



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

My prayers are with each of you during this time of Covid-19 Crisis. It certainly calls us to new ways

of living and being. I too am missing my Lord present in Eucharist but prayerfully know He is present in a spiritual communion. It is sad that we are not able to gather as local or regional or national communities at this time; however, we are using other means to be with one another: social media, Zoom, internet, Masses live streamed. I look forward to when we can gather again.

Currently there are 146 committed Lay Salvatorians. Eleven candidates are in formation in the Southwest, West, and Midwest. All of the Sectors have Interested Persons for a combined number of 9 IPs. Three candidates from the Southwest requested to make their Commitment in May 2020. Jacquie Briggs, Michael Johnson and Norma Morrison have completed their formation journey, and we look forward to them joining the family. Six Interested Persons in the West Sector requested and were approved to enter formation as candidates. Our prayers will be with you on your journey.

Two Lay Salvatorians died since the last Our Voice. Ann Whiles died September 12, 2019. She was a past member of St. Catherine’s Church in McMinnville, TN. Elizabeth Perkins of Silver Spring, MD died November 22, 2019. She had a life-long service to the poor and weak of society.

The majority of the 2020 Lay Salvatorians celebrating their 25th Jubilee are from the West. The four Jubilarians are Joyce Dwonch, Janet Targhetta, Mark Verke and MaryJo Verke. Due to the Coronavirus, Jubilee was canceled and the Jubilarians will be honored in 2021.

The current Formation program and modules are being revised, updated and reformatted. Jan Bencken, West Sector, is leading this important effort. The drafts of the modules/sessions are being used with their current candidates. Early reports indicate the

National Director's Report
April, 2020

SAVE THESE DATES

2021 Lay Convocation
April 30-May2, 2021

2021 Jubilee where we will celebrate 200 Jubilarians also!

1st ICDS Meeting of the Americas
September 9-13, 2021

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changes are working well. Jan is asking for help from other sectors to revise the sessions on Charism and Governance. Contact your Sector Rep if you are interested in helping.

The 2021 National Lay Convocation will be held in California. The Western Sector is planning the Convocation which will be held at the Mercy Retreat Center in Auburn, CA, approximately 20-30 minutes from Divine Savior in Orangevale. The dates are April 30-May2 for the Convocation. It will be followed by a retreat led by Fr. Tom Bonacci on the Beatitudes for those who wish to stay longer.

Exciting news is that 2021 is the Year of the Lay Salvatorians as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary with the theme of "Passion for Ministry". Judy Davis agreed to serve as Chair and Stephen Blaine and Bobby Pantuso said yes to being on the planning team for the celebrations. We Lay Salvatorians have an incredible story to share with each other and the Salvatorian family. Our activities will revolve around two things: contacting each of the current committed Lay Salvatorians to share your "call story" to be a Lay Salvatorian and to share the story of your past and/or current ministries. These will be made into an edited book to be given to

each person. The second piece is videotaped interviews with the early Lay Salvatorians. The final videotape will be shown at the Convocation and will take the place of a speaker. This is your opportunity to participate and contribute. So be thinking about your story!

The Finance committee conducted a Pledge letter campaign in December 2019. This resulted in new contributors. A small committed number of members consistently contribute. We are solvent and have cash on hand; however, as the growing section of the Salvatorian Family, there is a growing expectation to pay “our fair share” for Joint Leadership Group and the International Community of the Divine Savior. As Committed Lay Salvatorians, we are responsible for financially supporting our branch of the family. The suggested donation is \$25/month, but any amount is appreciated. ***Please prayerfully discern what you can contribute. Every dollar counts.***

My prayer is that each of you stay safe and healthy. Our Divine Savior is present with us. These words of our Founder, Fr. Jordan from the Spiritual Diary are as pertinent today...

*Oh Lord, guide my paths; in you alone do I hope,
You are my hope, my strength, my foundation.
My God, I am Yours! Oh my helper! July 1903.*

~Jacqueline White, SDS

Southwest Sector ~ by Sharon Clark SDS

As we all navigate this COVID 19 pandemic, the Southwest Sector sends all of you our thoughts and prayers. We have only had 1 case from the Tucson group; he is in the healthcare industry and has recovered. A very special thank you to any and all of the front line workers throughout the country for the special care they show to the sick.

In thinking of writing this, I was thrown back to that wonderful time that we had at the Regional gathering in January for the annual Epiphany party and White Elephant gift exchange. It was a group from both

Annual Southwestern Epiphany Party



the Tucson and the Phoenix areas, and Fay Knowles kindly opened her home and fixed us a delicious pork loin, with everyone else pitching in their special accompaniments.

After the meal, we had the gift exchange which produced many laughs and even a bit of goofiness!

Both groups met in February and March (we got the meetings in just before the ‘stay-at-home’ order was issued) and each group was able to discuss the JOFC request on the Stations of the Cross. I was so amazed and the diversity that each group saw and expounded on, yet there were many similarities. Hats off to the JOFC for asking us to do this. A very profound experience, that I hope continues in the future.

The group is looking forward to the time we can come back together and plan the Commitment Mass for our 3 Candidates that were approved for Commitment at the virtual LSNB meeting; Jacquie Briggs, Michael Johnson and Norma Morrison. They are already Salvatorians, anyway, but it will be wonderful to welcome them ‘officially’ to the Salvatorian Family.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and make it a great day, however you can.

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 a SDS gathering AND sent in is permission to use those photos in any SDS Family publications.

Praise the Lord!

Never a question. The Eastern Region is testing being cloistered, silence and private prayer.

But wait, Father Jordan wanted an Apostolic Teaching Society. Apparently, the Holy Spirit is offering us options. Just as its always been. Change and how we deal with it.

What is this article I'm submitting to Our Voice?

Yearly most regions go on a retreat, not like we did when we were kids and you could not talk, but joyous ones that celebrate the goodness and love of the Lord. Liturgies, sharing on a talk given by a spiritual leader, crying, laughter, singing and just enjoying the company of loved ones. Evenings of libation and song, less now as we age and much shorter, no more 3AM closings and then being up for morning prayers. East is planning our Retreat for the Fall in West Virginia. The circle is unbroken.

Now we have this Covid-19 virus forcing us to stay at home. No community gatherings, only email, Facebook and some more talented than I have Twitter, Zoom, Skype and other electronic media. I miss others physical presence. Their smiles, blank stares, looks of anger and love, dozing off during a talk and being nudged by a friend to stop snoring so loudly.

My friend, who taught me to fly, is in a nursing home. I cannot visit due to Covid-19 restrictions. Prior to his going into the nursing home a bunch of airport bums use to meet for lunch on Saturdays, now we would visit him on Saturdays and have lunch at the facility with him. He doesn't/can't talk much but stays in touch with the conversation. His children live in Idaho, so they cannot visit. Just the other day I received a call from Alexian Village, from another friend, seems they are quarantined to their rooms most of the day. Just like my friend locally. I guess we should/must keep all nursing home folks in our prayers, not just now but always.

The article is more an Op-ed or comment on what's going on. Please continue to keep the faith, love one another and joyfully sing the praises of the Lord.

Eastern Sector ~by Mel Benson, SDS

Southern Sector ~ by Liza Dugal, SDS

On March 6, 2020, Friday, the Lay Salvatorians

welcomed Bobby Pantuso and Sister Veronica Ryan with a potluck dinner at Nancy Archuleta's house (a St. Joseph parishioner) at 6pm in Huntsville, Alabama. Bobby and Sister Veronica would be the leaders for the retreat to be held Saturday, March 7, 2020.

There was lots of food, drink, and laughter.



On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the retreat called "God Calls Us to be Family" began. All South Sector Lay Salva-

torians, St. Mary of the Visitation and St. Joseph Church parishioners were invited to attend. Six Lay Salvatorians came from TN and 10 came from AL. There were 19 parishioners from St. Mary and St. Joseph parishes. Fr. Joe Lubrano came for several hours and Fr. Bill Kelly came for lunch.

Liza Dugal was MC and introduced each section of the retreat. Deacon Louis Citrano opened with prayer reminding us of the commitment we made as Lay Salvatorians to promote our faith by all ways and means. Sister Veronica did a presentation on how God calls us to be family using our Salvatorian history and charism as an example of call and mission. Lunch followed at noon. At 1pm Bobby Pantuso tackled the difficult question of "How do Lay Salvatorians live their call when Salvatorian priests, brothers and Sisters are no longer present? At 3:50pm Liza Dugal closed the retreat with a prayer service centered on the call seen through the Beatitudes.



"Oh how ... yes, how they would serve God already now if God's word were only preached to them. (And once, having heard and so been fed) how the faith would blossom and spread until it reached earth's extremities there ... there beyond its furthestmost seas!"

Blessed Mary of the Apostles

Western Sector

~ By Jan Bencken SDS

We had a wonderful March Gathering at which Fr. Marcel celebrated Mass with us, minus the wine and the hugs of peace. Afterwards, we had a discussion at the request by the JOFC of the 7th Station of the Cross hanging in our very own Parish. This was a particularly poignant discussion for several reasons: Fr. Neil Seidl spearheaded the acquisition of these particular art pieces. They are unbelievably moving and expertly crafted. Sometimes when you “grow up” with something, you can lose the awe that it inspires. Especially touching is the application of the Stations to current life: addictions, diseases, homelessness, powerlessness of various groups, immigration, to name a few. We divided into small groups and looked intently at the station, asking ourselves what insights we gained about Jesus and other aspects of the work. We shared our prayer/poems capturing those feelings, hearing the eloquence, beauty, grace, and blessings expressed. The sum total was a blessing unto itself.



The Midwest Sector has two regions. The Green Bay region meets together most months. In the summer we meet at the Salvatorian cottage on Lake Winnebago; in the winter we meet at the rectory of Saints Peter and Paul in Kiel.

Midwest Sector

~ By Sue Haertel SDS

We start with visiting, then have a prayer service, do some form of formation either with the ABC's of Salvatorian Life or something from Jordan Talks. This is followed by dinner and more socializing. The gatherings usually include Fr. Loren as the leader, some sisters, priests and brothers and several Lay Salvatorians. It is truly a Salvatorian event! For the foreseeable future, our meetings are postponed.



The Milwaukee region has also had to postpone our gatherings. The picture shows the taping of Mass at St. Pius X Parish in Wauwatosa, a parish served by Salvatorians. The picture shows our videographer, Lay Salvatorian Bobby Pantuso, Salvatorian Priest, Fr. Paul Portland, and cantor or lector, Lay Salvatorian Sue Haertel. You can pray with us at <http://www.stpiusparish.org/>



Upcoming leadership meetings -

Joint Leadership Group (JLG) Oct. 8 & 9

Lay Salvatorian National Board (LSNB) Oct. 10 & 11

Reach out to your Sector Rep with questions/comments/suggestions

Financial Updates

~by Claire Williams SDS

Greetings:

We are experiencing some strange and difficult times at the moment. It is my prayer that you and your families are well. It seems so very different to be on "house arrest" and not be able to see our extended families and friends. But we are people of Hope and we know that this too, shall pass. We are truly saddened that the National Assembly had to be cancelled, but it is better for us to be safe. Hopefully, we can all be together at the Convocation next year.

Since our calendar and fiscal year began on January 1st, we have received \$5,979.00 in donations which represents 24% of our budget of \$25,000. Our total membership is 143 members and of this date a total of 37 members have contributed which represents 26% of the membership. A big thank you to all our faithful contributors

Presently, we are able to contribute \$9,000 from our operating budget to the JLG. This money pays a portion of our share of the Joint Ministries that we support. We also contribute \$600 to offset the cost of mailing Update to our members who do not have e-mail. Other expenses are maintaining our website, airfare for the Sector Reps to go to the LSNB meetings (although many of the Sector Reps do not accept reimbursement for this expense.) We also pay our share of dues to the International Community of the Divine Savior. We have come a long way since the days when the Society and Congregation had to support us.

As a reminder, we ask for \$25 per month for each member but we understand that may not be possible for all. Many members give more, some less...whatever you can give is very much appreciated. All contributions are tax deductible.



Donations should be sent to Lay Salvatorian Stewardship Appeal, 2207 Shades Crest RD, Huntsville, AL 35801. Lots of folks are now using bill pay, which

is an easy way to remember. You just have to set it up once online and then the bank sends the check each month. If that is not convenient, a check is always acceptable. If you need address labels please let me know and I will send them asap.

If you have any questions about the finances, please feel free to contact me. My contact information is in the Salvatorian Directory. I am always glad to hear from you and know that you are always in my prayers.

May our Savior continue to bless each of you.

Claire Williams, S.D.S.

Treasurer

	Budget	Actual
	2020	Jan 1-Apr 27, 2020
Income		
Total Income	25,000.00	5,979.00
Expense		
7410 - Office Expense		
Total 7410 - Office Expense	800.00	600.00
7420 - International Expense		
Total 7420 - International Expense	4,000.00	
7430 - JLG/LSNB Meetings		
Total 7430 - JLG/LSNB Meetings	6,000.00	492.80
7440 - National Director Support		
Total 7440 - National Director Support	2,000.00	
7450 - Communication Committee		
Total 7450 - Communication Committee	400.00	11.00
7458 - Insurance	950.00	
7460 - Finance Committee		
Total 7460 - Finance Committee	150.00	110.00
7470 - SDS-L Convocation		
Total 7470 - SDS-L Convocation	0.00	
7480 - Contracted Services	400.00	
7490 - Miscellaneous	300.00	
7500 - JLG Contribution	8,000.00	8,212.28
7510 - Jordan Ministry Team	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Expense	25,000.00	11,426.08
Net Income	0.00	-5,447.08

MEMBERSHIP

<u>SECTOR</u>	<u>COMMIT- TED</u>	<u>CANDI- DATES</u>
East (SR: Mel Benson)	18	0
Midwest (SR: Sue Haertel)	38	6
South (SR: Liza Dugal)	41	0
Southwest (SR: Sharon Clark)	27	1
West (SR: Jan Bencken)	22	4
Total	146	11

Lay Salvatorian National Dues *— See the current Financial Information on our website:

<http://laysalvatorians.com/members/Finance%20Reports/Financial%20Reports.htm> *Requested donation is \$25 month. Envelopes will be mailed to you if requested. Contact Claire Williams (clairewilliams723@gmail.com). All donations are tax deductible.



The General Committee of the International Community of the Divine Savior (ICDS), the formal name of the Lay Salvatorians, met in Rome December 2nd to 10th, 2019. The General Committee is the Lay Salvatorian leadership team from around the world elected during the 2018 General Assembly.



Int'l Joint Leadership

Included during this General Committee meeting was a meeting with the International Joint Leadership Group (IJLG) on December 6th and 7th and celebrations of Founder's Day on December 8th with the entire Salvatorian Family. Since prayer is an important component of discussions, each day was started with Eucharist and each day included time for community.



The topics discussed by the General Committee were:

Welcome and general conversation regarding the units and their connection with the General Committee members

Finances: This continues to be a concern because some units are able to donate their "fair share" while others are unable to donate at all.

The ICDS Statutes: There has been a lot of work done by the General Committee on the Statutes over the past twelve months and the plan is to have the current draft ready to submit to the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life by the end of February 2020. The General Committee worked more on the draft Statutes during this meeting.

Communication: The General Committee acknowledged that while communication with the units and between the units has improved, there is still a great need for better communication.

Motivational letters have been posted on the ICDS General Forum on the ICDS website (www.laysalvatorians.org/forum) and will continue to be posted in the future.

Archives: The ICDS needs to have a central location for the archives of the ICDS and this need was presented at the IJLG meeting for consideration.

Common Celebration Days: The General Committee decided to encourage each unit around the globe to celebrate on the same date the most important Salvatorian dates. A calendar of suggested dates will be published.

Salvatorian Family: The General Committee discussed the need to work together with all three branches of the Salvatorian Family, especially in areas of joint projects.

ICDS logo: The General Committee recognizes the need for a logo for the members of the ICDS that encompasses all Lay Salvatorians throughout the world.

Justice, Peace, and the Integration of Creation (JPIC): The JPIC work group has begun by meeting on Skype and is seeking input from each unit about what they are presently engaged in regarding JPIC issues. Jackie White is one of the representatives on this committee.



Founder's Day Mass & Social

An evaluation of the meeting format and topics was held and recommendations for future meeting were recorded.

Update since the December 2019 meeting:

After many, many, many hours working via Skype over the last year and a half, the General Committee with input from many Lay Salvatorians, completed the changes requested by the Dicastery and submitted the Statutes to the Dicastery for approval on March 6th, 2020. Now we will wait for the response from the Dicastery.



The "fair share" donation for the USA to the ICDS is \$4,000 USD per year based on our number of members. This continues to be a line item on our Lay Salvatorian National Board (LSNB) annual budget.

I always welcome questions/concerns/thoughts. My email is kduckb2h@sbcglobal.net or ken.drake@laysalvatorians.org

~In the Savior, Ken Drake



Int'l Community Update

