



WESTERN REGION

April 2021

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



Easter People

For 40 years, the Jews wandered in the desert after their liberation from slavery in Egypt. We have now had over 400 days of lockdown. That is 10 Lents when you divide 400 days by 40 days! One a year is enough for me, but we have made it through a long desert experience!

At the end of their 40 year journey, the Jews had to struggle to come into the promised land. We are now looking at Easter – the time of our “promised land.” We are hoping for life as it used to be. Is that all resurrection is about? If we could have a re-do of our lives, do we really want only what it used to be? Or have we experienced some goodness during this lockdown time? Have we had the gift of time to do some of what we say we wanted to do? Or, in the end, did busyness fill our time? Is busyness a crutch or an excuse to sidetrack us from what is really important in our lives? Does “busy” give us a sense of needed purpose or importance?

We all have seen “busybodies” who expend energy that seems to go nowhere. None of us would want the label “busybody” attached to our names. So, as we prepare to re-enter a post lockdown time, some reflection on the word “busy” as it pertains to us may be insightful.

I have seen persons who came through treatment after a devastating case of cancer with a whole new sense of time. Their “resurrection” had them savor what they already had. They made different choices that focused on what really mattered. How do I really want to use my precious time? What will resurrection look like for me? How will I become one of the Easter people?

Easter people are a people of **Light**
Hope
and a
Future

We are **EASTER** people



APRIL 10 REGIONAL GATHERING

Mary Frontiera will be our host for the April 10 Regional Gathering.

There will be no reading to do prior to the gathering. Please come to the meeting with:

- Pen and paper
- A drink, if you wish
- Your smiling faces
- Your cell phone or tablet or iPad –
to take a picture

Since we cannot physically distribute a handout, your device gives you the ability to take a picture of something on the screen. Therefore, if you are unsure of how to take a picture with your device, and then to access it, **please do learn between now and the gathering.** Tablets or iPad's give bigger pictures, and therefore easier to read, but cell phone pictures can be magnified as well. Good luck!

Please arrive on time so you don't miss the Opening Prayer.



Regional Gathering during the Pandemic Schedule to May 2021

This year we are meeting via zoom for as long as the pandemic lasts. Here are the dates for your calendars. The zoom link is listed below. The link will be the same for all meetings.

Friday, Apr. 9 - *Formation Session 9AM-12PM

Saturday, Apr. 10– Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Friday, May 7 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM. –

Saturday, May TBD - *Formation Session

* Formation sessions are for Candidates and committed Salvatorians only.

Zoom Meeting Information for both Regional Gatherings and Formation sessions:

Link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480659946?pwd=MEliczdITkF2eWVSeU04bmtHeWR2UT09>

(Copy and past link into URL)

Meeting ID: **854 8065 9946**

Passcode: **451746**



NEW DEADLINE FOR RETREAT

The deadline for registering for the Salvatorian virtual retreat has been moved up to **April 9th**. The retreat is May 2 to 6, 2021 - Fr. Bonocci will lead us through the Beatitudes. The registration form is on page 3 of this newsletter.

On page 4/5 of the newsletter you will find a letter from the members of the SDS Convocation Year of Blessed Francis Jordan.

I wish you all a holy Holy Week and joyous Easter.

S. Sheila



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



All I need to know I learned from the Easter Bunny!

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
There's no such thing as too much candy.

All work and no play can make you a basket case.
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.

Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.

To show your true colors,
you have to come out of the shell.

The best things in life are still sweet and gooey.

May the joy of the season fill your heart.

Happy Easter!



NEW DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 9



REFLECTION ON THE BEATITUDES

A VIRTUAL RETREAT

An invitation from the Western Region to all Salvatorians for a wonderful time of spiritual growth.

Without buying a plane ticket, hiring an Uber driver or spending money for a place to stay, you can be a part of our upcoming retreat right from your most comfortable chair at home. You can outsmart the pandemic and “gather” with up to 100 other Salvatorians to pray, hear, reflect and share.

- Father Tom Bonacci will be our retreat director. He is a Passionist priest and Executive Director of the Interfaith Peace Project (<https://www.interfaithpeaceproject.org>). (We have had him before and we know he is good – very Biblically based!)
- Dates: May 2nd in the evening to May 6, 2021, closing at Noon.
- Cost: \$30.00 – for each computer used to log-in.
- Limit to 100 computers

Creative possibilities

The sessions will be recorded, so the conferences can be played at a time suitable for you or your region. The conference schedule will be emailed to you later along with resources and the zoom link.

After a session, there will be an opportunity to be a part of a small group for reflection/ discussion. These will be randomly assigned so as to help us get to know each other better.

For people who prefer face-to-face interaction, any region may arrange to safely gather together at a designated location. If some tech expert links a computer to a large screen or TV, it would be another option for a group to watch and listen to the conferences together. Thus, you will have flexibility to shape the retreat/prayer time to meet your personal and local needs.

Father Bonacci provides extensive handouts, which will be emailed to you prior to the retreat.

He is happy for anyone to arrange to connect with him personally for spiritual direction/ counseling.

We feel blessed to be able to have this gift to share with all of you. To register, detach the form below and send it to the address indicated along with your check. Limit will be 100 persons.

Name _____ . Region _____

Your Email _____

Make check of \$30 for each computer used to log-in payable
to: **WESTERN REGION SALVATORIANs**

Mail this registration form and your check to: Jan Bencken
109 Eagle Creek Ct
Folsom, CA 95630-7107



Rome, March 25, 2021
Solemnity of the Annunciation

Year of thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan
2021 – 21 July – 2022

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and members of the Salvatorian Family,

On this Solemnity of the Annunciation, we greet you with our hearts full of joy, gratitude and hope. We write this letter to you in the weeks preceding the feast of the Beatification of our Founder, Fr. Francis Jordan. It is clear that this is a celebration of the entire Church that goes beyond the scope of our Salvatorian Family. It is the recognition of the witness of apostolic holiness for all the People of God on the way. However, we cannot deny that the life of our Founder and his Beatification are for us an event of the Spirit of God that has become a way of life and mission.



Precisely in this festive setting and as a way of giving thanks for the witness of apostolic holiness of our spiritual Father, we want to announce a **“Year of Thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan”** that will begin on July 21, 2021 and will last until July 21, 2022. It will be a time of grace for Salvatorians of all ages, states of life and cultures. We invite you all to be united in a diversity of initiatives that will lead us to deepen our precious apostolic vocation, strengthen our ties of indispensable collaboration and revitalize our humble but firm missionary service in the Church.


Let us celebrate this special year with joy and depth, as spiritual daughters and sons of Fr. Francis Jordan. Let us be creative and take bold initiatives to the beat of our concrete and culturally rich and diverse realities. We invite you to open up to the maximum, to organize a common program as the Salvatorian Family, aware that in this way we will honour the founding inspiration of Father Francis Jordan. His beatification is a new source of inspiration and a point of conversion on a personal, communal, and apostolic level, so that it does not become a simple memory, but rather a *kairos* experience that allows us to be *koinonia*.

May this year of Thanksgiving be a time of blessing for the entire Salvatorian Family and in the most different contexts! To best achieve this end, we have commissioned the "Joint International Commission of Identity and Salvatorian Mission" to help us celebrate with renewed and creative synergy among all, providing us with the necessary materials. From June 16 on, there will be a link on the "*Year of Thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Jordan*" on our [web pages](#). In this virtual site you will find, in different languages, suggestions for prayers, images, activities and celebrations. We take this opportunity to invite you to send us resources that have been produced in your Units and that you would like to share so that they are available to the entire Salvatorian Family. Together we are more!

In addition, above of all these initiatives together, it is our wish that the Beatification of the Founder does not become only a series of "external initiatives", communal or institutional, but also an interior event, that goes inward and to the point, as a vocational call for all to live our vocation to holiness. Inspired by the witness of the holiness of our Founder, may we achieve to be "*apostles beyond borders*", through a fruitful, creative and upward-oriented life, just as he himself has recommended to us: "*Be people of prayer, and you will do great things.*"¹

In advance, we want to thank you for all the beautiful things that you will do throughout this celebratory year, giving life to the apostolic charism of Blessed Francis Jordan. Through this cooperation among us all, the charism grows and produces fruit in the different realities of the world. We assure you of our prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit to inspire, guide and enlighten us on this path. This is our common vocation: to be apostles of Jesus Christ everywhere with such ardor that was in the missionary heart of Blessed Francis Jordan!

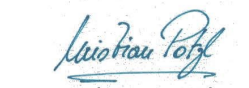
In joyous communion,



Fr. Milton Zonta
Superior General SDS



Sr. María Yaneth Moreno R.
Superior General SORDS



Mr. Christian Patzl
Coordinator General ICDS

¹ JORDAN, Francis. *Chapter Talks*, 5 November 1897.