

ABCs of Salvatorian Life, Vol. II

Y **YES**

And when the blustery waves of dejection threaten to engulf you, when you seem about to go under, then look up again to the cross and you will be renewed to fight and suffer anew! Yes, persevere! Trust until the end!

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1890/01/17]

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

[2 Cor 1:19]

Yes, your fight will be hard! ... Yes, you will have to endure much. Don't expect anything else! I tell you, the greater your sufferings the greater will be your success! To the degree the apostolic person suffers, to that degree one achieves the salvation of souls! God's work flourishes only in the shadow of the cross.

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1890/01/17]

At this moment of powerlessness and helplessness I was deeply touched within, as I heard a voice that said: *“Alone you cannot do it, but with me you can!”* This strengthened my confidence in God so deeply that I was ready to accept the election. This YES was united with a wholehearted self-gift, knowing deep within me: I am not alone, God is with me on the way.

...

After the election I placed myself unreservedly into the service of the new chapter in my life. Frequently I wondered myself from where I took the courage to go ahead and not give up in spite of all interior and exterior resistance. This *entrusting myself to God* made me surpass boundaries. Time and again it gave me the strength and confidence to work wholeheartedly for the charism of our Founder, Fr. Jordan, and to accept – besides the ordinary tasks and events of every day – also the post-conciliar situation as a special challenge.

[Sr. Irmtraud Forster, SDS (Reflecting on her election as General Superior in 1977),
“Experiencing God, Trusting in God,” in *Dialoguing with Father Jordan*, p. 64]

Reflection Starters

- Looking back on times when I said YES to something that has made a big difference in my life, how would I describe this experience and what I learned from it?
- Recall a time in my life when I said yes to someone or something but really meant “maybe” or even “no.” What was the result of this ambivalent response? What did I learn from this?

For further reading and reflection:

Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1890/01/17.