

JUBILEE YEAR OF THE APPARITION

Monthly Recollection for Seminarians of La Salette Matha Province

April 2021

Prepared by Fr. Biju Chempottickal M.S

1. Opening Song: Holy Spirit Song

2. Opening Prayer: PRAYER FOR THE MARIAN YEAR

(See the Prayer Card)

3. Scripture Passage

1 Cor 15: 12-20

4. Theme of Meditation:

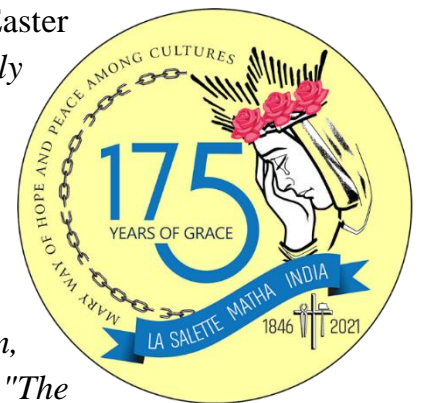
“La Salette, a message of hope and a road to Resurrection”

5. Reflection

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

At La Salette Mary our Mother showed us Jesus in a bright light. Her call was listened by the people of God and it aroused the reconciliation of the people with their God. Prayer, the practice of Christian life and penance, as a way to conversion, brought a new life to the people of La Salette. The cross of the people, by the grace of God, became a road to the Resurrection.

Fr. Silvano Marisa M.S our Superior General wrote in his Easter message: *We all know that the message of La Salette is essentially an Easter message made up of strong calls to conversion, to personal commitment, to review and renew one's relationship with God and with the Church, but also of promises of a fullness of life enlightened and purified by that dazzling light which emanates from Christ, crucified and glorious at the same time, hanging on the chest of the Beautiful Lady. For this reason, together with St. Paul, we too can strongly and loudly affirm: "The risen Christ is our hope" (1 Cor 15).*



If the Apparition of La Salette carries with it the signs of the cross of the Lord, it is also very much marked by the Light of the Resurrection. The Apparition was all made of light. It was marked by an intense light, which did not leave any shadow, and this light engulfed in some way the two shepherds, Maximin and Melanie. Mary, her dress, her attitudes and actions, as well as the two shepherds, were all taken up by this wonderful light of the Kingdom of the Resurrection of Christ, as if it was a new Transfiguration.

The tears of Mary flowed down translucent from her eyes. They fell and then disappeared without touching the ground, according to the testimonies of the shepherds. Everything was Light. Mysterious Light which emanated intensely from the Cross of the Lord, placed on the heart of the Mother of Sorrows. On this Cross, the Crucified-Risen Christ was resplendent as the Light of the World.

The cross of suffering and of death was a result of humanity's sin. The cross was a resplendent reminder of the life and light of God. It was the source of the Light of the World. On the Cross, Christ gave himself, freely and totally, for the divine pardon of humanity. By this Cross, Life rises as the victory over sin and death. Cross and Resurrection! Pardon and Life! The Mystery of Faith!

Our Lady of La Salette wants to surround all her people with this mystery of Easter, the Exodus of her people from the kingdom of evil toward the Kingdom of God. Her call for conversion is a passage from sin and from death toward the life of grace in God. It is the road of Lent and Easter – a road that effects changes in the quality of personal life in the Light of the Gospel, in the hope of a world transformed by Christ and in Christ.

La Salette is a message filled with hope that is rooted firmly in the Resurrection. The misfortune brought by evil will no longer have its place in the life of God's people. By the grace of God, the beauty of life will rise from the old world of sin. The world will be reconciled with God and in God by Christ.

Brothers: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).

In a few words St. Paul tells us what the resurrection of Christ has done. Only in Christ's resurrection can we hope for a new life: "Your life is hidden now with Christ in God." It is indeed paradoxical that a miracle no one has seen—for no one saw the resurrection take place—have the



greatest impact on the life of every believer. The other miracles of Christ benefited those persons for whom they were worked, and manifested Christ's power and goodness in that time and place. They also showed us the depths of his mercy and compassion.

The resurrection is a miracle that he performed for us, a miracle still at work this day. Our belief is that this Christ rose for our benefit, our salvation, our total and present well-being. *The Resurrection is the answer* to the human heart's constant quest to be loved without measure, without limits, without question, beyond its own ability to love.

(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:

- In this Easter season, how do I experience the new life of Easter in my personal life? Do I experience victory over evil? How do you experience hope in the midst of corona pandemic, growing religious fundamentalism, corruption, environmental disaster etc.. from the message of Our Lady at La Salette?
- When we approach Mary, Mary reveals her experience of Jesus in her life from the moment of her conception till she was ascended in to Heaven. When we approach Mary, she reveals us the Complete Wisdom of Salvation or fullness of Jesus or Complete plan of Salvation. Let us come to Mary and experience Jesus in fullness.

8. Group Sharing Based on the Questions Above

9. Spontaneous Prayers

10. Concluding Prayer

O God, Who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast been pleased to give joy to the whole world, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song

