



# International Community of the Divine Savior

## General Committee

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### Universality as Lay Salvatorians

Universality is a term that we often hear, or find in our spiritual reading. To be able to understand the true meaning of Universality within the Catholic Church, we must firstly understand how this impacts on our lives as Lay Salvatorians.

It is the fact that Christ in His saving mission embraces all humanity. The Catholic church is universal because Christ is present in her. In fact, the term Catholic itself means universal and is derived from the Greek meaning *“belonging to the whole”*.

As Lay Salvatorians no matter where in the world we live, or whatever language we speak, the fact that we are together as units believing in the teaching of Christ whilst following Father Francis of the Cross Jordan's direction to *“never rest until all people have heard the name of Jesus Christ and His teaching,”* gives us the zeal to go out into our communities and sometimes ever further afield, to undertake the work that is asked of us. To do this, we need to take the universal message of salvation to all by all means and ways available to all of us.

Many units are working tirelessly, and in some instances, under great strain, to ensure that the projects that they have undertaken are coming to fruition. As the action of universality suggests, that by involving ourselves with these units ensures that we are working together, even if it is only by shared prayer. As Pope Francis says in *“Gaudete Et Exsultate”* (→ Rejoice And Be Glad) his Apostolic letter regarding holiness, *“Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others.”* He goes on to say that *“The community that cherishes the little details of love, whose members care for one another and create an open and evangelising environment, is a place where the risen Lord is present, sanctifying it in accordance with the Father's plan.”*

When we look at Lay Salvatorians across the world, we see that many have serious struggles just to live and survive in their homes. Sri Lanka has experienced major obstacles even to attend Sunday Mass without fear. Those in Venezuela now live again in civil unrest. Those in the Philippines deal with major cyclones, earthquakes and Volcanic eruptions, whilst those in Europe and the United States are coming to terms with attempting to support the huge influx of refugees and all this entails. These are just some of the major difficulties facing many of you who may read this. Others are blessed to live in countries where they can go about living their lives without fear or concern. We are all members of the Lay Salvatorian communities across the world.

As a member of the General Committee of the ICDS, I would like to let you know that we have you all constantly in our thoughts and prayers. Never feel you are alone, as the practice of acting out universality is always in our considerations when making decisions and judgements for you all.

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May our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, be with us all as we do the work that impacts on us all in one way or another.



Anne Cullender  
General Secretary of the ICDS

*I have become all things to all, to save at least some. (1 Cor 9,22)*