



Western Region Salvatorian Newsletter

April 2020

Salvatorian Western Region

Regional Moderator:

Sr. Sheila Novak

Regional Representative to LSNB:

Jan Bencken

Men's Religious Representative:

Fr. Marcel Emeh

Women's Religious Representative:

Sr. Jean Schafer

Secretary: Joyce Dwonch

Treasurer: Joyce Daniels

Lay Representatives:

Mickey Drake

Mary Jo Verke

Salvatorian Links

www.salvatorians.com

www.salvatoriansisters.org

www.laysalvatorians.com

www.salvatorianfamily.us

Newsletter Publisher & Editor:

Rita Schillin

schillin2@icloud.com

From our Regional Moderator, Sr. Sheila Novak

Great Expectations

The famous opening line of *Great Expectations* certainly is apt for these days: "It was the best of times and the worst of times." We have been saturated with health information, warnings, advice, rising statistics about those infected and the daily death tolls. In a great irony, it is not some well-planned and magnanimous gesture that is bringing our planet together, but a tiny virus that is invisible to the eye. It is creating a common global experience that is seeking cooperation rather than competition, hopefully putting humanity and life above all else.

So how are you doing with this unique stay at home time – so unexpected? In the words of a teenager who used to be at Hope House (our SDS shelter for human trafficked survivors), she complained, "It is so boring! There's nothing to do." Maybe if I were 17, I would feel the same way – but most of us in the region are past the 50 mark and I hope are finding some of the "best" in this time.

While acknowledging the "worst" in this pandemic of sickness, death, job loss and Wall Street's fluctuations affecting the economy, we can go to the news to get filled in on these trends. The focus here will be on how this is indeed also "the best of times."

In our time-driven society, where there never seems to be enough of it, suddenly with all the cancellations, we have a blank calendar. So we have the gift of open time to do what the spirit moves us to do. I can get at something I have put off. It can be quality time, not time squeezed in between so many other things on my calendar. I can give it my full attention and do it in a satisfying way.

There is also the slower and more relaxing pace of just being, of more time to pray and read, of making connections with family and friends. Instead of getting a voice mail telling me to leave a message, I actually get the 'at home' person who can't go anywhere. So it can be a time of renewing, sustaining important relationships in my life.

As I am homebound and can just get necessary groceries, it causes me to sort out what are my real needs versus my wants. This is a big question for us more affluent Americans. (I know some of you may not feel affluent, but in the eyes of the rest of the world, we are affluent with more than enough at our fingertips.) Right now I am reading a book called, *How Much Is Enough?* by Arthur Simon. In a chapter called "The Poverty of Riches" he says, "We are human beings, not human having's. . . The critical question is no longer 'What do I want?' or 'What can we afford to do?' but 'How can we use what God has given us to carry out God's will?'" This time of slow



down and reflection gives us the chance to grapple with these questions.

There are wonderful good news stories about creative and generous responses people are making in the midst of all the limitations imposed on us. Health care workers are putting themselves at risk and working overtime. We are grateful for them and hold them in prayer. But closer to home, people are looking out for elderly neighbors and doing grocery shopping for them. Jan Bencken, seamstress that she is, is sewing face masks for health care workers. Our parish is being creative in offering on-line Masses and also a grocery shopping ministry for the older members of the parish. People are doing phone checks on those living alone who are vulnerable. We are looking out for each other in unprecedented ways. We are living the goodness and kindness of Jesus – loving one another.



*Just a sample
of what is be-
ing done*



This Lent has had its own agenda and called us in unexpected ways. The other good news is we have the great expectation of resurrection. It may take longer than the Easter date of April 12th – but we know it is coming. All of daily life is deeply embedded in resurrection life, so we pray that our world rises to be a more compassionate and loving people!

April Cancellation

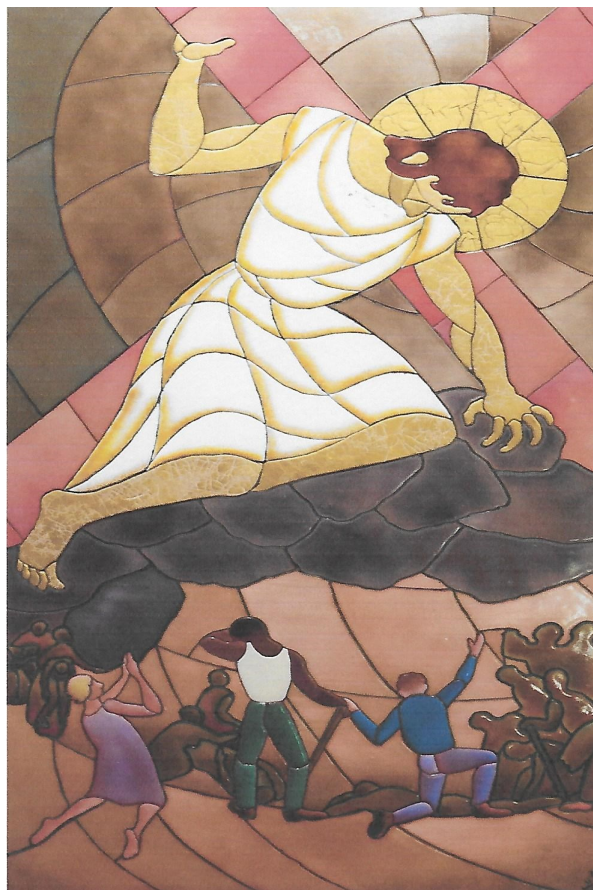
Because of the request of both the diocese and the state to refrain from gathering in groups, the formation session on Friday, April 17 and the gathering on Saturday, April 18th have been **cancelled**. We will see how the virus progresses as we look towards May and make the decision to either cancel or hold the May 8th and 9th gatherings. We will keep you posted!

Regional Station Project

At our last gathering, we did our reflection on station VII (Jesus Falls the Second Time) for the SDS Lenten Project 2021. Your efforts for this reflection are just below the picture. In the next column.

Since we will not be gathering in April, please do this for the other station given to our Region on your own. See page 6 for the instructions on the process and a picture of the station. Our new station is station XI – Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Jesus Falls the Second Time



Prayer for the 7th Station
Jesus Falls for the Second Time
by the Western Region

*Loving God,
we are aware of our weakness as a human family.
Jesus falls and so do we, over and over again.
May we remember that falling is part of the journey -
Rising up with you is our choice.
No matter how heavy the cross we are carrying,
We know we are not alone.
May we learn to help each other in the rising.
We thank you for the hope we receive –
From witnessing Jesus in both falling and getting up,
Walking forward in his commitment to be our Savior.
Strengthen our faith so we can persevere in hope
To pick up our cross and follow you.
Amen*



Mary Jo Verke Apr. 7
Mike McCormack Apr. 9
Shirley Barbera Apr. 21
Mark Verke Apr. 21

Synopsis of the General Committee Meeting December 2019 by Ken Drake

The General Committee of the International Community of the Divine Savior (ICDS is the formal name of the Lay Salvatorians) met in Rome December 2nd to 10th, 2019. Included during this time was a meeting with the International Joint Leadership Group (IJLG) on December 6th and 7th. Prayer is an important component of discussions, so each day was started with Eucharist.

The topics discussed by the General Committee were:

- Welcome and general conversation regarding the units and their connection with the General Committee members
- Finances
- The ICDS Statutes: There has been a lot of work done by the General Committee on the Statutes over the past twelve months and the plan is to have the current draft ready to submit to the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life by the end of February 2020. The General Committee worked more on the draft Statutes during this meeting.
- Communication: The General Committee acknowledged that while communication with the units and between the units has improved, there is still a great need for better communication.
- Motivational letters have been posted on the ICDS General Forum on the ICDS website (www.laysalvatorians.org/forum) and will continue to be posted in the future.
- Archives: The ICDS needs to have a central location for the archives of the ICDS and this need was presented at the IJLG meeting for consideration.
- Common Celebration Days: The General Committee decided to encourage each unit around the globe to celebrate on the same date the most important Salvatorian dates. A calendar of suggested dates will be published.
- Salvatorian Family: The General Committee discussed the need to work together with all three

branches of the Salvatorian Family, especially in areas of joint projects.

- ICDS logo: The General Committee recognizes the need for a logo for the members of the ICDS that encompasses all Lay Salvatorians throughout the world.
- Justice, Peace, and the Integration of Creation (JPIC): The JPIC work group has begun by meeting on Skype and is seeking input from each unit about what they are presently engaged in regarding JPIC issues.
- An evaluation of the meeting format and topics was held and recommendations for future meeting were recorded.

Update: March 23rd, 2020:

After many, many, many hours working via Skype over the last year and a half, the General Committee (the elected Lay Salvatorian representatives from Austria, Belgium, Venezuela, Colombia, Australia, and the USA), with input from many Lay Salvatorians, completed the changes requested by the Dicastery and submitted the Statutes to the Dicastery for approval on March 6th, 2020. Now we will wait for the response from the Dicastery. I always welcome questions/concerns/thoughts. My email is kduckb2h@sbcglobal.net or ken.drake@laysalvatorins.org

2020 Schedule of Monthly Western Region SDS Gatherings



**Apr. 17 (Fri) - 9-12N - Formation Series -
CANCELLED**

Apr. 18 (Sat) -12:00 PM – Regional Gathering
CANCELLED

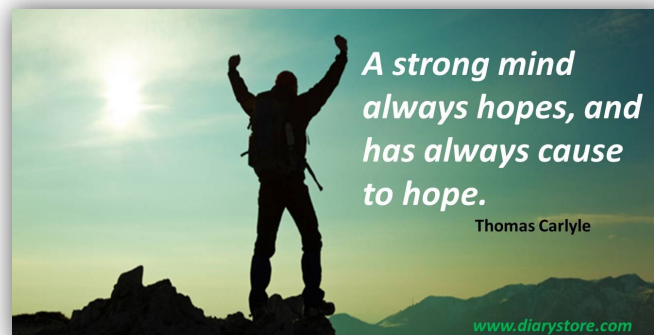
May 9 (Sat) - 3:00 PM - Regional Gathering at the
Drakes

Laughter—Good for the Soul!!

**Corona free man seeks
corona free lady with
toilet paper. Send
pictures of toilet paper!**

Update from Fr. Sal

Father Sal continues to live on campus at Holy Names University. Most students are gone and all classes for the remainder of the semester are now online only. All buildings are closed except for the residence hall that houses the 32 remaining students who are unable to go home. While Sal isolating and keeping a safe distance, Sal continues, with the help of his team, to minister to the Campus community. In true Salvatorian manner, "by all ways and means", he has learned how to celebrate mass using Zoom, which allows participants to read the readings, give responses and even have our "social" after mass with one another. Using technology Sal will be continuing to engage the two candidates for sacraments, and meet the other needs at the Campus community. Though physically apart, we are one in the Savior. We continue to hold each other in prayer and look forward to the day when we will shake hands exchange hugs, and share in the breaking of the bread.



" Lockdown"

Yes, there is fear,

Yes, there is isolation.

Yes, there is panic buying.

Yes, there is even death.

But...They say in Wuhan, after years of noise, you can hear the birds sing again.

They say that after a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi, people are singing to each other, across the empty squares,

...keeping the windows open, so that those who are alone, can hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the west of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today, a young woman I know is busy spreading flyers with her number thru the neighborhood,

...so that elders may have someone to call.

Today, churches, mosques, synagogues and temples are preparing to shelter the homeless, the sick and the weary,

All over the world, people are slowing down and reflecting, looking at their neighbors in a new way.

All over the world, people are waking up to a new reality,

To how we really are, to how big we really are, to how little control we really have, to what *really* matters,

to love.

So, we pray, and remember that,

yes, there is fear, but there does not have to be hate.

Yes, there is isolation, but there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes, there is panic buying, but there does not have to be meanness.

Yes, there is sickness, but there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes, there is even death, but there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make and how to live now.

Today, *just breathe*.

Listen behind the factory noises of your panic, to the birds singing again.

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

and we are *always* encompassed by His love.

Open the windows of your soul,

And though you may not be able to touch across the square,
Sing!

by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM, March 13th, 2020

Our March Gathering

We met at Jan's and though the COVID-19 restrictions were not completely in place, not everyone was able to attend. However, for those who did, we shared a great meal and thanks to Fr. Marcel, we celebrated Mass. We also worked on our reflections for the 7th station. You can see our fruits of that endeavor on page 2.



Process for Reflection on the Stations

Step 1: Notice the station

- be still, look intently in silence at your station
- let it speak to you
- what strikes you – what catches your attention?

Step 2: Look intently at the station again.

- ask – what does it say to me about Jesus?
- share any response you have to this question

Step 3: Look intently at the station again

- ask what does it say to us?
- write down your insights

Step 4: Make a note of your reflections and email them to S Sheila (snovaksds@gmail.com). This can be either phrases or sentences – whichever is easier for you.

Step 5: Please do this by **Easter Monday, April 13th**. That gives me a week to take everyone's feedback and create a prayer. The prayers are due on April 20th.

Thanks so much for your help with this.

