

Grant us that, united around the same mission,
we will teach to many the Christian faith
and attain the glory that you promised through Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior.

Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Mary, Queen of the Apostles and our mother,
Pray for us! Don't abandon us!

Intercede for children and their teachers!
Intercede for our Salvatorian Family and for our leaders!

Intercede for our benefactors, friends and enemies!
Holy Apostles, pray for us!

Father Jordan's Blessing (SD I 189,6)

May the Almighty God + the Father + the Son and
the Holy + Spirit bless you,

He will sanctify you, confirm and multiply as the sands of the sea
And as the stars in the sky, until the end of time. Amen

04. SOURCES FOR DEEPENING THE THEME

- √ Sociedade Apostolica Instrutiva – Sua Natureza e Importância – Pe. Lüthen – Diretor do Ambrosius, CIP 20 –
- √ Uma Iglesia al Revés – La Hora de los Laicos – Luís Munilla, sds
- √ As origens da SDS – 1880 – 1883 – Alfredo Schneble, sds
- √ Padre Jordan e os Leigos – Uma Visão Histórica – Comissão Internacional de História
- √ Salvatorian Key Elements – International Charism Commission

OUR IDENTITY AS SALVATORIAN FAMILY



Joint International Charism Commission - 2008

OUR IDENTITY AS SALVATORIAN FAMILY

“Even through the three branches are autonomous, it is in the interaction of our life that we express our charism” (CD N° 15).

Opening Prayer

Father Jordan founded the Salvatorian Family to proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the world, through our joint efforts. The members of the Salvatorian Family are on the Five Continents, fulfilling a mission received from the Founder. We join the members of this Family, by praying to the Holy Spirit to enlighten and strengthen us during this discussion. (We can sing a song or say a prayer).

Motivation

The Salvatorian Family is like a river that has its origin in our sources, running its own way in order to reach out our destination. The landscapes are always new; the river never stops flowing. It starts in the wilderness, flowing dynamically, quick, weak at times, with difficulties that would put it at risk to disappear. One time, it grows and expands with other creeks joining their waters in order to spread out. The river of life and its boundaries goes through meadows, running slowly when there are obstacles. Very often as the river reaches its goal (the sea) it is enlarged, amplified. It's a powerful source of life... Our river goes on revealing its identity in three branches that is connected to other smaller tributary creeks. The more creeks we get, the richer we become. We are the Gospel's means of communication. Our river is deeper, and the water, abundant and rich. The river can be a “family” of creeks little animals, forests, life. As one example for the Salvatorian Family: we started from an originating source that grew out, forming the three branches which are intended to give life.

Biblical Enlightenment

As the water brings life to the river, our Charism is founded on fullness of life. We find, very often, in the Bible, the image of the river and the living water. In Ezekiel 47,1 -12 the running water symbolizes the presence of God in the Temple that becomes the centre of life, which spreads out to all

Being aware of the Salvatorian Family values as an inheritance received from the Founder, Father Jordan, we reflect:

1. Am I ready to go back to the sources and live my Salvatorian vocation courageously?
2. How do I nourish my apostolic ministries with the water of joy, goodness, and saving love of the Father?
3. Do we witness who we are to the people around us through our life and ministry?
4. How can each of the branches know its own identity better in order make greater and more intensive collaboration possible?
5. How can we grow in unity through the integration of our ministry as Salvatorian Family?
6. To What other challenges can we point in our search for deeper fidelity to our identity?

Time For Sharing

1. After personal reflection and internalizing our identity as Salvatorian Family, let us share our reflection and intuitions with the members of the community or group.
2. We want to finish this meeting with the following prayer:

PRAYER OF THE SALVATORIAN FAMILY

(Statutes of the Apostolic Teaching Society – 1880)

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, you assumed human nature to save all from sin and error, and to teach the eternal truths. By your suffering and death we ask you: enlighten those who are astray and those who don't know you yet. Give them true wisdom! Through your Holy Spirit you promised, that those who teach justice will shine for ever as stars.

The Society makes an effort to unite, sanctify and animate, in the apostolic spirit, all the forces of the catholic magisterium” (The apostolic Teaching Society – its nature and importance – CIP 20,6).

In order to live our identity more intensely as Salvatorian Family, we face some challenges such as:

1. *Needing to return to the sources of the Salvatorian river – our origins.* As time passes, much dust, that is, many values and philosophical concepts of the society of consumerism will penetrate the riverbed, creating difficulties and deviating the original riverbed, that is, the basic ideals and values of our charism and identity.

2. *Learning to work together: overcoming individualism and prejudices.* Father Jordan always dreamed of a “Society” in which it was possible to unite forces in order to propagate the evangelical values, that is, to evangelize among all peoples, by all possible means. It is necessary to overcome individualism, and avoid prejudices in order to be able to unite forces in view of our apostolic activities as Salvatorian Family.

3. *That all the members be aware of the richness in our life of the Salvatorian Family.* To continue developing efforts consciously to value the richness of this unity among the three branches of the Salvatorian Family. Thus we can fulfill the common goal of the evangelization of all peoples

4. *Understanding that the Salvatorian Vocation is expressed in various complementary and needed ways.* In view of the fulfillment of our common goal, we need vocations dedicated to the priestly ministry, to the consecrated religious life and to the lay ministry, forming a Salvatorian Family, as Father Jordan dreamed. Therefore, it is necessary that each one of us respond to the call in a vigorous, courageous and prophetic way; then there will be mutual complementarity in our apostolic ministries.

Being aware of the challenges of the world today, with the help of divine grace, we will be able to revitalize our Salvatorian identity, strengthen our solidarity and mutual cooperation in promoting the life of our Salvatorian Family.

the earth, in order to be transformed in paradise. If we commit ourselves to the project of life, we see that the natural goods multiply, in order to be shared, but we also become revitalized with the ability to share our own life in a brotherly and sisterly way.

Revelation 22,1-13 describes that a city from inside is a new paradise. The new humankind receives life from God, the Spirit – river of water of life. Everyone has the possibility to be fully actualized. The coming of Jesus is progressive and is manifested through the witness of those who keep on doing what He did: to manifest truth, to reveal the Saving Love of the Father, which provokes conversion.

In John 4,1-14, Jesus presents Himself as the “living water” that will be transformed into a spring that brings eternal life. The Samaritan Woman is thirsty for life and wants to quench her thirst, but finds only stagnant water. Jesus brings living spring water and acts so that the spring of water bursts from inside each person.

Let’s use this time to deepen our discussion, as we read and pray the texts indicated above. We can also discover other passages in the bible to illustrate and deepen our theme as Salvatorian Family.

DEEPENING THE IDENTITY OF SALVATORIAN FAMILY

The image of the river and of the family appears from the beginning in the words of Fr. Jordan and in the first documents as well. They are not three independent rivers or branches, but are uniting forces with the same and unique goal.

“I am the father of the family who takes care of all children and can give them everything. How painful it is, when the children look for help elsewhere” (SD I-165,03-04)

“Pray, daily, insisting to God and Our Lady, and don’t stop doing so, in order to offer to your beloved Spouse Jesus Christ a large family of both men and women, agreeable to God and accepted by Him, large as the sand of the sea and as the stars in the sky, that is:

1. In order to found a family that is holy and pleasing to God;
2. So that you can offer, one day, in heaven, to your beloved spouse, innumerable spiritual sons and daughters, holy and agreeable to God” (SD I-184, 05 e 186,01).

“Be a grateful river, but ever a river. Give back to the sea what you have received from the sea” (SD I-99,03).

All families have their own identity. We understand identity as a body of characteristics and circumstances that distinguish a person or an institution individually.

A description in the introduction of the Key-Elements of our Charism, Mission Spirituality, Identity explains to us and to others who look at us who we are. It is the inculturation of our Charism, mission and spirituality.

The Salvatorian Identity is thus defined: “We identify ourselves, as Salvatorian Family, by living our charism, mission and spirituality, as individual person and as community. We are united by the same commitment to be an inculturated expression of the key-elements, through which others will identify us as Salvatorians”.

We have received this identity from the Savior. As members of the Salvatorian Family we need to follow the footsteps of our Divine Savior, by identifying ourselves with Him. To follow Him is to be committed to His Project. “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mk 8,34). Paul, the Apostle tells us about the following of Jesus: “I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ Who lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live in faith; faith in the Son of God who loved me and who sacrificed himself for my sake. I cannot bring myself to give up God’s gift:” (Gal 2, 20-21). “There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself . . . In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus” (Phil, 2: 3-4).

The Salvatorian Family founded by Father Jordan with the name of “Apostolic Teaching Society” has as its goal, to dedicate itself, with God’s grace, to the salvation and perfection of its members. It consists also in dedicating oneself tirelessly and intensively everywhere in the world to what the glory of God requires according to the command of Our Lord Jesus Christ: “Go, teach all people”, instructing, forming, teaching, with words and in writing, that all people may know better the only and true God and Him who was sent, Jesus Christ, so that they can live saintly lives and save their souls” (Smirna Statute - 1880).

In 1880 when Father Jordan defined the goal of the Society, or of the Salvatorian Family, he already presented his plan of a Society organized in three Degrees, with participation of: fathers, brothers, sisters, as well as lay people who follow the Statutes.

The name Salvatorian Family appears in the 1981 General Directory of the Fathers and Brothers and is thus described: “A Salvatorian Family includes those who make private commitment in the Society. The participation in the Society is determined by the Provincial Statutes” (1.6).

The XV General Chapter of the Fathers/Brothers in 1993, considers the lay Salvatorians as persons who by means of a special commitment, participate more intensively in the life, spirit and apostolic objectives of the Society.

The Salvatorian Sisters in the XVII General Chapter in 1995, say that “the Salvatorian Family is formed by the Congregation, the Society and Lay Salvatorians”, adding: “We are all inspired by the same Charism and sent to the same mission. We share our call in equality and complementarity”.

In the Salvatorian Family founded by Father Jordan, the religious men and women, lay men and women are called to commit themselves, with dedicated care, so that all the living forces of the Church, including the lay people, live their Christian vocation and mission: “The society tries to animate all the living forces of the Church in the fulfillment of its Christian vocation...,”