



# International Community of the Divine Savior

## General Committee

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*Words of His Eminence Kevin Joseph Cardinal Farrell at the recognition ceremony on Fe. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

I would just like to say a few words on this important occasion. I believe that it is the motion of the Holy Spirit that it brings us all together, in this particular moment in the history of the church, today.

The Salvatorian movement in heaven and Blessed Francis Jordan, I am sure, are all enjoying this moment. All of you have done a lot of work over the years. God only knows how many people you have touched the lives of, in so much working, so much effort, each and every day. But I would like you also to reflect during these days on this decree, and on the words that Christian just spoke to us. I think that it is very important that we reflect on the reality of the world today. Now is the time of the laity in the Church. The missionary work of the great priests, and great orders of priests and of religious men and women, have passed. The mission work in the Church today must be done by the laity. You are the ones who can give testimony to the true gospel of Jesus Christ by what you do each and every day.

Preaching sermons does not necessarily convert or change the lives of many people today. What really effects the heart and the soul of people today is the testimony of life, and the possibility of teaching that we can truly live the words of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by our example. We preach by what we do in our daily lives. So I consider for your movement this moment, when you all come together in this new reality to recommit yourselves to the words and to the example of Blessed Francis of the Cross. He was a man who had a great vision and who understood that even today we have a challenge, a great challenge, a challenge of announcing that Christ is alive. And that, my dear friends, is that what I hope, on this historic day, for you all. That this renewal of your lives as Salvatorians carries on the mission. The charism of the movement has not changed, will not change. The way of giving testimony to that charism certainly changes. Today we live in a world which lives through images and lives through impressions. And that is why the laity are called to live and to give a visible sign of the presence of God and a visible sign of the reality of living the word of God in our workplace, in our homes, in our families, among our friends, on vacation, whenever we rest or whenever we enjoy ourselves at informal gatherings. This is how we preach the word of God. We may not even

have to mention His name. Remember the old historian of the city of Rome once said: “You will recognize the Christians by the way they love and care for each other”. They didn’t have to preach; they didn’t have to say who they were. You know who they are by the way they love each other. And that today is the mission that you are all called to. It is not a new mission but it is a renewal of the mission that God gave you all many years ago. With the life of Blessed Francis, you receive the mission, and through him to this very day it has continued. Today, we are simply giving more responsibility and more recognition of the importance of laity in the Church and in the world today as missionaries. So I thank you all, I bless you all. This is not the end of the process. We are only at the beginning.

May God bless you all and may God continue to bless the movement which you now take forward with a renewed desire. God bless you!