

Words of thanks by Fr. Milton Zonta SDS
General Superior of the Society of the Divine Saviour
Beatification Ceremony of Francis Jordan

Saint John in Lateran (Rome) – 15 May 2021

*Most Reverend Eminence, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis,
Dear Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz,
(Dear Bishops), Brother Priests and Deacons present here,
Dear Religious and Laity who share in the Salvatorian charism,
Dear relatives of Blessed Francis Jordan,
Brothers and Sisters here present and all those who follow us through the
various means of communication.*

Today is a wonderful day for all of us who have firmly believed in Blessed Francis Jordan's call to apostolic holiness. Our Salvatorian hearts are filled with great joy and gratitude for all that God has done for us.

It fills us with emotion just to think of the many generations of spiritual daughters and sons of Francis Jordan who have prayed for this day we are living today. We have been supported by so many brothers and sisters who have given their time, energy and witness to write this story to this solemn recognition and confirmation that Francis Jordan has been able to manifest the love of the one true God to all.

Our hearts are also filled with joy knowing that thousands of people from every continent have joined us in this celebration through the media.

Today we rejoice because God wanted to manifest his love and his plan to save all through the life of Blessed Francis Jordan in the Church. A life of humble beginnings, but which became great in apostolic service to the whole world, particularly to the most distant. Indeed, as Pope Francis has said, "*It is the grace of God that changes life: it takes us as we are, but never leaves us as we are...*".¹

Today the Church presents Francis Jordan to us as an icon of apostolic holiness. A man of God who, through his life, made known to us the virtue of an unshakable

¹ FRANCIS. General Audience at 2 December 2020

trust in God's love, evangelical meekness, self-emptying, tireless apostolic zeal and his faithful love for the universality of the Church. Today more than ever we thirst for these virtues of holiness to fill the darkness of the world with light.

On behalf of the whole Salvatorian Family, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, Vicar General of the Diocese of Rome, who, on behalf of Pope Francis, presided over the beatification with such solemnity and friendship.

I also take this opportunity to thank, in a special way, the Diocese of Rome, which opened its doors to Salvatorians and Salvatorian women from all over the world, accompanying us to this great event.

I would like to sincerely thank those who have put in hours of diligent work in the preparation of this celebration. Special thanks to the liturgy team who prepared all the steps of this solemn ecclesial event. Our gratitude also goes to the members of the choir and orchestra, who helped us to live the sacred liturgy more deeply. Thanks also for the significant presence of the Cardoso family from Brazil, with their beautiful daughter Livia Maria, who brought the relic of Blessed Francis Jordan here before the altar.

Special thanks to the media professionals whose work has enabled thousands of people from all over the world to take part in this ceremony.

I greet with deep affection all of you who are at home. You who, from the most diverse nations and places, with joy, emotion and gratitude are sharing with us this moment of praise and thanksgiving. Thank you for your messages of good wishes and prayers: for us a loving presence in this stream of communion.

The grace of today's celebration opens up a new time for us to move forward under the guidance of Blessed Francis Jordan. May he urge us to follow Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, in the manner of the apostles. Let us follow his example of holiness and service, using every possible means, so that God may be known, loved and served, in all the missionary frontiers of today.

Thank you all! Thank you with all my heart!