

## ABCs of Salvatorian Life, Vol. II

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### KINDNESS

*Gentleness is so important. Oh Jesus, teach us to be gentle as you are gentle of heart. ... Better to die than not to be gentle!*

[Father Jordan, *Spiritual Diary*, 11/66]

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.*

[Colossians 3:12–14]

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As far as possible, always try to preserve a joyful, happy heart; especially regarding your neighbor. Be kind, affable, etc., out of love for God. Avoid all gloominess and harmful sadness. Jerusalem, 13 March, 1880

[Father Jordan, *Spiritual Diary*, 1/152†]

“Savior of the world. The humanity and kindness of our Lord appeared.” Kindness appeared! ... If we want to be like the Divine Savior we must seek to make ourselves as kind as possible. ... How beautiful if one could say about every one of you, that you bring peace. All of you should be ... “kind;” ... “be truly human” so that you become like the Savior!

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1899/12/22]

Salvatorian spirituality is **incarnational**, revealing the Father of Mercies alive in suffering humanity through the presence of Jesus; it is compassionate, it is gentle, for the Lord Jesus is the gentle pastor. It reflects the goodness and kindness of the Savior. The merciful quality of Salvatorian ministry required that the quality of the Salvatorian [minister] be gentle.

[Fr. Romuald Dibble, SDS, “Gentleness,” *Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism, and Spirituality*, Vol 8, p. 153]

Action flows out of being. In Jesus, we know the Father. Likewise, the world should be able to see the kindness of the Savior in our lives!

[Fr. Arno Boesing, SDS, “Salvatorian Retreat; Phase One: Christ the Savior, Motivating Force of Our Salvatorian Life,” *Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism, and Spirituality*, Vol. 5, p. 73]

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### Reflection Starters

- How has my experience of the gentleness and kindness of God in my life formed me as a person and a Salvatorian?
- How can I be an instrument of kindness and mercy in the world?

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### For Further Reading

1. Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1898/11/25 and 1899/12/22.
2. Sr. Miriam Cerletty, SDS, “Goodness and Kindness,” *Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism, and Spirituality*, Vol. 4, pp. 185-198.
3. *Charter of the Salvatorian Family*, no. 13.