



WESTERN REGION

December 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

Salvatorian Milestones

December 8th is our Salvatorian birthday (139 SDS-M/132 SDS-W). December 25th is our main Salvatorian feast – where we celebrate a down to earth God. That is one of our Salvatorian hallmarks. All this comes in the season of Advent when we are invited again to allow God to be born in us. So as we honor Mary and her call to us in our lives, the image of a modern Madonna to the right takes her off her marble pedestal and makes her one of us as she faced her own life struggles. Do let her life speak.

Mary's Impossible Dream



In the musical “Man of La Mancha,” when Dulcinea asks Don Quixote what it means to “follow his quest,” he responds by singing “The Impossible Dream.” Mary, who awaited the birth of Jesus some 2,000 years ago just as we do this Advent, could have written the song. She certainly lived it.

Imagine how young Mary—probably no more than 15 or 16 years old—must have felt upon receiving the news that the impossible was about to take place within her, that she would give birth to the Savior. How could she tell her betrothed, Joseph? What would her family think? Who would believe her?

“Do not be afraid, Mary,” the angel says to her. “Nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1:30, 37). We know the rest of the story. The impossible was indeed made possible, not only at the birth of Jesus, but in the many miracles he performed, and most of all at his Resurrection. If God could accomplish all this, imagine what God can do in your own life. Advent is the season for imagining what is possible, for dreaming new dreams, for hoping beyond hope.

may you know
the comfort & joy
of God's
presence this
Christmas
season & always!

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But it is also the season when hope can be hardest to find, dreams hardest to believe. The days draw short, the nights are long and the air turns. Expenses may loom at a time when resources are scarce. Separation, grief, loneliness, and depression are no strangers to the season. Hope may be in short supply during this time. We need Mary's inspiring example of courage and trust in the face of uncertainty more than ever.

Mary can't guarantee us a smooth ride, however. Look at her own difficult journey: first, she had to travel to Bethlehem late in her pregnancy (Luke 2:1–6). Have you ever tried riding a donkey? Now imagine doing so nine month's pregnant! Later, she had to flee to Egypt with Joseph and the baby when their lives were in danger (Matthew 2:13–23).

Nor can Mary promise us a season free of anxiety and worry. Imagine how she must have worried about what was ahead for her beloved child as his messianic destiny was revealed to her, first by shepherds who left her pondering the news in her heart (Luke 2:16–19), then at the Temple by the prophet Simeon, who spoke to her of the sorrowful times ahead: "A sword will pierce your soul too" (Luke 2:22–35).

What Mary can offer us is a remarkable and inspiring example of courage in the face of adversity, patience in the face of uncertainty, and hope beyond hope that the impossible is indeed possible.

Mary stood with her son as he was crucified (John 19:25–27); she stood with his fearful followers who huddled after his death (Acts 1:13–14). She knew that the story wasn't over yet. And she was right.

Our story isn't finished, either, no matter what challenges or wounds burden us this season. All things remain possible with God. This is the miracle of Advent. We can once again dream the impossible dream — and reach the unreachable star. (Grace R. Diaz, snjm)

For reflection:

- What about Mary most inspires me?
- What impossible dreams am I hoping for this Advent season?
- How can Christ be more fully "born" in me?

Request for your prayers:

Rich Saalsaa recently lost his younger brother, Patrick. Please remember his family in your prayers: PATRICK ELTON SAALSAA. 1966-2020

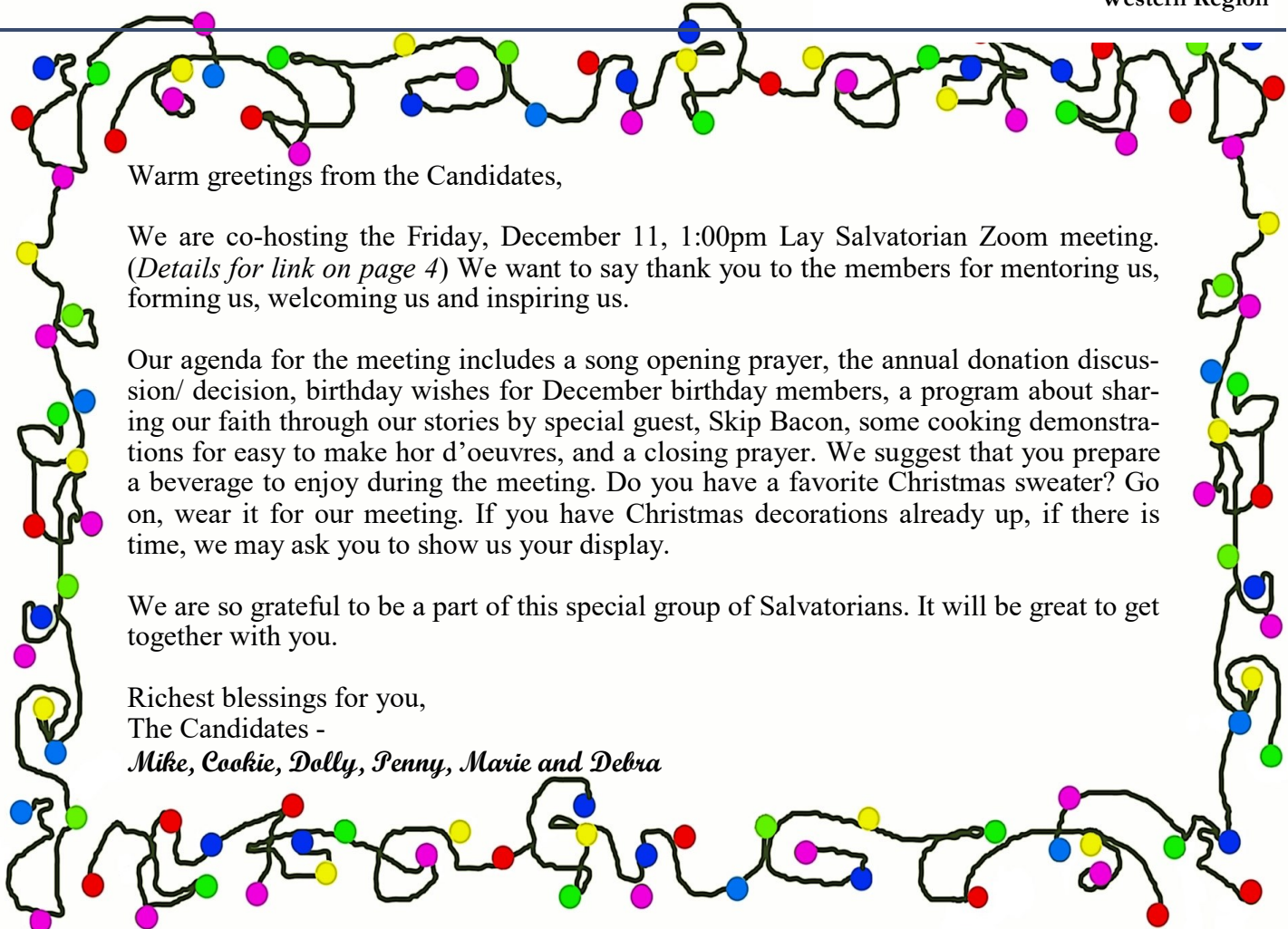
Richard writes: *I am very sorry to say that my brother Patrick passed away suddenly Thursday, Nov. 19. in the morning. He was visiting a close friend of his in Hillsboro, OR when he passed. Patrick had been living with us for most of this year. He died in his sleep after an illness. . . . My heart aches for his kids and those he left behind. He was one of my best friends. Rest In Peace my brother. God-speed.*

Christmas Giving

So far we have received two recommendations for our regional Christmas collection:

- Additional monies for the lunch program of the Haiti project. (Debra LaVoi) The Haiti Project which can always use additional funds to feed the children. According to Denise's recent newsletter, the cost of feeding a meal to a child has gone from 25 cents / meal to \$1.40, so they are stretched really thin compared to prior years.
- Water project in Tanzania (Mary Jo Verke) *FYI see the report and pictures on pages 5 and 6.*





Warm greetings from the Candidates,

We are co-hosting the Friday, December 11, 1:00pm Lay Salvatorian Zoom meeting. (Details for link on page 4) We want to say thank you to the members for mentoring us, forming us, welcoming us and inspiring us.

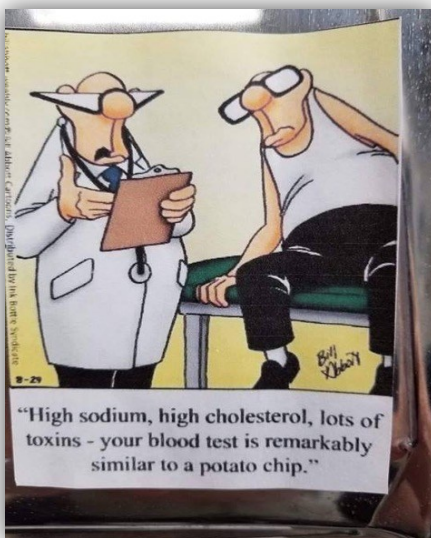
Our agenda for the meeting includes a song opening prayer, the annual donation discussion/ decision, birthday wishes for December birthday members, a program about sharing our faith through our stories by special guest, Skip Bacon, some cooking demonstrations for easy to make hor d'oeuvres, and a closing prayer. We suggest that you prepare a beverage to enjoy during the meeting. Do you have a favorite Christmas sweater? Go on, wear it for our meeting. If you have Christmas decorations already up, if there is time, we may ask you to show us your display.

We are so grateful to be a part of this special group of Salvatorians. It will be great to get together with you.

Richest blessings for you,
The Candidates -
Mike, Cookie, Dolly, Penny, Marie and Debra



Laughter Good for the Soul!!



Got up this morning and ran around the block 5 times. Then I got tired, so I picked up the block and put it back in the toy box.

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands ??

**Regional Gathering during
the Pandemic**
Schedule— Dec. 2020 – 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, Dec. 11 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 12 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

Friday, Jan 8 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 Pm. –
host - Rita Schillin

Saturday, Jan. 9 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

Friday, Feb. 12 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Saturday, Feb. 13 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

Friday, Mar. 12 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Saturday, Mar. 13 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

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. –
hosts - Drakes

Saturday, May TBD - *Formation Session

** Formation sessions are for Candidates and committed Salvatorians only.*

Notice—Regional Hosts Needed

There is still a great need for Hosts for our Regional gatherings. Please consider hosting a regional session in the upcoming months. This month, our candidates are hosting the regional. If they can do it.... So can you. Partner up if you need to. We still need volunteers for February, March and April. Sheila is anxiously waiting to hear from you. Your reward will be great in heaven!!!



**Zoom Meeting Information for both Regional
Gatherings and Formation sessions:**

Link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480659946>

(Copy and past link into URL)

Meeting ID: **854 8065 9946**

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85480659946# US

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US

Meeting ID: **854 8065 9946**

**WHAT DO YOU MEAN — HOST A
MEETING???** — This message is a re-run

By Rita Schillin, your newsletter editor

Truly, this is not that scary of a proposition. As host, the basics include:

- Choose a topic (*you may want to use Sr. Sheila's articles in the newsletter, or you can pick your own and PUT something in the newsletter for people to ponder*)
- Plan an opening and closing prayer. (*you can make it simple, you can show a video, you can play a song, etc.*)
- Prepare questions for discussion (*These would be based on your topic*)
- *Or, Be creative and do something different.*

**SO...HOW DOES THIS WORK...HOW
DO I DO ALL THIS ON ZOOM.**

This is probably the easiest part... you call me and either coordinate with me the breakout rooms and video sharing, or I show you how to do it yourself. It's not hard to do. Volunteer for a month and try it!!! You have nothing to lose and your audience will love you no matter what. Keep in mind, you are hosting...not initiating the zoom.

Tanzania Water Project Narrative

1.0 Introduction

Water is the basic human need without which no one can live. Achieving sustainable clean water was one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG7). Provision of safe water is also in line with the catholic social teachings, which emphasized that water is universal and inalienable right for all people and an essential and indispensable gift from God. Improving the quality and quantity of water is key towards improving the quality of livelihoods, well being and reduce poverty among households.

While safe waters are available in many developed countries, in Africa and Tanzania in particular, the majority of people live without access to clean water. Though Tanzania is endowed with many beautiful rivers, good underground water tables and springs, less than 50 percent of her rural population enjoys clean water.

The majority of rural people are smallholder farmers with very low income. They need water for both livestock, farming and domestic uses. There are various sources of water found in Tanzania, such as rivers, wells (both deep and shallow wells), tap waters, ponds and vendors but all these are beyond reach to the poor because the current infrastructures hinder progresses towards provision of clean waters to many communities. Due to this most rural people rely on unprotected shallow wells for the households' uses. As such water borne diseases such as typhoid and cholera are in high proportions.

2.0 Objective

This project proposal intends to construct wells at the selected communities in Morogoro which are among those with acute water needs or whose members lack access to clean and safe water.

The constructed wells will provide access to clean water to the villagers, reduce water borne diseases, increase household production and improves livelihoods and well-beings of the villagers.

3.0 About the Project sites

Names of the expected beneficiary communities

Kunke	Unone	Manyinga	Kwangwenya	Kwanyambilo	Kingolwira Health Centre
Mikese	Kilosa	Kiloka	Mkuyuni	Mwanjagara	Lusanga Secondary School
Luwe	Kingolwira	Mafuru	Kikundi	Turiani Madizini	
Kwamgela	Minazini	Tungi	Kidude	Melela Health Center	

All sites selected for the upcoming projects are situated in Morogoro Region. The communities currently do not have access to good drinking water. People rely on contaminated water collected from ponds, springs and open local wells. The use of contaminated water increased the chances of falling sick of waterborne diseases such as typhoid, Cholera, diarrhea and so many others. Consequently, most villagers have been frequently hospitalized following the use of unclean waters. *The specific site description of each site will be given in detail before embarking on the project implementation process.*

4.0 Activities

i) For shallow wells - In order to construct a new well the following activities are to be executed:

- Site inspection/visit
- Hydrogeological survey
- Formation of water committee
- Production of materials for ring well construction
- Digging of a well
- Construction of slab
- Pump installation
- Water test
- Handing over ceremony

(Con't. on page ___)

Tanzania Water Project Continued....

ii) For deep wells - In order to drill a borehole the following activities are to be executed:

- Site inspection/visit
- Hydrogeological survey
- Formation of water committee
- Drilling, Gravel Pack & PVC installation
- Water test
- Construction of overhead tank
- Handing over ceremony

5.0 Expected Outcomes

- To increase access to clean and safe water among households
- To reduce water borne diseases
- To improve people's livelihoods
- To increase production through farms and offer more time for women to participate in income generation activities.

6.0 Budget

The cost for constructing a ring/shallow well is estimated to be \$5,000 and its breakdown will be given to the donor before the construction process starts and in the expenditure report upon the project completion and handover.

The cost of drilling a borehole will be determined by the hydrological survey report and the distance of the project site from our head quarter in Morogoro urban.



Kikundi



Kwagwenya



Mikese



Turiani Madizini