Francis Jordan tell us not to be afraid of holiness. The pastoral letter is a text that requests slow reading, in order to familiarize oneself with the central idea of the topics proposed. Therefore, the confreres

are recommended to read it carefully, pointing out those horizons that help to better understand the intuitions that may arise when approaching the “model of holiness” of Francis Jordan and the invitations to conversion that these same intuitions make to all. For each beatitude, Pope Francis in *Gaudete et Exsultate* proposes a concrete opportunity for holiness, repeating: “This is holiness!” So too, our General Superior proposes at the end of each of the topics a concrete attitude: “This is the Salvatorian path towards holiness!” Through his pastoral letter, Fr. Milton invites all the confreres to become “men of God”, closely following Jesus in the footsteps of “Blessed Francis Jordan, embracing the ideal of living as an apostle beyond borders.”

The pastoral letter will be available from 8 December 2020 on our website www.sds.org in 7 languages (English, French, German, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese and Swahili) and will be sent to all the units in the respective languages. Its reading is really recommended!

SDS VARIA



Re-election of the Superior of the Polish Province



In the second half of October 2020, the Polish Province held its election process for the position of Provincial Superior. Already their last provincial chapter had approved a new procedure by digital means, i.e. all confreres belonging to the province could express their vote by email, while guaranteeing voting secret. As a result of the elections, Fr. Józef Figiel was re-elected superior of the Polish Province in the first round by a majority vote. The members of the provincial council will be elected by the provincial chapter that will take place from 8 until 12 February 2021, if COVID-19 allows. The Generalate thanks Fr. Józef for his service and assures him from now on already its prayers. May God bless and accompany him and his council for the next mandate 2021 – 2024.

Farewell Silvana Leone



One of the SOFIA-staff members, Ms. Silvana Leone, decided to accept another job with the generalate of the Scalabrini Sisters. Over there, she will work full time in an area that carries her full passion: assistance to immigrants and forcibly displaced people. That is why on Friday, 30 October, a small farewell ceremony was organized. Silvana is one of the most senior staff members: she started work with us in February 2011, when SOFIA was still in its initial stage. Our General Superior, Fr. Milton, thanked her on behalf of the Society with warm words of gratitude for her dedication and steadiness and wished her well in her new job. We are happy that we contributed to Silvana's development, and that she continues to invest herself in caring for the neediest and the poorest in the world. That is what SOFIA too continues to do, implementing the mandates of Catholic Social Teaching.

Legacy of Fr. Evarist Mader SDS



THE FAMOUS “TABGHA MOSAIC OF FISH AND LOAVES”, DISCOVERED IN 1935 BY THE HOLY LAND ASSOCIATION, AFTER HARD WORK OF FR. EVARIST MADER SDS AND HIS TEAM.

During a “cleaning action” of the attic of the Motherhouse in summertime, a big collection of slides was discovered under a thick layer of dust. After some investigation it was found out, that it is a part of the huge collection of the materials and results of the scientific legacy of the Salvatorian archaeologist Fr. Evarist Mader (1881 – 1949). Nobody knows why this important material got forgotten and covered under the dust for more than 50 years, but seeing its possible relevance, the General Superior with his Council has taken the decision to hand over the collection of slides to the Institute for Ancient History of the University of Mainz in Germany. The transfer will be done as a loan on a permanent basis. The Society will remain the owner, but the excellent material that consists mainly of slides and pictures of the Holy Land, will be maintained and used for study by the mentioned institution in Germany. In this way, the work of this great Salvatorian will be of exceptional use for those who are specialists in this scientific field.

For those Salvatorians who would like to know more about Fr. Evarist’s life, his work and relationship with our Founder, are kindly invited to read the enlarged biography that was written by Fr. Leonhard Berchthold in 2009 and which is available on our website www.sds.org under “library” – “Great Salvatorians”. It is also published in the series “Salvatorians Worth Knowing”.

Blessing of the construction site: Brand new Salvatorian Centre for Spiritual Formation – Krakow



Shortly before Krakow was defined as a “red zone” related to the proliferation of the pandemic, on 16 October 2020, under the motto “what is impossible with men, is possible with God” (Lk 18:27), the blessing ceremony of the construction site where the new Centre for Spiritual Formation (CSF) will be built, took place. The day started with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The director of the centre, our confrere Fr. Krzysztof Wons, gave a conference on the deep meaning and need for places where people can hear the Word of God. The Superior General, Fr. Milton, who initially wanted to be present but at the end was advised not to travel because of COVID-19, gave an online speech with words of support and blessing of the new construction. Immediately after the celebration of the Eucharist, the people who had just finished a retreat on *Lectio Divina*, together with confreres, priests and representatives of the general contractor, went out to the square for a common prayer of dedication and blessing.

The project is at this moment one of the biggest that confreres are carrying forward in our Society. Seeing the big amount of money involved the superior of the Polish Province and his council have presented to the Generalate the financial planning that was prepared by the management of the CSF. After having got the recommendation of the International Finance Commission, the General Superior has given consent to implement the project of the expansion of the CSF in Krakow consisting of the construction of an additional new building to help meet the needs of this vital apostolate. For the funding of the works, the management of the CSF have prepared a financial plan, counting with own savings, funding by own benefactors, governmental institutions as well as aid organizations contacted by SOFIA and a loan from the Generalate. The contract on this loan has already been signed among the parties involved.

After the stage of precise planning, taking into account the legal procedures as described in our rules, the construction has started and the Generalate wishes the team of the construction of the new Centre for Spiritual Formation the abundance of God’s blessings on implementing the project for the good of our Salvatorian apostolic mission.

Relics of our Founder



As we prepare for the beatification of our Founder, many different requests are coming to the Generalate, especially for relics of the Founder. Therefore, the Generalate has decided to offer each unit superior relics for each of the local communities. Salvatorians who would like to receive a relic for their apostolates, are kindly requested to inform the general postulation office: generalate-postulation@mailsds.org.

Everybody will understand that there is only a limited number of so called “first class” relics (part of the body) available and that there are costs involved for the preparation of the capsules. The Generalate will not be charging for the relics, nor the preparation, but a contribution to cover the expenses would be greatly appreciated.

The capsules can be put in the different places in an appropriate reliquary to contain it according to the local preference, culture and environment. Units and communities will be responsible themselves for that.

In the same framework, because of the limited number, the Generalate will not be able to provide relics for individuals. However, there will be pocket size laminated cards commemorating the beatification that will contain a very small relic of the vestments of the Founder. This will be available to all who would like to have one. The unit superiors will be asked to provide an estimated amount of this kind of relics to the general postulation office. For further information, please contact the before mentioned email address.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

PLEASE PRAY...

- for the victims of the corona virus;
- for medical doctors and nurses;
- for the novices who will profess their first vows on our Foundation day;
- for the victims of natural disaster in Vietnam and the Philippines;
- for the people of Burkina Faso;
- for the victims of terrorism.





Informationes

Society of the Divine Saviour

The Generalate

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