

## JUBILEE YEAR OF THE APPARITION

### Monthly Recollection for Seminarians of La Salette Matha Province

June 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

Exodus 20:7-8

#### 4. Theme of Meditation:

“Mary at La Salette speaks of the Name of the Lord”

#### 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 June, let us reflect on the following words of Our Lady at La Salette: “Those who drive the carts cannot swear without introducing the name of my Son. These are the two things which make the arm of my Son so heavy.”

After deploring her people's profanation of the Lord's Day, Mary in her discourse at La Salette signals out another evil that is universal in our day, "the profanation of his Sacred Name." "These are the two things," she says, "which make the arm of my Son so heavy." Thus the Mother of God recalls to our mind two commandments:



“You shall not invoke the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain. Remember the Sabbath day – keep it holy” (Exodus 20:7-8).

It is typical of the perversity and blindness of God’s people that we misuse that blessed name by which all graces are obtained. We are so careful about our own name and the good name of those we love; and sometimes so careless about the Holy Name that belongs to One who is infinitely more worthy of our love and reverence than all the world besides.

The Catechism makes plain: “The second commandment forbids every improper use of God’s Name. Blasphemy is the use of the name of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way.” (CCC 2162) The Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us in the major apparitions of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries not to profane God or His Holy Name in blasphemy. Our Lady speaks to the children at La Salette saying that missing the Sunday obligation and using God’s Name to swear were two offenses which our Lady called for an end to.

Youngsters learn the foul language at an early age precisely because a family member or perhaps a neighbour used profanity in their presence. Children in those impressionable years have a proneness to imitate their elders, and repeat their expressions. Therefore, the habit of profanity, more contagious than a physical ailment, is transmitted to the younger generation. Seminarians are called to avoid foul language. Pope Benedict writes in his letter to the seminarians “Anyone who wishes to become a priest must be first and foremost a “man of God”, to use the expression of Saint Paul (1 Tim 6:11).”

Everywhere in Scripture the name of the Lord is exalted in the highest possible terms. “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Ps. 8:1a). “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name” (Ps. 29:2a). The first petition of the Lord’s Prayer is “Hallowed be your name” (Matt. 6:9). The apostles proclaimed that “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Paul

assured the Romans that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13). And the culminating event in all of creation is when, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10–11). The Bible does not want us to forget the holy importance of the divine name.

The Old Testament identifies several ways in which this commandment can be violated. Most obvious is to blaspheme or curse the name of God, Leviticus 24:16. But there’s more to the commandment than that. It also forbids empty or false oaths: “You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord” (Lev. 19:12; cf. Hos. 10:4a). When you make a declaration, swearing by God’s name, it must not be a false promise or one you do not intend to keep.

People who claim to talk in the name of God falsely are acting against this commandment. Anyone who attributes his or her words to the Holy Spirit is also misusing the name of God. Pope Francis in his recent Iraq visit said: “From this place, where faith was born, from the land of our father Abraham, let us affirm that God is merciful and that the greatest blasphemy is to profane his name by hating our brothers and sisters.”

It is blasphemy to hate and kill human beings in the name of God. Human beings are the image of God. Besides all religions, speak of a merciful and loving God. The killing of innocents by the Islamic terrorists all over the world in the name of God and religion is a blasphemy against God.

The Holy Names of Jesus and Mary are most useful for a happy death. Many saints ended their days and started eternity with the Names of Jesus and Mary on their lips.

*(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:

1. Our Lady at La Salette tells us that profanation of the name of God is one of the sin which make “the arm of my Son so heavy”. How do I understand these words in my life? Do I understand the different aspects of her words?
2. How do I use my tongue? Does it hurt my companions? “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” - Colossians 4:6  
James 1:19-20: “This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”

## 8. Group Sharing Based on the Questions Above

## 9. Spontaneous Prayers

## 10. Concluding Prayer

### Let us Pray:

Let your Holy Spirit guide my speech, Lord. Then I can have peace knowing your gentleness will flow through me as I connect with others. When I’m tempted to engage in conversation in my own strength, remind me to keep my words full of grace. (Colossians 4:6). Our Lady of La Salette help me to respect the name of God and our brothers and sisters. Amen

## 11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song

