



International Community of the Divine Savior

General Committee

www.laysalvatorians.org • office@laysalvatorians.org

January 30, 2017

We were told to expect news from the Dicastery [Holy See –Vatican] in February of 2016. Where is it? Who from ICDS is responsible for maintaining uninterrupted contact with the Dicastery? Who from the Dicastery is responsible for maintaining contact with ICDS? (Questions as submitted to UPDATE)

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The New Year 2017 brought some very interesting questions to us on UPDATE and we wanted to share both the questions and our responses with all members. We are most grateful for the inquiry and the opportunity to remind everyone of what steps have been taken, the current status and the needs for a positive outcome.

Christian Patzl is responsible from the ICDS for all contact with the Dicastery. Dr. Philip Milligan has been assigned [from the Vatican offices] as our contact person. Christian sends him quarterly information from the ICDS about how we are progressing as an International community. The main topic and our main challenge is our growing as a functioning global community. At our last face to face meeting Dr. Milligan made very clear that the being and working of a real community is very important for the success of our request at the Dicastery. We have all the necessary theoretical conditions (statutes, etc.) on the table, but we need to show the practical implementation. It's not about the number of groups in one country and or another. The point is how the members interact together, how they live their vocation as Lay Salvatorians together across their groups, their country and internationally. The Dicastery is looking for evidence of our global existence – that is our task and challenge at the moment. It is in this direction the efforts of the General Committee have been spending their energy.

It is in this context you should read/share these monthly spiritual letters. It's a way to bring the awareness and vision of the ICDS to each Lay Salvatorian. Admitting this is a process of growing and needs time. It will hopefully improve as more units and their responsible representatives cooperate and work hand in hand with us (the members of the General Committee-CG). The efforts of the GC are many and in different ways – but are limited if they do not find the way into the hearts and the understanding of the ICDS members.

The members of the GC are only able to invite the ICDS members to try to live their Lay Salvatorian vocation as well as possible in their environment. It would not make any sense to force or command it. Such spiritual things have to be rooted in the will of God, grow in each individual heart and be guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Today the global situation of Lay Salvatorians is very different. This depends on the different cultures and mentalities, but also on the sometimes different view of the brothers and sisters of the other two branches. Unfortunately there is not only one view of what Lay Salvatorians are and should be – some not according to the ICDS Statutes. In this area we still need to a lot of dialogue, mutual respect and support.

The idea to put the requests, needs and possible offers into the ICDS unit forum is one more attempt to get the communication of the units into gear. We have the hope that our efforts will find the understanding of the members in the units and that the awareness of being a member of the ICDS does not only mean to be a person somewhere in a parish. Lay Salvatorians have a task and a vocation – as person and as a global community. And this task and vocation has to become visible to others – and in this way also for the Dicastery.

In summary an overview about our communication with Dr. Milligan:

Dec. 2015	Face to face meeting at the (Vatican) Dicastery office with Dr. Milligan. The Dicastery want to see if the ICDS is real and working, if there are not only some groups in several countries. The goal is to recognize an working international organization.
Jan. 2016	Email about the results of the GC meeting from Dec. 2015 – Document “Lay Salvatorian FAQ’s”



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Feb. 2016	A response to advise the receipt of the email.
Mar. 2016	Report from ICDS about where Lay Salvatorians are still recognized by government and/or church. Also information about our activities about the communication via Internet.
Mar. 2016	Reply from Dr. Milligan within one day with an announcement to expect a memorandum in spring.
Jun. 2016	Email with additional information from ICDS about the meetings and celebrations with mutual visitations by Lay Salvatorians from several units. Overview about the ongoing processes to get the international communication into gears.
Oct. 2016	Flashback on the visitations and meetings and forecast of coming international events.
Oct. 2016	An email by Dr. Milligan about the lack of communication, because the Dicastery had changed its structure. He noted our activities are on a right way.
Dec. 2016	Christmas wishes to Dr. Milligan with a note to our activities on the ICDS webpage.
Jan. 2017	A response from the Cardinal Prefect with a memorandum of recommended modifications required by the Dicastery in order for them to proceed toward granting recognition of the ICDS as a faithful community

So with these lines you should see that we are working hard on the success of the recognition on several fields. We need the support of the coordination teams of the units. The only way to win succeed is through the continued building of real communities and the improvement of communication and our cooperation globally on all levels.

It is with this cooperation as an international community that we ask all units to join together in one way or another, in groups or as individuals on February 8, 2017 in an International day of prayer and reflection against human trafficking (and modern slavery). We have developed a prayer service as a suggestion from prayers provided by the Joint Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee. This may be used or you may have some other form of prayer you would prefer. The point is to be united as one global community on this day in prayer storming heaven as our Founder always did and encouraged all Salvatorians to do.

In closing my dear brothers and sisters may our Divine Savior bless you today and all the days of 2017 and may your mind, heart and hands be busy that all may know the Savior.

Judy Davis
President of the ICDS