



# Western Region Salvatorian Newsletter

February 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](http://www.salvatorians.com)

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

[www.laysalvatorians.com](http://www.laysalvatorians.com)

[www.salvatorianfamily.us](http://www.salvatorianfamily.us)

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## From our Regional Moderator, Sr. Sheila Novak

### Evelyn's Gift

Each month at our regional gathering, we get a short financial report from Joyce. We are in a blessed position because of the monies bequeathed to our region from Evelyn Crain.

At a recent Regional Board meeting we looked ahead at the year's calendar – especially at the upcoming National Assembly in Milwaukee this June 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> followed by a Joint Jubilee celebration on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Three of our regional members are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. It is such a wonderful chance for the region to be present and celebrate with them. We also talked about what a great opportunity it is to be at the Assembly – meeting other SDS from the various regions and receiving the prayer and input these assemblies offer. This year's assembly is going to have a retreat format. Ask people who have been at a National Assembly (they come about every three years) and they will testify to the enriching experience it is.

So – **DO SAVE THE DATES – JUNE 22 TO 27** and consider attending! We are making available some of Evelyn's money to help with expenses for those who want to attend. To receive funds, submit a written request for money to a Board member (see side panel of the newsletter.) Specify the portion you will pay and the amount you need to request. We are asking people who receive money to do something in return for the Region – i.e. write an article for the newsletter about how you experienced the Assembly, lead a discussion at a Regional gathering about the topic(s) from the Assembly or some other idea you would like the Region to share.

Upon receipt of requests, the Board will decide how to cover requests and get back to you so that timely arrangements can be made to plan your trip to Milwaukee. If by chance you have a change of plans and need to cancel, the money would revert back to the Region.

Evelyn was ingenious in what she did for our region. Her gift is a gift that keeps on giving! How grateful we are to have known her and to experience how she still touches our lives!

For God so lo**V**ed the world

That He g**A**ve

His on**L**y

Be gott**E**n

So **N**

**T**hat whosoever

Believeth **I**n Him

Should **N**ot perish,

But have **E**verlasting life.



**Sr. Sheila - Cont'd.**

[Over the years, people have talked to me about concern for the place faith has or does not seem to have in the lives of their adult children. Here is one way to think about it.]

**Binding and Loosing . . .**

(from: The Holy Longing by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, p. 88-90)

What do we do when those whom we love no longer share our faith, our deep values, and our morals?

Suppose, to use a very common example, as a parent you have lost your own children in terms of practicing your faith. They no longer go to church, no longer pray, no longer observe the church's rules (especially as these pertain to sex and marriage), and view your own faith practice as either a naiveté or a hypocrisy. You have argued with them, fought with them, and tried in every way to convince them, but to no avail. Eventually you arrived at the unhappy truce you live today: you practice and they don't. One of the deepest bonds of all between you has been broken. Moreover, you worry about them, living, at least so it seems, godless lives. What can you do?

Obviously you can continue to pray and live out your own life according to your own convictions, hoping to challenge them with your life more than with your words. But you can do more. You can continue to love and forgive them and, insofar as they receive that love and forgiveness from you, they are receiving love and forgiveness from God. You are part of the body of Christ and they are touching you. Within the incredible mystery of the incarnation, you are doing what Jesus asks of us when he says: "Whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven." And "whose sins you forgive they are forgiven; whose sins you retain, they are retained."

If you are a member of the body of Christ, when you forgive someone, s/he is forgiven; if you hold someone in love, s/he is held to the Body of Christ. Hell is possible only when one has put oneself totally out of range of love and forgiveness, human love and forgiveness. . . .actively rejecting not so much explicit religion . . . as the love of sincere humanity. To make this more concrete:

If a . . . loved one of yours strays from the church in terms of faith practice and morality, as long as you continue to love that person, and hold her/him in union and forgiveness, s/he is touching the hem of the garment, is held to the Body of Christ, and is forgiven by God, irrespective of her/his official external relationship to the church and Christian morality.

Your touch is Christ's touch. When you love someone, unless that someone actively rejects your love and forgiveness, s/he is sustained in salvation. And this is true even beyond death. If someone close to you dies in a state which, externally at least, has her/him at odds ecclesial and morally with the visible church, your love and forgiveness will continue to bind that person to the body of Christ and continue to forgive that individual, even after death. . .

In the incarnation, God takes on human flesh in Jesus, in the Eucharist, and in all who are sincere in faith. The incredible graciousness, power, and mercy that came into our world in Jesus is still, at least potentially so, in our world in us, the Body of Christ. What Jesus did we too can do; in fact, that is precisely what we are asked to do.

Questions for sharing:

- What did this article say to you?
- What reasons are you aware of as to why adults no longer "practice" their faith?
- What have you found helpful in dealing with your adult children?
- What are the reason(s) that you are a believer?
- Where/how does your faith get challenged? gets strengthened?



**Hello** & **welcome**

**SISTER BEVERLY**

The provincial leader of the Sisters, Sister Beverly, will be here four days in February, the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully she will be able to attend the regional meeting on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> to meet you. It will be a great chance to show off SDS of the West and get to know one more SDS.



*Mickey Drake Feb. 12*

*Dolly Winterton Feb. 15*

### February Gathering



Where: **Phil & Shirley  
Barbera's  
8748 Mohawk Way  
Fair Oaks, CA 95678**  
When: **Saturday,  
Feb. 8th at noon**

### BYOD

Deli meat trays and condiments will be furnished.  
Potluck items needed: buns, salads, chips/dip, sodas,  
and desserts.

**RSVP** by calling 916-966-0834

### 2019-2020 Schedule of Monthly Western Region SDS Gatherings



**Feb. 7 (Fri) - 9-12N - Formation Series Room Y3  
Divine Savior**  
Feb. 8 (Sat) – 12:00 PM at the Barbera's  
**Mar. 13 (Fri) - 9-12N - Formation Series Room Y3  
Divine Savior**  
Mar. 14 (Sat) – 12:00 PM – Jan Bencken  
**Apr. 17 (Fri) - 9-12N - Formation Series Room Y3  
Divine Savior**  
Apr. 18 (Sat) -12:00 PM – Leah Edwards at Sunrise  
May 9 (Sat) - 3:00 PM at the Drakes

## In Service To Others Lay Salvatorian Formation

Just a reminder — We have six candidates that are going through Lay Salvatorian Formation. You are invited to share their journey and attend the sessions to help support them.

To that end, there is a session scheduled on Friday, Feb. 7th from 9m-12pm at Divine Savior Parish. We will be start a new module focusing on prayer. Please come and join us.

### Newsletter Submission from Jan Bencken

#### HOW HOSPITABLE ARE WE IN THE WESTERN REGION???

Good question and The BiG opportunity is at our doorway right now as we begin our planning to host the Lay Salvatorians of the United States in the Spring of 2021 at the National Convocation. Some fifteen years ago our Region hosted the very first Lay Convocation right here at DS. Once again, our time has arrived for this honor and opportunity. What this means is we will welcome Lay Salvatorians from all across the US, and some international guests as well (Sylvia from Poland, and Christian from Austria, and perhaps several from Australia). Right now, I'd like to poll our group and see how many would be willing to house a guest at their home for the 2-3 nights our visitors are here. **This is just a survey** to get a feel for how many spaces we SDS-L possibly can provide before we explore availability within the broader parish community. My purpose in doing this is to get a feel for options we can explore as we begin our planning in earnest. So far, we've been looking into using the facilities of the Mercy Retreat



Center in Auburn as well as Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights. Other Regions have provided rooms in the homes of their local members & parishioners, so I want to be prepared with a sense whether this is even a practical approach for us to consider. You may share your feedback with me at the Gathering, email me at [jbencken@pacbell.net](mailto:jbencken@pacbell.net), or call me at 916-987-1836. And, lest you feel left out because you can't offer beds to anyone else, rest assured there will be plenty of tasks in the preparation and the event to go around to help us accomplish a wonderful experience for all of us!!

### Update on Gladys and News from Hank

Gladys is doing well in rehab and should be home by the time the newsletter is published.

The following information appeared in the Savior Church bulletin regarding our Salvatorian recycle drive in 2019. Since our Salvatorian family also contributed to this project, they should also be thanked.

#### RECYCLE DRIVE PROCEEDS.

Big thanks to all who donated their California Cash Redemption Value (CA. CRV) items and financially supported our Divine Savior Haiti School Lunch Program. With your help we accrued \$3731.75 from our recycle turn in and \$1700.00 from cash donations. Our \$5,431.75 total proceeds will buy 21,727 lunch meals for Haiti school children.

#### ADDRESS UPDATE

JoAnn Kuphaldt has moved. Her new address and contact information is as follows:

Mrs. JoAnn Kuphaldt  
Almond Heights  
8685 Greenback Lane Room 121  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
Cell: 916-207-9301  
Email: none



Info that should have been in last months newsletter.

Father Sal sent the following photo from when Fr. Jeff was visiting in November. He celebrated Mass at Holy Names University during his visit.



Being SDS is being connected to an worldwide network. Please pray for 4 very special needs— These were sent by e-mail...but prayer is still needed.

1. Our Sister Alona wrote from the Philippines to report on what is happening with our sisters and the people with the volcanic eruptions . They are in the Manilla area and smell the sulfur, have to wear face masks and stay indoors. She gave the following request: *"Please continue to pray for the safety of the people here. The volcano is still aggressive. We are praying that it will not be raised to alert level 5 because the Philvocs said there is a possibility for a volcanic tsunami. I will update you of our situation here especially our sisters and those in formation in the Formation House."*

2. Mary Sue Coward has a brother who lives in Southern Australia and may have to evacuate due to the fires there. Please keep him, the firefighters and all Australians in your prayers.

3. Gladys Gonsalves is recuperating from her fall and broken pelvis. Her and Hank's anniversary celebration has been postponed. Do keep her in prayer.

4. JoAnn Kuphaut made a big move into assisted living at Almond Heights. She is again downsizing and graciously accepting this change in her life. She will also appreciate your prayers.

Thank you for bringing these needs before our Provident God. I believe when we pray together, we pray strong!

Sister Sheila



#### Holy Humor—Letters to God....

Dear GOD,  
Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have now? -Jane

Dear GOD,  
Who draws the lines around the countries? -Nan

Dear GOD,  
I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that okay? -Neil

Dear GOD,  
What does it mean You are a Jealous God? I thought You had everything. -Jane

Dear GOD,  
Did you really mean "do unto others as they do unto you"? Because if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother. -Darla

## January Gathering at St. Clare's in Roseville

In January we gathered and our opening prayer, "Called by Name", reminded us that we are all part of one family in the Body of Christ. You can see in the picture below how the candles all melted together and yet, the individual flames are still unique.... A great representation of how we are all one body, but different parts.

Our discussion time centered on the article Sr. Sheila provided in the last newsletter on the incarnation by Diarmuid O'Murchu. There was lively discussion as some agreed with the article and some did not.

Over all, the evening provided fun, fellowship, and some great reflections.

