

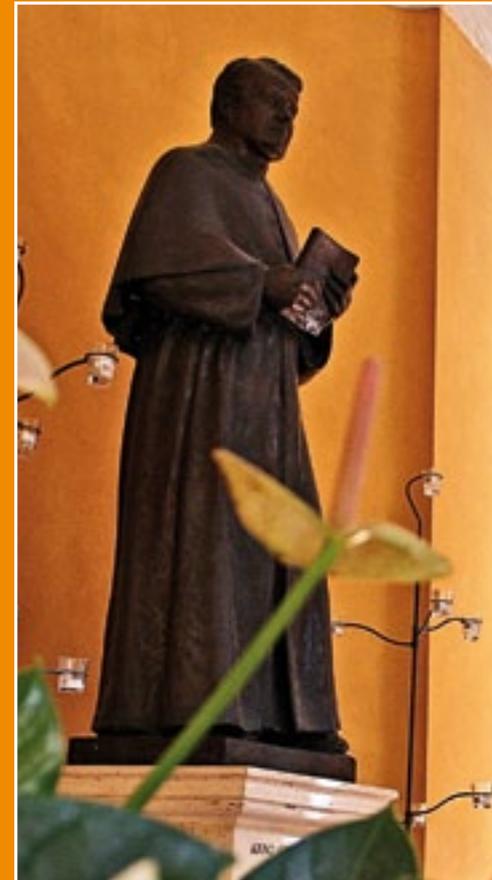


**SALVATORIANI**

**Guide  
to the Motherhouse  
of the Salvatorians**

Palazzo Cardinal Cesi • 16th century

**THE RESIDENCE OF  
FATHER FRANCIS JORDAN  
AND FATHER PANCRATIUS PFEIFFER**



*Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan*

*Welcome to the Motherhouse of the Society  
of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians).  
We invite you to discover our Founder  
as we describe the distinctiveness  
of the various spaces in this palazzo  
and as we tell you about our mission.*



Photo from 1920 prior to Via della Conciliazione



Palazzo Cesi today

## Salvatorians in the history of Palazzo Cesi

The Palazzo Cesi is located in an area where the Roman philosopher and statesman Seneca had his house. Cardinal Francesco Armellini constructed it at the beginning of 1500, by enlarging a building dating from 1400. In 1527, during the Pillage of Rome, the Lanzichenecchi invaded and looted the palazzo requiring the Cardinal to flee to Castel Sant'Angelo where he died a few months later.

In 1565, Pierdonato and Angelo Cesi bought the building and they had it restructured completely by Martino Longhi the Elder between 1570 and 1577. The palazzo had not been remodeled significantly until 1939 when part of the building was demolished due to the urban reforms of the 30's, thereby reducing it to its current size.

The palazzo became the main headquarters of the Salvatorians throughout the world through the efforts and merit of the Founder of the Society of the Divine

Savior, Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan (1848-1918).

Upon seeing the sumptuousness of the palazzo, one might ask: How could a poor and humble religious, like Fr. Jordan, permit himself the luxury of buying this building? ... The story is long but we will provide a brief synthesis.

Father Francis Jordan founded the Society of the Divine Savior on 8 December 1881 in the chapel where St. Brigid of Sweden died, in a small palazzo at Piazza Farnese. But as the number of members grew rapidly in the Society, he was obliged in 1882 to rent some rooms in the Palazzo Cesi which at that time was called the Palazzo Moroni.

In the same measure that the Society grew, Fr. Jordan's confidence also grew in the help of Divine Providence, which was evident through the generosity of benefactors and donors, especially from Germany. This allowed him to buy the palazzo in 1895 for a very reasonable price.

Father Jordan lived here for 33 years.

Father Francis Jordan



# Ground Floor



*The courtyard*

Since 1882, this house has served as the headquarters of the General Council of the Salvatorians, as a house of formation for hundreds of candidates, novices, philosophy and theology students, and of Brothers. It has been the publishing house for publications in various languages, the place of departure of new missionaries, the site for international meetings such as Synods and Chapters, and a guesthouse for countless Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Salvatorians as well as prelates who come from throughout the world.

The marvelous interior courtyard in the design of a cloister helps us enter into the tranquility of the palazzo.

The four huge stones in its pavement were part of the ancient Via Cornelia which ran under the Palazzo.

On the right-hand side of the courtyard is a large statue of the Divine Savior sculpted by the Austrian artist, Ferdinand Seeboeck (1864-1952).



*Fountain and statue of the Divine Savior*



*The portico with the statue of Fr. Jordan*

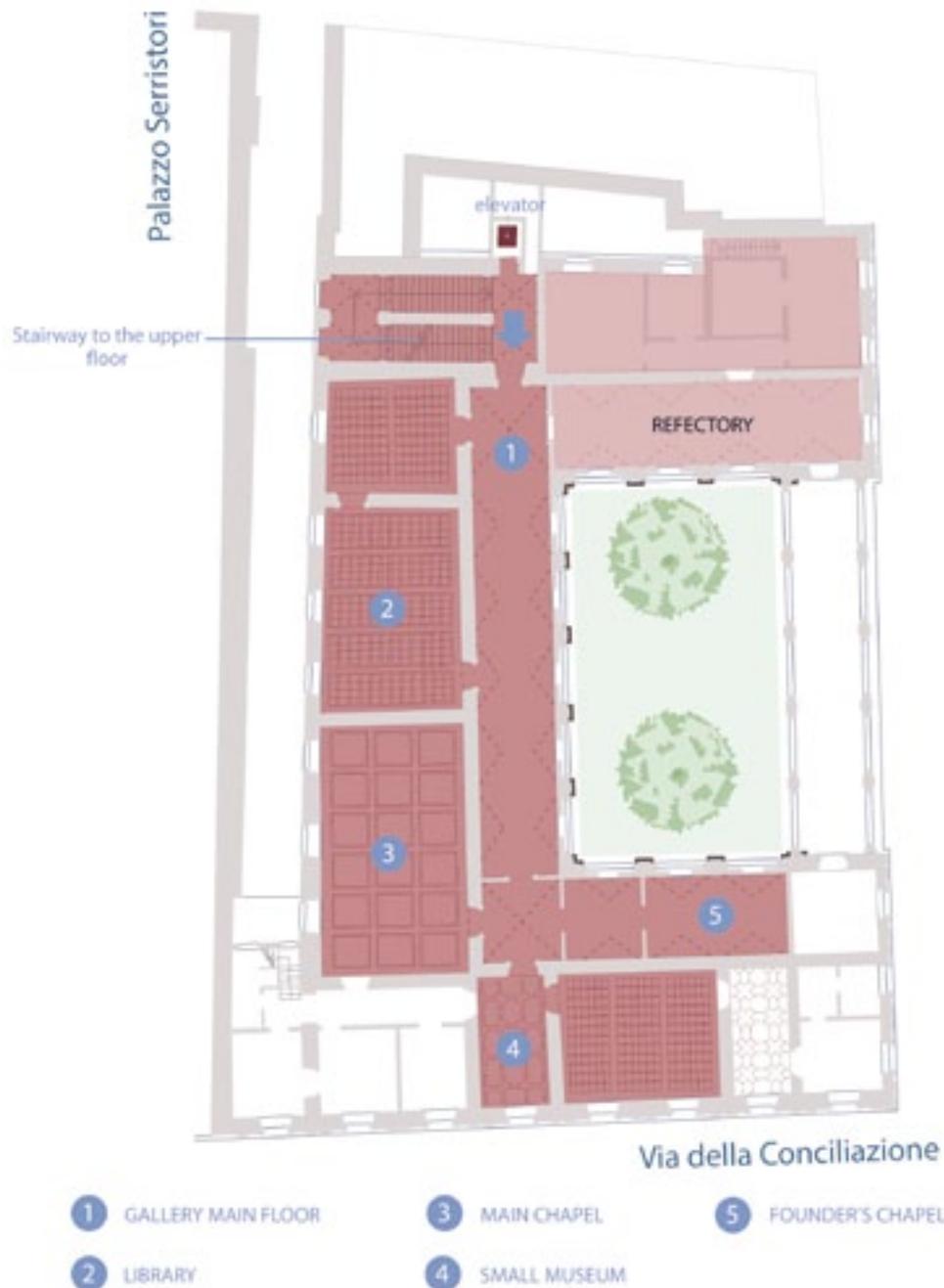
Located in the corridor, on the left, is the statue of our Founder (Seeboeck) and, a bit further from there, a commemorative plaque about Fr. Pancratius Pfeiffer.

The statues of St. Peter and St. Paul (Seeboeck) lead us to the great travertine marble stairway that takes us to the “royal floor” (main floor).



*Access to Palazzo Cesi with statues of Saints Peter and Paul*

# First Floor



Bust of Father  
Pancratius Pfeiffer

The Gallery

The gallery of this floor leaves us breathless due to the beauty of the closed arches covered in frescoes presenting the history of Solomon. These frescoes are attributed to Pietro da Cortona (between 1653 and 1662). In 1981, they underwent a major restoration.

Along the corridor, you can admire the portraits of the succession of Superiors General over the course of the years. We also see busts of the Founder, of Fr. Pancratius Pfeiffer and of Fr. Bonaventure Lüthen.

## The Library

The library, containing important documents on the history of the Society, is the largest and most imposing room of the palazzo. Its coffered ceiling is made of beautifully painted wood. The upper part of the wall is full of frescoes.

While admiring such great beauty and grandeur, we recall how Fr. Francis Jordan began his foundation with only three people. Now he blesses from heaven more than 3000 people who are members of the Salvatorian Family: consecrated men and women religious as well as lay men and women members found in more than 40 countries, on all the continents, all dedicated to proclaiming the gospel.



The tomb of Fr. Jordan



Reliquary of Blessed Mary of the Apostles

## The Founder's Chapel

At the end of the corridor towards the left, one finds a small chapel with the tomb of Father Jordan and a reliquary of Blessed Mary of the Apostles, his collaborator in the founding of the Salvatorian Sisters. The Motherhouse community gathers here every day to pray for all of our benefactors who make it possible to develop our Salvatorian missions and projects throughout the world.

The tomb of Venerable Fr. Francis Jordan receives visits each year from many of his spiritual sons and daughters as well as from persons who come to pray through his intercession.

A high relief of the Last Supper by the sculptor Seeboeck adorns the chapel along with three works by the Russian sculptor Nikolay Kirillov: a bust of Fr. Jordan, a medallion of Pope John Paul II and a reliquary of Blessed Mary of the Apostles.

Pope John Paul II came to pray before the tomb of the Founder in 1999 when he visited the Motherhouse. In the sacristy area, one finds a display case with one of John Paul II's cassocks.

## The Main Chapel

Across the Founder's Chapel, you enter into the marvelous main chapel with its wooden coffered ceiling and you see large coats-of-arms. The original frescoes commissioned by Cardinal Cesi are also on the walls; they are by the painters Nicola Martinelli and Tommaso Laureti (1530-1602).

In an ambience of recollection, the Motherhouse community gathers here every day to celebrate the Holy Mass for our benefactors.



On the walls of the chapel, there are two inscriptions:

*“In honor of the Divine Savior, on the occasion of the 50th year of the Foundation of the Society.”*

The other comes from St. Paul's Letter to Titus (2:11-13):

*“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (NRSV).*

## The Small Museum

On display in a small space at the end of the corridor there are personal items of Fr. Francis Jordan that help us discover his devotion to the Virgin, his life of prayer, his apostolic zeal, and his efforts to unite the living forces of the Church so that all people would come to know the Savior of the world.



*Fr. Jordan sending missionaries into the world (painted by Br. Aegidius Röder, 1892)*

*Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes*



*Father Jordan's rosary*



## *The Terrazzo*

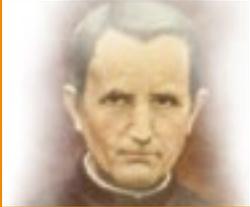
The elevator takes us to the top floor where you will find the terrazzo, the last stop of the tour of the palazzo.

The view is indescribable. On the one side, you receive the embrace of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums, and on the other side, you are overwhelmed by the monuments of the city. In the far distance, you can see the hills of Rome and in the sky the seagulls flying overhead.



## Salvatorians of yesterday

In addition to Fr. Francis Jordan, many Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers, remembered for their holiness and missionary spirit, lived in this house.



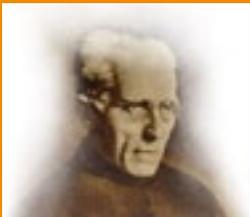
### Fr. BONAVENTURE

Father Bonaventure Lüthen (1846-1911) was a great journalist and the faithful companion of Fr. Jordan as well as his first Vicar General. He is known as the “older brother” because of his role in shaping our Salvatorian identity.



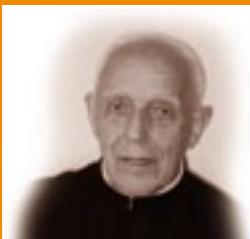
### Fr. OTTO

Father Otto Hopfenmüller (1844-1890) was the first Salvatorian Father sent as a missionary to Assam, a remote region of India. He died a few months after arriving but left a great testimony to the Salvatorian apostolate. He is remembered for his sanctity.



### Fr. PANCRATIUS

Father Pancratius Pfeiffer (1872-1945), perhaps the best-known Salvatorian especially in Rome, lived in this house for 51 years. During World War II, he earned the name of “the Angel of Rome” due to having saved the lives of many persons, especially Jews. He was an important intermediary between Pope Pius XII and the German generals. He was also able to prevent the bombing of some cities in Italy because of his efforts.



### Br. CASSIO

Fra Cassio Brauchle (1903-1995), a German Brother and tailor by trade, lived more than 60 years in this house. He was distinguished by his kindness, love for the community and respect for tradition. He was well known in the Vatican and served as a guide for many pilgrims. He greatly enjoyed dowsing and successfully found many wells in Italy and other countries.

## Salvatorians today

Salvatorians – numbering around 1200 Fathers and Brothers, 1200 Sisters and more than 1500 lay members – are faithful to the evangelization of Fr. Jordan, who declared that no one could rest until all came to know and love the Savior.



The countries where Salvatorians are active (in green)



Celebrating Mass in Chokwe (Mozambique)

Salvatorians are convinced that true salvation is holistic and therefore it embraces all of the aspects of a person's human life at all levels: material, intellectual, moral and spiritual. For that reason they build schools, hospitals, seminaries and found universities. They also develop green energy projects, which favor social development of communities and help thousands of people make a better life for themselves and for their children.

*A Salvatorian Seminarian*



*Salvatorians in India (Assam)*



*Christian inspiration,  
universal charity.*

Among the various activities that take place at the Motherhouse are the workstations of the Salvatorian Office for International Aid (SOFIA), a non-profit organization for the promotion of Salvatorian projects and for the raising of funds and donations to help advance them.

Clearly, in order to advance this mission we need the help of all!



*We protect and help hundreds of children  
in the slums of Manila return to school*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
COLLABORATION WITH THE  
SALVATORIAN MOTHERHOUSE

We are very grateful for whatever way you can help us advance the mission of the Founder.

We Salvatorians invite you to learn more about the life of Fr. Francis Jordan and about the Salvatorian Family at [www.sds.org](http://www.sds.org)

If you would like to know more and support Salvatorian missionary projects see:

[www.sofiaglobal.org](http://www.sofiaglobal.org)



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