



# WESTERN REGION

February 2021

## Salvatorian Western Region

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**Men's Religious Representative:**

Fr. Marcel Emeh

**Women's Religious Representative:**

Sr. Jean Schafer

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**Treasurer:** Joyce Daniels

**Lay Representatives:**

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Mary Jo Verke

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## From our Regional Moderator, Sr. Sheila Novak

Getting a Pulse

Each month when I come to the Newsletter (and Rita's call for the submission of articles!!), I ask myself – where are we as a region, as a church, as a country, as a world? What would be good and helpful for us to reflect on and pray about?

Sometimes it is obvious; but sometimes, like right now, it is not clear. There are so many things in the air. We have a new president with many people claiming he is not our legitimate president. We have the pandemic with over 400,000 deaths in the U.S. and some people saying – it is a hoax. We have more sources for information and news than at any other time in history – yet fake news is the frequent label for news we do not want to hear. What to believe? We have politicians voted in to serve the common good of the people, but making decisions that serve their own self-interests and re-election possibilities. Even established facts are on the list of things questioned. My favorite is the Flat Earth Society. They really believe that the earth is flat!

It seems that there are at least two sides to everything - with people convinced that their side is the correct one. This is indeed the time to dig for the truth, to widen our horizons, to test what we unearth and to pray and ponder. It is a call to a discipleship like no other time.

One of the members of our region recently said – we need something on healing. This took me back to Jesus, the healer, who saw who we really are. We are a mixed bag of both sin and goodness. He acknowledged the sin in people but raised up possibilities and resurrection in his healing. This is described in our newsletter article "Healing and Forgiveness." Give it your attention so healing can begin.

LET ALL  
THAT  
YOU DO  
BE DONE  
WITH  
LOVE.



1 CORINTHIANS 16:14 NKJV

## Healing and Forgiveness

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells of a traveler who, having been mugged by robbers, was left stripped, beaten, and bleeding on a public road. First, a Levite, an official of the temple, and then a priest, the agent of temple sacrifice – holy men both we are led to think – pass by the broken one. The scripture says they pass “on the other side.” They go as far away from the violence, the need, the pain as possible.

Then a Samaritan – the national and religious outcast of that Jewish society – comes by. And the healing begins. The Samaritan, having suffered himself, recognizes the suffering of the other. . . He knows what a sense of abandonment can do for a person. So, he reaches out beyond himself. . . He carried him to an inn . . . He pays for his care. He simply ignores the assumptions and the prejudices of the society around him and then the healing begins. . . .

First. . . Without the Good Samaritans in life who enable us all to face our woundedness, to attend to the wounds in ourselves, we have no capacity for the pain of others. And healing is not possible.

Second, the Samaritan shows us, too, that healing requires us to risk old attitudes, to explore new values and even to change some of our petrified beliefs.

Third, the Samaritan shows us that when I heal the other, I heal something in myself as well. . . it is not about the curing of one person. . . No, this story is about the healing of two people – the stranger and the Samaritan – both of whom carry the scars of abuse as do all of us at all times. . . In this case one has been beaten in the body, the other in the soul . . .

But the Samaritan and the stranger are not the only ones in the story who bear wounds. The priest and the Levite are maimed too – whether they know it or not. The priest, the professional religious, has been taught to ignore the wounds of those who do not meet with religious approval and thinks himself virtuous for ignoring them. His wound is a spiritual one.

The Levite, the relentless custodian of temple rituals and a pillar of his community, simply forgives himself the obligation to be a full human being and so hurries on too busy to stop . . . His wound is a com-

munal one. . . Those who fail to transcend their own inner boundaries in order to heal the wounded, go on living in their own wounds forever. . . The Samaritan, the priest, and the Levite, . . . give us clear warning that we cannot heal ourselves of our wounds by clinging to them.

1. To be healed we need to want to be healed, to be larger than our pain, stronger than our woundedness. I must choose not to imprison myself in my own pain . . . in the biases and prejudices that cut me off from the pain of the rest of the world . . .
2. Healing is a process of refusing to be wounded unto death, of beginning to be bigger of mind and soul than we ever thought we could be.
3. Finally, I need to become a Samaritan myself. The whole world needs Samaritans, healers, who understand pain themselves and who are therefore qualified to take the wounded into the arms of their hearts, and listen to the pain of the other, enable them to talk, allow them to cry. Clearly, weeping and healing are one and the same thing.

Our only real questions then are: Over what do we ourselves weep? And, because of our tears: What are we reaching out to heal? (*excerpts from Essential Writings by Joan Chittister, OSB p. 130-133*)

For personal reflection:

- Are there assumptions, prejudices or old beliefs that limit my being a good Samaritan?
- How do we move beyond our prejudices or biases?
- What pain have I experienced that calls me to be a healer of others?
- Think of a time when you really listened to the pain of another. How did this affect you?



## Regional Gathering during the Pandemic Schedule- Feb. 2021 – 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, 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. –
- Saturday, May TBD - \*Formation Session

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

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

*(Note the link is a bit different and there is now a passcode required if you don't use the link)*

Link to join:

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

(Copy and past link into URL)

Meeting ID: **854 8065 9946**

Passcode: **451746**

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85480659946# US

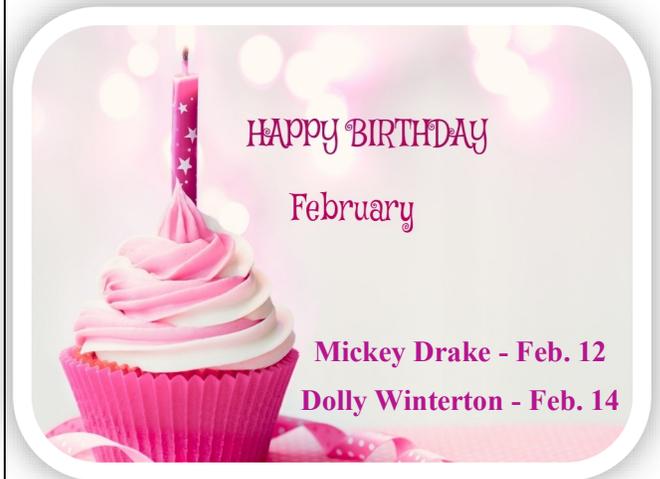


## Regional Meeting - February 12 1-3pm Hosted by Mary Jo Verke, Joyce Daniels, Marie Moore Who Is God for Me?

We'll be looking at ways that Henri Nouwen writes that we can know God. He focuses on four aspects of God in his book, *Spiritual Direction*. We'll reflect on these four aspects and discuss how we see God. Then we'll look at how God sees us.



Here's a high level glimpse at what we can look forward to on the 12th: We will hear a story from Mary Jo, see a power point based on Henri Nouwen's book "Spiritual Directions" by Joyce and we'll watch a Henri Nouwen video 'The Vulnerable Journey—Vision of God.' It's going to be a great session!! Don't miss it!



carry  
**LAUGHTER**  
with you wherever you go.

Our cleaning lady just called and told us she will be working from home and will send us instructions on what to do.



SALVATORIAN RETREAT  
May 3-7

Our biannual retreat, May 3-7, is approaching and some problems have cropped up. We previously made arrangements to have it at the Mercy Center in Auburn and then COVID struck. At this point we really don't know what the future brings but it has to be better than it is now.

Arrangements are being made to do it on Zoom and that is firm. Another thought was to hold it in the Church at Divine Savior which would give us Fr. Tom Bonnacci in person. The same would be for Mercy in Auburn. If it is agreeable to Fr. Roman, we could hold it in the church with limited numbers. Perhaps with members of the parish.

There would be no food and everyone would go home (or otherwise) for lunch and return. Our house would be open for any out of town people to stay. Please let me know what your choice would be: Mercy Center, Divine Savior Parish and/or Zoom.

Blessings, Mary Jo  
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From your publisher/editor: It seems that there is some room left before I insert the revised roster for the Western Region that Jan Bencken has provided for us all to review. (see page 5 & 6)

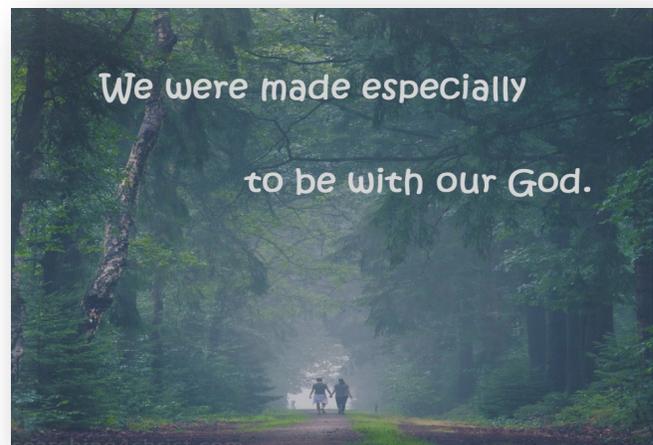
Lent begins on February 17th, so I went through my files and found some reflections I shared back in 1994...the thoughts are as pertinent today as they were then. In that year, we set out to 'Discover God Day by Day' during Lent.

Throughout the liturgical year, we are urged repeatedly to stop and ponder the mystery of Emmanuel -- God with us -- God within us. But at no time does the liturgy more extend itself to that purpose than during Lent. The readings of this season call out to us, not so much to "find" God in our lives, home, and workplace, but rather, to sit quietly and become aware and discover that God is already, and always, there with us.

This lent, invite yourself recognize that we are living in God's love. The adventure and movement come as we discover and let it affect our lives. Once we realize how close God is to us; once we see that we already live in God's love, then we 'do' good because we 'are' good; we act justly because we reside in the God of Justice. God's love influences our lives and we act out of that.

This lent, make sure you spend time with God, learning to see, with a broader vision, the vast expanse of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Perhaps in doing so, we can catch a glimpse of what it means to be made in God's image, and then, and only then, what action follows from being made in -- and constantly becoming -- God's image.

As you go through Lent, contemplate these challenges and enhance your process of reflection that so that it is rooted in scripture, tradition and personal experience.



**SDS WESTERN REGION  
ROSTER**

revised roster is based on the information provided to me as of January 2021. Please give any ges or corrections to Rita at 916-872-4700 or [rschillin@surewest.net](mailto:rschillin@surewest.net) or Jan Bencken at 916-987- or [jbencken@pacbell.net](mailto:jbencken@pacbell.net) (The numbers in parenthesis are birthdates)

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