

ABCs of Salvatorian Life, Vol. II



APOSTLE

You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as your cornerstone. Therefore, you must walk this special path which the apostles and particularly Christ walked. Take care this apostolic spirit never weakens.

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1894/12/08]

“Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

[Matthew 4:19]

What was Jordan’s concept of an apostle? One called by Christ who obediently went anywhere and willingly suffered anything to take the light of the gospel to those living in the shadow of darkness, even to the point of shedding one’s blood. Likewise, the men and women called to Jordan’s side were to live and work like apostles. Obedient to the will of the Founder, they were to go willingly, and to suffer anything for the sake of the gospel. Theirs was to be “apostolic zeal” in the most original sense of the word – the zeal of an apostle.

[Fr. Daniel Pekarske, SDS, *God’s Strength Shining Through Human Weakness, Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism, and Spirituality*, Vol 11, pp. 81-82]

... who does not know the great importance of the lay apostolate today in lecture halls, in parliaments, in public associations, in middle class colleges, in schools, in workshops, in families! Well, then, the Apostolic Teaching Society places great stress on the lay apostolate: it reminds leaders, teachers, parents, persons of high rank of the obligation of their apostolate; it reminds scholars of the importance science has for the Kingdom of God; through the consciousness of belonging to a larger community of courageous champions, as well as through its daily prayer it fills all with courage and enthusiasm in the difficult struggles of the present times.

[Fr. Bonaventure Lüthen, “The Apostolic Teaching Society,” 1881, *Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism, and Spirituality*, Vol 6, pp. 14-15]

Reflection Starters

- Over the years, when and in what circumstances have I felt called to be an apostle? How have I responded to this call and how have these experiences impacted my subsequent life journey?
- How have I, within my own unique vocational journey of faith, experienced and encouraged the apostolic vocation of all the baptized? How could I do this more effectively?

For further reading and reflection

1. *Salvatorians Today: Witnessing to Missionary Life*, Milton Zonta SDS, Editor. Available in online library
2. “Address of the Holy Father Pope Paul VI at the Beatification Ceremony of Blessed Mary of the Apostles, October 13, 1968.” Available in Online SDS Library.