



To the Reverend  
Fr. **Milton Zonta**  
Superior General  
of the Societas Divini Salvatoris

On the occasion of the 20th General Chapter of your Religious Family with the theme: *“Rooted in the Divine Saviour, Apostles for Today”*, I would like to send you and your Confreres my cordial and heartfelt greetings.

The Chapter event that you are about to celebrate is an important moment for the Congregation, since you are called to listen humbly to what the Holy Spirit is suggesting, in order to work with greater vigour in the Church and in the missionary field where Divine Providence has wished to send you. Therefore, do not be afraid to welcome the new things He will indicate so that, strengthened in faith and enlightened by Him, you may make choices appropriate to today’s challenges.

*“This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ”* (Jn 17:3). These words of Jesus vibrated in the soul of your Founder, Fr. John Baptist Jordan. He was grief-stricken by the human and spiritual misery of so many men and women of the age in which he lived, and felt a strong call to become an apostle among the least of these. Thereby, he became a tool of God’s mercy for those who had experienced the abyss of a humanity wounded by so many sufferings.

In today’s world, due to its conflicts and forms of poverty, your charism can be a beacon in the darkness of evil that obscures the beauty of eternal life, to which everyone must aspire. The authentic life, the true life that deserves to be lived and to which God invites us, is the heart of the Gospel proclamation that you must forcefully deliver in the missionary apostolate. According to your Rule, it is to be recalled that *“Salvatorians intend to make known more and more the one true God and the One sent to us, Jesus Christ, so that we may live a holy life and save our souls”*.

You are now the heirs of this faithful and passionate disciple of the Teacher. Therefore, do not be afraid to venture new boundaries to spread the Good News. Have the courage to touch the pain

of every forgotten or abandoned person by being a sign of God's loving providence. Strengthen the Salvatorian ideal by proclaiming freedom and salvation in Jesus Christ, where they have not yet known Him. Thus you will fully correspond to the mandate you have received: *"As long as there is one man on earth, who does not know and love God above all things, you are not allowed to rest a single moment."* May this holy restlessness revive in you the desire to be joyful witnesses to the ends of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8).

Finally, in the shadow of Blessed Jordan, may it be your particular yearning to gather and unite lay people capable of being both tireless cooperators and promoters of Christian love in today's society. Thus may you confirm and sustain the faith of the brothers and sisters entrusted to your pastoral care.

With these sentiments, I impart to the entire Salvatorian Family my paternal Blessing. May the Virgin Mother, Queen of the Apostles, protect you everywhere. And please pray for me.

Fraternally,

*Francis*

Rome, from St. John Lateran, 29 June 2024  
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles