

FALL 2025



SOCIETY of OUR LADY
of the Most Holy Trinity

GRAY

R O B E S



INSIDE

FOOTSTEPS

By Br. Gregoy Rice, SOLT

SMOOTHING THE ROUGH EDGES

By Br. Rocky Garcia, SOLT

REALITY, A PLACE OF ENCOUNTER

By Br. Nick Judge, SOLT

TO THE STREETS!

By Br. Andrew Collart, SOLT

SOLT BROTHERS IN FORMATION

GRAY ROBES FORMATION PROGRAM

Configuration III

Br. Gregory Rice (PA)

Configuration II

Br. Andrew Collart (GA)

Configuration I

Br. Nicholas Judge (MD)

Discipleship I

Br. Cole Hamilton (FL)

CONSECRATED BROTHERHOOD IN MISSION — DETROIT, MI

Year II

Br. Rocky Garcia (TX)

NOVIATE — CORPUS CHRISTI, TX & PUTIAO, PH

Blake Ducharme (MN)

Emmanuel Orozco Alfaro (MX)

Ethan Deters (KY)

Ethan Wersland (WA)

Jack Harber (IN)

John Tabuntschikow (GA)

Patrick Walsh (VA)

ASPIRANCY — BENQUE VIEJO, BZ

Eric Crowley (PA)

Nathan Hall (KS)

Nicholas Cox (TX)

CONTACT

SOLT JUNIORATE HOUSE OF FORMATION

1721 Junction Street, Detroit, MI 48209

JUNIORATE SERVANT

Fr. Jeremy Davis, SOLT

FORMATION DIRECTOR

Fr. Jerry Drolshagen, SOLT

VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

Fr. Dave Brokke, SOLT

vocations@solt.net • 361.288.3016

SOLT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Mauricio Romero

PO Box 4116, Corpus Christi, TX 78469

361.654.0054 Ext. 101

mauricio@solt.net

Rector's Letter

"...by prayer and petition, with
thanksgiving, make your requests
known to God" PHIL. 4:6

So, I sent the brothers to Mexico this summer. For a few months, they are expected to leave the Juniorate House of Formation and serve in our SOLT missions. I must admit, I had some nerves, this being the first time I had sent the men out. To grow in Christian brotherhood, to be challenged, to serve and to find Christ in the anawim (the lowly and marginalized who depend on God) were the principal objectives. Fr. Flanagan, our founder, spoke of the anawim often and delighted in serving them.

The brothers studied Spanish in Querétaro and served at Santa Maria del Mexicano, our boarding school for troubled and abandoned children and youth. They spent five weeks in Nuevo Laredo serving in our large parish and helping in the smaller communities.

Now, ministering, interacting, and teaching in a second language is not always easy. Plans change at the drop of a hat in the missions. Traveling on long bus rides, eating the local food, no hot water, no air conditioning (and Nuevo Laredo basically feels like walking in a large oven...even the breeze is warm), sometimes no transportation, being aware of violence and danger caused by the cartels, are just some of the unique conditions that require effort, love, and grace.

However, the brothers began to correspond with me as they left Detroit. They sent pictures and made me laugh with their texts. They shared funny stories. You would have thought I sent them on vacation! Gratitude and joy had overwhelmed them. They appreciated being amongst the anawim and serving them. As you might expect, this pleased me very much.

The character of their "head brother," Br. Greg Rice, may have contributed to this. A cheerful extrovert who leads and serves with authentic concern, he made his Perpetual Promises on July 3, 2025. As I reunited with them in Corpus Christi for Br. Greg's Mass and festivities, they recounted in person their experiences. It felt like family.

Celebrating with the larger community and witnessing how the brothers served dissolved my unease and filled me with gratitude. I could hear St. Paul speaking to me: *"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God"* (Phil. 4:6).

The joy and thanksgiving of the brothers, even in the difficult missions, reveal the work of the Holy Spirit. They serve with the spirit of our founder. Thank you for your generosity with them, witnessed by your prayers, your friendship and your financial support.

Know of our prayers for you!



In Christ,
Fr. Jeremy

P. Flanagan S.O.L.T.

Footsteps

By Br. Gregory Rice, SOLT

In a patch of cemetery next to a country church, a saintly SOLT sister was buried this summer surrounded by her loving religious family. The sky was clear and the mid-afternoon sun shone brightly above the priests, brothers, sisters and laity gathered in South Texas. Gray veils and habits danced in the wind as the religious and laity took turns with shovels filling the grave. Some talked or cried quietly, and many heads bowed in prayer, reflecting and thanking God for the holiness of this sister who had served so faithfully in the missions. Sr. Margaret Mary was from Denver but had served in the earliest years of the mission in the Philippines. As I listened to the rasp of the shovels and the thudding of the dirt on the coffin, I reflected on where God may lead me.

After the funeral, a Father, a Sister, and I drove just a few hours southwest to return to the mission in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. I had been stationed there for the summer and the mission reminded me a bit of a colony on Mars. It is a dense sprawl of one story houses huddled together in desert climate, stretching along the border of Texas and sprinkled with dust and 104 degree heat. I am not exaggerating in saying that my experience of it was glorious, however. The parish and its five mission chapels were buzzing with activity and I watched the SOLT priests and sisters who served there with awe and a feeling of eager anticipation. The verbiage of the Spanish speakers gradually became more distinct to my ear as did certain hopes of my heart for missionary activity.

Fast forward just a few more weeks and I was walking down the aisle of the beautiful chapel at *Our Lady of Corpus Christi* (SOLT's retreat center and headquarters in south Texas). I passed friends and family, some of whom stretch back to my high school days. My past was present in the chapel and my future was approaching. I prayed for a life of service in the footsteps of Sr. Margaret Mary and those missionaries who have gone ahead of me. A triumphal chorus filled the chapel with intercession and praise.



Br. Greg made his perpetual profession
of poverty, chastity, and obedience as
a brother in SOLT on July 3rd, 2025.

Smoothing the Rough Edges



Br. Rocky at the Colón mission.



Layo working on the girls' furniture.

Br. Rocky Garcia, SOLT

What a privilege it was to return to our mission in Colón, Mexico this past summer. Each visit is a beautiful reminder of my calling to serve the family of God, especially through hands-on work that allows me to give of myself in a meaningful way.

This mission is a lifeline for boys and girls who, without it, might not have a home or access to education. The boys live on the main property, where the school and most of the chores take place, while the girls live “in town” about five miles away and are bussed in each morning. This mission is a living, breathing example of the Body of Christ at work, run by an amazing team of priests, sisters, volunteers, and residents who pour their hearts into caring for these children—God’s little ones.

One resident who’s always stood out to me is Layo, the mission’s carpenter. As a fellow (very amateur) woodworker, I always enjoy spending time in his shop. The scent of wood, the tools, and his quiet wisdom, it all makes me feel at home. He’s like an uncle, always welcoming, always working.

This time, Layo was in the middle of a big

project: building 80 bed frames for the girls’ new dormitory. These beds double as dressers, and he needed help getting the drawers sanded and finished. I jumped right in, and soon a few of my SOLT brothers joined us. We formed a little assembly line, smoothing rough edges and making the drawers easy and safe to use.

At one point, a brother asked, “How smooth do these need to be?” Without thinking, I said, “Smooth enough for your little sister.” That line stuck with me. These girls are our little sisters in Christ. We want the best for them—and we want them to feel safe and loved.

As I worked, I started thinking about these little sisters, who would be sleeping in these beds, opening and closing the drawers each day, storing their clothes and keepsakes. I also began reflecting on my own rough edges, and how the Holy Spirit continues to sand and shape me through service. Service has a way of centering us, of helping us see more clearly the work God is doing within; and I’m so thankful for every blessing.

To all of you who support this mission with your prayers and generosity, thank you. Your love makes this work possible, and I carry your kindness with me each time I return.

This mission is a lifeline for boys and girls who, without it, might not have a home or access to education.

Reality, a Place of Encounter

Br. Nick Judge, SOLT

On our first Monday in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, I needed to hop across the border in order to mail a letter to the seminary in Detroit. Fr. Tristan gave me specific instructions on how to get to the border in a car, and then ride a bike across the bridge. Misunderstanding the gravity of the situation as well as the signage on the border, I wound up driving the car to Texas. Due to legal issues (which Fr. Tristan foresaw) they wouldn’t let me bring the car back into Mexico. So I had to call Father and tell him that I got his car stuck on the US side. A few hours later, Fr. Pat picked me up at the border, car-less and feeling pretty dumb and embarrassed. There was a young man in the truck who Fr. Pat was dropping off at work—a restaurant. When we arrived he ran in and got us gigantic lime and cucumber juices—my favorite. I remarked to Fr. Pat, that I absolutely did not deserve that. He promptly quipped that I also didn’t deserve the love of God, but had that as well.

For the remainder of the summer and especially on my retreat at the



Br. Nick evangelizing with Fr. Tristan and Br. Greg in Nuevo Laredo.

beginning of this semester, my prayer often came to the topics of humility, the love of God, and the posture of a disciple.

Humility is living in reality, which includes the reality that we are human and fallen. We make honest mistakes and not honest mistakes and those inconvenience ourselves and others. But the love of God is also a feature of reality. It is real. This means that one can encounter it in reality. Where we can not encounter it is within the self sufficient fantasy we can be tempted to create in our minds. Paradoxically, it is in precisely the same location that one finds his littleness, that he encounters the love of God.

The love of God is God’s action. It might seem obvious to say, but it reveals another element of reality: that God loved us first (c.f., 1John 4:10). We do not love or serve Him or do things well and then as a result, He loves us. That is a fantasy. God gives His love freely, regardless of which country your car is in!

Thus, the posture of a disciple is one who chooses to live in reality

—the place of his littleness— and to receive from the abundance of the love of God. This is remarkably passive and yet it clearly is an act of the will. While God will love you without your permission, you will be hard pressed to know it without your own permission.

In the truck on the way back home that Monday, Fr. Pat asked me, “What did you learn today?” At the time I really felt that I had learned nothing. However, in reality, I was learning that God loves me. By the way, the car made it back by the end of the summer.

PHIL 2:5-11



After playing fútbol, Br. Nick shares a laugh with an altar server.

To the Streets!



By Br. Andrew Collart, SOLT

On May 15th, 2019—the week of my college graduation—I flew to Los Angeles to walk across the length of the country along highways, roads, and streets with a team of missionaries wearing t-shirts imprinted with the words “PRO-LIFE.” It was my first experience of wearing a habit day in and day out. God had placed on my heart the call to take the Gospel of Life to the streets. Some college students had originally conceived of this apostolate called “Crossroads” at the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver when Pope John Paul II challenged them:

Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life... Do not be afraid to go out on the streets and into public places, like the first Apostles who preached Christ and the Good News of salvation in the squares of "cities, towns and villages... It is you" who must “go out into the byroads” and invite everyone you meet to the banquet which God has prepared for his people.



Now, some years later... The hot mid-morning summer sun roasts the chalky streets of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico as scraps of litter skitter along in the breeze. Dogs doze beneath immobile vehicles and prickly plants along the cracked sidewalks soak up the day’s increasing heat. However, two figures still move doggedly along the mirage-blurred expanse. They wear gray habits.

“¡Buenos días! ¡Una invitación a la fiesta patronal de Nuestra Señora de la Santísima Trinidad! ¡Sábado a las tres PM...!” Occasionally figures emerge from the small concrete dwellings; while, at other times, Hermana Veronica and I stuff paper invitations into chain-link gates or welded metal doorframes. Moving to the other side of the street, I repeat my invitation through a fence and notice a young mother holding a small, soft bundle in her arms. “¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás?” I glance up from her bundle and meet her eyes. “¿Es este bebe nuevo?” “¡Sí...!” (Just days ago!) In awe at the grandeur of this new life—while the mother shyly but proudly holds her child out to me—I stroke the tiny hand clenched in a pink fist and ask the infant’s name. “Alejandra.”

I don’t initially find it easy or natural to talk to strangers. Papal commands to do so help and I appreciate the accompaniment of my fellow SOLT brothers and sisters. However, my happiest moments now occur on the streets. Moments sharing the Gospel and God’s goodness with strangers, face-to-face, bring joy. Recently these days in Detroit, my brothers and I regularly pray the rosary while walking our neighborhood; but we pause to exchange waves and greetings with children playing in their yards who notice us and declare: “Look! It’s the church people!”

“YOU ALSO GO INTO MY VINEYARD” (MT. 20:4)

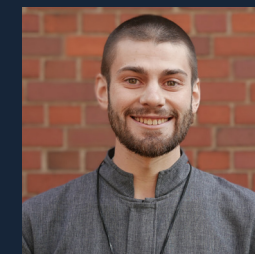
SOLT BROTHERS IN FORMATION



Br. Greg Rice, SOLT
Seminarian
Philadelphia, PA



Br. Andrew Collart, SOLT
Seminarian
Covington, GA



Br. Nick Judge, SOLT
Seminarian
Hagerstown, MD



Br. Cole Hamilton, SOLT
Seminarian
Winter Park, FL



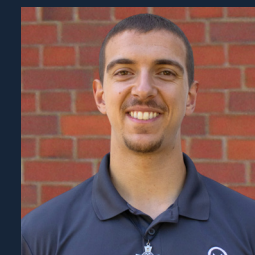
Br. Rocky Garcia, SOLT
Consecrated Brother
Corpus Christi, TX



Emmanuel Orozco Alfaro
Novice
Nuevo Laredo, Mexico



Ethan Deters
Novice
Walton, KY



Blake Ducharme
Novice
Grand Rapids, MN



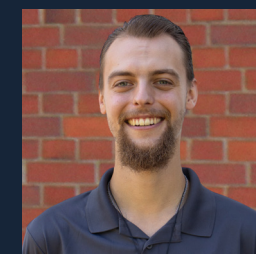
Jack Harber
Novice
Yorktown, IN



John Tabuntschikow
Novice
Covington, GA



Patrick Walsh
Novice
Newport News, VA



Ethan Wersland
Novice
Cle Elum, WA



Nicholas Cox
Aspirant
Keller, TX



Eric Crowley
Aspirant
Duncansville, PA

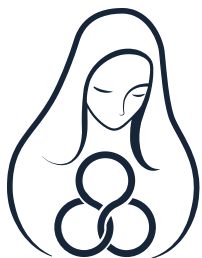


Nathan Hall
Aspirant
Olathe, KS



**Follow us
on Instagram**

✂ Cut page here for your refrigerator and please keep us in prayer.



SOCIETY of OUR LADY
of the Most Holy Trinity
PO Box 4116 • Corpus Christi, TX 78469

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Robstown, TX
Permit No. 774

"You are not asked to give what you do not have, but only what you can, with love. For the gifts given to the Church are not measured by their weight, but by the charity with which they are given."

Saint Catherine of Siena

GRAY

R O B E S



His family attending the Mass, Br. Cole made his first profession on July 5th, 2025.



The SOLT priests and brothers line up to welcome the newly-professed Br. Cole.



SUPPORT OUR SOLT VOCATIONS

By partnering with SOLT, your gift will impact the lives of some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters our missionaries serve all over the world.