



Jubilee year of the Apparition
Monthly Recollection for Seminarians of La Salette Matha
Province-November-2020

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1. Opening Song: Holy Spirit Song

2. Opening Prayer: PRAYER FOR THE MARIAN YEAR

(See the Prayer Card)

3. Scripture Passage

Jeremiah 9: 1, 17-24

4. Theme of Meditation:

“The Tears of Virgin Mary at La Salette”

5. Reflection

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

In this month of November for the Monthly recollection I would like to reflect about the Tears of Mary in a slight different perspective from what I have written in the book “La Salette: The Call of a Merciful Mother”. I have observed while I was at the Holy Mountain of La Salette France several years, what is the most touching element in the apparition of Our Lady. Most of the pilgrims are touched by the tears of Mary and reflects about it. These tears are La Salette's most powerful unspoken message. The beautiful Lady weeps but she never refers to her tears and they are meant to speak for themselves and they do. They are an unspoken message but they add a crucial dimension to her words. When we read the message of La Salette, we must remember that it was spoken by someone in tears.

Mary would have certainly cried several times during her earthly life. As a human being it would be so natural for her to cry during the agony and death of her Son. But now as heavenly queen she does not have temporal pain like us earthly beings. Why was she crying at La Salette?

Twice the Virgin unveils for us the reason for her tears. The **first time**, it is the powerlessness of her Son, faced as he is with our indifference: “If I would not have my



Son abandon you, I am compelled to pray to him without ceasing, and as for you, ***you take no heed of it!***" According to the accounts of the children, one of the primary reasons behind her sorrow was because of a lapse in the local observance of Sunday as a day of rest. She reportedly said the following words to the children.

How long I have suffered for you! If my Son is not to cast you off, I am obliged to entreat him without ceasing. But you take no least notice of that. No matter how well you pray in future, no matter how well you act, you will never be able to make up to me what I have endured for your sake.

"I have appointed for you six days for working. The seventh I have reserved for myself. And no one will give it to me." This is what causes the weight of my Son's arm to be so crushing.

Only a few rather old women go to Mass in the summer. All the rest work every Sunday throughout the summer.

In context, following the French Revolution of 1789 efforts were made to abolish Sunday as a day of rest. While this was eventually reversed in 1814, by 1830 France was again in political unrest and it was not until 1904 that Sunday became a legal, mandatory day of rest for all workers. At the time of the apparition in La Salette, most laborers in France made no distinction between Sunday and the rest of the work-week. In 1998 St. John Paul II wrote an entire apostolic letter on "The Lord's Day," and looked forward to the Third Millennium, **seeing the observance of Sunday as a vital part to the future of our faith.** The Church has always tried to emphasize our innate human need for rest. It reaches the depths of our being both on a physical and spiritual level. In many ways we were *made* for the Sabbath.

The second time, it is our lack of attention to events, our attachment to the passing things of this world and our refusal to acknowledge our responsibilities, as if God, not we, were the guilty one: "I gave you warning last year with the potatoes, but you did not heed it! On the contrary, when you found the potatoes spoilt, you swore, you took the name of my Son in vain...."

And in truth, insensible to what is essential, we fret and worry about passing things, and let ourselves be monopolized by what is merely transitory, instead of simply using them to gather a treasure there "where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19b). And, in all honesty, where is our treasure, and what is it that we are really seeking out of life?

The Virgin—who lived only for Christ—knows that "where our treasure is, there also is our heart." She knows that God awaits nothing from us, except our hearts, for nothing can replace a heart which disdains to return love for love.

Let us Reflect: If we want to comfort the sorrowing Virgin and dry her tears, we need to examine our own lives. Do you think that Mary would repeat her words at La Salette today? Will she refer about the Corona pandemic? As La Salette Seminarian



how do I look at her tears? Do I feel to console her and to find solutions for her sorrow?

The tears of Mary express the intensity of her love for us and at the same time her powerlessness in the face of our refusals. That precisely is *the reality* we are called upon to discover. What sign could tell us better about God's sufferings than the tears of Mary? What tears could best convince us of our unfaithfulness than those of the Virgin most faithful?

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will know mourning and tears (LK 6:25)

(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 I meditate on the “tears of virgin Mary” at La Salette?
- As La Salette Seminarian how do I look at her tears?
- Do I feel to console her and to find solutions for her sorrow?

8. Group sharing based on the questions above

9. Spontaneous prayers

10. Concluding Prayer

Almighty God, through the tears of Blessed Virgin Mary at La Salette you reminded us the need of turning back to you. Let the tears of Blessed Mother washes us and purifies us from the impurities of sin. Let me commit myself to console her and through my virtuous life let me wipe away her tears. Through Christ our Lord.

11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song