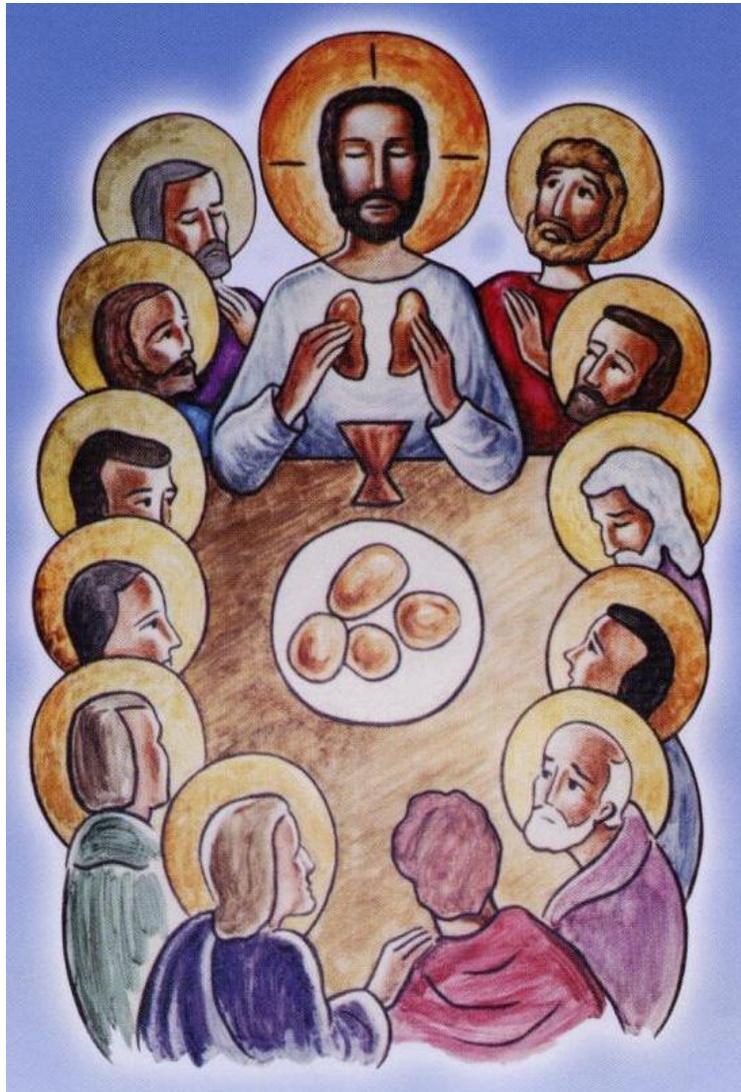


ἀπόστολος

**SOCIETY OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
PROVINCE OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



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From the Desk of the Provincial



John 11:25

“Jesus said to her, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me; even though he die, shall live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? Yes, Lord, she replied, I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

MSA Constitutions and Norms, Article 25: The communitarian bonds which unite us during life extend themselves beyond death and express themselves by prayers for our deceased founder and fellow members with whom we share the joy of their return to the Father.

Dear Confreres,

In our Province, we have a day of prayer for our deceased MSA USA members on the Saturday following All Souls Day. The passage from the Gospel reminds us of our hope for immortality. The temporality and eternity is part of our faith; to be “a true-believer” (Fr. Jose Salazar) means to have hope in the Resurrection, to expect to be raised by Jesus on the last day. Our Constitutions reminds us of this reality. He called us to give witness that life doesn’t end with our corporal mortality. So, in our family MSA USA, we honor the memory of those who gave their lives for the cause of the Kingdom of God every year on the first Saturday after All Souls Day, starting with the Table of the Eucharist, continuing by sharing the food of fraternity, and by ending with a visit in the cemetery with prayers and intercessions for their souls, expressing our hope of eternal life. For us, eternal life is a reality in some way mysterious where the Church Glorified, Suffering, and Itinerant, is emphasized. For many of us MSA, earthly life

seems short, when we see its challenges and joys in front of us, we are hoping for eternity and when we look back to our personal history, the many years lived in apostolic mission seem like yesterday and it's gone. When we see our lives in front of us, we have hope for eternity and when we look back to many years lived in apostolic mission, it seems like yesterday and it is gone. For this reason, it is important to live the present time; yesterday is past and tomorrow is in the hands of God. Let us, even with our weakening strength, continue to throw the nets into the ocean of hope trying to catch the vocations which God sends to our MSA USA family in order to continue our charism and mission in the Church: to give priests to make present the hope of humanity, Jesus Christ, the Crucified, the Risen, and the Lord. And let us keep in mind that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and if we are faithful until the end, we will be with him forever. Grant them eternal rest, and let the light of the Lord shine on them. Amen. Alleluia.

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Provincial Appeal

The Service of the Authority demands to have some amount expendable for the different needs which are not necessarily included in the budget; for example, meetings of the Superiors, convocations of the Bishops, visits to the Generalat, projects of ongoing formation, etc. As you know, our Province has a very reduced source of income, coming from the rent of the house in Washington and the tithe of the members of the Province. During this time, we are encouraging the tithes, even though it is mandatory according to the Constitutions, we need to greatly improve this aspect. For this reason, I am appealing to your generosity to support the Provincial Animation. We will accept your tithe/donations from November 5 until December 25, 2016. We thank you so much.

Those Who Went to the Father's House



From 2015 and 2016, five of our brothers have returned to the House of our Heavenly Father. Their lives were well appreciated. They exercised their ministry in different fields. One served in the Seminary and at the service of his Province; others helping in different dioceses and parishes, serving different faithful of different cultures and languages, with one unique mission: to help them to walk in the holiness of life and in finding priestly vocations. Now, we are sure, from the eternal home they will continue to intercede for us during our pilgrimage on earth, and their supplication will be heard by God, helping us to have abundant vocations at the service of our charism and mission in the Church. This necrology will help us to know a little who they were:

The 2016 Necrology

Rev. Fr. George Realmuto, MSA, was born on March 4, 1933, of Salvator Realmuto and Mildred Fiore. He was baptized on March 26, 1933, and made his Definitive Promise on April 24, 1987. Father George was ordained to the transitional diaconate on April 27, 1987, and to the holy priesthood on August 29, 1987. After his studies in psychology and in Canon Law, He served in our Seminary, Holy Apostles. He spent the last years of his priesthood in retirement. He passed into the Father's House on October 10, 2016.

Rev. Fr. Richard Skarbek, MSA, was born on July 2, 1932, of Julian Skarbek and Mary Plecka, in Brooklyn, NY. He was baptized on the day of his birth, July 2, 1932. He was ordained to the transitional diaconate on April 16, 1985, and was ordained a priest by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Father Richard was for all of his priestly life serving in the seminary at the service of his Province MSA USA. He passed into the Father's House on June 22, 2016.

Rev. Fr. Jose Salazar, MSA, was born of Alfonso Salazar and Encarnacion Solis in New York on January 12, and was baptized on June 12, 1937. Father Jose worked in Holy Apostles College and Seminary, where he taught Moral Theology and where he was Dean of Men. Afterwards, he did ministry in the Dioceses of Hartford, Arlington (Virginia), and D.C. where he worked faithfully to promote, form, and accompany vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Father Jose even wrote and published a top-notch theological book: *The True Believer*. He passed into the Father's House March 6, 2016.

Rev. Fr. Robert Burk, MSA, was born in Ambridge, PA, of Joseph Burk and Mary Turon, on September 7, 1943, and, following his graduation from West Penn Nursing School in Pittsburgh, PA, he served our country for twenty-six (26) years and retired as a colonel in the U.S. Army. Father Bob made his Definitive Promise on March 26, 2003. He was ordained to the transitional diaconate on April 5, 2003, and to the holy priesthood on November 22, 2003. He was formerly pastor of St. Michael the Archangel/Mary Mother of Peace parish in Georgetown, DE, and Millsboro, DE, passed into the Father's House on May 5, 2016.

Rev. Fr. Francis Joseph Fajella, MSA, was born of Frank Joseph Fajella and Margaret Orlando on October 30, 1937. He made his Definitive Promise on January 15, 1982 and was instituted as Lector/Acolyte on August 15, 1972. He was ordained to the transitional diaconate on January 20, 1982, and to the holy priesthood on March 14, 1982. Father Frank started his ministry in Holy Apostles College and Seminary. He was a formator. After that, he spent the remainder of his ministry time in the Archdiocese of New York. He passed into the Father's House on September 5, 2015.

Fathers Frank, Jose, Robert, Richard, and George, pray for us.

Deceased Relatives and Friends

Ursula Cancilla, sister of Fr. Vincent Salamoni, passed away, in Florida on November 10, 2016. We offer our great condolences to Fr. Vincent, and we keep Ursula in our prayers for her eternal rest.

In 2015, John Cafaro, uncle of Fr. Charlie Bak, passed away. We give our condolences to Father Charlie.

Rev. James Maltese, former MSA, passed away three weeks ago. In our Provincial Headquarters, we offered the Mass for his soul. May God grant eternal rest to Fr. Maltese after his 51 years of faithful ministry as a priest.

Mr. Michael Tam Tran, uncle of our temporal member Hai Van Tran, passed away last week. We pray for his eternal repose and we give our condolences to Br. Hai.

The Annual Retreat/Provincial Assembly

The Retreat and the Provincial Assembly will be held from December 10-16, 2017: The Retreat will be December 10 – 12 and the Assembly, December 13 -16; the Safe Environments Annual training will be on the final day of the Assembly. We remind all the Definitive Members that they are members of the Provincial Assembly. The Temporal members can participate with voice, and we will invite some lay associates. At the proper time, we will send the prayer for the success of the Provincial Assembly.

The General Assembly 2017

Our next General Assembly will be held in Bogota, Columbia, from August 1 – August 15, 2017. In addition to the *ex officio* members, were elected to represent our Province as delegates for the Assembly: Dennis Connell, Peter Kucer, and Jeffrey Thompson. We encourage you to send to the Provincial Secretary the topics to be discussed in the Assembly, and we encourage you to share the draft sent by the Preparatory Commission to study in team, and those who are alone, we encourage you to pray the prayer for the Assembly as a conclusion to your daily Evening Prayer.

PRAYER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”(Mt 7,7).
“Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.” (Jn 16,23).*

**Lord Jesus, during the time in which we will celebrate,
the 6th General Assembly of the Society of the Missionaries
of the Holy Apostles, as always, open your heart to our prayer.**

**First of all, we bless you, we praise you and thank you,
for your constant sollicitude toward our community,
in which all that we have received,
we have received it as coming from you.
Truly, your love for us is lifelong.**

**We are very conscious of our limitations and weaknesses.
We are also conscious, that our capacities
and gifts, are fruits of your love.**

**This is why, we ask you, to give us, through your Holy Spirit,
the necessary light, that will help us, reflect and initiate projects
for the next five years, as well as, the strength to show us
how to proclaim the Word of God, to insist whether it is convenient or inconvenient, to
encourage through all patience and teaching.**

**May we, thus work joyfully and peacefully, to make you known
and loved, You, Jesus, as well as the Good News of your Gospel.
May this joy from the Gospel, light up a fire in our hearts
and in our lives, and spread about us, as an enthusiastic invitation,**

to come and work in your vineyard.

**Almighty Father, we ask you for these graces, in the Name of Jesus,
your Son, your Beloved. Amen, Amen. Alleluia!**

Mary Queen of the Holy Apostles,

Pray for us.

The Holy Apostles

Pray for us.

Saint Francis of Assisi

Pray for us.

Fr. Eusèbe Menard and Mr. Hector Durand

Intercede for us.

