

INPUT FOR PERSONAL OR COMMUNAL REFLECTION

1. Who is Father Francis Jordan for me?

by Fr. Paul Cyrus SDS, Steinfeld, 4 May 2020

“He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

(John 21,17)

It certainly was most fortunate when Divine Providence entrusted us with the task of contributing to the salvation of souls: of winning souls for heaven. This is even greater work than raising the dead: to call souls back from death to life, to eternal life. How I wish that we would understand this task better and better and penetrate more deeply the purpose of our Society in order to work for the salvation of souls with all the strength of body and soul.

(Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 29.01.1897)

For more than a month we have been praying the prayer of Fr. Agustín Van Baelen in Steinfeld every day with the words: “At the intercession of Blessed Mary of the Apostles and Father Francis Jordan, we thank you, present and faithful God, who live and love forever. Amen” The expression “thank you” always makes me think. For me, this formulation implies a deep conviction that the prayer through the intercession of Father Jordan and Mother Mary of the Apostles will be answered in advance, so that in the end only thankfulness to God remains. So, I ask myself: “Do I really believe that the intercession of Father Jordan and Mother Mary of the Apostles can do so much? Am I firmly convinced that the role model and implementation of the ideas of Fr. Jordan can save today’s world - not just because of the Corona virus?” And if I believe this, then I ask myself further: “Where would I have to become more like Father Jordan in order to fulfil my Salvatorian mission more effectively today?”

If I find myself in the situation that my original enthusiasm for Father Jordan and his work has faded somewhat, then it helps me to reflect on my original love for Jesus and his followers in the footsteps of Father Jordan. I am firmly convinced that such a return would not only benefit us all in the unit but would also strengthen our proclamation and our participation in the divine work of healing the world.

So I invite you all to ask the following or similar questions

1. What fascinated me about Father Jordan and his ideas when I decided to join the Salvatorian community?
2. What positive experiences have I had with Father Jordan in my religious life up to now?
3. On which points would I particularly like to be more like Father Jordan right now?
4. On what points should our unit be more like Father Jordan so that our preaching will be more effective today?

Questions for further reflection:

- What does the scripture Titus 3:4 mean to me?
- Do I know Salvatorians who have radiated the goodness and kindness of God?
- When do I find it difficult to live up to this basic attitude?

Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the World,
We thank you for having granted us through
Father Jordan
a role model to follow You.
We ask you to light the fire in us,
that burned in your faithful Servant Fr. Jordan
so that your salvation may reach the limits of the world.
AMEN*