



International Community of the Divine Savior

General Committee

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April 2019

Dear Salvatorian brothers and sisters:

The ICDS General Assembly met in July 2018 in Hamont-Belgium, with representation of Lay Salvatorians from around the world. We talked about who we are and what we want to do in the next 6 years, the sense of making Community based on our Salvatorian spirituality and charism, and the need to reflect on our identity by carrying the message of Salvation to all.

But, how do we make those wishes and good intentions come true through concrete actions? A new General Committee was elected. Work Commissions were created. The work period 2019-2024 began. The Commissions need to be activated to create proposals and action plans.

If any of us thinks: "I have the talents, the desire and the willingness to collaborate with the Lay Salvatorians worldwide" but nothing else happens, it's time to activate, (turn on). It is time to "turn the key that activates the ignition of the vehicle" that leads us to move forward to build the Kingdom of God, analyzing the signs of the times, being signs of Salvation for others. Our General Assembly grouped the action plans into several Commissions: Salvatorian Identity, as a map that allows us to see where we are going; Finances, as fuel that allows us to move our organization; Justice and Peace and Defense of Life, as one of the destinations of our walk; History, as a photo gallery to remember what we have done together through the years; Statutes and Operating Guidelines, as a manual of behavior and attitude to share together making Community.

To dare to continue this journey together, to advance in this process of gathering ideas and turn them into actions through the Work Commissions, it is convenient to review 3 attitudes that tend to paralyze us and we must face and overcome:

- "This is too big for me": The road we are going to travel with these projects we have to build step by step and as "every little stone helps to build a street", we will miss this little stone - your stone - if it is not next to ours. The background to this thinking is that people often think that "their contribution is too less or nonexistent." But this is not correct, because each great work is started by taking small steps, each one very important. Otherwise, this project will never come into gear.
- "Someone will do it": Every time people think: "Ah, there will be others who will take charge of moving these projects". This is also a completely wrong attitude. If everyone is thinking this way, then nothing will happen. That cannot be an attitude for a Lay Salvatorian, because the Lay Salvatorians want to change the world. It is not "the others" that are going to do something, but "all of us".
- "Language": To communicate between us on this trip, "maybe we have to share with people who speak in another language, and that can be a disadvantage". Thinking this is equally wrong. If we support each other in a mutual way, we can overcome this challenge and understand each other, while we learn one from another. We need confidence and encouragement.

Some of us already signed up to do this journey, working in the Commissions. Others, just will be finding out that this “vehicle still has some seats available and is waiting for us to get on board”, but we need to activate all of us personally and say “*here I am*” ready to start the trip. Where do I post it? Where do I sign up? Very easy, through the Email: office@laysalvatorians.org or by contacting the Leader of your Unit (Country) to register or communicate in the private area of the Units Forum (UNIT FORUM) <https://www.laysalvatorians.org/forum/>

What information do we need from you if you have not registered yet? / Full name / Email / Unit (Country) - City / In which commission would you like to participate? / What capabilities or gifts do you think you could contribute or offer for this commission? / What time do you have available during each month for this activity? / **Already registered?** Sign yourself up to a work commission!!

Do you want to make true in the world *the truths of justice and peace of the social doctrine of the church, in the Salvatorian style?* Join to work in the Justice and Peace and Defense of Life Commission. ***Have you been working with these issues for years?*** Tell us what do you or your community of Lay Salvatorians do, send us photos, and explain the activity to us with a story. That is a way to participate in this Commission, providing news about the realities in our communities to share in other parts of the world and perhaps, inspire them to do something similar.

Are you interested in *achieving greater dissemination in a practical way of the Salvatorian identity among our communities?* Sign up to contribute your ideas in the Salvatorian Identity Commission.

Do you have *accumulated information about the evolution of Lay Salvatorians in your country?* Join the History Commission to complete our common history.

Are there *friends or others interested in knowing the Salvatorian charism, but who want to approach our current communities in a different way?* Tell us about that. What difficulties or fears do you find to the current forms of association or membership in your Unit? What do you think or what ideas do you have in your area on the subject of expanding the Salvatorian Family?

Cannot find *any specific area of interest, but still want to collaborate?* Write us and share your ideas.

The team is waiting for you to begin this journey.-Sign yourself up! Thank you very much.

The mission of every Salvatorian is: May everyone know Jesus Christ, our Divine Savior!



Sabin Ormaza
General Committee ICDS
Lay Salvatorians International