

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE
JANUARY 2021**



175th 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.

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 at Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep me faithful to Christ, your Son. After having done so much for your children, you will not now abandon me. Comforted by this consoling thought, I come to you pleading, despite my infidelities and ingratitude. Virgin of Reconciliation do not reject my prayers, but intercede for me obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all else. May I console you by a holy life, and so come to share the eternal life, Christ gained by his cross. Amen.

Priest/ Our Lady of La Salette Reconciler of Sinners.

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

Priest: St. Joseph.....Pray for us

Final Blessing

Priest/ The Lord be with you.

R/ And with your spirit.

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

R/ Amen.

Day One

The Apparition

Introduction

In the event of the Apparition, Our Lady, in her words and gestures had proclaimed the words of her Son with delicate simplicity and great concern for her people

The Message

"Come ... I am here to tell you great news.' ... "If they are converted'...

"Do you say your prayers well my children?' ... "Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people."

Mary's maternal anguish: "If my people will not submit' echoes Revelation 2:2-5"

The Word

"I know what you have done; I know how hard you have worked and how patient you have been ... you have suffered for my sake ... But this is what I have against you: You do not love me now as you did at first. Think how far you've fallen. Turn from your sins ... If you don't, I will come to you and take your lampstand from its place."

Confronting Words

- 1- Can we honestly evaluate our personal and collective life in the light of Rev 2:2-5? How ?

Day Two

Presence

The Message

“You were in the ‘Terre de Coin’ ... your father took two or three ears into his hands... they fell into dust...

your father gave you a piece of bread and said: here my child, eat some bread...”

The Word

“... they are out of wine ... do whatever he tells you ...” (John 2:3-5)

Reflection

Mary, at La Salette, was fully present in the course of her conversation and dialogue with the children. Her appearance, words and gestures were non-threatening. She had made friends with them. At Cana, she manifested the same presence by her deep concern for the bridegroom. She saw a need. She begged her Son to do something about the situation: *“they have no wine!”* With an active faith, open to whatever her Son would do, she said to the servants: *“do whatever he tells you.”*

Confronting Words

- 1- In what aspect do you resemble Mary in giving service to your brothers?
- 2- Does our presence, personal and collective, give the ‘Good News’ to others?

Day Three

Invitation

The Event

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

Fully reassured by these words, the children hurried to meet her.

The Word

Mt. 14:27-29: *“Jesus spoke to them at once. ‘Courage! ... It’s me! Don’t be afraid.’ It was Peter who answered: ‘Lord’ he said,, ‘if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.’ Jesus said, ‘Come.’”*

Reflection

The word “come’ calls and invites someone to enter into a relationship. It offers hospitality, friendship and dialogue. It drives away fear ... *“don’t be afraid, it is I.”* It also solicits faith and trust and leads to celebration - Agape. The assurance of his invitation “Come’ and his presence made Peter feel secure, as the two children were at La Salette! ... *“they approached so near to her that another person could not have passed between them and her.”*

Confronting Words

- 1- How do we welcome our confreres in our communities, in our parishes, in our missions and ministries?
- 2- As one La Salette family, do we really feel at home with one another? If yes, why? If not, why not?

Day Four

Listening

The Message

"Six days, I have given you to labor, the seventh, I have kept for myself, ... and they will not give it to me... I gave you a warning last year... but you did not heed it."

The Word

"... No one listened and paid attention. Instead you became stubborn and more rebellious than your ancestors..."
(Jer 7:27)

Reflection

Today we seem to have lost the art of listening. The noise of our technological society has diminished our ability to listen, to be able to communicate in real dialogue. In spite of the certitude revealed to us: *"This is my beloved Son, listen to him"* (Mk 9 7), we remain impassive, stubborn and rebellious! Dialogue pre-supposes two partners who are entirely free. But the respect for our freedom renders the All Powerful God defenceless in the presence of our constant and obstinate refusal of all His initiatives. Mary's tears at La Salette remind us of the pain of His rejected love. She came to La Salette to present to us the tragedy of this dialogue of love between God and man!

Confronting Words

- 1- Have I made real efforts to listen? How? When and Where?

Day Five

Understanding

The Message

*"Don't you understand, my children?
Let me find another way to say it."*

The Word

*"Why do you not understand what I say? Because you cannot bear
to listen to my words."
(Jn 8:43)*

Reflection

In communication, understanding clearly the issue leads to free choice and a good decision. Mary, at La Salette, sensed that the children had difficulties in understanding the words "*spoiled potatoes.*" She adjusted to their needs: "*Ah, ... Let me find another way to say it.*" She then expressed herself in their local dialect. In the same way, and in a more profound manner, God has revealed to us his plan of salvation in Jesus Christ: "*The Word became flesh, and dwelt amongst us.*" (Jn 1:14) Jesus was the best and most concrete way of articulating His plans and feelings for us. On the contrary, we often fail to recognize Him in our daily being and doing: "... because you cannot bear to listen to my words." This is also echoed in the message at La Salette.

Confronting Words

- 1- How can our 'being' and 'doing' help others understand the La Salette Message?
What creative efforts have we done in this regard?

Day Six

Memory

The Message

"You don't remember... 'Ah, yes, answered Maximin, now I remember. Just then, I didn't remember!"

The Word

Matthew 16:9 ... recalling the event ... *"Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand and the number of baskets you collected?"*

Reflection

Our memories help recall what has been! Mary, patient and sensitive in pursuing her conversation with the two children helped bring to memory the "wheat that is spoilt ... at the farm in Coin." Food is one of men's basic needs; and Jesus mindful of this need *"... took the seven loaves of bread ... giving thanks ... broke ... all ate as much as they wanted."* (Mt 15:36-37).

Confronting Words

- 1- What are some memories that bring good feelings and thoughts to you? that bring pain?
- 2- Do these memories help you to experience the immanent presence of God in your life?

Day Seven

Signs of the Times

The Message

"I warned you last year with the potatoes. You paid no heed ..."

The Word

Sirach 40:8-10: presents the ordeal ... *"For all creatures, human and animal - and seven times more for sinners - there is death and blood and strife and the sword, disasters, famine, affliction, plague. These things were created for the wicked, and the Flood came because of them."*

Reflection

God, solicitous of our human condition and needs, communicates His designs and will through signs manifested in creation and the daily events of our life. Mary, at La Salette, spoke of the "spoiled potatoes" as a sign of man's political and economic manipulation of earth's goods that bring hunger and death to millions of men and women, who are all children on our planet 'earth'. At the Apparition, Mary in the tradition of the prophets exhorts us to turn away from our sins!

Confronting Words

- 1- How do we administer and share our material and economic resources for the common good?

Day Eight

Mission

The Message

“Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people,”

The Word

“Jesus said to them, Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.”

(Jn 20:21)

Reflection

The mission of the Church today has not changed: to proclaim the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ to the whole world. But the good news of salvation needs to be concretized and presented in many ways, according to specific times and places. The La Salette event is a unique, creative and powerful way in proclaiming the Good News. The total person of Mary is involved in this mission: her abundant tears of concern, her compassion and her burning desire to put Christ in the center of our life; all these impel us to do the same.

Confronting Words

- 1- Are our life-styles and apostolic ministries relevant and effective in proclaiming the message of Reconciliation today?

Day Nine

Celebration and Sharing

Celebrating life together gives a feeling of belonging. The Eucharist is Celebration of Thanksgiving, an Agape. It is the center and summit of our Christian life! On this, the ninth day of the Novena, we propose some concrete activities to share the Eucharist with our confreres.

The La Salette family with their lay associates and parishioners may embark in one of the following activities:

- a- A special Eucharistic celebration to culminate the Novena.
- b- Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- c- Organize mobile teams to bring and share the Message of La Salette through the arts, dramas, music, songs and dances: a video tape on the event of the Apparition on September 19, 1846.
- d- Organized Forums on the Message.
- e- Organize a Pilgrimage to a La Salette Shrine found in the local communities.
- f- Days of Recollection and Vigils.

"This is the Day the Lord has Made! Let us Rejoice and be Glad!"
(Ps 118:24)