

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE
MARCH 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.

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.

First Day

Massive Migrations

La Salette

Poverty made Maximin and especially Melanie leave their homes and "migrate" to other people's houses. That's how we find them September 19, 1846.

Biblical Reference

"Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field until everything belongs to them and they are the sole inhabitants of the land." (Is 5,8)

Reflection

In Latin America, men and women and children are forced to migrate from fields to cities or from one country to another looking for work and food. Sometimes a husband leaves alone, forced to live away from his wife for a long period of time and thus a lot of families disintegrate. Today, situations of suffering like this make the Beautiful Lady weep. It's the sin symbolized by the chains. Reconciliation consists in conversion: changing the wealth of a few to opportunities and bread for so many poor.

Questions

1. What are some of the sufferings many families experience that make them migrate?
2. What relationship exists between spiritual reconciliation and material reconciliation focussing on migrating families?

Second Day

Working Women

La Salette

"For how long a time do I suffer for you...However much you do, however much you pray, you will never be able to recompense the pains I have taken for you."

Biblical Reference

"As he stood in the Temple, he was watching the rich tossing their gifts into the collection box. The a poor widow came by and dropped in two small copper coins. "Really," he remarked. "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them combined."(Lk 21, 1-4)

Reflection

The majority of Latin American women, especially the poorest, are doubly exploited and marginalized. First, because they are poor; second, because they are women. Notwithstanding this reality, they are the ones who work the most and are capable of giving up their very lives for the well being of their children. Even so, this work is not always well accepted by their husbands and much less by the "macho" society in which we live.

Questions

1. What are my feelings about the exploitation and marginalization of women? How do I judge this reality?
2. As a La Salette, how can I contribute to reconcile this situation? What can I do to change it and build the Kingdom of God?

Third Day

Marian Devotion

La Salette

"Come near my children, do not be afraid. I have come to tell you great news."

Biblical Reference

"Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother and His mother's sister, Mary wife of Clopas and Mary of Magdala. Seeing His mother and the disciple He loved standing near her, Jesus said to His mother, "Woman, this is your son. Then to the disciple He said, "This is your mother". And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his house." (Jn 19, 25-27)

Reflection

Since Mary of La Salette made a place for the disciple that Jesus loved in her heart, she has never stopped helping us, inspiring joy and hope, showing us the motherly face of God in a suffering continent.

In this way, our people have always felt the presence of God through the virgin of Guadalupe, Lujan, Copacabana, Aparecida and others. Mary symbolizes the total confidence of our people, the unity and respect of Latin American culture as she invites us to an intimate union with God the Father and Mother.

Questions

1. As La Salette Missionaries, how are we giving life to the Great News as we offer it to our people?
2. In which way do we share with our people their life experiences and their manifestations of love towards Mary?

Fourth Day

Dignity of the Human Person

La Salette

"Here, my child, eat some bread while we still have it this year. I don't know who will eat bread next year if the wheat continues to rotten,"

Biblical Reference

So as He stepped ashore, He saw a large crowd; and He took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and He set Himself to teach them at some length...so send them away...He replied, "Give them something to eat yourselves." (Mk 6,34-36)

Reflection

Periodically pain, suffering, hunger, lack of work, corruption, violation of human rights become realities in our lives. As reconcilers we can experience the compassion Jesus felt for his people. Compassion is an expression of our Latin American culture. We live compassion, living in solidarity with our people. The La Salette Missionary presence evokes the greatness of this dignity which we are called to defend and promote.

Questions

1. La Salette is a call to meditate on the dignity of the human being. How can we be reconcilers in the world we live in?
2. Aware of the different realities that bring about pain, suffering, etc, what are our reactions?

Fifth Day

Image of God

La Salette

"If they are converted, the stones will change to bread..." "Don't be afraid, my children..."

Biblical Reference

"God created man in the image of Himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female He created him." (Gn 1, 27)

"You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth." (Ef 4,22-24)

Reflection

In Latin America, we can see that the dignity of people is taken lightly and that the "image" of God is disregarded and ignored. The important thing in our world is to produce and to use. Like so many things, the human person becomes an object of economy. the Church's mission consists in calling the People of God to a sincere conversion. We must put on the "New Man."

Questions

1. In the third world, full of so much misery and injustice, how can we recuperate our dignity?
2. As reconcilers, how can we shake the human conscience, make it aware of this reality and fight to recuperate everyone's dignity as persons and as God's People?

Sixth Day

As Created Beings

La Salette

"Do you pray well, my children"?

Biblical Reference

"I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you therefore to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selfishness, gentleness and patience". (Ef 4,1-2)

Reflection

Nowadays the different slaveries that oppress and denigrate the human being and our peoples are continually growing in number and ever more alarming. The search for pleasure in anything money can buy has led the family to disintegration. Division is a characteristic of capitalistic society and the distribution of wealth falls into the hands of only a few. The scandalous and sad reality of fratricidal wars...

What can one do when faced with so many evils that take away a person's identity as a human being.

Man needs to discover the origin of his own identity if he is to preserve and defend it. The source and origin of his dignity is God Himself, Father and Mother. Coming nearer to Him is at the same time coming closer to the truth of Man-Woman in his or her very being, free from all slaveries, able to love and be loved.

Questions

1. Nowadays, what behaviors annul the dignity of the children of God?
2. What can I do to promote that dignity?

Seventh Day

Human Dignity

Biblical Reference

"What is man that you should spare a thought for him, the son of man that you should care for him? Yet you have made him a little less than a god." (Sal 8,4-6)

Reflection

Man and woman were created a little less than a god. The Word of God assures us of this. And God takes care of them and loves them. Even though we often don't believe it, God gave man and woman a great dignity, a great value. This includes the person who picks cotton from morning till night; or the woman who cleans floors in order to give her 11 children something to eat. These are the ones the world thinks of as not very worthy, as having very little culture, those who can be discarded; those who won't be rewarded in this world but hope with all their hearts for a better world and an eternal reward because they believe that God is always faithful to His Word. These are the ones invited by God to participate in His creative, dynamic force, in the divine mission of making the Kingdom of God grow here on earth, forming family, community and Church. Man shares God's glory and splendor because God wants it that way. God's love towards man is unlimited. Our Lady of La Salette also chose the two poor children to be missionaries when she recommended: "Well, my children, you will make this message known to all my people."

Questions

1. What can be done to help man discover the great value that God put and sees in him?
2. Living closer to the poor and marginalized, how can we discover what mission God has entrusted to them?

Eight Day

Our Vocation

Biblical Reference

"When they rise from the dead, men and women do not marry; no they are like the angels in heaven. Now about the dead rising again, have you never read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the Bush, how God spoke to him and said: 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? He is God, not of the dead, but of the living. You are very much mistaken.'" (Mk 12, 25-27)

Reflection

Man's vocation, giving him the privilege to construct his own destiny, implies that he has access to all the means permitting him to grow in dignity. In a world in which one third of humanity suffers from hunger; where education is far away from being a human right in practice, where structures created by cold technocracy are socially inhuman, very unjust because not everyone can participate in the sharing of riches, we, who profess to be believers, must sustain and defend a vision of man received through the light of our faith.

God calls man to life and not to death, to resurrection and not to the grave. It's a fact that we often make mistakes backing up laws forbidding assistance to those who are not "of our flock". Fanaticism to preserve or recuperate ethnic domination, leading nations to fratricidal wars, giving priority to "economic priority" at the price of denying to so many the right to work, to be educated, to health... This fanaticism invites us, making this novena to Mary of La Salette, to include everyone in our economic, political, social and religious practice, respecting, as Mary respected Maximin and Melanie, everyone's potential without exception. We were not born to die; we were born to live.

Questions

1. Do the catechists, preaching and teachings given in our communities really lead us to reflect on man's dignity?
2. To sum up: Do our political and social decisions, the candidates we vote, the laws we back up, show that we truly believe all men are equal before God who is God not of the dead but of the living? (Mk 12, 27)

Ninth Day

God and the Poor

Biblical Reference

"You, Israel, my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen descendant of Abraham my friend. You who I brought from the confines of the earth and called from the ends of the world; you to whom I said: 'You are my servant, I have chosen you, not rejected you...' (Is 41,8-13)

Reflection

The Revelation of God, God of history and life, as a merciful judge who presents Himself as defender of the poor and marginalized, was the reason why prophets assumed the vocation of proclaiming God's paternity and chose to be God's voice as a clear and sharp voice proclaiming justice and peace, speaking against all wars and injustices in relation to their life as members of God's people and also to their relationship with other nations.

The Church's concern of proclaiming the Gospel to the whole world makes her announce the Good News of Jesus to the poor, the sinners and marginalized. (see Lk 15, 21-24). At La Salette Mary's message "Make it known to all my people" shows her constant preoccupation for the socio-political reality in which she incarnates herself, inviting us to assure equal rights based on god's love for all. (Acts 2,44-47)

Puebla is the course of a Church committed to man's integral situation. Man cannot be absorbed by materialism. The Church must assume man in his double dimension and obligation: relation to God (to love God) and relation to brethren (love of neighbor). This doctrine must be applied to the rapidly changing situations of our world. Ever since the Encyclical "Rerum Novarum" appeared, this doctrine has found new strength in announcing and denouncing because the Encyclical was a new way of expounding the social teaching of the Church. (Lk 10, 29-37)

Questions

1. How do we support human dignity in our communities?
2. How do we try to dignify the less favored and undeveloped countries?