



Western Region Salvatorian Newsletter

May 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 Extraordinary Ordinary

Once upon a time I was a Simon and Garfunkel fan. As we now live through our sixth week of quarantine, we are indeed heeding the opening line of one of their songs: “Slow down, you move too fast. You’ve got to make the morning last.” But people are starting to demonstrate against the stay-at-home directive. They are talking about going back to the “new normal” soon. Some states are “cracking open” their closed doors amidst warnings of a resurgence of infections. Yes, they have slowed down, but there is no way they want to make this pandemic last.

There certainly are very negative consequences of the shut downs as we try to put people before dollars. While acknowledging this underside of the stopping of business as usual, the words of ‘slowing down – you move too fast’ are what I would like to raise up here for consideration. How has ‘slowing down’ been for you? What have you noticed? About yourself? About others? What have you been able to do with your ‘slow down’ time?

The stories of the kindness and the ingenuity of people are on the news daily. People are finding new ways to be there for their neighbor - even as they keep six feet apart. There are abundant examples of ways to provide food to the unemployed, to children not getting school meals, to the elderly not able to go grocery shopping. Besides giving out the food, the joy of the people doing this says so much about who we really are and what we are about. In many ways, the pandemic is bringing out some of the best in us.

The article on the next page talks about displacement. The pandemic has led to displacement or a disruption of what makes up our ordinary day-to-day lives: going where we want or need to go, when we want, with whom we want for all sorts of reasons. As good as that is, there is still more to life and this quarantine time is showing us another side of life. If this ‘slow down’ time has been good for me, how do I keep the parts that are good even when the “new normal” returns and again threatens to squeeze out the joy of living? Have I learned that I do not need all the things I thought I needed – an invitation to simplify my life? Where has God been in all of this? From where do I find the grace to live peacefully during this time of displacement? Have I been urged to a different kind of discipleship? Maybe as we ponder these questions we will realize how extraordinary the ordinary is! Hopefully we will find ways to make the good parts last!

DISPLACEMENT IN OUR DAILY LIVES--excerpted from *Compassion* by Henri Nouwen

We do not have to look very long or far to find displacements in our lives. Most of us have experienced painful physical displacements. We have moved from one country to another, from West to East, from North to South, from a small town to a large city, from a small, intimate high school to a large, impersonal university, from a playful work milieu to a competitive position; in short, from familiar to very unfamiliar surroundings.

Beyond these physical displacements, our lives may be marked by deeper inner displacements. As the years go by, familiar images and ideas are often pushed out of place. Ways of thinking, which for many years helped us to understand our world, come under criticism and are called old-fashioned or conservative. Rituals and customs that played central roles in the years of our growth and development are suddenly no longer appreciated by our children or neighbors. Family traditions and church celebrations that have given us our most precious memories are suddenly abandoned and even laughed at as sentimental, magical, or superstitious. More than physical displacements, these inner mental and emotional displacements threaten us and give us feelings of being lost or left alone.

In our modern society, with its increasing mobility and pluriformity, we have become the subjects and often the victims of so many displacements that it is very hard to keep a sense of rootedness, and we are constantly tempted to become bitter and resentful. Our first and often most difficult task, therefore, is to allow these actual displacements to become places where we can hear God's call. It often seems easier to initiate a displacement that we ourselves can control than freely to accept and affirm a displacement that is totally out of our hands.

The main question is, "How can I come to understand and experience God's caring actions in the concrete situation in which I find myself?" This question is difficult because it requires a careful look at the often painful events and experiences of the moment. "Where have I already been asked to leave my father and mother; where have I already been invited to let the dead bury the dead; where am I already challenged to keep my hand on the plow and not look back?" God is always active in our lives. God always calls, always asks us to take up our crosses and follow. But do we see, feel, and

recognize that call, or do we keep waiting for the illusory moment when it will really happen? Displacement is not primarily something to do or to accomplish, but something to recognize.

In and through this recognition a conversion can take place, a conversion from involuntary displacement leading to resentment, bitterness, resignation, and apathy, to voluntary displacement that can become an expression of discipleship. We do not have to go after crosses, but we have to take up the crosses that have been ours all along. To follow Jesus, therefore, means first and foremost to discover in our daily lives God's unique vocation for us.

**ATTENTION!!!**

**Plan on attending our May
Monthly Western Region SDS
Gathering –May 9th 2:00PM**



Our gathering will happen on zoom...so you'll be able to join no matter where you are. If you don't have zoom, it is a free app. Once you download zoom, all you need to do to join the meeting is click on the link provided below, enter the password and voila... you'll be connected. Or, if you have zoom, bring it up and click 'join meeting,' and enter the meeting ID and the password and you'll be on. If you have a mobile phone there are numbers to call in. The meeting details are right here:

Topic: Salvatorian Western Region Gathering
Time: May 9, 2020 02:00 PM Pacific Time
Join Zoom Meeting: (copy link into URL)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87882782734?pwd=MXFrQ01Fb1FycjJVZU9PSG9mbHliUT09>

Meeting ID: **878 8278 2734**

Password: **001604**

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,87882782734#,,1#,001604#

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US

Meeting ID: **878 8278 2734**

Password: **001604**

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kuU9KT0yA>



Fr. Marcel Emeh
May 20

REFLECTIONS

By Mary Jo

The world came to a stop and life as we knew it had changed—at least for awhile. Like all changes there is resistance and then if we are wise we accept the changes.

Our grandson lives in Seattle and is working for Amazon. They have been quarantined for three weeks longer than we have. As a young, energetic single person this is quite a hardship, but as he said to me recently, “it is a little scary but I am quite liking this.”

I would have to agree with him to a certain extent. Since the quarantine we are spending a lot more time outdoors mostly in hiking along the American River Bike Trail. The wildflowers this year are spectacular as is the green of the grass and the trees. I never quite spent the time in the past to just observe (and photograph) the gorgeous natural landscape.

Spiritual reading was always a part of my life but now there have been many new horizons that have opened up thanks to our wonderful Salvatorian Family. Not only websites, but everyday readings on the internet. It has given me time to just reflect instead of doing things on the run. Yes, even though I am retired things are still done on the run.

I thank God that I have this time to reconnect with long lost friends, new spiritual guidance and the beauty that God has given us.

LET US PRAY



We should have all heard by now that **JoAnn Kuphaldt** has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. She is now living with of her son Joe, where she is being cared for with support from hospice. Cards, letters, and notes may be sent to JoAnn c/o Joe Kuphaldt at 7235 Cardinal Rd., Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Keep JoAnn and her family in your prayers.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

Laughter—Good for the Soul!!

Raw toilet paper for sale \$20



Some assembly required

**What is happening?
Humans are all wearing muzzles.**



XI - Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Jesus, we see you fixed in place with no escape from your terrible fate. No out for you now. You are nailed in place with outstretched arms that were once extended to those in dire need, embracing children, including those living on the edge. What a price to pay for loving and for speaking the truth to power! Pick up your cross we are urged. Can I really go with you, nailed to the crosses of my life? We pray for all those situations where there seems no out: addicted loved ones, those who are mentally ill, abused children, migrants with no home, policies that oppress and resist change. We trust that your magnificent love and grace will get us through. Our hope is in you in our dark moments that seem to nail us in place. Lord, grant that resurrection will be the end of our story too. Amen.

(by the Western Region)

