



International Community of the Divine Savior

General Committee

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Dear Lay-Salvatorian sister and brothers,

At the ICDS General Assembly in last summer a new General Committee team was elected and will start its term of office on coming December 8th. One of the tasks of this new team, given by the General Assembly, is to become a real community. Therefore the team will introduce itself as a first point, so you learn to know, who they are, what they expect and want to do.

One of the points which were decided at the General Assembly was to establish ICDS work groups for several topics. More about this and an invitation to that you will find below in the text.

The new team of the General Committee introduces itself

I am the newly elected president of the ICDS and some of my tasks and responsible areas are prescribed in the statutes. So besides others, I take care of the ongoing development of our organization and try to make it more known. Furthermore, I try to motivate, animate and inspire my Lay Salvatorian sisters and brothers, so that they discover their vocation as apostles on the pulpit of the world and follow so the vision of Fr. Jordan.

Important to me is that the Lay Salvatorians discover the Salvatorian universality as their biggest treasure because it opens a wide range of fields of activity. And this can always change and open new possibilities of apostolates.



Christian Patzl lives his vocation as Lay Salvatorian in common with his wife since more than 30 years in Vienna (Austria). Both are founding members of the first Lay Salvatorian group in Europe. He works for more than 25 years on the development of the Lay Salvatorians at national and international level.

I have to focus my attention on several topics which are connected with Lay Salvatorians. Some of them are more connection between the units, motivation to more cooperation and bring people together in common projects. With regard to the recognition at the Vatican, it's important that we become more a real community, within the units and in a similar way over the whole world. Therefore we need to win more trust in each other and overcome barriers, respect the differences in culture and mentality. I think it can be possible if there is a real will. So each member is

called to give his/her contribution to the success of this vision.

One of the biggest challenges is the overcoming of language barriers and fears before the unknown. Therefore prayer and being in dialogue with God is always very important for me.

As newly elected Vice-president I see my main responsibility to be the line of communication between the International Community of the Divine Savior (ICDS) and the Lay Salvatorians in all units, and especially the USA. As we work towards recognition by the Vatican I believe that communication between the units through the ICDS is critical to truly understanding the universality of the Lay Salvatorians. While we speak different languages and live different life styles, our goal to make the Savior known by all ways and means is the universal goal of all Lay Salvatorians. We each do that in our own way.

It is important to me that we listen to each other and find our commonalities rather than the differences between our life styles and the way that each unit functions.

While I prefer to be working and teaching in the missions, since I was elected to this job, I will do my best to 1) educate the Lay Salvatorians in the USA that they are part of a greater whole, part of a bigger picture: the ICDS, and 2) work towards recognition by the Vatican.



Kenzia (Ken) Drake lives in California (USA) and made his commitment as Lay Salvatorian together with his wife in 1989, and has been active with the Salvatorian Family ever since. They have both been on regional and national boards for the Lay Salvatorians. Kenzia has been the National Director of the Lay Salvatorians, USA for the past nine years, 2009 - 2018.

I am an elected member of the General Committee of the ICDS, and as part of it, I am responsible for animating the life of the Salvatorian laity around the world by all means that the charity of Christ inspires us. Our organization is still very young compared to the other two branches of our Family (Salvatorian fathers, brothers and sisters), and that is why this animation should be aimed at making us known as an international structure, fostering the bonds of union and collaboration between the communities of Lay Salvatorians around the world and with the whole Salvatorian Family; and promote the formation of new lay communities, as centers to grow in love for God and neighbor through the prism of the Salvatorian charism, "Jesus: sign of Salvation"; and to collaborate in this way with the construction of the Kingdom of God, through our witness of personal and community life.



Sabin Ormaza is married, has two daughters and lives in Caracas (Venezuela). He has collaborated with his wife with the Salvatorians for more than 30 years and both are Committed Lay Salvatorian people for 20 years. The two are also founding members of the first group of Salvatorian Lays in Venezuela. He has been working for more than 15 years in the development of Lay Salvatorians nationally and internationally.

We must complete the process of final approval of our Statutes before the Holy See, which will allow us more unity, visibility and international recognition, starting with our own members. Another very important aspect is to live our spirituality, to demonstrate it in all areas of our life. This requires our work in the Salvatorian Identity and Mission Committee of which we are part, so that the concrete actions and tools developed there allow us to live the Salvatorian Charism in depth and clarity.

The communication between all the Salvatorian Laity is very important and for that reason we manage an International Web Page and a Facebook Page as well as WhatsApp, and Email connections, which are some of the most used networks

worldwide and which we must feed and maintain with news and information of interest. Additionally, as a General Committee, despite the great distances and different languages, we will continue to use Skype and Team Viewer frequently to connect. All with a view to make more efficient our closeness in the charism and share it with the whole world.

Our active participation in the International Commission of Justice and Peace and Defense of Creation will give us the opportunity to manifest the love and kindness of God around the world by sharing our personal and community apostolates inspired around our charism and from there, promoting common projects between different units (countries).

We must also devote some time to review our roots in the light of the signs of the times, to complete the original dream of p. Francis Jordan, founder of our Salvatorian Family, to unite all the living forces of the church to work so that everyone knows the only true God and Jesus Christ, our Divine Savior.

In this way we will become more and more alive, the letter of our Magna Charter of the Salvatorian Family.

As a resident of Australia in the Oceania region, and as a member of the newly elected Council, I would like to take the time to unite as many as possible Lay Salvatorian groups within this same region.

My intention is to organise a group get together somewhere in Asia that is suitable to most Lay Salvatorian groups. I truly believe this is a way of bringing people together to share such things as units of study set in the Charism of the Society, letting groups know that we are here to support them in their endeavours where possible and giving them a sense of family; that we all belong to the one family and as such, share what we have in many ways. I hope to commence contacting members of the Oceania group soon.



Anne Cullender is the newly elected General Secretary of the ICDS. She is born in England and lives since 1966 in Western Australia. Anne is married and has two daughters and four grandchildren. She made her commitment to Lay Salvatorians 8 years ago and was a Salvatorian Collaborator prior to this for 6 years.

I am responsible for two units in particular Suriname (Dutch) and Congo (French) as I speak both languages. Furthermore, I also keep in touch with all European units together with Christian Patzl, our president. We want to try to form a real community with them.

It is important for me that the Salvatorian and with it the Christian spirituality penetrates as many people as possible around the world. This is how we want to make this world a better place, a place where God's Kingdom can really grow and where peace and unity reign.



Rita Van Olmen lives in Scherpenheuvel (Belgium), is married and has two married children – and two grandchildren. She is strongly connected with the Salvatorians for more than forty years and has been a member of the Salvatorian Family in Belgium from the beginning, for 22 years.

This means that I want to focus my attention mainly on the identity of the Salvatorian lay people and on the formation of true Lay Salvatorians, following the example of our founder, P. Frans Jordan and our Savior Jesus Christ.

But there is no future without a past. That is why I want to focus my attention on the history of the Lay Salvatorians (ICDS). I want to try to set up an archive together with the committee so that everything is preserved for the future.

Together with the ICDS I hope that as

many people as possible will learn to know THE ONLY TRUE GOD AND HE WHO HAS SENDED, JESUS CHRIST (after John 17.3)

As a member of the new General Committee of the ICDS my great interest is to be able to invite others to experience Faith in a community, as Jesus taught it. To keep the ideas of Father Francis Jordan alive and contemporary, and not resting until everyone knows Jesus.

I will be part of the history commission, to leave the record of how, through these years, we have walked together and we have gained strength.

Forming communities of Lay Salvatorians around the world allows us to live the Faith in a way closer to the project of Jesus helping the most disadvantaged, living in mercy and service to others.

It is important for me to return to the fundamentals of the Pdr Francisco Jordán project. I want to focus my attention on strengthening my work as a Salvatorian Family.

We hope from the General Committee to contribute to this construction with the unconditional support of each one of you, Lay Salvatorians Committed around the world. We have several challenges, we need to overcome our barriers of language, formation, customs, but with Faith in God we will overcome them.



Olga Lucida Hurtado has been a Lay Salvatorian for more than 27 years, walked with her husband Carlos Alfonso Matiz. Both have served the Lay Salvatorian Community in Colombia and the ICDS. Olga is mother of two sons and will serve as consultant in the General Committee.

ICDS workgroups – a way to improve our community from inside to outside

The newly established ICDS workgroups should improve our awareness of a worldwide community. We want to work and think over several topics and find out our different points of view in the mirror of our different culture, history, mentality, and language. Therefore it's very important that several persons from different units participate in these groups. That gives us the opportunity to learn to know other brothers and sisters from other units - and as well as to work with their point of view and their mentality. A portion of patience is necessary, we know, of course. Also we, the General Committee, are struggling sometimes on our different mentalities and point of views. But apart from that difficulties, this enriches us in our view on the whole thing and let us learn and experience a lot. Not at least the recognizing of God's working on and in our world today.

The workgroups have following names and tasks:

- ***Justice & Peace and integrity of creation***

- to discover what is existing already in the units and bring different units together.
- to find ways for possible cooperation and improve the communication - especially in the fields of modern slavery, human trafficking, environment protection, Salvatorian relief actions in different countries, work with marginalized children and marginalized families, support education and schools, etc.

- ***Lay Salvatorian identity & vocation (no more participation possible)***

- to get into contact with the Lay Salvatorians in the units, so that they discover and recognize better their Lay Salvatorian vocation and mission.
- to make known more the importance of the work on the pulpit of the world.
- to look for and/or work out education and formation material for Lay Salvatorians (→ translation into different languages)

- ***ICDS statutes & rules of procedure (no more participation possible)***

This workgroup is working on the ICDS statutes to present it to the Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life of the Vatican. In addition they work also to improve and adjust our ICDS rules of procedure.

- ***Expanding the Salvatorian Family***

- to look for possibilities to invite, cooperate and/or to implement other people in the Salvatorian Family in other ways.
- to check how this is or could be possible according to our current statutes and the statutes in preparation.
- to collect information about persons and groups which try to cooperate or work already in the Salvatorian spirit and how we could deepen the relationship to them.

- *[ICDS financial affairs](#)*

This group works on the implementation of the financial model made by the prior ICDS finance commission. This new model was agreed upon by the General Assembly and has to come into function now.

- *[Archives & History](#)*

The History Group is working to collect all the history data from the units about Lay Salvatorians and their development. In addition, they work to establish a general Archive of and for Lay Salvatorians.

In some of this workgroups participants and/or cooperators are still needed. If one of this names or tasks sounds interesting or match your interest so we ask you to send us an email, please. You are very welcome to work and share many Salvatorian experiences with us!

We, together as the General Committee team, want to invite you all, to help and support us in our tasks. We can and want not to do all this alone because we see us all as one Salvatorian family. And as a family, we live from our relationships and from our communication. Therefore we invite you again, in addition, to get in contact with us via our webpage (→ www.laysalvatorians.org), the forum (→ www.laysalvatorians.org/forum) or easy by email, if you have any questions, remarks, or whatever your concern will be. We will try to do our best to give an answer and our support.

Let's come together, learn to know each other and become a good community - and follow the vision of Fr. Jordan, so we all may recognize the Savior - who guide us on all our paths.

*The newly elected team of the General Committee
of the ICDS*

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