

ABCs of Salvatorian Life, Vol. II



SERVICE

Do not be like a reed blown here and there by the wind, but be firm in the service of God even when all is dark inside you.

[Father Jordan, *Spiritual Diary*, I/21]

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

[1 Peter 4:10]

Oh, that during your apostolic service none of you will flee Mount Calvary, desiring in vain to live only on Mount Tabor. Whoever doesn't want Calvary is useless. If you want to accomplish great things, be ready to follow the Savior and to die to the world... to follow not just to Tabor, but all the way to Calvary. Get ready, therefore, and train yourselves by contemplating the sufferings of Christ. Get your strength and power and zeal there, so that you will be able to endure everything for the honor of God and the salvation of souls.

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1899/02/24]

Although the three branches are autonomous, it is in our lived interaction that we also express our charism. We collaborate with one another in new initiatives where the gifts of all are needed and by assisting the other branches, when possible, in their respective apostolates and activities.

[*Salvatorian Family Charter*, no. 15]

Early members of the Society and the Congregation consciously understood themselves to be new apostles – in continuity with the apostles after Pentecost. From the earliest beginnings, fathers, brothers and sisters proclaimed the whole message (cf. 1 Jn 1:1-3;4:13-14) to whomever they were sent to serve. Their preaching and healing and saving was in their witness of apostolic love to the poor in Assam, Ecuador, Torri, Vienna, and to the hungry who came to the motherhouse in Rome. Letters testify to their lively sense of being apostles and to their mutual encouragement.

[Sr. Miriam Cerletty, SDS, "In the Footsteps of the Apostles," *Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism and Spirituality*, Vol 4, pp. 85-86]

Reflection Starters

- How have I been called to service and how has that led me to new insights about Jesus and his Gospel message?
- What are some of the challenges/difficulties I have experienced in my service commitments over the years and how have I dealt with them?
- What kind of service characterizes my community and how has our commitment to it changed over the years?

For further reading and reflection:

Sr. Aloysia Kliemke, SDS, "Growth Toward A Salvatorian Option for the Poor," *Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism and Spirituality*, Vol. 2, pp. 333-342.