

JUBILEE YEAR OF THE APPARITION

Monthly Recollection for Seminarians of La Salette Matha Province

January 2021

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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

Ez 18:21-32

4. Theme of Meditation:

“Mary calls us to new life”

5. Reflection

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

We have entered into a new year. Certainly, we have reflected about our life in the last year and made some resolutions for this new year. We age, moving from one year to the next, asking ourselves how can we live more peacefully, more justly, more passionately and more lovingly? As seminarians it is part of your life to reflect and renew yourselves. The fundamental choice of life, in reality, is the final identity to see oneself as a gift from God – able to see and respond before making a choice in different steps. Vocation in the Church, living a life for the Church is to become more mature and offer life as “service” to others. The discernment of one’s vocation is much important since man can’t do all things in life.

In Modern day many vocations come from emotions but not so much through discernment. Therefore, many vocations do not grow to the final stage of discernment. There is a need to foster a good discernment. We have to see it through three levels of formation in accordance with the **Charism** of the Congregation for such preparations – **Spirituality, Fraternity, and Mission**. Youth today can do many things in reality in line with the advance of technologies in this modern time, but they truly need the real discernment in the stages of spiritual and psychological aspects. They need to know the model and situations in choosing vocation which enlightens them - **to give life and to loose life** – in a deep sense of the definition of life as a discovery.

As the new year begins, we feel that we need to make changes in our life, start on a new path, do new things, and say goodbye to old habits, problems and

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difficulties. The question is whether we will continue and persevere, or quit our plans and resolutions. Will we revert to our habitual behavior and continue living the same kind of life, without making any changes or improvements? If you want to make real changes in your life you need to take certain steps. Training and strengthening your willpower and self-discipline through meditation, prayers and suitable exercise can strengthen your perseverance.

Mary at La Salette calls us to change our life to experience blessings and to have a new direction in life. In this new year this message is important for us.

If They Are Converted...(Ez 18:30 f; 1 Kings 8:35; Mk 1:15; Lk 15; Acts 2:38; 3:19)

The call to conversion is at the heart of the message of La Salette. Everything converges towards that end: the tears and the crucifix, the light and the roses, the attitudes of the beautiful lady, the walk from the ravine to the summit, but above all the discourse of the Virgin. “Return to God with all your heart”, he alone is the source of life. The biblical and evangelical consonances of this discourse are many.

“**If they are converted...**” they will be blessed by God. And as in the Bible, stones and rocks will become mounds of wheat for “nothing is impossible with God”.

“**If they are converted...**” Jesus declared: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all else will be added unto you.”

“**If they are converted...**” And the apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of the happy issue: “All creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God; it retains its hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God” (Rm 8:19).

Our Lady teaches us that the only thing that counts is to desire God, to say “yes” to Him in everything and everywhere, without worrying or glorifying ourselves.

Saying “yes” can sometimes lead us on extraordinary paths. Mary teaches us how to recognize our gifts, to cultivate them in order to make them bear fruit, but always with a humble heart: the heart of one who knows that alone they are nothing and that everything they receive comes from God.



In the entire New Testament, the conversion includes interior renewal, purity of heart, adherence to the word of Jesus that involves a true metanoia or change of heart. It transforms the person into a person with the ability to become Christ’s disciple. As it is mentioned repeatedly in the Bible, conversion was also requested by the Beautiful Lady of La Salette and is a path of real transformation. In an attitude of genuine concern, she addresses her people and the real possibility of a new world full of life if we enter willingly into the process of conversion. Conversion involves two responses: “turn to God and change your mindset or attitude.”

(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:

- What were my new year resolutions? What are my difficulties to change myself? How can I have strong perseverance to follow my vocation?
- Do I have a desire to change myself? Who can help me to grow?

8. Group sharing based on the questions above

9. Spontaneous prayers

10. Concluding Prayer

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” **(Psalm 51:10)***

Father, draw me close to Your heart. I open up my heart to You, and I invite You to search my heart and renew my spirit. Bring me into alignment with your Spirit. Thank you for the work you do in me. Teach me your ways, Father. Reveal to me any area that I am not in agreement with your Word. I pray for a deep revelation and understanding of your truth. I trust you, Father, and I love that I can open my heart up to you. I know that your love is an unconditional, everlasting love.

11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song

