



International Community of the Divine Savior

General Committee

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THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK AS A SALVATORIAN FAMILY

Although since Christ's time the church involved Lays as a fundamental part of its expansion, bit by bit it started to hierarchize its structure and made it difficult for Lays to participate (and made it even harder for lay women to participate). In the gospel we can find multiple lay men and women that played a key role in the transmission of Christ's word, for example Mary Magdalene who was the first one that announced to the apostles "I saw the lord" (Jn20, 18). With a detailed read through the new gospel we can find those figures, all of them being part of the church from their own conditions (married, single, young, "Presbyterians"), all of them transformed by Christ and committed with their humility and the announcement of salvation.

Father Jordan, a visionary in his own time, had this absolutely clear idea when he founded the Salvatorian Family, which today is composed by religious men, women and lays; and we fight together for unity without hierarchies and with a common goal: Share Christ's message and salvation with everyone. As an important step to achieve this unity the Salvatorian family Declaration was issued, and it carries clear messages regarding our mission, spirituality, charisma, calling and helping attitude. In Words and exhortations, Father Jordan invites to have a collaborative spirit with the following phrase: "Let's observe how ants and bees work with each other, how they are together. How big, how diligent is their task. How they work in unity for a common goal. How they endure when they find an obstacle".

Father Francis also incites us to work together when he says: "God's people, a good Lay is who lives its Christianity on its daily life, on its family, work, on modern times. Also in church, but not exclusively and not as the first place. There where the Lord planted him, he must flourish. Its first mission is on the world, the sanctification of earthly realities, there where priests and religious people can't always reach, but it's the common ground of a secular man." "We need well

prepared Lays, kindled by a sincere and clear faith, whose lives have been touched by a personal and righteous encounter with Christ's love. We need Lays that take risks, that get their hands dirty, that have no fear of mistakes, those Lays who go forward. We need Lays that have a vision of the future, that are not locked up on the small things in life. And as I said to the youngsters: we need lays with a taste of life experiences, those who dare to dream."

This invitation from Jesus, from Father Jordan and from Father Francis constitute a challenge to be achieved as a Salvatorian family, through the development of a **collaborative attitude**.

To begin, let's use this paragraph from Rules for the first grade from the Apostolic instructive society 1882: "Members must nurture mutual love above everything so they can show that they are followers of the apostles, because they consider as a special legacy the words of our greatest teacher: Jesus Christ. "I have given you a new commandment, love each other as I have loved you"

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Now let's ask ourselves, which are the topics or areas that we must get together in so we can work on our mutual union as a Salvatorian family, and in which ones can we contribute our own gifts and strengths so we can develop a common work-force?

Our first topic without any discussion is **Our Mission**, it is absolutely clear that Jesus sent this message multiple times to it's disciples: Go forth! Go forth and announce the holy kingdom! In the same way, Father Jordan invites us to not rest in our mission, which is to preach the kingdom. A living way of collaboration is the get-together of religious men, women and lays on a single mission to places where we find the most needed and oppressed, so we can share with them the hope of the good word, and to comprehend their realities that in turn help us grow. Another place where we can show our unity is the holly mission of the shared mass, with active participation from the members of different branches and showing lays that it is possible to participate within the homilies, within the offerings, with a living analysis of Christ's message, translating it to our own realities and our world.

Universality: we need to take advantage of the richness of differences in life and commitment of a religious person and a Lay. In order to become visible to society, we are called to evangelize in the world of culture, politics, economy, sciences, arts, international life and communication media. We are called to take advantage of **the signs of time**. The vehicles for that should be all those possible. Today it's really easy to work as a "network", be it physically together or remotely, on the church, on our houses, our groups or communities, movements, lay counsels, professional groups, work groups, etc. We have a chance to reach to an infinity of places to preach our mission and our pastoral and community groups, in order to incite others to join.

Family and youngsters are called to play a key role on the church's common mission. And here the Lays preparation plays a critical part, as it is mentioned in Christifidelis Laici, the "Carta Magna" of universal laicism, "the formation of faithful lays must be a top priority of diocese, and it must be included on the pastoral action programs so the efforts of the religious community (priests, lays and religious people) concur on that goal" (Chl 57). As a Salvatorian family, we have a great variety and quality of prepared members that can share their knowledge and allow the growth of others, we are called to create study groups that help us understand the gospel and analyze it in the light of reality.

All this challenges will strengthen the process of acknowledgement before the Holy See of salvatorian laicism as an adult laicism, which is an official part of the Church, and which makes Christ's message a lasting and living one. Other Lay organizations have achieved this and the **General Committee of Lay Salvatorians** is working hard on this task.

***We are called, then, to join our efforts
Religious men, women and Lays
To keep building the holy kingdom
Under the SALVATORIAN spirituality and charisma***

Ask and solve:

From my Salvatorian vocation, what challenges can I get in the short, medium and long term, to contribute to the cause of having an adult Salvatorian Family, alive, growing and contributing to society?



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