



## It's a New Day

*Submitted by Fr. Tom Tureman SDS*

When I look back at the 16 months, I realize we have come a long way. Sixteen months ago, we were shutting down with no idea when or if we would re-open. Thousands were dying each day and life seemed bleak for all of us. Today things are totally different as we emerge from the worse pandemic in over 100 years. I am proud to say that our parish did its part to be a sign of hope during this trying period.

For the last year we conducted online masses, outdoor masses, along with the celebration of sacraments in new, creative ways that protected us and encouraged us to move forward. Thanks to your support and discipline, we are emerging more united and stronger than ever. Who do I thank for such a miraculous outcome? YOU! You did it with your support and prayers along with your caring of community. These are the factors that are unbeatable in a crisis.

Today we are returning to a new normal. I thought I would give you an update on our progress. Here is a list of where we are:

1. We are now celebrating fully-opened masses at 4 p.m., 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 p.m.

These are masses with no restrictions. Masks are optional at these masses.

2. We are celebrating one mass at 5:30 p.m. that is still a protocol mass. This mass is designed for those who wish to attend but feel that they are not ready for a crowded mass without mask requirements. This mass is also available for those who have not been vaccinated or for those who may have a medical reason cannot receive a vaccine. This is a safe haven for anyone.

3. We are starting to re-establish some of our cherished ministries. Already, Soup Patrol organizers are canvassing volunteers about the startup. Casa Maria outreach with lunches is starting to be organized.

4. We are now celebrating weddings and other celebrations indoors with the potential of receptions.

5. Some of the physical repairs and replacements taking place are:

- a. Replacing our broken stove in the kitchen
- b. Painting and upgrade of our confessional
- c. Cleaning and sanitizing our church

6. We are now in the process of raising funds to replace our portable altar with a new beautiful permanent altar that reflects the richness of our community and region. Please consider supporting this beautiful effort to enhance our liturgies. (See bulletin and website for more information on our new altar.)

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## Welcome to New Staff Member

*Submitted by Brayant Gracia Ramos*

My name is Brayant Gracia Ramos, born and raised in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. My family currently lives in the same place where we grew up. My mother is Yolanda, my father Alvaro and my two older brothers are Angel and Pedro. Since I was little, my mother and family took us to church. We surrounded ourselves with the environment of Catholicism. I was an altar boy in my hometown church for about three or four years.

Later, I grew up and my interests became different, so I decided to participate in

the youth groups of my parish. It was there when I found the love of God and the vocation to the priesthood. At the age of 17, I decided to enter to the Diocesan Seminary of Mexicali, where I studied the first four years of philosophy.

After that I decided to take a break. During this time, I had an invitation for the Diocese of Tucson AZ, to become part of their seminarians. This was through Father Jorge Ricardo Farias, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Tucson. It was here that this long and arduous journey of life began, away from my loved ones.

Learning a new culture and language was a difficult challenge, but with God's help nothing is impossible. I managed to learn

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## It's a New Day

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7. We have a new religious education director, Brayant Gracia Ramos. He is designing an amazing year for our kids which I believe will delight all of us.

8. It is my hope that we can start a few hot breakfasts this fall.

These are just a few of the many activities that are taking place at our parish. However, this progress is dependent on all of us continuing to do our part. We need to support each other and make sure that the needs of our friends and neighbors are being taken care of. We need to continue to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. As we know new

variants are out there that are much more dangerous than the original virus. Vaccines are proving to stop it cold. For the sake of the medically vulnerable in our community and especially our kids we need to continue to do our part and get vaccinated. If we do all these things and continue our support of our parish community, we will continue to the dramatic progress toward a better tomorrow.

Finally, I want to thank you again for all the support and work to make today such a wonderful reality of hope. Without you, nothing would have happened. May God bless you all. ▲

*Brayant Gracia Ramos*

## New Staff Member

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the English language in the first six months of my stay in the United States. Bishop J. Kicanas, decided to send me to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida. My English skills were improving and I studied theology for two years.

The roar of loneliness and being away from all my family made me decide to leave the formation of the priestly life. I decided to return to Tucson, AZ. Here I started studying at Pima Community College for the Translation and Interpretation Program.

Later, I decided to do a certification

at the University of Arizona, TEFOL/ TESOL (teaching English as a second language). It was there that I met my wife, Courtney Stang. With her support and unconditional love, she helped me complete two master's degrees in Education; the first one is Teaching and the second in Educational Management. I was working at Pima Community College as the Program Coordinator for the international office, part time.

Now I have the honor of being accepted to Most Holy Trinity Parish as the new Director of Religious Education. I am excited to be a part of the staff. I welcome the challenge it will be to use all of my previous experiences and education to the Community. ▲



Brayant Gracia Ramos

## Casa Alitas, Aid for Migrant Families

Submitted by a volunteer at Casa Alitas

Casa Alitas, also known as the Alitas Program of Catholic Community Services (CCS), is a humanitarian aid project committed to providing assistance to asylum-seekers released from ICE and Border Patrol detention into our community. Volunteers offer support by providing hospitality, including housing, food, clothing, toiletries, advocacy, and travel assistance. Our goal is to provide a welcoming, comfortable, safe and healthy location for the guests to await their journeys, and to prepare them to reunite with family across the country.

## Our History

The program began in June 2014 as a response to hundreds of Central American travelers who were being dropped off by ICE and Border Patrol at the Greyhound Bus station here in Tucson. What began as a few people from local churches coming together to bring food to the bus station, became an entire formalized program and a large, welcoming shelter space. As of December 2019, Casa Alitas has served over 35,000 asylum-seekers.

## Our Team

Casa Alitas is run by only a few staff and over 1500 volunteers. Our volunteers come from all over and from all different backgrounds. Some speak Spanish but many

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# Beatification Ceremony Held for Salvatorian's Founder

*'Venerable' Father Francis Jordan now is called 'Blessed'*

*Submitted by Fr. Jeff Wocken SDS  
Provincial in Milwaukee*

The Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, Italy, was the site of the beatification of Salvatorian Founder, Venerable Father Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan. The ceremony took place on May 15, 2021. A Mass of Thanksgiving was held the following day at St. Peter's Basilica. The USA Salvatorians celebrated with a Zoom Ceremony on Sunday, May 16.

Fr. Jordan's path to beatification began in 1942, when documentation of his life and works was sent to the Vatican for review. After Fr. Jordan was bestowed with the title "Servant of God," Salvatorians helped spread his reputation of holiness with more and more people around the world.

In 2011 Pope Benedict XVI officially announced that Fr. Jordan "lived a holy life," acknowledged the "heroicity of his virtues" and declared him "Venerable." The next steps – testimony and confirmation of a miracle –



*Fr. Francis Jordan*

were needed before Fr. Jordan could be approved for beatification. On June 19, 2020, Pope Francis declared the authenticity of a miracle through the intercession of Fr. Jordan.

## The Miracle

In 2014, medical specialists informed a young couple in Brazil that their unborn child had an incurable bone disease, skeletal dysplasia. The couple, who were Lay Salvatorians, invited fellow Salvatorian Family members to pray with them through the intercession of Fr. Francis Jordan. On September 8, 2014 – Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Mother

and anniversary of Fr. Jordan's death – their daughter was born completely healthy. After verifying all canonical requirements, Pope Francis declared a miraculous healing worked by God through Fr. Jordan's intercession. This official decree was the final step on his path to beatification.

"His beatification will reaffirm for the universal Church that the pursuit of holiness and salvation is only possible when we overcome our differences and place our trust in the unconditional mercy and providence of God," says Father Jeff Wocken, SDS, who leads the USA Province of Salvatorian priests and brothers headquartered in Milwaukee. ▲

# Water-Well Project in Kenya

*Submitted by Dcn. Simon Muema SDS*

Most Holy Trinity contributed \$1100 to this water-well project in collaboration with the Salvatorian family. Clean and accessible water makes a large difference in the lives of the people in the villages. Deacon Simon Muema shared the progress on the Kenyan Well Project in his home village of Kabaa.

"God has answered our prayers." They are still overwhelmed by so much joy

so they will no longer go more than one or two miles for water into the market. Grateful for the generosity of our Salvatorian family members and parishes, Simon explains, "The Company was able to drill deeper. There is more water for everyone regardless of their tribe, faith, belief and nationality. The drilling company asked me to plant some corn, kale, cabbage and spinach since the water is more than anticipated.

The welding for the metal polls to stand the tanks and the solar panel are being done. By the end of the next week, the entire project will be done. The village is beyond words.

Thank you Most Holy Trinity for your generosity. ▲

*Editor Note: Dcn. Simon Muema will become a Salvatorian priest next summer.*

**"W**hat is faith unless it is to believe what you do not see" St. Augustine

# MHT Music Ministry During Covid 19

*Submitted by Patti Munsen, Music Director*

The year 2020 and a good portion of 2021 has been a challenging time for all. The Music Ministry here at Most Holy Trinity is filled with musicians, friends, and confidants that are community for one another and have a true desire to serve. When reports came in early on in the onset of the pandemic that singing was a super-spreader event, we shut down our in-person rehearsals very quickly. It was a quiet, still time for our ministry until we found our footing again and decided to join the world of the virtual choir.

Our first project was a combined effort of the Adult, Contemporary Choir, and the Worship Group. It was a song called "Stand by Me" by composer Tom Kendzia (not the Ben E. King version from the 60's). We all learned so much from this challenge; from having to sing by ourselves into a cell phone to mixing it together and putting it into video form. The choir was up for the challenge and did a fabulous job! It is available to view on the Most Holy Trinity Tucson YouTube Channel.

STAND BY ME - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcmYmUFmnl&t=3s>

The children's choir did a very sweet virtual choir rendition of "Away in a Manger" at Christmas time and the adult choirs did virtual audio choirs for the online Christmas Mass.

AWAY IN A MANGER - <https://youtu.be/pdzzQyyilFU> - "Away in a Manger" starts at 4:20

We went on to do other projects together virtually, including a Dia de los Muertos Service that honored all who had died within our parish community in the previous year and all those who died around the world from the Covid 19 pandemic. We published five Taizé services during Lent and culminated the sacred season with our Easter "Agnus Dei."

AGNUS DEI - <https://youtu.be/P6gKAKRj6NU>

With every project we learned more about how and what we were doing. We emerged back into the world of live in-person choral music with a bit more knowledge and an appreciation of the blessing of raising our voices together.

As we head into the coming year, we will continue to strive to serve our parish community, leading the congregation in song with music that both comforts and imparts joy. We are truly thankful to be back with each other and together with our wonderful parish! God bless us and let us sing - and pray twice! ▲

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## Life at Poverello House

*Submitted by Edna Greene SDS*

The lives of our homeless brothers were very much affected by the Pandemic especially with Poverello House closing in April of 2020. When cases started to decrease, the staff of Poverello House was very anxious to begin offering hospitality to the men. After much discussion and planning, the yard opened for guests in August, 2021. When the cases in Arizona began to spike, they were closed for a short while before it was possible to open the yard again.

Although the hospitality offered was different, an effort was made to provide a safe environment for the men to relax and take a shower in an outside shower that had been erected in the yard. The washing machines were still available for laundry and

a Porta-Potty was also installed. The yard was open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. A volunteer did triage by taking the men's temperatures and asking a few health questions and they were provided with a mask. The guys were greeted with a hot breakfast and could relax under shade tents that were erected and social distances were encouraged.

As vaccinations were becoming more available, two vaccine clinics were held in the yard. Hopefully, as life normalizes, the house will be able to open again in a few months.

They have a website you may consult at [www.tucsonpoverello.com](http://www.tucsonpoverello.com) for more information. ▲



## Casa Alitas (Continued from Page 2)

do not. Volunteers assist in all areas of service to our families.

### Program Overview

- Most asylum-seekers are families: parents, children and pregnant women from Central America and Mexico. They have traveled here over several days or weeks, often spent weeks or more at the border, and then spent 2-14 days in detention before being released.
- ICE and Border Patrol bring families directly to the Casa Alitas Welcome Center.
- Casa Alitas provides housing, food, clothing, toiletries, advocacy, and travel assistance.



### Legal Information

- Asylum-seekers are individuals who are fleeing persecution and violence in their home countries and have come to the U.S. asking for refuge protection.

- Asylum-seekers are granted temporary parole and can legally stay in country to wait for their court date.
- Only about 35% of asylum-seekers will win their cases and receive asylum in the U.S. They will then have full legal status and be eligible for government benefits, as well as, after a time, a green card and citizenship.

### How Can I Help?

- Volunteer: we are always in need of volunteers! Spanish is helpful but there is so much you can do without any Spanish at all: drive, cook, serve meals, receive volunteers, etc.
- Donate: food, clothing, shoes, and toiletries. Donations can be delivered to the Catholic Community Services office at 140 W. Speedway Blvd. Tucson, and boxes in entryway at Most Holy Trinity.

*Financial support is always appreciated.*

See: [www.ccs-soaz.org/donate/aid-to-migrant-women=and-children/](http://www.ccs-soaz.org/donate/aid-to-migrant-women=and-children/).

*Editor's Note: The above was given to us by a volunteer at Casa Alitas*

*"...for I was a stranger, and you welcomed me... ▲*

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## THRIVE Prayer Group ~Grupo de Oracion

*Submitted by Marcos and Margaret Moreno*



Our blessings continue to multiply for us as parishioners of Most Holy Trinity. One day, more than a year ago, Arturo and Norma Carrillo sat with my wife, Margaret, and I, as we chatted after our mass and we pondered the idea to head a group to gather others, socially, in prayer. We considered our own needs, as adults, for a closer look at the Holy Bible, our relationship with God and prayer in our life.

Arturo and Norma had been a part of a prayer group in their previous parish and had many ideas. We discussed the creation of a prayer group to gather parishioners and anyone interested, in prayer, scripture study and discussion about our faith and religion. We shared it with Father Tom Tureman as a possible plan to add to the church ministries.

Here we are, almost two years since we began our group in November, 2019. Parishioners began to meet in Guadalupe Hall,

on Monday evenings, and we quickly saw how the conversations allowed for a spiritual awakening. Arturo was blessed with ideas and topics that led him to create a list of bible scripture readings related to these topics. We met personally for a few months and then, COVID-19 halted our in-person meetings and we continue forth through ZOOM online meetings, until we are able to safely meet in person again.

Our meetings have never ceased, as we are committed to our weekly offering of fellowship. THRIVE allows our members to witness scripture through conversation and questions. It is an opportunity for us to build on our relationship with God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and our Virgin Mary.

The blessings that come from our prayers and discussions have touched many of us deeply. We share our ideas, questions and bring topics of interest to the table, sharing our personal knowledge and experiences. We have become a family in faith.

We welcome one and all to join us by Zoom on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Call Marcos at (520) 269-8946. Let your faith THRIVE and let it guide you closer to God. ▲

# The Salvatorian Family Gathers During the Pandemic

*Submitted by Jackie White SDS  
National Director, US Lay Salvatorians*

**T**he Pandemic affected the ability of the Salvatorians to gather; then Zoom came to the rescue. For the last several months, we have gathered through Zoom. It was a time to catch up with one another and to grow in our faith.

A highlight for the USA Lay Salvatorians was a Zoom meeting with the members of the General Committee of the International Community of the Divine Savior who joined us from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Columbia, Venezuela, and USA. Other members of the US Salvatorian Family and Fr. Joe from

Italy lent their smiling faces. We found great conversation and a wonderful way to connect across oceans and continents.

To celebrate the Beatification of Fr. Francis Jordan, Salvatorians in the Tucson area came together to sing and dance to the anthem "This is Eternal Life" written for the Beatification. Thank you, Patti Munsen, for leading us in this fun event on a very windy day. Everyone agreed it was encouraging to see one another and to gather again.

Three people from Tucson, including two MHT parishioners made their Commitment as Lay Salvatorians in a ceremony through Zoom. Therefore, Salvatorians from across the USA and the world could join Jacquie Briggs, Michael Johnson and Norma Morrison in celebrating this step in their faith journeys.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Salvatorian, contact Jackie White for information [jwhite45@cox.net](mailto:jwhite45@cox.net). ▲

## Our McDonald's

*Submitted by Susan Taylor*

**F**or over a year and a half, a varied age and background group has met at McDonald's on Ironwood here in Tucson for one or more mornings per week. Presently, we have rejoined each other by meeting on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. Many of us are Senior citizens who greet one another reflecting on our lives, families, work, avocations, hobbies, recreation, church activities and travels.

We listen, cajole and celebrate what is important in our daily living. Reflections on our feelings, politics, bias and decisions in our past and present give each of us solutions and freedom of expression.

Often we present facts and opinions depending on our experience and cultural observations. We laugh and re-

member with each other, celebrating our views. Health, children and grandchildren are values upheld. We triumph each year on succeed and prosperity. Daily we appreciate our talents, blessings and experiences good or bad. Patience is our gift and possibilities abound, with appreciation for challenges faced.

Our talents are shared. A comedian in our midst projects facial expressions like Forest Gump, drawing laughter, often hilarious. Another person keeps us advised of morning cartoons from the newspaper. He also keeps us informed of Pima College classes for continued, personal education.

Family members and guests who have joined us add valuable insight and joy. We come and go in the group dependent on the weather, other activities we participate in, vacations, and responsibilities at home.

Would you like to come one day? You are most welcome. ▲

*"**W**hen I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between Myself and you and every living creature of every kind" Book of Genesis*

# Pandemic: Shrinking and Stretching

Submitted by Sr. Jane Eschweiler SDS

**W**hen the pandemic hit, all I could see at first was limitation: shrinking. I could not visit the prisons I frequented, and teaching would not be in person. I would not be able to meet personally with the 15-20 persons I act as spiritual companion for who live in Tucson, Maricopa, and Yuma.

But time and experience has shown that stretching would also be at work. I learned how to help prepare parish YouTube

Masses by lecturing at the tapings a week before each was broadcast for our community. I learned that Zoom, long distance phoning, and distanced visits with masks on my porch could serve as spiritual companionship in a pinch and for a time. Perhaps the most age-sensitive lesson for me was that I could teach a three-hour class for future deacons and lay ministers by Zoom more physically ~ pain-free sitting at my computer at home ~ than I could by trying to alternate standing and stool-sitting in person with the back and heart issues that limit me.

I was, admittedly, really upset at first that I could not be with people in person during the COVID crisis, but alternatives proved to be not only possible but effective. ▲

# Homebound Ministry During the Pandemic

Submitted by Jackie White SDS  
Homebound Ministry

**U**nfortunately, the Homebound Ministry was suspended during the Pandemic due to Diocesan protocols to protect the vulnerable at home as well as the ministers. During this time the parishioners were called to keep in touch. Three

times during this time, the parishioners were asked to provide cards for the Homebound. In July of 2020, we held "Christmas in July" and delivered the cards to their homes. At Christmas, the traditional Christmas Card collection was done. And finally at Easter, we again collected and delivered Easter cards to parishioners at home. It was a way to stay in touch. The recipients of the card expressed their joy at being remembered.

The Ministry has resumed now that the COVID restrictions in the Diocese have changed. ▲

# Consider this...

**C**an you answer all seven of the following questions with the same word?

1. The word has seven letters.....
2. Preceded God...
3. Greater than God...
4. More Evil than the devil...
5. All poor people have it...
6. Wealthy people need it...
7. If you eat it, you will eventually die.

*Did you figure it out?*

*Try hard before looking at the answers.  
Did you get it yet?  
No cheating!!*

*Give up? Brace yourself for the answer....*

The Answer is:  
NOTHING!  
NOTHING has 7 letters.  
NOTHING preceded God.  
NOTHING is greater than God.  
NOTHING is more Evil than the devil.  
All poor people have NOTHING.  
Wealthy people need NOTHING.  
If you eat NOTHING, you will die..

**“W**hoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple -- amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.” Matthew 10:42

# Lighting the Way

## Letter to Fr. Jordan on his Beatification

Submitted by Norma Morrison SDS  
Co-editor of The Trinity Times

Dear Fr. Jordan,  
You are an inspiration to all Salvatorians and their friends who are impacted by your humble beginnings. You light the way for all of us ~ past, present and future ~ to be directed by your vision and mission. You have given of yourself to blaze an unparalleled trail in the community for us to follow with trust.

Your Priests are priests forever in the Order of Melchizedek to serve sacramentally and spiritually. Your Brothers are bound together to serve the peoples' needs and the Church's directives. Your Sisters serve the unfortunate and marginalized bringing joy and hope to hearts. Your Lay bring their families to the Eucharistic Table encountering Jesus. They are fed spiritually, so that they may serve and feed the hungry of heart.



Your respect of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and our Blessed Mother Mary deepens our love for Them and all the saints in Heaven. This empowers your commitment of service and miracles. Your light is never hidden under a bushel basket, for God's light has shown through your human weakness.

Your books, especially your Diary, are devoured in our quest for bringing instruction forth to brighten the way of the continents. You embed in us values, purpose, mission, and zeal. We grow in maturation through the testimony of your perseverance.

On this day in Rome, you are raised up as our founder, faithful priest, teacher, preacher, and now Blessed which furthers your inspiration. We rededicate ourselves to your international mission by going everywhere, lighting ways to a new challenge of beginnings. We will bring Our Divine Savior to the darkest corners of the world. ▲

In anticipation of the Monsoons to come:

## After the Rain

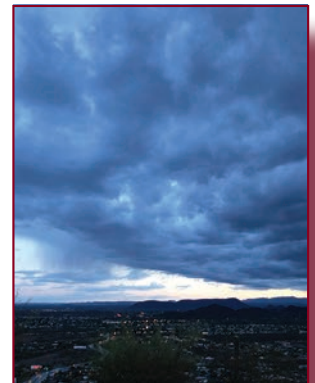
Submitted by Edna Greene SDS

The sky is bright blue with a few wispy clouds.  
The smell of rain is still in the air,  
And the desert dust has been washed away.  
Leaves in a myriad of green shine  
And lift their faces to the sun.

Plants that were drooping now stand straight and tall.  
And the flower's hues are more brilliant.  
Birds fluff up their feathers to dry.  
While rabbits and quail drink from the puddles.  
And even the ants seem excited.

All of nature takes note of the sustaining rain. ▲

Photo by Suzanne Morrison



## This Issue's Guest Journalists



Sr. Jane Eschweiler SDS



Edna Greene SDS



Marcos Moreno



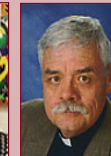
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