



Rome, March 25, 2021
Solemnity of the Annunciation

Year of thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan 2021 – 21 July – 2022

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and members of the Salvatorian Family,

On this Solemnity of the Annunciation, we greet you with our hearts full of joy, gratitude and hope. We write this letter to you in the weeks preceding the feast of the Beatification of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. It is clear that this is a celebration of the entire Church that goes beyond the scope of our Salvatorian Family. It is the recognition of the witness of apostolic holiness for all the People of God on the way. However, we cannot deny that the life of our Founder and his Beatification are for us an event of the Spirit of God that has become a way of life and mission.



Precisely in this festive setting and as a way of giving thanks for the witness of apostolic holiness of our spiritual Father, we want to announce a **“Year of Thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan”** that will begin on July 21, 2021 and will last until July 21, 2022. It will be a time of grace for Salvatorians of all ages, states of life and cultures. We invite you all to be united in a diversity of initiatives that will lead us to deepen our precious apostolic vocation, strengthen our ties of indispensable collaboration and revitalize our humble but firm missionary service in the Church.

Let us celebrate this special year with joy and depth, as spiritual daughters and sons of Fr. Francis Jordan. Let us be creative and take bold initiatives to the beat of our concrete and culturally rich and diverse realities. We invite you to open up to the maximum, to organize a common program as the Salvatorian Family, aware that in this way we will honour the founding inspiration of Father Francis Jordan. His beatification is a new source of inspiration and a point of conversion on a personal, communal, and apostolic level, so that it does not become a simple memory, but rather a *kairos* experience that allows us to be *koinonia*.

May this year of Thanksgiving be a time of blessing for the entire Salvatorian Family and in the most different contexts! To best achieve this end, we have commissioned the "Joint International Commission of Identity and Salvatorian Mission" to help us celebrate with renewed and creative synergy among all, providing us with the necessary materials. From June 16 on, there will be a link on the "*Year of Thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan*" on our [web pages](#). In this virtual site you will find, in different languages, suggestions for prayers, images, activities and celebrations. We take this opportunity to invite you to send us resources that have been produced in your Units and that you would like to share so that they are available to the entire Salvatorian Family. Together we are more!

In addition, above of all these initiatives together, it is our wish that the Beatification of the Founder does not become only a series of "external initiatives", communal or institutional, but also an interior event, that goes inward and to the point, as a vocational call for all to live our vocation to holiness. Inspired by the witness of the holiness of our Founder, may we achieve to be "*apostles beyond borders*", through a fruitful, creative and upward-oriented life, just as he himself has recommended to us: "*Be people of prayer, and you will do great things.*"¹

In advance, we want to thank you for all the beautiful things that you will do throughout this celebratory year, giving life to the apostolic charism of Blessed Francis Jordan. Through this cooperation among us all, the charism grows and produces fruit in the different realities of the world. We assure you of our prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit to inspire, guide and enlighten us on this path. This is our common vocation: to be apostles of Jesus Christ everywhere with such ardor that was in the missionary heart of Blessed Francis Jordan!

In joyous communion,



Fr. Milton Zonta
Superior General SDS



Sr. María Yaneth Moreno R.
Superior General SorDS



Mr. Christian Patzl
Coordinator General ICDS

¹ JORDAN, Francis. *Chapter Talks*, 5 November 1897.