

**SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR**

# **Praying in the Spirit of Fr. Francis Jordan**



**Based on writings and quotations of Fr. Francis Jordan  
and following the structure and content  
of the Constitutions of the Society of the Divine Saviour**

**Fr. Agustín Van Baelen sds**

**MMXX**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

•	Introduction	p. 4
I.	Our Salvatorian Call and Mission	p. 7
II.	Our Apostolic Life	p. 13
III.	Our Life according to the Evangelical Counsels	p. 21
IV.	Our Community Life	p. 29
V.	Our Union with Christ	p. 37
VI.	Our Initial and Continuing Formation	p. 43
VII.	Our Service of Authority	p. 51

*Imprimatur: Fr. Milton Zonta sds  
Superior General of the Society of the Divine Saviour*

## INTRODUCTION

The small booklet you have in your hands is a collection of prayers meant to be a help to deepen our knowledge of and familiarity with our own Salvatorian identity and the spirit of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. It is based on the structure and the content of the Constitutions of the Society of the Divine Saviour and aims to be a simple tool to take on and to reflect ever more increasingly our Founder's charism that we find in our Rules. Its first edition was completed in Flemish on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Founder's birth. That edition was revised, amplified and then translated into English, to make it accessible to a wider audience.

In many religious orders, especially those with a longstanding tradition, the practice exists to read one article of their Rule before or after meals, always finishing with the sentence "*Tu autem Domine, miserere nobis*" (But you, oh Lord, have mercy on us). These last words show us that we are not talking about a casual or informative reading but rather an appeal, an invitation to the brothers or sisters not to give up, but to keep growing in their vocation with God's help and mercy. Also, in many of our Salvatorian communities in the past, this tradition was part of our daily life. But, at a certain point, this practice disappeared, and our Constitutions were put in the drawer and primarily studied during novitiate. At present, they are consulted mainly by our superiors, during chapters, or when it comes to legal/canonical issues. Nevertheless, it is my impression that in that way we are cutting off an important channel to gain a better appreciation of our own Salvatorian Charism. Our Rules are much more than legal matters; they have a spiritual dimension that we should never underestimate.

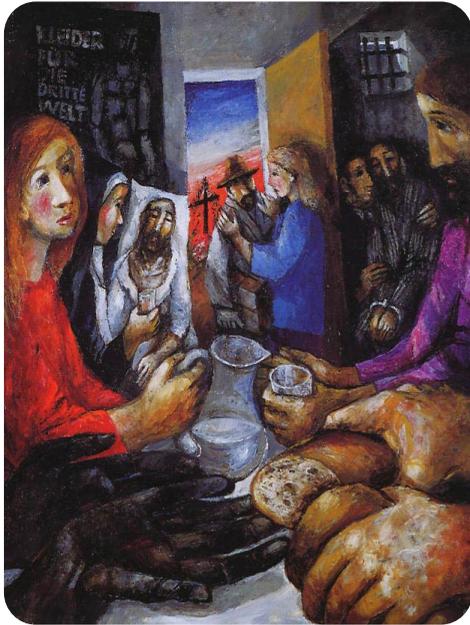
So, the challenge is how to make the reading of our Constitutions more attractive. Of course, old traditions can be resumed. But it is not only a question of going back to former routines and picking up forgotten

traditions. Therefore, the idea surfaced to make our Constitutions the basis of seven prayer services of about 20 minutes each. In this way, they can be used on a daily basis as a morning or an evening prayer, following an old Greek proverb whose Latin translation might sound more familiar: *Gutta cavat lapidem non vi, sed saepe cadendo* – a water drop hollows out a stone, not by force, but by falling often. To that end, I hope using them might become a help for growth and a more profound and spiritual knowledge of our Charism as expressed in our Rules.

The prayers can be used individually or in community. Therefore, a division was set up, with an introductory text of the Founder for meditation, certain parts for the leader, another for a reader, and others for the community. The structure of the services speaks for itself. The illustrations are from the contemporary German priest and artist Sieger Köder and are meant to be a help in prayer.

Allow me to conclude by wishing you all, first of all, the time and the space to pray, personally and in community. Furthermore, I hope that these texts and words as formulated in these prayer services, might lead us all to deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment as Salvatorians to the spirit of Fr. Francis Jordan and, as apostles of our times, formed and sent for Mission!

Agustín Van Baelen sds  
Rome, 21 July 2020



Sieger Köder: “*Works of mercy*”

his ability, would fulfill his vocation in every way possible. Let us avoid everything that is not in keeping with our vocation. And indeed we can easily stray from the path which leads us directly to the attainment of our purpose of bringing heavenly tidings, of being angelic messengers from heaven. Your life must be in Christ.”

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 11 March 1898

“Our vocation is to strive that all come to know the true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Our preaching should be as though we have come from on high, like angels descending from heaven. Indeed let us arouse and excite all peoples, all those who are asleep, as the angels summon the dead to judgment by the trumpet. A sublime vocation, what a sublime vocation is the apostolic vocation! And we are called to save souls. How I wish, therefore, that each one, toiling according to

## I. OUR SALVATORIAN CALL AND MISSION

**L(eader):** Oh God, enter our midst.

**A(II):** God of mercy, be our light and guide us.

**L:** Make us aware of Your presence.

**A:** Open our ears and hearts.

**L:** Give us the ability to see You, hear You, talk to You and give You thanks.

**A:** Forgive us our lack of faith and help us to live with bold confidence in You, keeping our eyes on You and living a life that proclaims Your presence.

### *Hymn*

**L:** You have called us into life, God of all creation to service and availability. You have entrusted us a unique task not given to anyone else: our Salvatorian Mission.

**A:** We are a link in your covenant, Lord, that holds all people together. You have created us, and you invite us every day a new to participate in your plan.

L: Wherever you send us  
we want to do well,  
to further peace and spread the truth,  
in spite of our limitations.

A: Therefore, we trust in you, our God,  
whatever we will become,  
wherever we will go,  
whatever will happen to us;  
we hope that nothing will separate us from You.

**R(eader):** From the Rule of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1882.

*“The purpose of the Apostolic Teaching Society is to strengthen, to defend and to spread the Catholic Faith everywhere in so far as this is committed to it by Divine Providence. Therefore, by exercising this ecclesiastical teaching function in word and writing, it intends to achieve the end that all people might know more and more the one true God and Him whom He sent, Christ Jesus, and that they might live holy lives and save their souls...”*

### **Silence**

L: God our Father,  
in Christ Jesus you have manifested  
your kindness and love for humanity.

A: In Him, the one true Saviour of the world,  
we are called, together with all people,

to union with You and one another,  
to form your people.

L: Inspired by your Spirit and  
out of concern for the salvation of all,  
Our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan,  
wanted to gather people, men and women,  
young and old, who would announce,  
in the footsteps of the Apostles,  
that Jesus is the Saviour.

A: In this way we also feel urged  
to embrace a life of total dedication to You.  
We put ourselves at the service of Your love,  
which for us is realized in life in community  
according to the evangelical counsels  
and apostolic service.

L: We want to know You more deeply  
and make you known as a loving Friend of all people.

R: A Gospel reading according to Luke 12, 1 - 11

*“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so, ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals*

*and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter, and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God is at hand for you."*

### **Silence**

A: We have put our trust in You.

Let our prayer reach You,  
who strengthen and enable us  
to do what is needed  
to hasten the coming of your Kingdom.

L: God, our Saviour,  
as in the time of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan,  
we seek to fulfill Your will in our day,  
as we live and work in faithfulness to the Church,  
serving others in simplicity and humility,  
thereby manifesting to the world  
your goodness and love.

L: Let us pray today for all the members  
of the Salvatorian Family

A: That in our times and specific situations,  
we may increasingly shape the Salvatorian mission  
in the spirit of Father Francis Jordan,  
as instruments in your hand,  
imbued with love for your Son, our Saviour  
and inspired by your goodness and kindness.

### **Spontaneous intercessions**

L: Our Father...

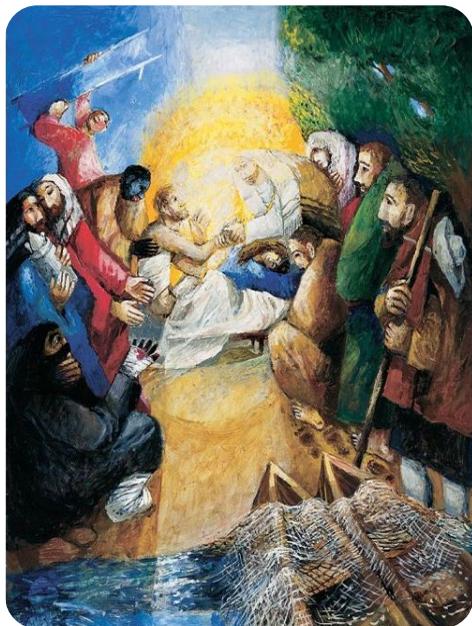
L: Hail Mary...

L: Through the intercession of Your servant, Father Francis Jordan,

A: Grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you anytime and  
anywhere, Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

L: Let us praise the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



Sieger Köder: “*Jesus heals the sick*”

“(…) Therefore, we should use this exalted office, this great grace which is our lot through our vocation, as the holy rule prescribes: to work, to suffer, to struggle, to fight and to die for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. (…) Let each of us use every opportunity to spread fire – apostolic fire – for the one who is on fire enkindles fire everywhere: in writing letters, in relationships, in other opportunities. (…) You yourself know how a soldier should stand and fight only where he is deployed. He

should and must fight only in his place. How much one can do if he is filled with the Holy Spirit! He spreads blessings everywhere.

This zeal must be accompanied by wisdom. Since most of you are still young and inexperienced, wisdom is doubly necessary. Zeal without wisdom wreaks havoc. (…) Since wisdom is a virtue related to humility it demands that you do not labor according to your own ideas. Providence has arranged it so that no one person knows everything. Whoever works on his own makes many mistakes, even big ones. It is also important that you do not work anxiously but conscientiously. Ask your superiors for advice or at least always keep them informed insofar as possible. (…)”

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 11 May 1894

## II. OUR APOSTOLIC LIFE

L: Be welcome in our midst, oh Lord.

We trust in You.

A: You are our support and refuge,

Lord our God;

You are a faithful ally on our way.

L: Loving God,

forgive our complaining attitude

when things don't go our way.

A: Help us to see Your hand in every part of every day.

Help us to learn how to face every storm

with confidence, as Fr. Francis Jordan did,

knowing that you will make everything good,

even though we cannot hear your voice

or see Your hand at work.

### *Hymn*

L: God, our Father,

You have entrusted everything into the hands of your Son.

Nobody knows You, except through Jesus.

A: Make us receptive to His message

to understand your call.

Make us mild and humble of heart.

- L: We thank You,  
because our names are written in the palm of your hand,  
because you know each of us by name.
- A: Send us every day anew to your people.
- L: Let us not rely solely on our own strength.
- A: Give us the spirit of the defenseless,  
who rely in poverty of spirit on your loving providence.  
Let us stand with one another,  
befriending and sharing one another's hopes and questions.
- L: Empower us to proclaim with our entire life  
your gospel message of salvation, liberty and peace,  
everywhere and always,  
by all ways and means.
- A: We ask You this through Jesus our Saviour,  
through whom you have revealed  
your love and kindness for all.
- R: From the Rule of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1886.

*“By their example, by means of the spoken and written word, and by all ways and means which the love for Christ may inspire, the members should seek wisely and zealously in the Lord to make known to all and to glorify everywhere God the Father and His Son, Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, in order to bring people to salvation.”*

### *Silence*

- L: God our Father,  
from the very beginning  
You have called humankind to guard,  
protect and enjoy creation as faithful stewards.
- A: We thank you for the world into which You send us,  
for all the good that happens to us.  
We ask you that we always may be able to recognize  
your care and your creative presence,  
by treating all created things with respect.
- L: Lord Christ Jesus,  
our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan, deeply wished  
that his spiritual sons and daughters  
proclaim to all people You and your Message,  
by all ways and means that the love of God inspires.
- A: Help us to grow towards You and one another  
through the witness of our lives, our kindness,  
and our apostolic zeal.  
Be our Guide in the fulfilment of this ministry  
so that we always respect human dignity,  
and are ready to serve all people without distinction.
- L: You had a preferential love  
for the poor and oppressed.

Help us never to forget  
that the work of justice and peace in the world  
is part of our task of evangelization.

A: Give us courage to promote social justice,  
to overcome poverty, injustice  
and oppression of every kind,  
so that this world becomes a place  
where it is good for everyone to live.

R: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 25, 31 – 40

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”*

### *Silence*

- L: Give us a sensitive and caring eye  
for those who are weak  
and vulnerable.
- A: That we never may tolerate any form of abuse,  
especially of the young and of vulnerable adults.  
Give us the power to be transparent,  
to protect and to defend your little ones,  
who have a special place in your Kingdom.
- L: Holy Spirit, come and inspire us to remain faithful  
to the charism of our Founder  
and the purpose of his foundation.
- A: May we always be guided  
by the call of the universal Church,  
the signs of the times, the manifold needs of all people,  
and our own capabilities and gifts.
- L: We feel urged to spend ourselves  
for the salvation of all people,  
relying on Your Spirit who delivers and heals.
- A: We feel confident that then  
we ourselves can grow continually  
as free and liberated people,  
in a deep union with You.

L: Triune God,

You are concerned for the wellbeing of people.

A: Infuse us,

to promote the development of the Christian vocation  
of those people who devote themselves  
to the fashioning of human society  
and the proclamation of the Gospel message.

L: We pray for wisdom and a spirit of discernment.

A: Aware that we depend on You,

we hope to be able periodically to evaluate our life  
in order to recognize You in our neighbors,  
in whom you reveal yourself continuously new and different ways.

***Spontaneous intercessions***

L: Our Father...

A: Hail Mary...

L: Through the intercession of your servant, Father Francis Jordan,

A: Grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you anytime and  
anywhere, Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

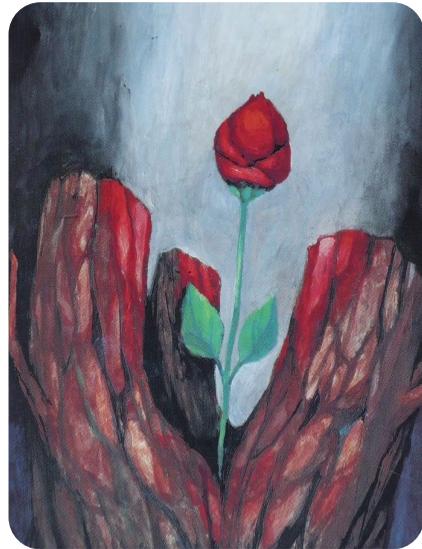
L: Let us praise the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



**Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan**

• 16 June 1848 + 8 September 1918



**Sieger Köder:**  
*"A shoot on the stump of Jesse"*

God. But how easy it is to stray from obedience. Who can say that he is never tempted in this? There is quite a danger that after the passing of years one may arrive at the point where he is merely pursuing his own interests. Therefore, I beg you, remember your holy vows. (...)

Finally, self-mastery. (...) If you neglect self-mastery you will regress; neglect humility and the foundation of the virtues collapses. If you become good, observant Salvatorians through obeying the holy vows, through self-mastery and humility, then you will be like a tree planted at the water's edge, bearing fruit in due season. I want every one of you to have an ardent and firm desire to become reliable Salvatorians. I know we all make mistakes, beginning with me. But I can and I must demand goodwill and earnest effort from every one of you."

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 16 November 1900

"Faithfully observe the three religious vows, the first of which is holy poverty. How beautiful, how exalted is holy poverty through which one is so detached from everything. But if perhaps after many years someone asks himself: "How did I actually live in this or that situation?" how will he have to answer himself? That is why I hope you will always remember the day of your holy profession. (...)

Then the vow of obedience. By it you have offered yourself as a sacrifice, surrendering yourself to

### III. OUR LIFE ACCORDING TO THE EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

L: Merciful God, enable us to feel your grace-filled presence.

A: For when you show your face,  
 we are graced with strength to stand before you.

L: Show your mercy on our endeavors,  
 that under your eyes, in love and faith,  
 righteousness and humility,  
 we may faithfully meet you in silence.

A: Give us a pure mind, that we may see you;  
 a humble mind, that we may hear you;  
 a loving mind, that we may serve you;  
 a believing mind, that we may live you.

L: *Kyrie eleison.*

A: *Lord have mercy.*

L: *Christe eleison.*

A: *Christ have mercy.*

L: *Kyrie eleison.*

A: *Lord have mercy.*

L: Lord of forgiveness and reconciliation,  
 have mercy on us and lead us on the path of everlasting life.

A: You, who we do not know,  
 but to whom we belong;

You, whom we do not understand,  
but have dedicated us to our own destiny.

R: From the Rule of our Founder Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1884 and 1886

*“The Rule and life of this order is to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Christ Jesus by living Obedience, Poverty, Chastity and the Apostolate. (...) Faithfully observe the vow of chastity; keep yourself most chaste in body and mind. (...) The members should possess nothing as their own; whatever they acquire they acquire for the Society. I admonish each and every one of you in the Lord to observe holy poverty faithfully and uprightly as the foundation of our Society. You ought to rightly say with Blessed Peter: ‘Behold we have left all things and have followed you.’”*  
*“Just as our Lord and Master Christ Jesus did not come into this world to do His own will but the will of His Father, so also the members have not entered the Society to do their own will, but the will of their heavenly Father, for the obedience which is shown to superiors is shown to God.”*

### **Silence**

L: Christ Jesus, You call all to holiness of life  
and to collaboration in Your work of salvation.

A: Accept, O Lord, that we answer this call by following  
the way of the evangelical counsels,  
together with our Salvatorian sisters and brothers.

L: With trial and error,  
but always with good intentions,  
we devote ourselves to You, O God.

A: Grant us the strength not to respond  
to the urge to pursue a career,  
realizing that in our efforts  
to make the world and society more human-friendly,  
we fall short and depend on you.  
Enable us to listen to you together  
so that the spark of your salvation may spread to many.

L: Through our dedication and commitment,  
we want to worship You, O God,  
and deepen our personal union with Christ.

A: We pray that close bonds of brotherly and sisterly love  
may be forged in our communities, strengthening our unity  
and increasing our availability for apostolic service.

L: Help us, O God,  
to progress day-by-day in our commitment.

A: Only if You wish, and with your support,  
we can become ever more authentic witnesses  
to the healing presence of Christ in our world  
and testify to the new and eternal life  
that he has promised and won for us.

L: Holy Mary, Mother of the Saviour,  
together with the Apostles,  
you have joyfully and generously cooperated  
in your Son's salvific work.

A: May we follow your example,  
and place our life under your protection.

L: Hail Mary...

A: Holy Mary...

L: God, our Father,  
You have given all that is good in this world  
as a help for us to become more genuine.

A: Your creation is our joy.  
but too often we set our hearts on material possessions,  
narrowing our gaze.  
We are so moved by them  
that we do not pay enough attention  
to essential values:  
friendship between people, silence,  
attention to your plan for our lives,  
and the healing message of Christ Jesus.

L: We often feel powerless,  
bound in so many ways by other's opinion,  
tradition or custom.

A: Everything is possible with you.

You can free our hearts.

R: A reading from the Gospel according to Marc 10, 17 – 22

*“As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.’” He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.”*

### **Silence**

L: The gospel of your Son questions our lives.

A: Whenever we have settled for  
to the world's ways, it makes us restless.  
In everyday affairs,  
where compromises are held up  
as the conventional wisdom,  
give us the courage to choose instead  
the values of the gospel.

L: Lord our God, we pray for those who,  
without choosing it themselves,  
live alone, feeling  
abandoned and forgotten.

A: Be a comfort and refuge to them  
and that they may meet people  
who want to be very close to them,  
who want them to experience that you are a God  
who takes us by the hand,  
guiding and carrying us  
when the journey becomes too heavy.

L: Lord our God, we also pray  
for those afflicted by poverty, disasters and setbacks;  
we pray for the victims of epidemics and pandemics,  
for the children who have to find their food in rubbish dumps,  
for young people who have to sell themselves in order to survive,  
for the far-too-many people caught up in the net  
of inhumane poverty.

A: Do not allow, O God, that there are people  
who live in poverty and tribulation because of others.  
We know that You reveal yourself most in the poor near and far.  
Give us the ability to recognize you  
and the courage to change these humiliating situations.

L: Lord our God, we pray for those  
whose voice is never heard,  
as well as for those who are deaf and blind  
to everything that makes them dependent on others.

A: Create in us the Spirit that invites us  
to walk the way of life openly and freely,  
in solidarity with each other,  
so that we all can hear what you expect from us.

***Spontaneous intercessions***

L: Our Father...

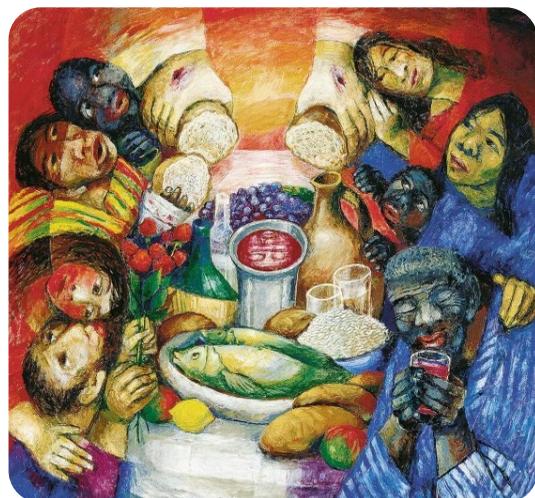
A: Hail Mary...

L: Through the intercession of Your servant, Father Francis Jordan,

A: grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you anytime and anywhere,  
Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

L: Let us praise the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



Sieger Köder:  
 “The Supper with the Sinners”

“*Quam bonum et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum!*” “How good and pleasant to have brothers living together in unity!” It is truly good and noble when brothers of one heart live together, when united with God they set for themselves one of the highest goals: to lead people, to lead humanity, to its highest blessing: eternal salvation.  
 (...) *Quam bonum et*

*jucundum habitare fratres in unum!* United in strength, they seek first to be holy themselves and then to sanctify others, to support each other in body and in spirit. (...) What a wonderful undertaking! (...)

Remember, you must have love, zeal and enthusiasm for your Society! It is your great task to gain these through prayer and meditation. (...)

Remember well how easily the evil one tries to weaken this spirit – these “wings” with which you and others progress. (...) And if the devil tries to persuade you, remember that sufferings are everywhere. (...) If your heart is heavy within you, then on the outside you should show joy in bearing your cross. Some suffering must come.”

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 2 June 1894

## IV. OUR COMMUNITY LIFE

L: God our Father, quiet our minds,  
 still our hearts.

A: Strengthen our lives,  
 inspire our minds.

L: We lay our life out before You.  
 We thank You that You always offer us  
 new ways to live in your grace.

A: We ask You for forgiveness for  
 the wrongs we have done,  
 the things we have neglected and  
 the people we have hurt along the way.

L: May your healing presence guide us to everlasting life.

A: Amen

### *Hymn*

L: God our Father,  
 we live in a time of meetings and discussions.  
 We can feel like we're drowning in piles of paper.  
 In our problems we hasten the step  
 and frown our eyebrows;  
 it even becomes difficult to distinguish what is really important.

- A: Help us pay attention to every person  
we meet each day in our community at home,  
at work, along the streets of life,  
so that we become more and more a sign of your love.
- L: Let us not be afraid of concrete encounters  
with people who ask questions.
- A: Let us not avoid people's problems.  
Let us not live in the past or future,  
but in the concrete here and now.
- L: Give us the courage to do what needs to be done.
- A: Make us available to commit our whole life  
in every situation where others count on us.
- L: Let us not float above reality in the clouds of beautiful principles.
- A: But may we have our feet firmly on the ground,  
where people live together in joy and sorrow.
- R: From the Rule of our Founder Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1884  
*"I beseech you, to lead a life worthy of your vocation, bearing with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness, and patience. Above all, have a constant mutual love for one another, for charity covers a multitude of sins. A new commandment I give you, says the Lord, love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. All your deeds must be done in love."*

### *Silence*

- L: O God, You call us  
to a community of faith,  
fraternity, and apostolate.
- A: Following the example of the first Christians,  
we want to share our faith experience,  
friendship, fraternal living  
and apostolic activities.
- L: Our community becomes increasingly meaningful  
as it grounds itself on you, Jesus our Saviour.
- A: Let all that we do emanate from You  
who have shown us the goodness and kindness of God.
- L: Our community is composed of people  
with strengths and shortcomings.
- A: We ask you,  
that you keep in us the flexibility  
to not get stifled by structures,  
that you help us to recognize the wealth of one another's gifts  
that enrich our community;  
strengthen us to overcome our failings,  
pardon one another wholeheartedly  
and patiently bear our own shortcomings and limitations.

R: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 18, 15 – 22

*“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Then Peter approaching asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.”*

**Silence**

- L: We pray for all those  
 who are leaders in our communities,  
 for the sick and elderly members,  
 for our relatives, benefactors and friends.
- A: Guide us in the footsteps of the Apostles  
 to give a prophetic witness  
 that You abide in us and unite us in love.

- L: God our Father,  
 let us not only speak the word of the gospel in our day,  
 but let it become flesh and blood  
 in living people,  
 and in living communities.  
 Let us be one in heart and one in spirit  
 in the joy of the risen Christ.

- A: Prepare us to share everything,  
 our joy and our pain,  
 our discouragement and our renewed courage,  
 our talents and our possessions.

- L: Make our hearts sensitive  
 so that we don't forget  
 that there are poor among us.

- A: Let us be together again and again  
 in joy and simplicity of heart.  
 Gather us as one community in prayer,  
 in our apostolate, and in the breaking the Bread.  
 Give us resilient openness to all people  
 who seek salvation and happiness  
 in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

***Spontaneous intercessions***

L: Our Father...

A: Hail Mary...

L: Through the intercession of Your servant, Father Francis Jordan,

A: Grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you  
anytime and anywhere,  
Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

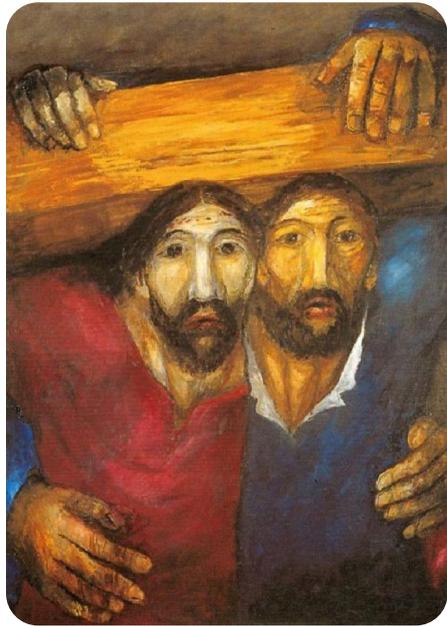
L: Let us praise the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



**We Salvatorians,  
are sent to love, to make known, and to serve  
Jesus, the Crucified, the Risen,  
the Saviour of the world,  
with all ways and means  
that love for Him inspire us  
wherever we will be sent.**

**It is our mission  
to help the Church in her work of evangelization  
leavening humanity with the Gospel values  
by our deeds and words.**



Sieger Köder: *"The vulnerable God and Simon of Cyrene"*

We should become holy, all of us without exception. The Lord gladly gives us his grace. On the other hand, 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. Holiness is connected with many small failures and imperfections and even with small venial sins. But don't be discouraged! (...) If you want to become holy you must become like the divine model. (...)"

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 20 April 1894

"(...) In his great mercy the Divine Saviour has called us to be conformed to his image; he called us to be like him as much as possible: to be holy. (...)"

Become holy! Tell yourself over and over, "I must become holy! If I do not strive for holiness, I am in danger of falling to the ground. It is my duty to strive unceasingly for holiness." What use are other ideas and undertakings if we do not strive for holiness? How happy you are if you understand this truth. Let this be your guiding principle: "I must be like my divine model." Never let

yourself regret it, whatever the cost, "I must be holy. Let people despise me. Let people think I am inferior. Let people mock me, as long as I please God, if only I become holy. I do not count the cost." (...)"

We should become holy, all of us without exception. The Lord gladly gives us his grace. On the other hand, 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. Holiness is connected with many small failures and imperfections and even with small venial sins. But don't be discouraged! (...) If you want to become holy you must become like the divine model. (...)"

## V. OUR UNION WITH CHRIST

- L: Lord, we thank you  
for walking with us each day  
and being with us in each moment.
- A: Thank you that your promises are true  
and your goodness never fails us.
- L: We acknowledge our need for your mercy.
- A: Our spirit is willing, but we are weak.  
Therefore, we come to You  
because your loving gaze  
encourages us to stand up again.

### Hymn

- L: You are not a distant God:  
in you we live and move and exist.  
You seize us at the root of our existence;  
You are more intimate than our most inmost thoughts.
- A: You move our hearts so that love is born in them,  
a precious secret that transcends us,  
the ground that carries our lives.
- L: You make us look forward to your absolute love,  
which frees us and gives us new space.

A: That love became very concrete in your son Jesus,  
whose liberating message we want to proclaim to the people.

L: You give us the joy of love  
that is revealed to friends  
and thus, enters real life.

A: You let us experience that we are made  
for your all-encompassing love.

You make our hearts the most reliable ally of your truth.

Therefore, our heart is restless until it finds its rest in You.

R: From the Rule of our Founder Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1882

*“Since there is no hope of an effective ministry in the vineyard of the Lord without striving for one’s perfection, the members are obliged to strive for daily progress in the way of holiness. They should especially remember that all such progress is attributable to divine grace which they should continually seek for themselves through prayer to the Father of Light.”*

### **Silence**

L: Lord Christ Jesus,  
You are the center and source of strength for our life.  
You call us to union with Yourself.

A: Make our hearts wide open,  
to give you a space in our way of life,  
our interaction with each other  
and all the people we meet.

L: Transform our lives into one prayer  
in which we carry those dear to you.

A: Clear our gaze to recognize you  
in the people and things around us.

L: You often reveal yourself in the most surprising moments  
and the least expected places, as we know from the Scriptures.

A: You have broken and shared your life so that all people  
can find salvation in your life, death and resurrection.

L: But most of all you let yourself be known  
in and through your people.

A: Let us recognize you in all people,  
especially our fellow brothers and sisters,  
in the poor, the distressed, and the oppressed.

L: You urge us to pray through your example and teaching.

R: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 11, 1 – 4

*“Once Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.”*

### **Silence**

A: Like Father Francis Jordan,  
we too want to draw fervent compassion from prayer,  
so that we can be enthusiastic and happy witnesses  
of your gentleness and kindness.

L: God, our Father,  
give us in all that we undertake and plan  
an ever wider and deeper bond with Christ,  
Your Son and our Saviour.

A: Let us be seized  
to the core of our hearts by Jesus;  
from the beginning and to the end of our life,  
be our light on all our ways.

L: Make us receptive to the suffering of all people.

A: Send us their way.  
Gird us with the bond of wholehearted friendship.  
Help us be attentive  
to the people who are broken and seek healing.

L: Prepare us to align our lives with others  
in the power and style of Jesus the Saviour.

### *Spontaneous intercessions*

L: Our Father...

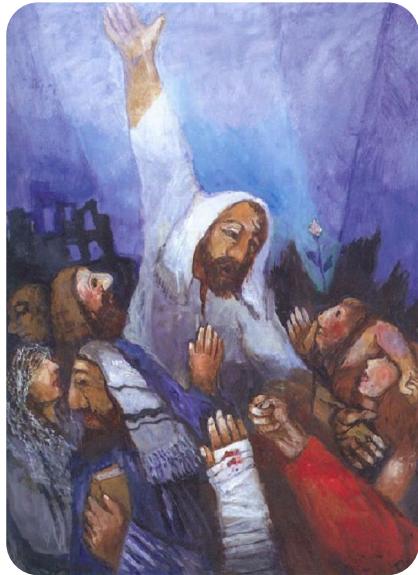
A: Hail Mary...

L: Through the intercession of Your servant, Father Francis Jordan,

A: Grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you  
anytime and anywhere,  
Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

L: Let us praise the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.



Sieger Köder: "Prophets of God"

"It is so important to our holy vocation to be filled with zeal for souls. If not, we will not accomplish our mission. *Qui non ardet, non incendit*. "Whoever does not yearn does not burn." (...) Yet how should you practice zeal for souls? Precisely by preparing to become good apostolic priests pleasing to God, and most of all by eagerly seeking holiness, through obedience, strict observance, and especially through willpower.

*Vince temetipsum!* "Master yourselves!" by patiently enduring (...) all the efforts in your studies. Brothers too may participate in saving souls by working, and thus become true *coadiutores*, collaborators, in saving souls. But above all scholastics (and brothers too) should not forget the quest for holiness. Therefore, you must pursue the study of holiness. (...) They should not neglect to prepare themselves through zealous study and through good use of their time, to acquire a solid grasp especially of the theological sciences!

(...) Therefore, employ all *sanctitatem et scientiam*, "holiness and learning" and let the brothers always strive for holiness and diligence by humbly performing their assigned duties with a good intention. Never think: this work is menial! Whatever is done with a good intention is great in the eyes of God! (...)"

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 6 May 1898

## VI. OUR INITIAL AND CONTINUING FORMATION

L: Lord, come into our midst.

A: O God, You are our light.

L: In your presence we see ourselves  
and are able to distinguish our shadow side.

A: We put in your hands  
the things we have done wrong,  
and the areas where we have failed  
to act as we should.

L: Help us to turn away from everything  
we know to be wrong about our life.

A: We ask your forgiveness,  
and offer you all our shame,  
guilt and wrongdoing.

L: Thank you for accepting and embracing us.

A: Fill us now with Your Holy Spirit.  
Focus our heart on You  
and empower us in everything that we do.

### *Hymn*

L: Lord, we feel that You have called us for your mission.

- A: Give us the courage to risk our life for you,  
the overflowing joy  
of spending ourselves in your service.
- L: We know that you count on us  
and that the situations we will encounter  
are sometimes very demanding.
- A: Give us, Lord, wings to fly  
and feet to walk alongside those in need.  
Infuse us with the desire to give of ourselves,  
to live life in service to those  
who hunger and thirst for Your message.
- L: Make us builders of your life,  
propagators of your kingdom;  
help us to pitch our tent in the midst of your people  
to bring them the treasure of your saving love.
- A: Make us obedient to your Spirit  
in being led to the foot of the Cross,  
believing that only  
in the shadow of the Cross,  
your works prosper.
- L: Grant us the mindset and awareness  
to keep near to You,  
learning continuously from You

and serving You as well as possible  
in the people You entrust to us.

- A: Holy Spirit,  
You are the true source of light and wisdom  
Infuse into our confusion the glow of your clarity.
- L: Open our minds to understand You.  
Open our lips, to speak words of blessing.
- A: Give us sharpness of understanding,  
ability to assimilate and to learn, wisdom to interpret  
and copious grace to speak.
- R: From the Rule of our Founder Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1884:  
*“No one may enter this Society except who is called by God: everyone, therefore, test himself and be tested... Superiors, I entreat you, let no one enter who is not called by God. Pray and examine before God... You, however, who are called by God, put on the vesture of humility and of the apostolate, hold it as your faithful guardian angel and a reminder of your vocation.”*
- Silence**
- L: Christ Jesus,  
You came to make all things new.  
We are called by You  
to renew ourselves continually.
- A: Assist us in responding to your call  
through our initial and continuing formation.

We want to grow constantly  
in following You  
and in spending ourselves  
for the salvation of all.

L: We know that formation is of vital importance  
for each one of us personally  
as well as for the continuing development  
and effectiveness of our service.

A: Further in us the ability  
to integrate and adapt  
to the changing circumstances of the times  
the essential elements  
of our life as Salvatorians:  
to follow You  
in the evangelical counsels, prayer,  
community life, and apostolic ministry.

R: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke 11, 33 – 36

*“No one who lights a lamp hides it away or places it under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand so that those who enter might see the light. The lamp of the body is your eye. When your eye is sound, then your whole body is filled with light, but when it is bad, then your body is in darkness. Take care, then, that the light in you not become darkness. If your whole body is full of light, and no part of it is in darkness, then it will be as full of light as a lamp illuminating you with its brightness.”*

### *Silence*

L: Enlighten us and bestow on us your Spirit,  
in order to develop holistically as persons,  
promoting our spiritual,  
intellectual, psychological  
and professional growth.

A: We pray for vocations and we ask You  
to grant us the grace  
to live as your faithful disciples,  
in order to be credible witnesses,  
gathered in appealing communities  
for those who are seeking You  
and are called to become a Salvatorian.

L: Give our superiors and formators  
the spirit of service, discernment and patience.

A: That they may accompany and guide  
those who are able and willing  
to cooperate in the fulfilling  
of our Salvatorian Mission.

L: We pray for all our formandi.

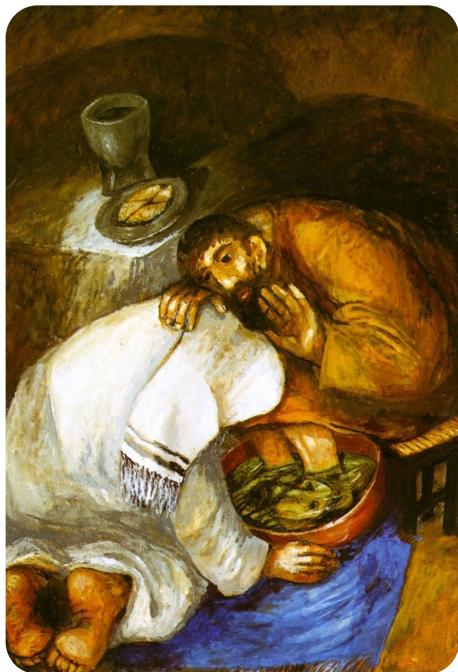
A: That all may grow  
in their capacity to make decisions  
and assume responsibility in the community.

Help them to live faithfully,  
 dedicating themselves conscientiously  
 to their studies,  
 showing emotional maturity,  
 and openness  
 to the spiritual, communal,  
 and apostolic life.

- L: We pray for our novices  
 in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.
- A: That they may strive to deepen  
 their knowledge and experience of God,  
 and ever more clearly to know themselves through  
 active participation in the community,  
 living the evangelical counsels,  
 and letting themselves  
 be introduced into apostolic activities.
- L: We pray for our temporary professed confreres.
- A: That they feel committed  
 to keep growing  
 in their relationship with You  
 as faithful Salvatorians,  
 gradually assuming responsibility  
 within the community

and preparing themselves by work and study,  
 ever more fully to share in the Salvatorian Mission.  
 Give them the openness  
 to let themselves be guided  
 and fraternally corrected wherever needed.

- L: We pray for all Salvatorians.
- A: Give us the courage to seek opportunities  
 to renew ourselves continually,  
 making use of all means  
 that help us in our formation,  
 in order to respond to the needs of the world,  
 the Church, the community, and ourselves.
- Spontaneous intercessions***
- L: Our Father...
- A: Hail Mary...
- L: Through the intercession of Your servant, Father Francis Jordan,
- A: Grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you  
 anytime and anywhere,  
 Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.
- L: Let us praise the Lord.
- A: Thanks be to God.



Sieger Köder: "Washing of the feet"

"If superiors and their subjects and those who hold some office each observes his own rules and regulations, they further good order, good organization, harmony. (...)

A religious community can be compared to a watch: when all its wheels are working well everything is all right, but if something is out of order, then that is a different matter.

Nothing is a greater source of credit to a religious community, nothing nurtures and nourishes observance, piety and steadiness more than concord.

One spurs the other on and motivates him. Therefore, all are committed to each other; there is great mutual esteem. Thus, all can exclaim, "O what a lovely and pleasant thing it is that brothers should live as one together!"

And on the contrary, at least ordinarily speaking, neglect of the rule is the root and cause of every disorder. (...)

Regular observance shows that all is well with the community and it brings the confident hope that it will achieve great things. I ask you, therefore, to pray and to pray without ceasing, that observance will flourish in the Society. (...)"

Fr. Francis Jordan, Chapter talks, 14 April 1899

## VII. OUR SERVICE OF AUTHORITY

- L: Heavenly and compassionate Father,  
we thank you for creating us;  
You know us and you love us.
- A: We are fully known and completely loved by You.
- L: Though we fail You,  
You have never turned your back on us;  
You remain faithful forever.
- A: You have sent your beloved Son,  
Jesus the Saviour to the world,  
to reveal in a definite way  
your desire to save all,  
without any exception.
- L: We praise You  
for the grace to know You  
and to love You as Jesus did.
- A: Thank you for accepting us as your children  
and for calling us to live like sisters and brothers  
through your Son, Christ Jesus.
- L: Transform us, O God,  
and make us more like Jesus,  
the servant of all.

A: Open the eyes of our hearts  
that we may see you more clearly  
in the teaching and the exemplary life  
of our Saviour.

L: Thank you, Father,  
for your unfailing love for each one of us.

A: We thank you for taking away our fears and worries,  
for guiding us through times of uncertainty,  
for lifting us up every time we fall,  
and reminding us that our help comes from You.

### *Hymn*

L: Jesus our Saviour, You have called your disciples.

A: You have gathered them in a community,  
You have taught, corrected and guided them,  
by words and your example,  
how to participate in Your Mission.

L: So, we have answered your call  
and want to take part  
in your work of salvation,  
as apostles for our times,  
in the footsteps of our Founder.

A: Make us obedient and openhearted to your voice,  
and help us to understand your will.

L: We pray for our leaders,  
who have the task  
of coordinating our communities,  
making them a space where we feel encouraged  
to continue as Salvatorians  
to make You known, loved and served by all.

A: Give them the gift to be wholesome in their conduct,  
to concentrate on what is essential  
and not to get distracted.  
Make their words of teaching honest,  
and their advice wise and liberating.

L: Help our leaders to be promoters of real peace.

A: Grant them the gift  
of being seekers of truth,  
and the courage  
to correct us whenever needed.  
Make them eager  
to engage with disagreement  
for the sake of bringing about  
the peace of agreement in the truth.

- L: Divine Saviour,  
You are sovereign and engaged.
- A: Bestow your Spirit of patience,  
goodness and kindness on our leaders.  
Fill their hearts with confidence in You  
and enable them to trust your will and ways.
- L: Lord Jesus,  
before acting, You always listened.
- A: Help our superiors  
to be quick to listen, open to reason,  
and easily persuasion  
through good sense, and wisdom.  
Give them the insight to realize  
that they do not know it all  
and need to be helped  
by our positive insights and constructive criticism.
- L: You were above all merciful and compassionate.
- A: Let impartiality be a special virtue of our leaders.  
May their wisdom come from You,  
who make your followers  
increasingly fair and just.
- L: Help our leaders to practice what they preach.

- A: May they be led  
by the spirit of your Apostles,  
being men of sincerity,  
commissioned by You,  
being free from people-pleasing,  
refusing to practice cunning  
or to tamper with Your message.
- R: From the Rule of our Founder Fr. Francis Jordan, written in 1886  
*“The members should keep before their minds the word of the  
Apostle: “Do not render service for appearance only and to  
please men, but do God’s will with your whole heart as slaves  
of Christ.”*
- Silence**
- L: You have gathered us  
to fulfil Your mission  
within the Church.
- A: Therefore, we initiate, guide, and direct  
individual and communal activities,  
as members of the same Salvatorian community.
- L: Some of us are requested to exercise the service of authority.
- A: Enlighten them to seek the discernment of Your will  
and enable them to coordinate  
our individual and communal efforts

towards the achievement  
of the common good  
by fostering the growth  
and development of our gifts.

L: Help our superiors  
to lead, inspire, and sustain  
the individual members and the community.

A: That their leadership  
may help all of us mature  
in our commitment  
to religious life and ministry  
in the spirit of the Salvatorian charism.

L: Further in all of us the spirit of openness and dialogue.

A: Help us to find,  
under the direction of our Superiors,  
how we can integrate our own call and mission  
into that of the community.

L: Give us the power  
to accept authority as mutual service.

A: In this way, Lord Jesus, we give witness  
to your teaching and example,  
you who came to do your Father's will,  
to serve and not to be served.

R: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark 10, 42 – 45

*“Jesus summoned them and said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Silence**

L: We pray for our Superior General, the General Council,  
and all the support services of the Generalate.

A: That they may promote  
our Salvatorian charism and identity,  
foster international unity and collaboration.

L: That they may feel supported by all  
in their duty of directing and coordinating  
the activities of the Salvatorians  
according to our Rules and the signs of the times.

A: May their leadership guide us  
in fostering our spiritual growth,  
strengthen us in faithfulness  
to the spirit of our Founder,  
and encourage our service

in our apostolic mission  
within the Church.

L: We pray for the Superior of our unit and his team

A: That they may encourage  
the members of our unit  
to translate our charism  
into visible and effective  
apostolic activities.

L: May the spirit of wisdom  
and discernment be their guide.

A: Help them to build bridges  
of communication and cooperation  
between the Generalate and the local communities,  
as well as with the bishop of the diocese  
in which we live,  
integrating our apostolates  
into our internationality,  
and in the activities of the Church.

L: We pray for our local superior,

A: That he may feel supported by us  
in the task of animating, directing and coordinating  
the activities of our community.

### *Spontaneous intercessions*

L: Our Father...

A: Hail Mary...

L: Through the intercession of Your servant, Father Francis Jordan,

A: Grant us your grace to glorify and proclaim you  
anytime and anywhere,  
Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

L: Let us praise the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

