

JUBILEE YEAR OF THE APPARITION

Monthly Recollection for Seminarians of La Salette Matha Province

March 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

Colossians 1: 24-29

4. Theme of Meditation:

“During Lent, They Go to the Meat Market Like Dogs.”

5. Reflection

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

In this time of Lent let us reflect in our monthly recollection what our lady said about lent at La Salette: **“During Lent, they go to the meat market like dogs.”**

These strong words of Our Lady has a biblical resonance: Don't give holy things to dogs nor pearls to swine; after trampling them they will turn on you. (Mt 7, 6)

Mary at La Salette encourages us to do penance and reparation. *Sometimes we might think, Why should we do penance and fast? We did not do anything wrong.*

St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians says: *“Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church”* (1 Col 1:24).



Here St Paul points to dynamic participation: We can unite our sufferings with those who suffer and “fill up in the flesh” what is lacking. It is not just that when one suffers all suffer. It is also that again Christ suffers. We are His body and our suffering as Church is united to Christ, who in the Church is suffering in our world today. With every victim, the whole body of Christ and its head suffer.

The Church is the body of Christ; if one suffers then all suffer together (1 Cor 12:26). Pope Francis reminds us of this truth in his 'Letter to the People of God' on the scandals. We have brought great harm to the innocent. With the victims we enter into solidarity. We make reparation, repent and offer the healing balm of God's mercy to all who suffer.

Doing reparation for the sins of the humanity is a strong aspect of La Salette spirituality. Pope Francis says: "Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history" (Letter to the People of God). **This evil in the Church that has wounded many innocent children will only be removed by prayer and fasting (Mk 9:29).**

There are multiple sins that we have committed individually and collectively. In our Indian context how many sins of priests, bishops and religious have given scandals for the people of God! Pope Francis says: "It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion."

As La Salette Seminarians, Let us in this season of lent join together in acts of reparation through prayer and fasting on First Fridays and on other occasions, as your heart leads you.

We know that our Blessed Mother constantly suffers for us and intercedes for us. She said at La Salette "**For how long a time do I suffer for you! If I would not have my Son abandon you, I am compelled to pray to him without ceasing; and as to you, you take not heed of it.**" Jesus died for us sinners. St. Peter writes: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, (1 Peter 3:18). The priest is ordained to be *alter*

Christus, "another Christ," both in celebrating the sacraments and in the way He lives His life. He is called to serve as Christ served, by laying down His life for the flock. In our prayer and penance for the conversion of sinners we participate with Jesus and Mary.

(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:

Mary in her apparition at La Salette showed us her crucified son and spoke of Him. She mentioned lent as a time of penance. In lent we contemplate in the way of the cross more often the passion of Jesus.

What is my attitude to Lenten penance? Do I see it as necessary more my purification and also for the good of others and our world?

Why God chose the way of suffering, the cross and death for saving the humanity? What does it means to me the words of Mary that “she suffers for us”?

La Salette apparition is a contemplation of the crucified Jesus. In this Lent 2021 what could be the remarks of Our Lady in your context, according to your imagination?

Famine.... Corona... unemployment.... Uncertainties...

Death of infants... death of millions...

Penance... conversion...

Promise of Blessings.. if they are converted...

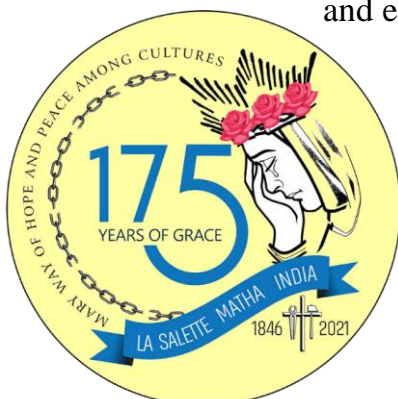
As a seminarian what kind of conversion I need?

8. Group Sharing Based on the Questions Above

9. Spontaneous Prayers

10. Concluding Prayer

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instil in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing everything to please You. For You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.



11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song