



WESTERN REGION

October 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

"The Multiplication of the Cans" or

"Creating Abundance" or

"Henry's Gospel Story"

What to name this story? As you can tell from three titles, there are many ways to sum it up. It reminds me of one of my favorite gospel stories – the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The amazing part for me is Jesus – taking what looks like so little – giving thanks for the little he had and then shares it with everyone. It turns out to be more than enough.

The way this began for Henry Gonsalves was at a regional gathering in Woodland. He saw how aluminum cans were being tossed in the garbage. He thought – why not save these cans for charity? Then he saw a notice in the bulletin of Divine Savior parish about the Haiti project.

This project is in a very poor part of Haiti where two Lay Salvatorians from Tennessee, Bob and Denise Snyder, go each year to do what they can to help the people. He learned something about the Snyders from Mary Jo Verke. Henry put his head together with Jan Bencken and they came up with a plan to start recycling at the church on a regular basis. People from the parish brought their donations. Jan scouted out cans from her work place. The cans began multiplying and bringing in the money. The work was sorting, bagging and transporting the cans to the recycling center. Then the money was sent to the Snyders for their work. It was used for school lunches for the children who had little or nothing to eat. Over the 22 years Henry has done this ministry, the cans have turned into \$10,321. When you know that one pound of aluminum cans brings \$1.65 – this is an amazing amount of money! It is indeed the multiplication of the cans (6,255 pounds or 3+ tons'



worth of cans)!! What an abundance was created for these children? It is how Henry lives this gospel story!

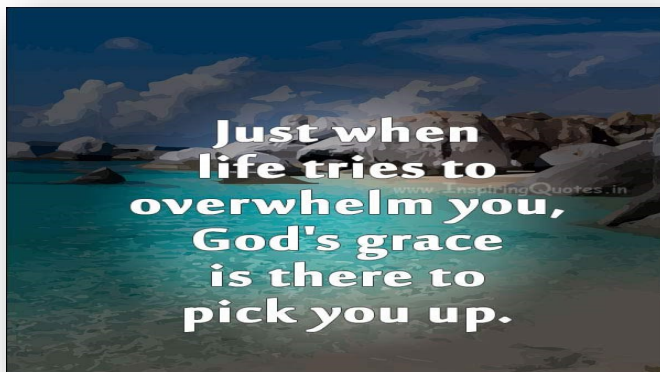
Now, at age 93, it is time for Henry to “retire”. It is amazing to think of how he extended the “retirement age” of this country (66.5 years of age!!) He is going to pass all his recycling expertise on to Phil Barbera, who has graciously agreed to take over the recycling project so the malnourished children of Haiti will still to be fed. Phil, we are so grateful that you are going to continue the multiplication of the cans!!



Thank you, Henry, for the way you listened to the nudges of the Spirit within you. Thank you for showing us what this gospel looks like in 2020. Thank you for the action of caring for our earth in doing the recycling. Thank you for the way this became a wonderful Salvatorian project – involving Salvatorians and supporting Salvatorians in Haiti. We are all in this together. Most of all, thank you for the care and compassion for the children of Haiti. You have made a difference in their lives. Happy retirement!



(How have you experienced the multiplication of the loaves and fishes in your life?)



Bob and Denise Snyder sent the following to honor Henry...

Seeing the smiling faces of the school children in Haiti as they prepare to eat lunch is one of the greatest rewards we experience. Another reward is working with people like Henry Gonsalves. Henry is a witness to God's love and mercy. As St Francis of Assisi said, ***“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”***

Thank you, Henry, and the faithful workers that have toiled beside you to feed the children. The children say, “Meci Anpil”! Thank you very much!

Bob and Denise Snyder SDS



Gratitude

If the only prayer you say in your life is "Thank you", that would suffice. (Meister Eckhart)

Gratitude is not only the posture of praise but it is also the basic element of real belief in God.

When we bow our heads in gratitude, we acknowledge that the works of God are good. . . We proclaim that our existence and all its goods come not from our own devices but are part of the works of God. . .

- ◇ Thank you for the new day.
- ◇ Thank you for this work.
- ◇ Thank you for this family.
- ◇ Thank you for our daily bread.
- ◇ Thank you for this storm and the moisture it brings to a parched earth.
- ◇ Thank you for the corrections that bring me to growth. . .
- ◇ Thank you for the necessities that keep me aware of your bounty in my life.

Without doubt, unstinting gratitude saves us from the sense of self-sufficiency that leads to forgetfulness of God. Praise . . . says to us, "Remember to whom you are indebted. If you never know need, you will come to know neither who God is nor who you yourself are."

Need is what tests our trust. . . Once we know need, we are better human beings, For the first time we know solidarity with the poorest of the poor. We become owners of the pain of the world and devote ourselves to working on behalf of those who suffer.

Finally, it is need that shows us how little it takes to be happy. Once we know all of those things, we have come face-to-face with both creation and the Creator. It is the alleluia moment that discovers both God and goodness for us. (Sr Joan Chittister)

For reflection / sharing:

- ⇒ For what are you most grateful for this Thanksgiving time?
- ⇒ What would you add to the litany of thanks above?
- ⇒ Have you ever been "tested" by need? How did it affect you?
- ⇒ What is the core dynamic of thanks in your view?
- ⇒ What are some of your Thanksgiving family traditions?
- ⇒ How is this time of pandemic affecting your celebration of Thanksgiving?



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

Submitted by Jan Bencken

1. Are you looking for a quiet ministry, subtle, no bells and whistles, no meetings, flexible, out of the weather, and exceedingly worthwhile benefitting others who share your zeal and convictions for sharing Christ? Then I have just the suggestion for you!! Our Western Region has many books and pamphlets written and published by our Salvatorian family. These books include such things as the copies of writings of our founders, Fr. Francis Jordan and Mother Mary, including Mother Mary's poems, translations of talks and presentations, and materials written by our own Sr. Jean, Sr. Sheila, and many others. The good news is the materials are given to us. Many have been given directly to members, and as they have downsized or moved away, their copies have been returned to us. We currently have an area in the Divine Savior library / office complex. We would like to have someone take this on as a ministry, keeping things orderly, placing new materials on the shelves, perhaps setting up a sign out/in to track borrowed items, and periodically featuring one of the various items either in a newsletter blurb or at one of our Gatherings. If this sounds like something you'd like to explore, please give Jan Bencken a call at 916-987-1836.

2. **KEEP RECYCLING ALIVE!!** We have quite a legacy of turning trash into cash as we have recycled cans, bottles, and plastics into \$\$\$\$ for the Haiti Project, a Lay Salvatorian ministry run by Bob & Denise Snyder (members of the Southern Sector Salvatorians). **Henry Gonsalves** has been our faithful, dedicated, steady, reliable master of recycling for at least 8 years! He has accepted drop-offs, sorted, and redeemed the items faithfully and sent the proceeds to our Treasurer, Joyce Daniels, who forwards the funds to the Snyders. The really impressive news is every last penny goes to feed the children! Denise and Bob have been meticulous about this. Without the meals the children would go hungry. **Henry** is now 93yrs. and providing more constant care to Gladys, so recycling is not a practical ministry for him any longer. **Phil Barbera** has agreed to take over, but additional support is needed to ensure that this ministry does not rely on just one person. Your services would be most helpful in accepting drop-offs along with Phil 1x/month in the back parking lot of the church. Then the items need to be sorted into their categories, and finally taken to the recycling location for redemption. We'd love to have youth participate in this as well. So, if you have connections with any of the youth groups and would like to make a pitch to them, advertising and recruiting would also be extremely supportive of this ministry. This really is a way to care for our earth, our environment, our oneness with nature. Contact Sr. Sheila, Joyce, Daniels, Jan Bencken, if interested in participating with this important ministry.

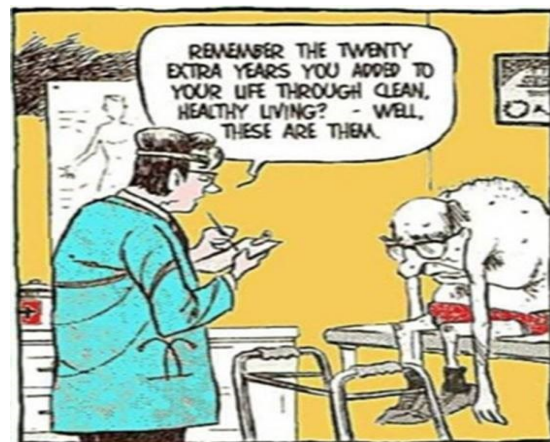
For your funny bone



is Photo by Unknown Author is



"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"



Kids returning to school after Corona.



Everything For Summer Has
Been Canceled...
Let's Just Put Up Our
Christmas Tree And Call It A
Year...!!!

Regional Gathering during the Pandemic Schedule— Oct. 2020 – 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, Nov. 13 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 14 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

Friday, Dec. 11 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 12 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

Friday, Jan 8 – Regional 1:00 to 3:00 PM. –
host - Rita Schillin

Saturday, Jan. 9 - *Formation Session 9A-12P

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. –
hosts - Drakes

Saturday, May TBD - *Formation Session

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

Notice—Regional Hosts Needed

There is still a great need for Hosts for our Regional gatherings. Please consider hosting a regional session in the upcoming months. The only months spoken for already are: January (Rita S) and May (the Drakes). That means there are still four months to choose from: Dec., Feb., Mar., or Apr. Sheila is anxiously waiting to hear from you. Your reward will be great in heaven!!!



Zoom Meeting Information for both Regional Gatherings and Formation sessions:

Link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85480659946>

(Copy and past link into URL)

Meeting ID: **854 8065 9946**

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85480659946# US

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US

Meeting ID: **854 8065 9946**

WHAT DO YOU MEAN — HOST A MEETING??? *By Rita Schillin, your newsletter editor*

Truly, this is not that scary of a proposition. As host, the basics include:

- Choose a topic (*you may want to use Sr. Sheila's articles in the newsletter, or you can pick your own and PUT something in the newsletter for people to ponder*)
- Plan an opening and closing prayer. (*you can make it simple, you can show a video, you can play a song, etc.*)
- Prepare questions for discussion (*These would be based on your topic*)
- Or, Be creative and do something different.

SO...HOW DOES THIS WORK...HOW DO I DO ALL THIS ON ZOOM.

This is probably the easiest part... you call me and either coordinate with me the breakout rooms and video sharing, or I show you how to do it yourself. It's not hard to do. Volunteer for a month and try it!!! You have nothing to lose and your audience will love you no matter what. Keep in mind, you are hosting...not initiating the zoom.