

JUBILEE YEAR OF THE LA SALETTE APPARITION

Monthly Recollection for Seminarians of La Salette Matha Province- September 2020

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1. Opening Song: Holy Spirit Song

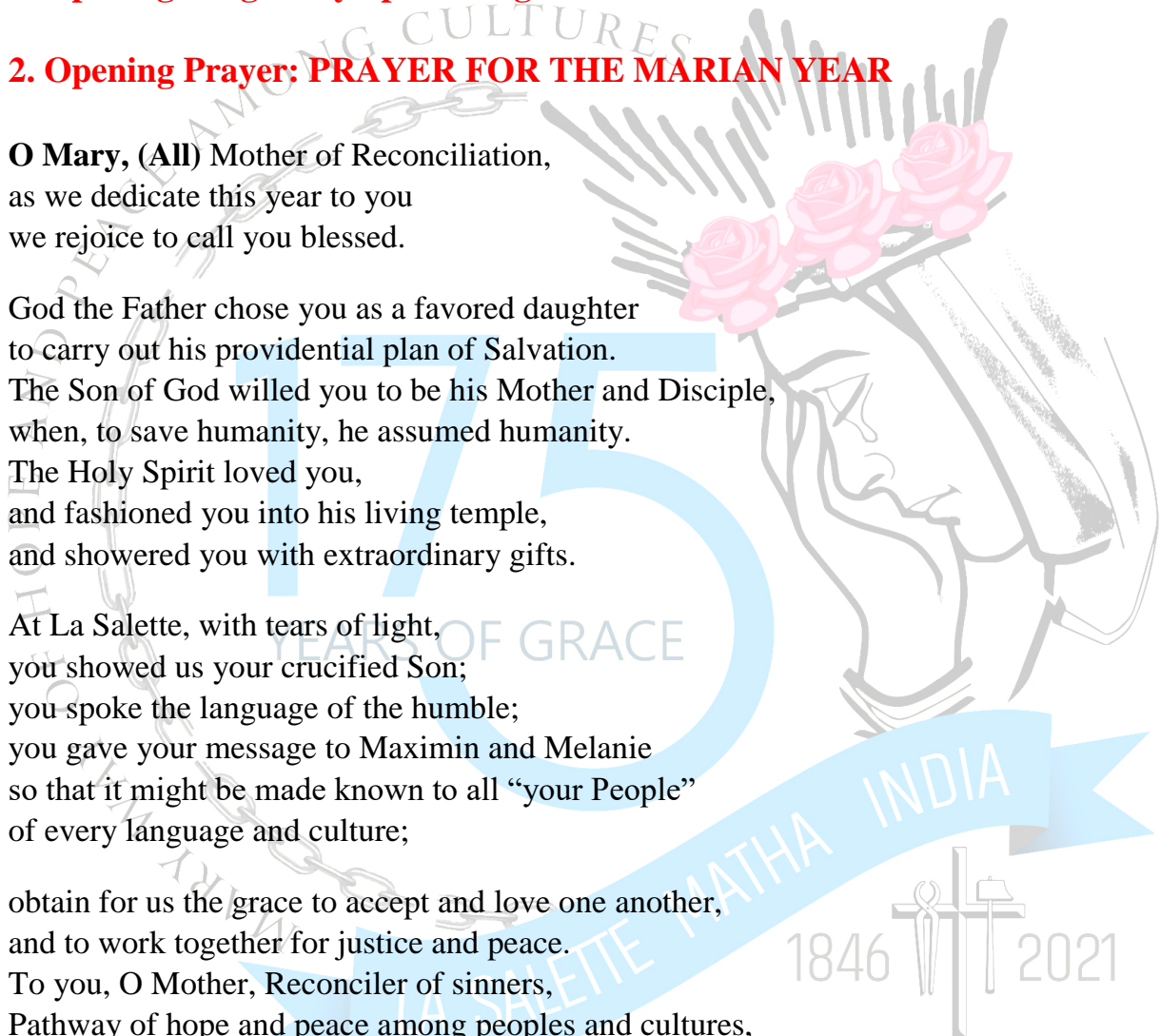
2. Opening Prayer: PRAYER FOR THE MARIAN YEAR

O Mary, (All) Mother of Reconciliation,
as we dedicate this year to you
we rejoice to call you blessed.

God the Father chose you as a favored daughter
to carry out his providential plan of Salvation.
The Son of God willed you to be his Mother and Disciple,
when, to save humanity, he assumed humanity.
The Holy Spirit loved you,
and fashioned you into his living temple,
and showered you with extraordinary gifts.

At La Salette, with tears of light,
you showed us your crucified Son;
you spoke the language of the humble;
you gave your message to Maximin and Melanie
so that it might be made known to all “your People”
of every language and culture;

obtain for us the grace to accept and love one another,
and to work together for justice and peace.
To you, O Mother, Reconciler of sinners,
Pathway of hope and peace among peoples and cultures,
we confidently entrust all humanity and our “common home,”
and the fears and hopes that inhabit them.
Speak once more to Jesus, your Son, that, like you,
we too may do whatever he tells us.
Amen.



3. Scripture Passage

Jeremiah 1: 1-10

4. Theme of Meditation:

“Come near my children, do not be afraid.....”

5. Reflection

(This reflection could be either read out or explained as talk without losing the important thoughts of the reflection)

A. Introduction

It is with such a great joy and gratitude to the Lord that I take this opportunity to prepare this monthly recollection talks to you seminarians of La Salette Matha Province for whom I pray each day. The 175th Anniversary of the Apparition of Blessed Mother at La Salette is a great opportunity for us to study and reflect the message of Our Lady as part of the Marian year in the congregation of Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette (MS).

In this first month of the Jubilee year, for our reflection and study I propose the first words of Our Lady to Maximin and Melanie.

“Come near, my Children” “Come Closer”

It is the Virgin Mary who chose the little shepherds at La salette to share her message. Maximin and Melanie were not expecting such a grace in their life. In the same way, you did not choose your vocation, but God chose you. A vocation is a mystery of divine election, of God’s call to your heart – to you personally. He has called you by name, He chose you from among many. “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you” (Jn 15:16).

This election needs to be pondered in your hearts. You have been chosen by God to a personal, intimate relationship with Him and to a participation in His priestly heart, life and mission. Your vocation is not an accident, something that you can take lightly or superficially, because as the Lord says in Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (1:5).

Dear brothers, like the shepherds of La Salette, God calls the ungifted, the unloved, to his own gifts and to his own love. Clearly, Our Lady of La Salette called the children to a special kind of relationship with her. The discourse may have lasted no more than

a half hour but the children's friendship with her was born on that mountain and it lasted throughout their own lifetimes.

Do you hear the call of our Blessed Mother in your soul? Come near or Come closer: This invitation of Our Lady is repeated to each one of us who received the vocation to become a La Salette Missionary. Our vocation to become La Salette Missionary is also an invitation to come closer to Our Lady. Marian devotion is the hallmark of La Salette missionaries and essential aspect of their spirituality. It was through God's special plan for me that I entered in the seminary (La Salette Bhavan, Parakkadavu) at the age of 15. I have not heard of the apparition of Our Lady at La Salette before joining in the seminary.

“God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise” (1 Cor 1:27)

Melanie, one of eight children, came from a poor family and began working at age seven. She had no schooling, knew only bits of the Catechism, infrequently attended Mass, and could hardly recite the Our Father or the Hail Mary. Similarly, Maximin, whose mother had died and who did not like his stepmother, had little religious education and no schooling.

Why have you been chosen? I do not know...and you do not either. Maximin and Melanie did not know why they were chosen to spread the message of Our Lady. It is part of the mystery of love. “Love,” as Pope Benedict said to the seminarians in Cologne, “knows no ‘why’; it is a free gift to which one responds with the gift of self” (Aug. 19, 2005). You have been given a gift of love, to which you can only respond with the totality of your love.

What is the implication of our vocation and the Call of Our Lady?

Jesus has invited you to leave everything in order to follow Him more closely. One day you heard the voice of Christ in your heart telling you, “Follow me and leave everything for me.” It is a call to renounce other options in life and to choose this path of closeness and intimacy with Him, but it is not an empty renunciation. It is a call to leave something good for something greater, for a life in which you will find complete personal fulfillment, a life in which your human and spiritual potential will be expanded for the service of the kingdom of God and for the good of humanity. ***Dear brothers, Our Lady calls you to leave everything for Christ and to generously embrace the vocation you have received.***

(The Sessions breaks for half an hour. After the break the group gathers again in a prayerful atmosphere either in the Chapel or a hall. The Blessed Sacrament exposed, or a room is prepared for group sharing)

6. Meditative Music

7. Questions for Personal Reflection and Discussion:

- Do you see God's plan and call in your life while joining in the La Salette Seminary? Do you see your vocation as a gift or election from God?
- What do you find special in your vocation journey? Does your Marian devotion have a special role in your vocation?
- What is your personal reflection to this invitation of Our Mother "come closer"?

8. Group Sharing based on the Questions above

9. Spontaneous Prayers

10. Concluding Prayer

Almighty God, you sent Bl Virgin Mary to invite us back to God. She spoke to two little children who are chosen by you to be the bearers of reconciliation. You call us like you called Jeremiah and other prophets, to be bearers of your message. Help us to recognize the value of the call I have received. Let us be inspired "to leave everything for Christ and to generously embrace the vocation we have received". This we ask through Christ our Lord.

11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song

