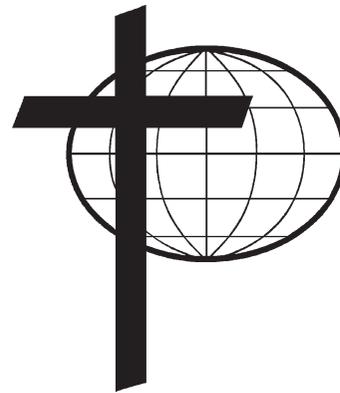


**SALVATORIANS:  
CALLED TO EMBRACE  
THE WORLD**



**Joint International Charism Commission - 2008**

### **Your experience of Universality**

*Please reflect and then share with the others on these questions.*

- √ What does Salvatorian **universality** say to us in regard to racial prejudice, ethnic and class conflict and other injustices of our times? How does it inform our relationships with others?
- √ How have you and your country experienced or been impacted by “globalization?”
- √ If F. Jordan were alive today, how might he view globalization? How does our charism call us to respond?
- √ What elements of Salvatorian **universality** energize you personally in your life and mission?

### **Taking a stand**

*Suggested dynamic: Gather in a circle with a globe in the center. Close your eyes and picture Father Francis Mary of the Cross at his desk. His hand is resting on the globe; he turns it reflectively. His gaze comes to rest on you.*

- √ What is Father Jordan asking of you? Asking of us?

*In an atmosphere of prayer, share your responses with one another.*

### **Closing Prayer**

*Slowly re-read the references from the Charter at the beginning of this guide. Allow time for personal prayer and shared intercessions. Close with the following prayer.*

O Savior of the world, inspire us with your Spirit,  
the zeal of your Apostles, and the charism of Father Jordan and  
Mother Mary, so that we may work tirelessly, going ‘into all the world  
and proclaiming the good news to the whole creation”

(Mk. 16:15).

“Show us the way to lead all to you”

(SD II.32).

*You are encouraged to deepen your understanding of this topic through continued reading of Salvatorian and other sources.*

universality. What does change according to the circumstances is the concrete use of the means to accomplish the purpose of our mission.

*“Our Salvatorian Mission”*

*F. Arno Boesing SDS*

*Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism,  
and Spirituality, Vol. 5*

*USA Joint History Charism Committee*

[The heart of the Salvatorian mission is] “love for all and the desire that they be led to the fullness of life, salvation.” Following the example of our Savior, our love is to be inclusive with a special attention to those who do not count socially, culturally, and economically... God’s inclusive love for all is tender and compassionate. This is the experience of God that Salvatorians are called to bring to others.”

*“Universality as Inclusive Love: A Key to Understanding  
the preferential Option for the Poor in Salvatorian Spirituality”*

*S. Carol Leah Thresher SDS*

*Contributions on Salvatorian History,  
Charism, and Spirituality, Vol. 4*

*USA Joint History Charism Committee*

The gift of *all ways and means* is to be both treasured and respected. It may not be interpreted, however, in an absolute way. It requires prayerful discernment. We employ all ways and means within the context of our Salvatorian mission, attentive to the one limit that our Founder placed on it: *all ways and means which the love of Christ inspires* (2 Cor. 5:14). The compelling love of Christ - that is, his love for us and our love for him - inspires and gives direction. Let us then, impelled by love and compelled by love, move ahead with new insight and dynamic fervor: **I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me** (Col. 1:29).

*“All Ways and Means”*

*An Unpublished Paper*

*S. Miriam Cerletty SDS*

*After time for personal reflection, share your thoughts with the others.*

## **SALVATORIANS: CALLED TO EMBRACE THE WORLD**

### **Introduction**

Instructions: The focus of this study guide is the theme **universality** in our Salvatorian call, as described in Chapter II of the Charter for the Salvatorian Family, “Our Mission.” If possible, gather with other Salvatorians for this experience. The guide may be adapted to the needs of the local group.

Please begin with prayer that includes the following articles from the Charter.

Following in the footsteps of the Savior like the apostles, we are called to live and announce God’s unconditional love, continuing Jesus’ life-giving work of bringing salvation to all creation and liberation from all that is a threat to fullness of life.

*Charter of the Salvatorian Family*

Article 5

Our spirit of universality is expressed by all ways and means which the love of God inspires.

a. We open ourselves to the questions and challenges of our historical epoch, allowing the signs of the time to reveal to us the ways and means to respond.

b. We involve others in our mission and seek to collaborate with those involved in promoting truth, justice and the defense of life, making a referential option for the poor and for those whose humanity and dignity are not recognized.

c. We make the eternal truths of the Word of God and our Faith accessible to persons of any culture, race, ethnic group, social class, nationality and religion.

*Charter of the Salvatorian Family*

Article 8

### Setting the Context

Please read the following account. (Another account may be substituted if appropriate for the local Salvatorian situation.)

Most of the Salvatorians, who have heard of Fr. Felix Bucher, remember the story of his diabolical possession during the time of his novitiate. His healing took place over the course of several months in 1887, during which the rites of exorcism were administered over him by Fr. Jordan and Fr. Lüthen. Healed and apparently left with a gift for the Latin and Greek languages, he studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1891. Shortly afterward, Fr. Felix, accompanied by another priest and a brother, were sent by Fr. Jordan as missionaries to the northwest part of the United States.

Fr. Felix, a native of Bavaria, soon found himself far from home, ministering to the needs of the poverty-stricken Native Americans in the state of Oregon. Fr. Cletus La Mere SDS, who studied the life of Fr. Felix, characterized him as a priest who resembled the Curé of Ars, loving but strict; a man who gave his bed away, had very simple furnishings, and lived on a diet of potatoes and milk. Sharing the hardships of his neighbors and ministering wholeheartedly, Fr. Felix endeared himself to the people, who affectionately called him their “black-robed chief.”

The rainy winter season along the Oregon coast often made traveling between missions difficult for Fr. Felix. He reported several harrowing trips:

On one winter trip my horse mired down. He became discouraged with trying to get out of the mud, so he lay down and would make no effort. I had to get the Indians to come, attach a rope and pull him out. I got another horse, but the sticky clay tired this horse too and he also became discouraged and refused to negotiate the mud, which was more than knee deep. I finally finished my 8 ½ mile trip on the back of a third horse...When the water was high, I would have to swim the rivers. One

Impart true wisdom to the learned;  
give pure form to the arts;  
consecrate and transform the workworld.  
Oh, do it . . . do it!

Enlighten your own leaders,  
ignite them heart and soul  
so that truly they seek nothing  
but Jesus alone!

O holy, venerable,  
unique Society!  
Apostolic, soul-zealous,  
greathearted Society!

*“Lyric”*  
*Therese von Wüllenweber*  
*July 22, 1882*

### RELECTIONS BY OTHER SALVATORIANS

...it is true that we cannot serve the universal Church without being inserted here and now in a particular local Church. Nonetheless as we do this, we must always be aware that our mission is not limited to this or that local Church. It must always be open, attentive and available to the needs of the Church in any part of the world... ..In principle we do not exclude any apostolic activity as long as it serves to accomplish our mission. We select our apostolic activity in accord with the circumstances of time and place (necessities of the Church, personal charisms, human means and materials...). The charity of Christ which desires to save all, inspires us to take the right step at the right moment... ..However, this does not mean “to do everything” indiscriminately. Rather, we use any means or apostolic activity as long as it corresponds to our charism and is suitable to the concrete needs of the time and place. What is really important is to achieve our final (long range) objective. The permanent givens do not change: what we want (the glory of God and salvation of people); our specific way of realizing this (emphasis on Christian leadership); and ethnic and geographical

Do not rest until you have carried the word of God to the  
four corners of the earth...  
Fly like an eagle around the globe and proclaim the word of God...  
*Spiritual Diary I, 182*

Shout mightily like a trumpet through all the regions of the earth...  
fly as an eagle and as an angel...  
Rouse and summon the sleepers! Spur the inactive! Shout, shout...  
*Spiritual Diary I, 190*

Yes, this apostolic spirit we, all of us, have to try  
to acquire more and more.  
*Letter of Mother Mary,*  
*28 June 1900*

O holy, venerable unique Society!  
Apostolic, soul-zealous,  
greathearted Society!

Grow steadily, increase,  
spread everywhere!  
Embrace and renew the universe!

Draw to yourself pastors of souls,  
draw teachers, educators and  
dedicated women -  
Oh, lead and guide them all!

Rechristianize the homeland;  
evangelize non-believers;  
protect orphans, homeless children -  
Oh, teach and instruct them all!  
Motivate fathers to steadfastness,  
mothers to holy child-rearing,  
country innkeepers to trustworthiness -  
To holiness, call them all!

time I crossed the Siletz River while it was in flood and was washed off  
my horse, but I held to its tail and it towed me safely to the opposite  
bank. (La Mere, 1996, p. 24)

These are but two examples of the extraordinary effort that Fr. Felix made in order to fulfill his Salvatorian mission. Seemingly isolated, Fr. Felix knew how to involve others in his work. When he needed money to build a church and residence on the reservation, he enlisted the support of Blessed Katherine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Katherine, who had a great love of Native and African Americans, had, at her disposal, a large fortune inherited from her father, an extremely successful banker. Throughout her life, Katherine supported projects of service to Native and African Americans. Happily, Fr. Felix was often the recipient of Katherine's generosity. He was also supported by friends in Bavaria who, in 1911, made him an altar and shipped it to New York. It was Blessed Katherine Drexel who paid the freight charge from New York to Oregon. Solidarity with friends sustained Fr. Felix. "This thought alone has kept up my spirit all these 30 years of mission life."

While material concerns necessarily occupied Fr. Felix, he was also a man of prayer and sacraments. He had the reputation of being a mystic. His letters revealed that he spent a great deal of time in prayer and meditation. He kept careful track of baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, marriages, and funerals. In his first 11 years in Oregon, he buried nearly 100 of his parishioners, ministering to the dying and comforting their families. "How many a night I spend at the bedside of the dying Indians! They cling to their priest in all filial confidence and say, 'Father, save my soul!' 'Father, I thank you!'" On Christmas Day, 1935, Fr. Felix suffered a stroke but, after three months, made a surprising recovery. Shortly thereafter, he retired to St. Nazianz, WI, living there among the seminarians as an example of "simplicity, piety, humility and obedience" (La Mere, 1996, p. 54) until his death in 1938.

Please take some moments to reflect on this visual representation of universality.



### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Regarding the story of Fr. Felix and the image of the globe:

1. What touches your heart or spirit?
2. What insights do you gain about **universality**?
3. What experiences have you had of **universality**?

After time for personal reflection, share your thoughts with the others.

*Instructions: Now please read through the following passages from Scripture, words of Father Jordan / Mother Mary, and reflections by other Salvatorians.*

Consider how they deepen and broaden your understanding of **universality** in our Salvatorian call. Depending on the size of the group, these resources can be worked through in small groups and/or by sections, and then reflections shared with the large group.

### BIBLICAL ROOTS

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”  
*Matthew 28:19-20*

He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim  
the gospel to every creature.”

*Mark 16:15*

Peter said,

“God has shown me that I should not call any person  
profane or unclean...

In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.  
Rather, in every nation whoever fears God and acts  
uprightly is acceptable to God.”

*Acts 10: 28, 34-35*

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave  
nor free person, there is not male and female;  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

*Galatians 3:28*

“You are not acting wisely...

“You will surely wear yourself out,  
and not only yourself but also these people with you.  
The task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

*Exodus 18:17-18*

### WORDS OF FATHER JORDAN AND MOTHER MARY

O my Lord and my God, grant that I may be able  
with Your help to carry out that undertaking for Your honor  
so that all may be imbued with your doctrine...

*Spiritual Diary I, 120*

The Catholic Society of clerics and co-workers  
in the vineyard of the Lord among all peoples...

*Spiritual Diary I, 124*

“Oh, (that there were) holy apostles hastening  
throughout the world, evangelizing all”

*Spiritual Diary I, 138*