

New Vision Article Sept 2015  
Fr. Jeff Wocken, SDS

## Francis Jordan and Social Justice

Every September, members of the Salvatorian community honor our founder Venerable Fr. Francis Mary of the Cross Jordan, the namesake for Jordan Ministry Team. This year's Jordan Awareness Week is September 5-13, and its theme is "Fr. Jordan and Social Justice."

Fr. Jordan instilled in his spiritual sons and daughters a deep concern for the welfare of others, rooted in the values of human dignity and evangelization. The fundamental principle of Catholic Social Teaching is the sacredness of human life and dignity. Before it was politically correct to be inclusive, Fr. Jordan envisioned a collaborative community of women and men from all walks of life sent out to serve all people, regardless of nationality, language, or status. Today, all of us are called to continue to break down the walls that blind us to the human dignity of those we call "other."

For Fr. Jordan and his Salvatorian community, this mission was accomplished by leading all people to the life-giving knowledge of God and the justice which such knowledge demands of us (see Daniel 12:3 and John 17:3). Pope Francis reminds us that "the joy of the gospel is for all people: No one can be excluded" (Joy of the Gospel). A necessary part of evangelization is to speak the gospel truth to those individuals and institutions which use and abuse the world's resources at the expense of the poor and powerless.

Today, Salvatorians in southern Arizona speak out for greater justice in our immigration system, distribute medical supplies to those in need (Southwest Medical Aid), and form others to be effective leaders in our church and community (Jordan Ministry Team). Yet all Catholic Christians are called to work for justice, and Fr. Jordan is but one model. How will we respond to this call in our own lives?