Father Francis Jordan

Father Francis Jordan was born on June 16, 1848 in Germany. His parents, Lorenz and Notburga, were faithful Catholics who instilled in him a strong faith. At his first communion he had a vision of a dove fluttering over his head. From that time onward, Jordan committed himself to God and felt called to the priesthood. He was a talented and lively boy and well liked in the village. However, due to his family being poor, he was unable to complete his secondary education. Instead, he learned the trade of a painter and decorator and travelled widely for several years practising his new profession. In this way he saw the great spiritual and material needs of the people.

Through prayer and reflection, he became increasingly aware of the need to begin his vocation; God's call for him to become a priest grew stronger. Finally, Jordan began the language studies required for seminarians. It was not easy for him to sit in the classes with much younger boys, however, through sheer hard work and determination he graduated with good marks. Following this, he completed studies in theology before commencing his preparation for the priesthood at St. Peter's Seminary, Freiburg. During his studies, Jordan began writing his spiritual diary – a diary in which he would note the most important insights right up until his death. Jordan was ordained in 1878 at the age of thirty. Soon after his ordination to the priesthood, he moved to Rome to study oriental languages.

From the time of his theological studies he had a growing conviction that he was being called by God to found a new apostolic work in the Church, in which members would defend the faith and contribute to enlivening it, by proclaiming to all people that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. This conviction became even stronger during a trip to the Middle East in 1880. During his pilgrimage to the Holy Land he devoted much time to personal prayer and meditation. On December 8th, 1881 after his return to Rome he established the 'Society of the Divine Saviour', otherwise known as the Salvatorians.

Due to the outbreak of World War I, Father Francis was forced to move to Fribourg in Switzerland, where he spent the last years of his life. He died on September 8th, 1918 in Tafers.

In 1942, his process for beatification was officially started, and in 2011 the Decree on the Heroicity of Virtues was published.