

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE**  
**NOVEMBER 2020**



175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparition

## **The Order of Novena**

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayer for the Marian year

**Priest: O Mary, (All)** Mother of Reconciliation, as we dedicate this year to you we rejoice to call you blessed.

God the Father chose you as a favored daughter to carry out his providential plan of Salvation.

The Son of God willed you to be his Mother and Disciple, when, to save humanity, he assumed humanity.

The Holy Spirit loved you,  
and fashioned you into his living temple, and showered you with extraordinary gifts.

At La Salette, with tears of light, you showed us  
your crucified Son;  
you spoke the language of the humble;  
you gave your message to Maximin and Melanie  
so that it might be made known to all “your People” of every  
language and culture;  
obtain for us the grace to accept and love one another, and to work  
together for justice and peace.

To you, O Mother, Reconciler of sinners,  
Pathway of hope and peace among peoples and cultures,  
we confidently entrust all humanity and our “common home,” and the fears  
and hopes that inhabit them.

Speak once more to Jesus, your Son, that, like you, we too may do  
whatever he tells us.

Amen.

**Prayers of the Proper Day: (See each Day)****Memorare to Our Lady of La Salette**

*Priest:* Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, (*all*) true mother of sorrows, the tears you shed for me on Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep me faithful to Christ, your Son. After having done so much for me, you will not now abandon me. Inspired by this consoling thought, I come to cast myself at your feet, in spite of my infidelities and ingratitude. Do not reject my prayers, oh Merciful Mother, but intercede for me, obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all things and console you by a holy life that one day I may see You in heaven. Amen.

*Priest/* Our Lady of La Salette Reconciler of Sinners.

*A/* Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

**Final Blessing**

*Priest/* The Lord be with you.

*R/* And also with you.

*Priest/* May Almighty God bless you all, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*R/* Amen.

*Novena in honor of Our Lady of La Salette*

*175th Anniversary*

*'The Geographical Context of the Apparition'*

1. "From the 'Valley of Tears' to the heights of 'Tears and Light'"
2. Irresistible Image of a Mountain. Mountains attract us.
3. Mountain Paths
4. The Desert
5. Flocks in the Mountains
6. Rocks
7. Crystals
8. Scaling the Mountain Alone... or Being Roped Together
9. To Contemplate from Above... and then Come Down

(See page 1)

### 1st Day

“From the ‘Valley of Tears’ to the heights of ‘Tears and Light’”

#### Guidepost for Reflecting

- “Why do you look for your children, Mary, in this place, so high and so inaccessible? Where do you come from? Have you been “*sent*” (Jn. 8/42) like your Son?”
- “Mary, why are you bent over in tears over the cold tomb of our sinful lives like a Mary of Magdala?”
- “How can you see us from this place, so high and so removed?”

#### In the Apparition

*“I believed, said Maximin, that it was a mother from nearby village, who had been beaten by her children and then ran to the mountain, to cry in solitude.”*

#### In Scripture

a) Mark. 1/ 37—38:

“...when they found Him they said: ‘Everyone is looking for You.’ Jesus said, ‘Let us go elsewhere, to the neighboring country towns, so that I can proclaim the message there, too, because that is why I came.’”

b) John. 6/ 15:

“Jesus, as He realized they were about to take Him by force and make mm king, fled back to the hills, alone.”

c) The readings of the Transfiguration and the Agony in the Garden of Olives.

#### Question for Reflection...

What does ... to be ‘*sent*’ like Jesus and Mary ... mean to us?

(Continued Page 2)

(See page 1)

## 2nd Day

### **Irresistible Image of a Mountain. Mountains attract us.**

#### **Guideposts for Reflecting**

A mountain urges us ‘to climb to the sky, it even defies to be conquered. But what is real success? Is it not the conquest of oneself.

Pride in overcoming one’s limitations (There are other various (Mountains) in the lives of men.”) or quests for encounters where one feels appreciated?

#### **In the Apparition**

*“Come near, my children, do not be afraid...”*

#### **In Scripture**

- a) Elijah on the way to encounter the Lord: 1 Kings 19/ 1-14.
- b) “I lift my eyes to the mountains: where is my help to come from?” (Ps. 121/ 1-2)
- c) “For no prophecy ever came from human initiative. When people spoke for God, it was the Holy Spirit that moved them.” (2 Peter 1/ 21)

#### **Question for Reflection...**

- Mary had ‘descended’ and invites us ‘to climb upward’ She says that the place to meet her crucified Son is in the “God who has united heaven and earth!” ... Can this tell us something about the way we should live our La Salette vocation?

**(Continued Page 2)**

(See page 1)

### 3rd Day

## Mountain Paths

### Guideposts for Reflecting

- Paths had been cleared by others once ... they had a reason for existing, often for very practical reasons (trails were necessary for a well-balanced rural but fragile economy).

Our era of conformity praises being 'off the beaten path' and skiing 'off the main trail' (even if it endangers the lives of others)....

Pilgrims can walk on mountain paths with naked feet, despite pebbles and thistles....

### In the Apparition

- *The "path" of the Virgin.- a path of the cross, tears and light...*

-*The "Path around Mt. Planeu" at La Salette.- one walks in a circle but there is always something new to see or encounter.*

### In Scripture

You smooth the path of upright. Your Name, Your Memory are all our soul desires" (Isaiah 26/ 7-8).

He can be called "One Who Clears the Way"

All the themes in Scripture concerning 'Paths of the Lord', 'Paths of the Just', 'Paths of the wicked'.

### Question for Reflection...

- Are we ready to accept new paths or accept paths already opened? or perhaps both?

(Continued Page 2)

(See page 1)

## 7<sup>th</sup> Day

### The Desert Guideposts for Reflecting

- The sandy desert, the human desert...At La Salette, the scenery is easily described as being deserted; it is easy to isolate oneself there

...

- But why 'come to the desert', what does one 'do in the desert'? Mary chose to 'come to the desert' to speak to "all her people"

#### In the Apparition

*The mysterious sleep of the children, a prelude to the 'visit'.*

*The discourse of the Beautiful Lady and the discourse of Moses in the name of God in Deuteronomy.*

#### In Scripture

"I am going to seduce her and lead her to the desert and speak to her heart" ...  
"there she will respond as when she was young"... (Hosea 2/ 16-17)

- Mark 1/ 12: The Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted.

#### Questions for Reflection

- To make a desert within oneself: a desert of what? and for what? and for Whom?
- How to live during 'desert-times', spiritual or apostolic ... and even the desert of human relationships when old age comes and the aloneness?

(Continued Page 2)



(See page 1)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Day

### Flocks in the Mountains

#### Guideposts for Reflecting

- Images of shepherds with their sheep or cows and sheepdogs.
- Images of herds of cows, flocks of sheep...
- a place for walking in processions ... to the nourishment of the Word - of water
- of the Bread of Life.

The Church: the flock of God and the People of God ... and those 'outside' the Church.

#### In the Apparition

*“ If my Son is not to abandon you, I am obliged to pray without ceasing... ”*

#### In Scripture

Mt. 9/36: "And when He saw the crowds He felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd"...

Ezekiel 34.: "My sheep is astray on every mountain and on every high hill; my flock has been scattered all over the world... no one bothers about them and no one looks for them".

John 10/ 16 "And there other sheep that I have that are not of this fold and I must lead these too."

#### Questions for Reflection

How does the 'devotion of God for His people-flock' pertain to our "being religious"?

(Continued Page 2)

(See page 1)

## 9<sup>th</sup> Day

### **Rocks Guideposts for Reflecting**

Obstacles on the road, to go around or to scale...pebbles that spoil the walk...Hardness and fragility being found at the same time. (Pebbles and rocks can cause someone to trip and fall...)

The difference between the mountainous rock formations (vertical, compact and broken or massif and isolated like Mt. Obiou) and the gentle slope of the prairies ... Everything is not accessible.. .

### **In the Apparition**

*“If they are converted, the stones and rocks will become heaps of wheat”*

### **In Scripture**

- a) “I will remove your heart of rock and I will give you a heart of flesh”.
- b) The parable of the house built on sand or rock...
- c) “Blessed is the Lord, my Rock” (cf. Psalm 17).

### **Thought for Reflection**

- What are real rocks of our lives? and those that block the view?
- Is Christ, the Rock and Corner-stone of our life...

(Continued Page 2)

(See page 1)

**7<sup>th</sup> Day**

**Crystal**

### **Guideposts for Reflection**

- The fascination of everything that shines, the strange...
- To release crystals from a rock or from the veil within the motherlode requires work, care, attention, patience, at times suffering and even failure or brokenness .
- To be purified 'as gold in a crucible'...

### **In the Apparition**

*We cross and the gleaming tears of the beautiful Lady ... roses and tears.  
"I would have really wanted to have one" said the child after the Apparition.*

### **In Scripture**

"Where your treasure is, there also will be found your heart. " "What does it profit a man to win the universe if he loses his very self"  
"I consider everything as of little importance when compared with the supreme advantage of knowing Christ, my Lord. What I once considered my assets, I look as losses, if only I can gain Christ and be given a place with Him" Phil. 3/ 12).

### **Questions for Reflection**

- Are we not the treasure, purchased at a great price? "Not one of us lives, nor dies, for oneself or alone. "
- What have we ever given or consecrated that we had not received?

**(Continued Page 2)**

(See page 1)

**8<sup>th</sup> day**

## **Scaling the Mountain Alone ... or Being Roped Together**

### **Guidepost for Reflecting**

- an image of togetherness.but also of a certain aloneness...  
The Community, a collection of solitary people?  
(I have not chosen my companions that I am tied to Another  
has chosen them ...What hard work it is to tie myself to others ...  
and so to live!)

### **At the Apparition**

*“You have prayed well, done well, but you can never make up for the agony I have undertaken for you...”*

### **In Scripture**

“If you do not hold on to me, you hold on to nothing.” “Lord, you will grant us peace, having completed all our undertakings for us.” Isaiah 26/ 12).

### **Questions for Reflection**

Re-read Numbers 15 to 20 of the “Foundations” in our ‘Rule of Life’ (pages 43-44).  
- How do we give of ourselves to ‘join together’ - personally and as a community?

**(Continued Page 2)**

(See page 1)

**9<sup>th</sup> Day**

**To Contemplate from Above ... and then Come Down**

...  
**Guideposts for Reflecting**

- To see the villages, the cities, the fields of human activity from above, ... all the while knowing that it is necessary to return ...
- To gain a perspective from a 'distance', 'from on high', 'in the desert' ...
- then, alone or with others, to release the 'pearls of Life' ...
- and to return below in order to share them ...
- All the while there are above us the birds that soar ... and the uninvolved stars ...

**In the Apparition**

*"Go, my children, make this known to all my people."*

**In Scripture**

- a) "Lord, let us place three tents here ..." (Transfiguration ...).
- b) "I have not told the people of Jacob, "Look for me in chaos!" (Isaiah 45/19).
- c) Mark 5/ 18-20: the end of the episode with the possessed man of Gerasenes.

**Question for Reflection**

Cannot an ordinary life become, mysteriously, a 'Mission to find other Worlds' by breaking free from its own world, that may be small and all too self-centered?

**(Continued Page 2)**