

**SALVATORIANS AND
THE EXPERIENCE
OF GOD**



Joint International Charism Commission - 2008

Ocean of Love

Rejoice and be glad, timid soul,
because the Creator of all will take up his
dwelling with you;
the King of the heavenly choirs is coming to you;
the strong, omnipotent God is coming to you.

Rejoice and be glad!
The Lord of angels is coming to you.

Rejoice and be glad, O troubled soul!
Not an angel is coming to you, nor a saint,
nor a cherubim or seraphim;
But there is coming to you
the King of the cherubim and seraphim.

Rejoice and be glad, exalt and sing,
Because there is coming to you
not the Virgin of virgins, but the Most High Himself,
the Most Pure, the most holy King of virgins,
the all-patient One, the Almighty,
the all-meek, the Healer of all ills,
the Savior of the world!

Immerse yourself in the
Ocean of the love of your God!

(SD 1, 150a [follows SD 1, 159])

√ **Prayer in silence & solitude:**
SD III 1,3: „Pray earnestly, more earnestly, most earnestly! Go into solitude and be urgent in prayer!” Please also refer to SD I 64, 1 & 2 (see also Luke 6:12!)

√ **The “fruitfulness” of prayer:**
SD I 170, 1a: “My prayer will never be fruitless, provided it is good prayer ...!” Please, also refer to SD I 18.

√ **Prayer as self-dedication to God:**
SD I 144, 5 & 6: “Give yourself over totally to God; O lord, what do you want me to do; speak, Lord, your servant is listening. - Here I am, send me as soon as possible!” Please also refer to SD I 68 1-2 & SD I 140, 7.

√ **Meditation & Spiritual Exercises:**
SD I 136, 4: “Never omit your meditation, unless it is a duty to do so!”

SD I 125,3: “Now and then read and meditate on the Most Holy Eucharist!”

SD I 162,6: “It is of the greatest importance to give and to make the Spiritual exercises!”

SD II 9,6: “Daily meditation and annual retreat!”

SOURCE MATERIAL

In addition to the Spiritual Diary and the Chapter Talks of Father Jordan:

- √ Joseph Lammers, SDS (ed. 2006): *The Spirituality of F. Jordan*
- √ Arno Boesing, SDS: *Salvatorian Key elements, Charism, Mission, Spirituality, Identity Part I: “SDS Spirituality”*
- √ Mario Agudelo, SDS: *Salvatorian Key Elements, Charism, Mission, Spirituality, Identity Part III: “Some Essences of our Salvatorian Perfume”*

SALVATORIANS AND THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD

The Experience Of God

“Lived in the real world, our personal and communal spirituality is rooted in our experience of God the Father. Jesus Christ, who came to give life to all, is the Source and the Center of our spirituality. With Mary, His mother, we bear to others the Savior we have come to know ourselves. The Holy Spirit guides and enlightens us along the way.”
(*Charter of the Salvatorian Family, chapter 3, para 10*)

Icons for reflection on “The Experience of God”

- √ The Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush (Ex. 3: 1-7).
- √ The encounter of St. Paul with Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles: 9: 1-9; 2: 6-16; 26:12-18)
- √ The text of John 17:3, which becomes Jordan’s founding vision

Biblical Texts

Those already mentioned above under Point B, and Luke 6:12 and Luke 9:28-36!

Key elements of the Salvatorian Spirituality

Knowing God, That Is, Experiencing God As The Center Of Our Lives...(1st key element)

Very early in his life F. Jordan experiences God: during his first Holy Communion, his studies (SD I, 1-2) and also later during Holy Communion (see prayers SD I, 9; 149, 150*). Together with Catherine of Siena, in all gifts of God he recognizes God’s loving affection (SD I, 77). He gives himself fully to Jesus, his “beloved spouse”, to become one with Him. See prayers SD I, 142, and 168, as well as the following:

- √ SD I 83; 178 (and refer to SD I, 2002; SD II 52; 70): “This is

eternal life, that they may know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)

√ SD I 202 and SD II, 52: “The said creature gives himself totally and for ever to his almighty Creator”. “The creature gives and will give to his Creator, whatever the Creator Himself has given, gives and will give to him.”

Trusting In Divine Providence... (2nd key element)

Fr. Jordan often experienced God’s provident love. God shows Himself like a loving mother and like a courageous hero (see spiritual testament). In his confidence he bases himself on God’s promises, even on God’s oaths (SD II, 8; 15; SD IV, 22). But he also knows, that with confidence we have to combine also our willingness to fulfil God’s will. In Jordan’s “Talks” we find the respective texts:

√ February 2, 1898 (p. 186): “Trust in the Lord! Believe in Divine Providence! Ah, when in old age you look back on some disturbing past events and compare how sadly you received them with how you later saw that God directed everything to your best advantage, ah, then you will judge things quite differently!”

√ April 27, 1894 (p. 26): “How shameful it is to shrink from every difficulty when all human help seems lost. Then you must trust in God all the more! How can anyone say he trusts in God, when in all his needs and sorrows and works, when all seems lost, he loses heart? Precisely there confidence in God needs to be established! , When he hopes in me, I will save him.”

√ February 25, 1898 (p. 190): “How can you hope if you don’t live in accordance with your position and instead jump into big projects following your own will? How can you have trust in the Lord there? So do your duty and cast all your worries on the Lord. He will help you and rescue you.”

√ December 10, 1897 (p. 158): “If you plan your steps only

according to human cleverness, you can never rely on extraordinary help (from God) and you will never achieve great things!”

Being People Of Prayer...(5th key element)

Following the witness of his fellow brothers, F. Francis was always concentrated on and united with God. Therefore, for us he became a real teacher of prayer. In his talks and Spiritual Diary we find countless explanations.

√ **The power of prayer:**

SD I 201, 2: “Prayer is the powerful weapon which triumphs: it is the stairway and the door of Paradise; it is the coin minted by God himself, with which the eternal joy of the heavenly Jerusalem is securely bought.” SD II 103,3: “Prayer is the greatest power in the world.” – we also point out to SD IV 10,3 (Dec. 10, 1915).

√ **Based on prayer:**

SD II 8, 5: “Erect the edifice of your holiness on prayer, work & strict silence...”

√ **Prayer & confidence:**

SD II 36,2-6: “O, pray very much and place your complete trust in the Lord, even when dryness and abandonment assail you.... I can do all things in you!” – we also point out to SD II 70,3 and SD IV 6,2.

√ **Perpetual and passionate prayer:**

Please read SD I 197, 1-7 (a very strong self-encouragement to pray insistently)

SD II 84,5 (also see Luke 18:1): “Pray without ceasing!” - we also point out to SD II 85,1; SD II 13,4 and SD II 28,3.

SD II 65, 1-3: “Pray always and do not give it up! It is necessary to pray; to him, who believes, all things are possible. Prevail upon the dear God, who can do all things!” Please also refer to SD II 68,4; SD II 73,3; SD II 83,4; SD II 84; SD III 1,3; SD III 5, 1-3; SD III 14,1.