



**SOCIETAS DIVINI SALVATORIS**  
**CURIA GENERALIZIA DEI SALVATORIANI**

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**Fr. Milton Zonta SDS**  
*Superior General*

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To all the members of the Society of the Divine Saviour,

Dear confreres,

Receive a cordial greeting at the beginning of the Lenten journey in preparation for the Passover of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

First of all, I would like to express the solidarity of the Generalate with you during this very difficult time in which the coronavirus pandemic continues to be very overwhelming. Millions of people have already been infected, millions have lost their jobs, and billions remain confined around the world. From our Motherhouse, we continue to follow the news that reaches us of a few confreres infected by the virus and, at the same time, it has given us great regret to learn of the number of confreres and relatives who have died from this disease. On the other hand, in this context of great suffering, we also observe that the spirit of resilience, of closeness, of prayer and of mutual help is growing in communities to face together the impact of this global crisis.

Despite having already started the vaccination process in some countries, analysts maintain that the restrictions on meetings in public spaces will continue for a long time and that the most prudent thing is to avoid the concentration of people so that the pandemic does not advance. This situation of crisis imposes upon the Generalate the consideration of the possibility of postponing the celebration of the beatification of our venerable Founder, Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan. We have considered the reasons for moving forward with the programme of holding the ceremony on 15 May, as well as the possibility of doing so in a more favorable post-pandemic future. It is not an easy decision in the face of the uncertainties of this epoch change that we are experiencing. In this context, in consultation with the Vatican Authorities, they have informed us that the ceremony could be postponed, but without a definite new date and that there is a long list of beatification ceremonies to be carried out. After having consulted the Generalate of the Salvatorian Sisters and the General Coordination of the Lay Salvatorians, **we have decided to confirm the celebration of the ceremony of the beatification of our Founder for 15 May 2021, in the Church of San Giovanni in Laterano, in Rome.**

Surely we had all imagined another way to celebrate, however, these are the times and circumstances that we have to accept in order to make the best of it. At this moment, we are studying the beatification programme which will have to be adapted, taking into account the restrictions due to the pandemic. The programme that was presented to you has to be cancelled and it will most probably be limited to the celebrations of the Beatification and the thanksgiving on 15 and 16 May 2021. We know that many will not be able to participate in person, as they had thought before this pandemic, however, from the Generalate we are committed to finding the best possible way for the broadcasting of the ceremony. We are also sure that there will be no lack of creative initiatives on your part in terms of preparing for this event, even looking for the form and means to witness the ceremony digitally. Regarding the programme and the broadcast of the beatification ceremony in Rome, we will give information shortly. Regarding the thanksgiving masses in Tafers, Freiburg and Gurtweil, we are still consulting with the involved coordinators. As soon as we have more clarity, we will let you know.

However, for those people (religious and lay) who can reach Rome, fulfilling the prescriptions of quarantine and other restrictions imposed by the Italian Government and World Health Organisation etc., **we ask you to register at this electronic address: [beatification@mailsds.org](mailto:beatification@mailsds.org)** using the form attached to this letter. May we kindly ask you to facilitate this form to those who are willing to come and participate in the celebrations.

**It is MANDATORY to do so.** Given that there will be a limited number of people who may be inside the Basilica at the same time. This inscription will help us find space for everyone, following the rules established by the Italian health authorities. The Generalate will make the best possible effort so that as many as possible can be present at the ceremony, however, we will not be able to guarantee a place to those who have not registered or to those who arrive at the last minute.

I would also like to point out that at the Motherhouse we are carrying out the renovation of the main chapel, preparing a permanent reliquary that helps with the due veneration of our Founder, Francis Jordan. We are sure that in the near future many will come to pray in front of the reliquary of our beloved spiritual father in a more solid context, with a sense of joy and deep gratitude. I reaffirm the invitation to all of you to carry out the programme of preparation for beatification in your Units and to extend the activities planned in conjunction with the other branches of the Salvatorian Family.

And finally, like our Founder: *"let us put our trust in God in everything that affects us; His providence will not disappoint our hope"* (DE I / 162). And with the Virgin Mary, who bears the name of Our Lady of Lourdes, we give thanks to God, our Father, for the gift of our vocation and our Salvatorian apostolic mission. May she accompany us, so that we too may be a parable of fraternity towards a suffering and wounded humanity.

Let us keep united in prayer and in our shared mission,

  
Fr. Milton Zonta sds  
Superior General



  
Fr. Agustín Van Baelen sds  
Secretary General