

THE APOSTLE

News from the Salvatorians in Britain & Ireland

LENT
2018

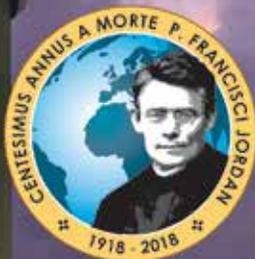
THIS ISSUE

A word from the Provincial
A reflection of Lent
International House
Preparation XIX General Chapter
RIP Father John Murray



The Salvatorians

191 High Road, Harrow Weald, Middx, HA3 5EE, UK



THE APOSTLE LENT2018

Father
Richard Mway SDS
Provincial Superior



Dear Confreres and Friends,

As we come to the conclusion of the first month of yet another year and now we are in the middle of February, I wish to share with you some thoughts which could constitute your intentions for prayer for 2018. I hope that in those first months you wish each other all the best for the New Year. Our Venerable Founder, Father Francis Jordan, once wrote in an address to the Salvatorian Sisters:

I wish you all a holy year which you will make great progress in perfection, and in the love of your heavenly bridegroom. How? Through zealous exercise of mutual love and patience, through quietly enduring sufferings and sacrifices. This is a significant year for you... Oh, truly pray much, and thank God sincerely for all the graces he has given you, so that this year may become for you and for the whole congregation a celebration of true joy.

Now these are resolutions and wishes in plenty!

We should therefore look back on 2017 with gratitude and pray that the Lord grant us a successful 2018. Indeed throughout this year we are celebrating a special centenary of the Death of our Founder to be concluded at the end of our XIX General Chapter. I will also express the prayers of many of us for the Lord through our Holy Mother the Church to see Our Venerable Father officially recognized as a Blessed. Who knows what can happen between now and the end of our special year of celebrations?

May I ask you also to keep in your prayers the Salvatorians in the Democratic Republic of Congo who still experience political instability and internal turmoil. Before the Holy Week last year, one of their missions was savagely ransacked and up until now the Fathers and Sisters have not yet returned to their respective convents. The fathers, brothers and sisters were since the erection of the mission the only anchors for the local community with a network of schools, hospital, a mission church with over sixty chapels, etc. Fr Floribert, the Congolese Provincial Superior, visited us before Christmas and shared with me some of the images of our Mission in Kalamba. They are really horrendous. However the Fathers and Sisters have expressed their desire to return there once it is again safe. They require our prayers and support. Every little could help!

Yours in the Saviour,

Richard Mway

Father Richard Mway SDS
Provincial Superior



A Reflection for Lent

Father
Malachy McBride SDS



The spring of the year is the most suitable season in which to place Lent, at least in The Northern Hemisphere. It is a time of hope and expectation; the days are getting brighter and warmer and the chill of dark winter is departing. We see this especially in our garden. The poet James Thomson in his poem "Spring" put it like this:

*"The finished garden to the view
its vistas opens, and its alleys
green."*

*Along the blushing borders,
dewy-bright... Fair-handed Spring
unbosoms every grace."*

This element of hope leaves Lent happily placed. It is said that it is the lengthening of the days that gives Lent to English name. Other European languages find a different feature of Lent for its name. The German starkly remind us of the penitential aspect of Lent with "Fastenzeit". Romance languages derive their name from the forty days of Lent, based on the Latin "Quadragesima": "Quaresima" in Italian, "Cuaresma" in Spanish and "Carême" in French. Even the hardly Irish Romance language, would seem to follow suit with "Carghas".

But all these names only touch the surface of what Lent is really about. Lent is a time for reflection and prayers. It is true that at this time we discipline ourselves and perform penitential exercises.

But this is only a season towards an appreciation of what that means. Even our Lenten devotion of the Stations of the Cross, the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary and the seven last words on the Cross are only stepping stones on the way to the core meaning of Lent. These devotions do not stand alone. They are enlightened and completed by the glory of the resurrection, which, although celebrated as a feast on Easter Sunday, is fore - shadowed all through our Lenten devotions. The crucifixion and resurrection belong together. They have no meaning apart from the one another.

The founder of the Salvatorians, Father John Baptist Jordan, took the religious name "Father Francis of the Cross". The inseparability of the cross and the resurrection was the inspiration of his life. He saw that death was swallowed up in victory; there failure became a triumph; here all striving was crowned one way or another with success.



I repeat: Lent is a time for reflection and prayer. The highly charged prayer of the cross enlightened by the resurrection is a wonderful subject on which to base one's Lenten prayer. The resurrection of the crucified Christ is the way God has revealed himself to us. Our best Lenten practice would be to immerse ourselves in this prayer.

It is likely that one reason why our founder took the name Francis was that his patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, so devoted himself to the crucified and risen Saviour that he was rewarded with the marks of the Passion. The Church in its liturgy regarded this as "a sign to a world growing cold". As we move nearer to Holy Week, we pray that humanity may be warned again. If someone were to ask you what Christianity has to offer to that humanity, you can suggest to them "a lot, based on the resurrection of the crucified Christ".

"a lot, based on the resurrection
of the crucified Christ".



OPENING OF "MATER SALVATORIS" EUROPEAN HOUSE OF FORMATION

Father
Paul Harris SDS
Parish Priest St Joseph



On Friday 8th December Salvatorians representing our European units gathered together for the opening of our new House of Formation in the town of Tor di Cenci, situated on the outskirts of Rome. As many of you will know, December 8th is a significant date celebrated throughout the Salvatorian world not only because it is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, but because it was also on this date back in 1881 when Francis Jordan received the religious vows of the first Salvatorians. Thus, December 8th marks the very foundation of our beloved Order. We can be quite certain then that the new House of Formation begins with the powerful intercession and protection of both the Blessed Virgin and Father Jordan.

"Mater Salvatoris" has 4 resident students for the priesthood: from the Democratic Republic of Congo, from Tanzania, from India, and from Malaysia. The students will study Sacred Theology at one of the Roman Universities and will, with God's help, work as priests in Europe. As vocations to the priesthood and religious life are far more in abundance in our developing units, this generous new venture will help to maintain our presence in Europe. As such, we are grateful to the four students who have graciously accepted the Lord's call to serve as priests in other lands. Indeed, we pray that the Lord will call upon the hearts of many to serve him more perfectly in the service of the Church.

Holy Mass was the main celebration of the day, which was presided over by His Excellency, Paolo Lojudice, Auxiliary Bishop of Rome. The community chapel was packed out with local people from the town, together with many Lay Salvatorians and Salvatorian Sisters. During the mass the Fathers and Sisters renewed their religious vows in accordance with tradition. This is always a very special moment in which we are reminded of our Salvatorian vocation and way of life. After mass the House of Formation was dedicated to Our Blessed Lady and blessed by the Superior General, Father Milton Zonta SDS.



REMEMBER US IN YOUR PRAYERS AS WE PREPARE FOR THE XIX GENERAL CHAPTER

Father
Richard Mway SDS
Provincial Superior



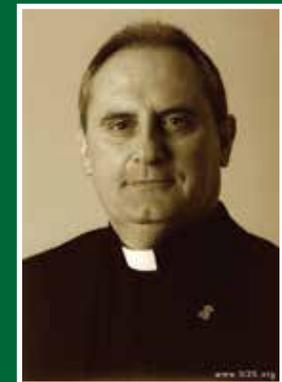
On 11 October 2017, the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Saviour, Our General Superior, The Very Reverend Milton Zonta SDS, officially convoked the XIX General Chapter during the year of the centenary of the death of our Founder, the Venerable Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan. The chapter will take place from 13 August 2018 to 6 September 2018 at the Benedictine Monastery of St Ottilan, near Munich, in Germany. Nearly sixty peoples will participate that includes the 48 capitulars, the translators and other support staff.

The General Chapter first takes an honest look at the state of the Congregation... This examination should then lead the Chapter members to face honestly certain discomfoting questions. Are we faithful to our mission or have we slid into mediocrity? What is the Lord asking of us today? How are we being asked to change? The General Chapter will offer specific directives for the whole Congregation as it proposes a path to help all Salvatorians live more authentically their vocation. Finally, the delegates will elect the leadership of the Congregation for the next six years.

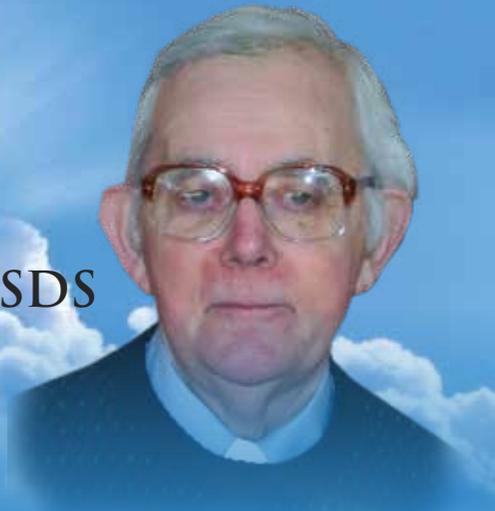
In the official letter of convocation the General Chapter, Fr Milton wrote: The theme of the XIX General Chapter is "Go, enflame all!" inspired by the words of the Founder in his Spiritual Diary (II/21). In the framework of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of his Death, we want this chapter event to be an opportunity to give new life, advance, and enflame the missionary-apostolic spirit of the Founder in the times of today.

Please remember all the Salvatorians as we prepare for our General Chapter. May the Spirit guide them in their prayers and discernments.

FATHER MILTON ZONTA SDS
GENERAL SUPERIOR



REST IN PEACE
FATHER JOHN MURRAY SDS
1936 - 2018



Reverend John Murray, SDS, a member of the Society of the Divine Saviour – commonly known as Salvatorians- of the British Pro-vince peacefully died in his sleep at the Charing Cross Hospital in the night of Friday to Saturday 12 January 2018. He was 81 years; he joined the Salvatorian Community in 1957 and was ordained to the ministerial priesthood on 31st July 1965. On the 11th of November this year he was preparing to celebrate his 60th anniversary of his religious profession. For the last three years, Fr John had retired for active ministry and was residing at the Nazareth House Care Home in Hammersmith.

Throughout his ministry Fr John served in several of our parishes: Radford, Oxfordshire, St Joseph's Wealdstone, St Saviour's, Abbots Langley and St Gregory's, Cheltenham. He also worked for a few months as a chaplain at the Anchor House. His funeral took place at St Joseph's, Wealdstone where he served most his life.

Father John's priesthood was characterized by his simplicity, goodness and kindness which will be remembered by both his fellow Salvatorians and the people whom he served so well.

**Eternal rest grant unto Fr. John, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.
Amen.**

And, may his intercession be a source of more young men
the Salvatorian community!

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We will include the names of your deceased family and friends in our Novena of Masses and assure you of continued remembrance in our community prayers

Please remember the Salvatorians in your Last Will

“Making The Saviour Known”

If you wish to enclose a donation for our work in the Missions and for the training of students for the priesthood, please include the amount in the box below.

£ / €

Return this form in the envelope provided with your offering / cheque made payable to
The Salvatorian Trustees
Registered Charity No: 231410

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT

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You must pay an amount of Income Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give). Please remember to inform the Salvatorians of any changes in your tax status.

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SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR
SALVATORIANUS
BRITISH PRO-PROVINCE

APPEALS IN THIS ISSUE

Students on priestly formation

A destroyed mission church in DR Congo

Work of evangelisation

AFFIX STAMP

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