



Our Voice

Lay Salvatorians—Living out the Gospel Values

A Newsletter for and about the Lay Salvatorians, Inc. — Published by the Lay Salvatorian Communications Committee

The Lay Salvatorians continue to hold meetings and events using Zoom during this pandemic.



National Director's Report
Spring 2021



Currently there are 143 committed Lay Salvatorians. Eleven candidates are in formation in the Midwest, Southwest, and West. All of the Sectors have Interested Persons. Jacquie Briggs, Michael Johnson and Norma Morrison from the Southwest Sector made their Commitments via Zoom on December 6, 2021. Jim and Linda Jaworowicz, Cathy Carton, and Mary Easterday from the Midwest Sector made their Commitments on December 8 at St. Pius in person at a socially distanced ceremony that was live-streamed. Because both of these ceremonies used new media options, Salvatorians across the US and from the international community participated. Four Interested Persons from the Midwest were approved to become Candidates. They are Pat Abfalder, Mary Norman, Bonnie Dompke, and Rob Beres. Welcome to the Salvatorian Family.

Two Lay Salvatorians died since the last meeting. Clairemary McDermott currently from the East Sector died on November 14, 2020. Clairemary was committed for 45 years and had served in several leadership roles in Green Bay, Milwaukee and the Eastern Sector.

Dates to Remember

October 14-15, 2021
JLG

October 16-17, 2021
LSNB

June 9-12, 2022
Lay Salvatorian Convocation

Jubilee Celebration for
2020/2021/2022 Jubilarians

2023
Salvatorian Family National
Assembly

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National Membership by Sector		
SECTOR	COM'TD	CAND'TS
East (SR: Mel Benson)	17	0
Midwest (SR: Sue Haertel)	39	4
South (SR: Liza Dugal)	39	0
Southwest (SR: Sharon Clark)	27	1
West (SR: Jan Bencken)	21	6
Total	143	11

Elaine Fernando of the Midwest Sector died on January 5, 2021. Elaine was active in her Sector and shared her musical talents. Each of these Lay Salvatorians dedicated time and service to the Salvatorians, their parishes and their communities.

The US Lay Salvatorians met via Zoom with members of the International Community of the Divine Savior (ICDS) General Committee on January 30. Anne Cullender from Australia participated although it was very early the next day for her. Such dedication! Others participated from Austria, Belgium, Columbia, Italy, United States and Venezuela. Also members from other branches of the Salvatorian family participated. Lay Salvatorians from the US had submitted ques-

tions to the General Committee earlier and these were answered by different General Committee members. What an opportunity for us to be in dialogue with one another across time and oceans. The feedback was positive. The current members of the General Committee are committed to increasing communications with the units in different countries. So be on the lookout for a future international gathering.

The proposed ICDS statues were accepted by the Dicastery; the next step is to obtain 'nihil obstat' from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This attests there is nothing in the statues that are contrary to doctrine or morals. As a part of the approval process, the US Lay Salvatorians must implement the "Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons Policy. Currently the members of the LSNB are working on the process to implement the policy.

The 2021 National Convocation was postponed until 2022. The new dates are June 9-12, 2022 at the Divine Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn, CA. Mark your calendars now so that we can gather again. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Lay Salvatorians!!!

The Lay Salvatorians finances are stable, and we are able to meet our 'fair share' obligations. One concern is the low level of contributions. Not all members contribute on a regular basis. Claire Williams, Treasurer, sends out reminders to members. Remember, we have responsibilities as well as rights as members. Any amount that you can donate is welcome to assure that we continue to meet our obligations to the Joint Leadership Group and to the International Community of the Divine Savior and to support the ministries of Lay Salvatorians.

Lay Salvatorians continued to be involved in a variety of ministries during the pandemic and are now beginning to engage more in activities at their parishes. There is a

sense of hope of returning to gathering in person across the sectors.

I want to personally thank each of you for your involvement in local and national ministries from prayers to donations to active participation.

Jacqueline White, SDS

April 12, 2021

SDS FAMILY REQUEST

Submitting pictures for social media and the websites: The Salvatorian Family Communications Committee is constantly looking for photos. Whenever you attend an SDS Family event, meeting or gathering, please email your 5 BEST photos to sdsfamilyphotos@gmail.com for possible use on our social media channels, websites and publications. **In the subject line of the email, please include the name of the event and place. In the body of the email include: date, event and people in pictures. Send the "best copy" of picture (i.e. highest resolution) of the attached photos.**

IMPORTANT to note also is to the knowledge that any photo taken at any SDS gathering AND sent in is permission to use those photos in any SDS Family publications.

It is both a privilege and honor to use SDS after our names as a committed Lay Salvatorian. However, care must be used when we apply them. Placing them after a political statement for example could imply that it is a Salvatorian opinion and not just our own. Please be aware of your actions. Thank You!



Bonnie Dompke, Rob Beres, Mary Norman, Pat Abfalder

We have not been able to meet in person due to the pandemic.

We are happy to report that we do have **four candidates for formation** that were approved at the last LSNB meeting. We welcome Pat Abfalder, Rob Beres, Bonnie Dompke, and Mary Norman. Formation sessions will begin soon by zoom and hopefully in person soon. Everyone is looking forward to when we can meet again.

Midwest Sector ~ By Sue Haertel, SDS

Southwest Sector ~ by Sharon Clark, SDS

ZOOMING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

During the Covid 19 restrictions, the SW region has held monthly meetings via Zoom. We share prayer, business, and discussion of the new ABC's of Salvatorian Life. This is one way technology is

helping during a time of separation. Zoom has also enabled us to be more actively supportive of Adam Grijalva during his Formation. His home in Rowland Heights, CA is far from other Salvatorians, but Zoom allows us to meet for his modules, praying together, and sharing this important time with Adam.

Being able to share in the celebration of Fr. Jordan's beatification, the **Tucson Salvatorians danced in the desert!** Fr. Tom Tureman and Patti Munsen organized an outdoor gathering among our unique Saguaro cacti. Keeping safe distances and wearing masks most of the time, those gathered moved to the music and lip synched along with a recording of our Tanzanian sisters and Fr. Joe Rodrigues singing "This is Eternal Life" while Patti videoed us. Just to be together in person after months of separation made the whole event even more joyous! And soon, to celebrate virtually the beatification of our Founder along with Salvatorians from all over the world will be very special.



The pandemic did not slow down Jordan Ministries. Br. Simon Henderson and team have provided many opportunities for education and growth in faith, including Ministry Certification classes and a Book Discussion Group. These are available to anyone, not just those who live in Tucson. For information, go to www.JordanMinistryTeam.org.

Commitments made with smiles all around!



The **Commitment ceremony for Tucson candidates** Jacquie Briggs, Norma Morrison, and Michael Johnson was held on Dec. 6th, with most attending virtually.

Some SW Salvatorians will participate in the virtual retreat with

Fr. Tom Bonacci, organized by the West Coast Salvatorians...yet another opportunity to benefit from technology. I think we are all grateful we have these resources to help us continue to grow and to keep in touch. Zoom is great, but faces in little squares on a computer screen are only a substitute for being together in person. Now, with more people being vaccinated, we can begin to gather in person.



Glad to see those serious faces during a retreat!

Financial Updates

~by Claire Williams, SDS

Greetings:

Our treasurer, Claire Williams, informed the Lay Salvatorian National Board that we currently have 143 members. However, only 35 members contributed this year either regularly or one time. As committed members, we have privileges and along with those privileges, there are responsibilities. One of our responsibilities is to contribute to the financial stability of the Organization. As the growing branch of the family (around 50%), we have increasing responsibilities related to fair share for the Joint Leadership Group. For many years, JLG supported the Lay Salvatorians, now it is our turn to support them. Also, as a member of the International Community of the Divine Savior, we are asked to contribute a fair share to supporting the organization. This is important because several of the member countries are very poor and struggle to contribute their fair share.

Currently, we are asked to contribute \$25/month. However, I understand this may be difficult for some members. Thus, prayerfully consider what amount you could donate. Any and all contributions are appreciated. In addition, these are a donation and so are tax-deductible.

If we want to continue to support Salvatorian ministries and activities, we need the funds to do that. As National Director, I am personally asking you to consider how you can support the Lay Salvatorians financially. Please remember Stewardship is an important responsibility.



Jackie White SDS
National Director

As of May 14, 2021						
	SDS-L	Projected	%/Total	Actual	Difference	%/Total
			Membership			Contributed
EAST	17	\$ 5,100.00	11.9%	\$1,575.00	\$ 3,525.00	17.9%
MIDWEST	39	\$11,700.00	27.3%	\$3,450.00	\$ 8,250.00	39.2%
SOUTHERN	39	\$11,700.00	27.3%	\$1,603.23	\$10,096.77	18.2%
SOUTHWEST	27	\$ 8,100.00	18.9%	\$1,489.50	\$ 6,610.50	16.9%
WEST	21	\$ 6,300.00	14.7%	\$ 675.00	\$ 5,625.00	7.7%
TOTAL SDS-L	143	\$42,900	100.0%	\$8,793		100.0%

25 Years of Salvatorian Apostolic Service Celebrated

Southern Sector

~ by Liza Dugal, SDS

On April 19, 1996 a group of 12 lay people made a commitment before God

and many witnesses to live in apostolic service as a Salvatorian. Bob and Carol Henderson, Betty Bathe, Judy Davis, Paulette Hubert, Margaret Massa, Joseph Nagy, Nicholas Nichols, Joanne Ramko, Madoline Schaab, and Bob and Denise Snyder. Some have gone another way and they remain in our hearts and some have gone on to their eternal reward and we carry them in our hearts.



On April 21, 2021 a Mass in celebration of their **25th anniversary** was celebrated in McMinnville, TN, St. Catherine's Catholic Church at 8:00 a.m. Joanne Ramko and Judy Davis recited their re-commitment of apostolic service as Salvatorians in the presence of their parish priest, Fr.

Bala, and fellow parishioners. Renee Madewell, Pam Merriman and Liza Dugal joined with them in their celebration of twenty-five years as Salvatorians. Following the Mass, we gathered with parishioners from St. Catherine's at Judy Davis's house for a breakfast reception. Bob and Denise Snyder were with us in spirit but, like true Salvatorians they were busy preparing the container for shipment to Haiti.



Lay Salvatorian National Dues *— *Requested stewardship is \$25 monthly per member. Envelopes will be mailed to you if requested. Contact Claire Williams via email at clairewilliams723@gmail.com or 2207 Shades Crest RD, Huntsville, AL 35801 All donations are tax deductible.

As you know, the International Community of the Divine Savior (ICDS) has been working on getting approval from the Vatican as an "Association of the Faithful". The formal process started in 2006. The ICDS Statutes were sent to the "Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life" and were returned for required changes. We (General Committee of the ICDS) had a few face-to-face meetings with the Dicastery and the document went back and forth a number of times as we attempted to satisfy their requirements. Recently we received word that our Statutes were accepted by the Dicastery. However, now they must be approved by the Congregation of the Faith: "The next step in order to proceed, is to obtain the 'nihil obstat' of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: it must attest that there is nothing in the statutes that is contrary to doctrine or morals." We are waiting for that currently. This formal recognition is very necessary for the Lay Salvatorians because many units of the Salvatorian Family around the world do not fully recognize the ICDS/Lay Salvatorians until we are "approved" by the Vatican. We are very fortunate to have the recognition that the Society and the Congregation give the Lay Salvatorians here in the USA! I am a firm believer that this was/is the plan of our founders...to include lay people. We all have the calling and mission to teach the goodness and kindness of The Savior in our daily lives.



We were also required to submit a plan for "Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults". We have done that and have asked the units to start implementing that plan. We had hoped to be "approved" before the beatification, but now we have no idea how long this next step will take. If I understand correctly, it took Fr. Jordan thirty years to be accepted by the Vatican, so maybe I need more patience! As always, I welcome any feedback to the ICDS. ~ Ken Drake ICDS General Committee



The Joint Leadership Group (JLG)
met virtually

via ZOOM on April 22, 2021. a detailed report for this meeting was published along with the April 27, 2021 UPDATE Volume 28, Issue 41. If you need a copy please reach out to your sector rep as it has detailed information that we should all be kept up to date on as well as an important policy and a more detailed calendar for the SDS family.