



# Western Region Salvatorian Newsletter

October 2019

## 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 The Jelly Bean Jar

Remember those contests of having to guess how many jelly beans were in a large jar? I was never too successful in coming close to guessing the number of jelly beans the jar contained. The array of all those colorful jelly beans was fun to look at, even if I never got the prize for the closest guess.

This is how I would describe the first session with our candidates looking at becoming Lay Salvatorians. We gathered on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Every person was to bring a photo of themselves and an object that connected with their faith. There was time for each one to share about their photo and the object they brought. Pictures included family members and grandmothers were mentioned more than once! Some of the faith objects were rosaries that had been handed down and were treasured because of the family member to whom it had belonged and used in prayer. The sharing gave a glimpse into where the person was brought up, what they enjoyed doing, what they studied, who had influenced their lives. In just a brief sharing, the beauty and sacredness of each life was revealed and gave me a sense of awe at how God works in the lives of each of us. We never know all the wonderful "colors of jelly beans" that are inside the persons we meet. Our outsides can be very deceiving and overlooked!

This experience gave a look at what gradually shapes us and makes us who we are today. It is one of the beauties of long-term relationships. We see the many ways that life and time puts "color" into our lives. We appreciate the ups and downs that have been part of our life road and see how we came through to be the persons we are today. There are so many "jelly beans" inside all of us that we never come close to a count! In this month of Thanksgiving, we would have a long list of those who have gifted our lives. How blessed we are to have the chance to offer thanks.

FYI: The Western Region is piloting a revision of the modules used for formation of Lay Salvatorians. The original modules date back to 2007 and have been a wonderful resource. But with all things, it is good to take another look because more than a decade is a long time. There will certainly be parts of the former modules that can still be

*Jesus Is The  
Sunshine  
Of My Soul*



used, but there is also the opportunity for updating. Jan Bencken and Rita Schillin are overseeing this and we are grateful for this service, not only to our region, but also for other regions as well. The hope is that other regions would do some rethinking of the sessions, try them out, evaluate, get feedback and make recommendations. So we can look forward to putting together our experience and expertise for this important part of our Salvatorian life. It is part of our “jelly bean jar”.

### Saying Thanks

The famed novelist Morris West suggests that when you turn seventy-five years of age there should only be three phrases left in your vocabulary: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! He’s right. At a certain point in our lives nothing else matters other than gratitude. We can be healthy, accomplished, famous, rich, and have left behind a legacy that will make us forever remembered, but if we are not living inside a spirit of gratitude, all of that will mean nothing. We will not be happy, nor will we be much of a source of happiness for others.

Gratitude is the ultimate virtue and the only real route to happiness. It is more important even than love because anything which does not take its root in gratitude will be self-serving and manipulative in some way. Only when we give of ourselves to others because we are grateful for how we have been blessed – only then will our love flow out as pure and as not demanding something in return. When we are not acting out of gratitude, we may be well-intentioned and outwardly generous in our actions but we will not truly be acting in love. We will be carrying other people’s crosses but, in however subtle the fashion, also sending them the bill.

The entire spiritual task of growing into a truly mature and loving person consists in rooting ourselves more and more in gratitude, where love can flow out from a heart and demand nothing in return because it already had its return.

To celebrate thanksgiving – to explicitly express and celebrate gratitude – is the singularly most important and healthiest thing we can do for ourselves, both spiritually and humanly.

(Fr. Ronald Rolheiser – in *Give Us This Day* missalette)

Sometimes our light goes out,  
but is blown again into instant flame  
by an encounter with another human being.  
Each of us owes the deepest thanks  
to those who have rekindled this inner light.

(Albert Schweitzer)



### Questions for reflection on The Jelly Bean Jar and Saying Thanks

- \* In looking over the people of my life, who would be in my litany of thanks?
- \* What gift(s) did I receive from them?
- \* Looking back on 2019, for what happening am I most grateful?
- \* In remembering something that was difficult or painful, is there anything of grace that came out of it?
- \* Think of someone who has expressed gratitude to you. How did it affect you?
- \* How does expressing thanks to another impact me?
- \* Do you have other ways of expressing thank besides doing it verbally? What does this look like for you

### A note on the new revised module session:

November 8th, at 9:00 am, we will have our 2nd revised module session in Rm Y3 at Divine Savior. We will be talking about Baptism and our roll as Priest, Prophet, King/Queen. You are all invited to come and support our candidates. A couple of weeks ago, I sent the candidates and all the SDS members a copy of the reading assignment. We hope to see many of you there.

# Meet our Candidates



On October 5th, Divine Savior hosted an informational session for its parishioners to help them understand what makes Divine Savior a Salvatorian Parish. Thanks to Fr. Sal, we have this event memorialized with some pictures.



### Thanksgiving Table Prayer

Lord God – our hearts are crowded with gratitude as we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving.

We have come to this our feasting table with great joy and eagerness, for we are truly grateful to You, our God, for all that we have been given.

We thank one another for gifts – especially the gifts of love and affection that we have often shared.

We are thankful for all who are present at this, our feast – as well as for all those who have labored in love to bring this dinner to our table.

May You, our God, bless this Thanksgiving feast and all of us who shall share it in Your holy name. Amen.



### *World Kindness Day*

*November 13<sup>th</sup> has been designated  
World Kindness Day*

*by the World Kindness Movement.*

*The purpose of the day is to focus on  
the common threads  
that bind humanity.*



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



- Nov. 8 (Fri) - 9-12N - Formation Series Room Y3  
Divine Savior**
- Nov. 9 (Sat) - 11:00 AM – Joyce Dwonch Woodland
- Dec. 6 (Fri) - 9-12N - Formation Series Room Y3  
Divine Savior**
- Dec. 7 (Sat) – Tentative 10:00 AM — Fr. Sal  
Holy Names University
- Jan. 10 (Fri) – 5:00 PM - Rita Schillin Roseville
- Jan. 11 (Sat.) - 9-12N - Formation Series Room Y3  
Divine Savior**
- 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

### **Our November gathering in Woodland—from Joyce Dwonch:**

We can gather at the Pastoral Center on California Street by 11am. For lunch I will get a meat and cheese tray, rolls to make sandwiches . I will also have mayo, mustard, lettuce, tomatoes. Please bring some fruit or salads, or drinks along with ‘BYOD.’ I look forward to seeing everyone there.



- Jean Schafer*                      *Nov. 8*
- Gladys Gonsalves*              *Nov. 19*
- Norman Hornos*                 *Nov. 23*
- Bill Hadwin*                        *Nov. 26*



**From the mouths of kids to their Pastor**

I know God loves everybody, but he never met my sister. (Arnold, age 8)

Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. (Pete, age 9)

My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. (Robert, age 11)

I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. (Stephen, age 8)

I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. (Loreen, age 9)

I like your sermon on Sunday – especially when it was finished. (Ralph, age 11)

