



# International Community of the Divine Savior

## General Committee

July-August 2016

### Vacations 2016

Dear Brother and Sister Salvatorians:

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful he leads me; he refreshes my soul ... "[Psalm 23 (22) 1-3]*

*"Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken." [Genesis 1, 2]*

For many of us in the northern hemisphere these months (July and August) we start vacation. Humans need rest from work, study and our daily chores, either coinciding with the end of the study cycles of our children or communities, or with the summer or hot months.

However, our founder, the Venerable Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, reminds us in a message repeated many times in our communities, and fits very well in our work time and ministries [ministries]:

*"As long as there is one person on earth who does not know God and does not love God above all things, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest. As long as God is not everywhere glorified, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest. As long as the Queen of heaven and earth is not everywhere praised, you dare not allow yourself a moment's rest. [DE II-I. 12/20/94]*

But what do we do when we are on vacation? How do we combine our vocation rooted in the Salvatorian charism with our deserved rest? How do we follow in the footsteps of our Founder, the same man who asks us to follow in the footsteps of the Apostles? What about our commitment as a Lay Salvatorian during these months? Will our Salvatorian Family, the Salvatorian Fathers, Brothers and Sisters do the same thing with their religious vows? Can anyone be "retired" from their life vocation?

*"Every layman must stand before the world a witness of the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus and a symbol of the living God" (LG 38).*

A Salvatorian (lay or religious) is committed 24 x 7 x 365 with its mission, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year. Jesus has asked us to witness his light, to be messengers of the Good News. It is through our testimony of life, our example of knowing the Savior by all means that the charity of Christ inspires in us, even in those days of rest from our work or studies, that we will bring this good news to others.

We will leave the coordination and work group reflection for a few weeks, but the mission continues and it can't be sent on vacation. Starting with our family, friends ... we will continue helping to promote here and now the Kingdom of God, wherever we go sowing peace, justice and love.

What changes perhaps, are the scenarios, the apostolates, and the people we encounter? Many will spend more time with their family or loved ones and show their affection and do something special with each of them; others might collaborate organizing a youth summer camp for disadvantaged people who turn away from violence and teach them human and Christian values; other might be those who could participate in a walk for peace promotion or on an denouncing the trafficking of human beings; and maybe it is a good time for everyone to read, reflect and take notes of possible actions on

the proposed documents throughout our International Organization and throughout the Salvatorian Family that appear in our letter of June 2016 (Celebrations).

Instead of putting our faith and our charism on vacation, it is best **to take them on our vacation**.

A vacation is time to replenish forces, break from daily work, and continue to build the Kingdom of God there, just where you have planned a holiday. Return with a strong and cheerful spirit, full of energy and eager to continue working with enthusiasm in the apostolates [ministries] that have been proposed in your community and tell God everything you did during that time with your talents.

*"Take it as very important concern to care for the recovery of your physical health, so you may serve God better and do more for His glory and for the salvation of your neighbors." (Fr. Jordan, Spiritual Diary I/53-4)*

Let us ask Jesus Christ, our Divine Savior, to lead us away from danger at this time of rest and bring us back healthy to continue our Salvatorian mission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sabin Ormaza', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. Sabin Ormaza  
ICDS Secretary  
Lay Salvatorians International