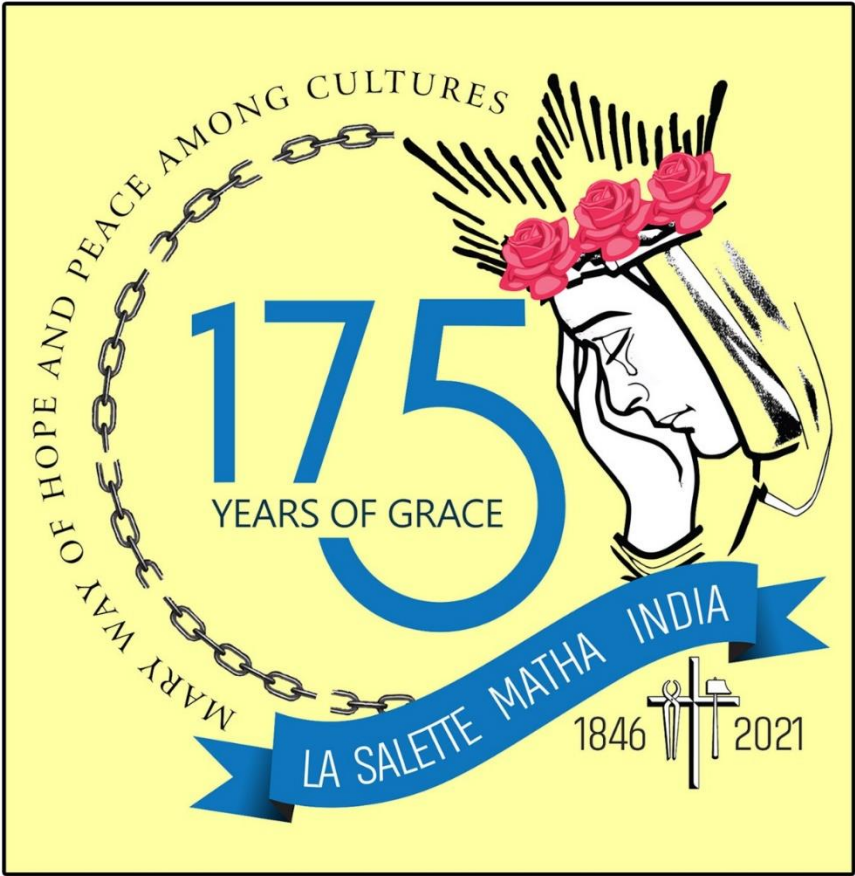


**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE
MAY 2021**



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.

Day One:

The Church as a Community of Believers

Apparition Text:

"Come closer, my children; don't be afraid. I am here to tell you great news."

Biblical Text:

-Acts 2: 42 *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."*

-Acts 4: 32 *"The community of believers were of one heart and one mind. None of them ever claimed anything as his own; rather, everything was held in common."*

Meditation:

-The Church as a community of believers, heirs to the faith and gospel values of Jesus, is marked by the economical, political, social and cultural context. This is the context of the praxis of Christian life.

-Out of love, the church like Our Lady, identifies with "my people". She feels responsible for what is happening to her people. "I have suffered for you." "The pains I have taken for you."

Reflection:

- 1- In what way has my faith been able to animate the whole community so that we can be of one mind and heart?
- 2- In what way can I help strengthen the spirit of discipleship in community? Do I seriously feel responsible for the salvation of my brothers so that, by my witnessing, I exhort others to persevere in faith and in commitment?

Day Two:

The Church is for the Reign of God

Apparition Text:

"If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son."

Biblical Text:

-Mark 1: 15 *"This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is a hand! Reform your lives and believe in the gospel!"*

Meditation:

-Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom as a gift of God - a gift of salvation. This Kingdom has already broken into our world by the word and works of Jesus, in the person of Jesus.

-*"The Kingdom of God is promised to those who do the will of the Father, to those who serve 'the least' of Christ's brothers and sisters. We must seek the Kingdom of God and His justice as the supreme priority. We must be prepared to give up everything that might compromise this pursuit of the Kingdom. Hence, the Kingdom of God is a task, a project." (PCP II*, Part II, #42-43)* Truly, the Church is for the Reign of God. Like Mary, she is a servant and a promise fulfilled.

Reflection:

- 1- Am I a life-giving and life-sustaining person like Mary, who submits herself to the will of the Father for the Reign of God?
- 2- Christ is a man for others. Am I like Him?

(* Acts and Decrees of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, 20 January - 17 February 1991)

Day Three:
The Reign of God is at once Cosmic and Historical

Apparition Text:

"If they are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat, and potatoes will be self-sown."

Biblical Text:

-Genesis 1: 31 *"...and God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."*

-1 Cor. 15: 28 *"From then on, God will be all in all."*

Meditation:

-*Sometimes, we tend to have a very parochial and/or local mentality. We look at life and mission in terms of territories and institutions. Why don't we, instead open our windows, broaden our horizons of believing and living, and refound our charisms. Let us look at history through the eyes of God.

-*We need to be La Salettes who work towards transformation and renewal. Yes, of conversion, as persons, as religious, as a Pilgrim church.

-*Ecology - Earth and Nature revolt against man's greed and abuse. This revolt is a cleansing and a reminder that "unless we are converted...

-*Mary - a child of history; was in touch with the socio-eco-political situation of her times (e.g. census in Nazareth, exile in Egypt, Roman imperialism; at La Salette, the dawning of Communism, effects of the Industrial Revolution, First World War).

-She mysteriously and maternally draws all peoples because she carries within her our Hope, the Good News that "if we are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat..."

Reflection:

1-Do we think as a Congregation? Or do we prefer to remain secure in the unthreatening confines of our locales and Provinces?

2- Do we respect the giftedness of life and nature?

3- Like Mary, are we sensitive to the signs of our times?

Day Four:

The Church is Inculturated in the Here and Now

Apparition Text:

"How long a time I have suffered for you!"

Biblical Text:

Mt. 1:23 *"...and he will be called Emmanuel, which means: God-with-us.*

Meditation:

-We are evangelizers who are immersed in the life pulse and heart stories of our people. And while we are cognizant and critical of cultures of corruption and sin, we are nevertheless aware of our vocation to assimilate, renew, revitalize the richness of our heritage according to our Gospel values.

-Let us make everyone at home in the Gospel, and the Gospel at home in everyone.

-Mary appeared at La Salette (and in all her apparitions, for that matter) in the local dress and gave her message in the local dialect. She was very much a part of her culture, and yet her message was universal.

-For faith to mature in love, it must be interiorized. Church teachings and practices must be personally appreciated and appropriated by us, as a people with our own particular cultures, with our own ways of thinking and valuing. By way of an example, faith must take root in the matrix of our Filipino being so that we may truly believe and love as Filipinos. (PCP II #72)

Reflection:

- 1- Are we "at home" with our communities?
- 2- Are our ministries a reflection of our inculturated lives and visions?
- 3- Like Mary, are we local enough to be understood, and yet universal enough to transform?

Day Five:

The Church in Interreligious dialogue (Its Relationship with other Sects, Religions, and Cultures)

Apparition Text:

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

Biblical Text:

John 17:22 *"I have given them the glory you gave to me that they may be one."*

Meditation:

-*The evangelizing mission of the Church necessitates a continual and ongoing interaction with other faiths through education, dialogue, and ecumenical services.

-*Religious and cultural baggages can be obstacles to mission. But through dialogue we reach out to others "to see the ray of that Truth which enlightens all men" (Nostra Aetate #2)

-*As we grow in deeper appreciation of our faith, may we be so inspired by Our Mother's example of reaching out via her apparition, so that, we, too may reach out in openness towards understanding the religious convictions of others.

Reflection:

- 1- Have I taken time and effort to deepen my understanding of the tenets of my faith?
- 2- Am I "catholic" enough to see God's hand in every religious conviction I encounter? Am I even interested in what they have to share?
- 3- What moves have I/the Community taken to collaborate with other faiths?

Day Six:

The Church of the Poor

Apparition Text:

"Do you say your prayers well, my children?" "Hardly ever, Madam."

"A great famine is coming..."

Biblical Text:

-John 6: 1-13 (*Jesus feeding the hungry multitude*)

-Mt. 10: 7-15 *"Take nothing (extra) with you..."*

Meditation:

-*The world that fails to recognize the value and importance of God is experiencing poverty.

-*Each day, we are called to renew our commitment to opt and to love the "little ones", the poor and marginalized of our societies (preferential option for the poor). This is an essential option of christian faith, an obligatory choice. Eternal salvation depends on the living out of a love of preference for the poor because the poor and the needy bear the privileged presence of Christ. (PCP II, #312)

-We are not here to preach to them, but to love those to whom we preach. Through a dialogue of life, we learn the gift of "blessedness" (Beatitudes). For the poor are not just recipients, they are also active participants in our mission.

-Ultimately, with our Lady, we strive to build a Church "where no one is so poor as to have nothing to give, and no one so rich as to have nothing to receive." (PCP II, Message of Bishop Legaspi)

Reflection:

- 1- Does our ministry flow from an interior life of prayer and silence?
- 2- In our evangelization, are our preferences really pro-poor?
- 3- Do I live a simple lifestyle? Or am I encumbered by worldly concerns and possessions? Do I really need all that I now possess?

Day Seven:

A Church that is Liberating

Apparition Text:

"If they are converted... ... pray more."

Biblical Text:

-Exodus 3: 7-8 *"I have seen the affliction of my people...
...I have come down to free them."*

Meditation:

-Today, there is too much poverty even in the midst of too much wealth
- selfishness, greed, and materialism are entrenched in the hearts of people and unjust structures. We declare that Reconciliation includes both the transformation of hearts and the transformation of structures.
-"Pray well," Our Lady admonishes so that we may be, indeed converted. Our prayer calls us to a La Salette way of life: from selfishness to selflessness; from greediness to giftedness; from materialism to the values of the Kingdom.

Reflection:

- 1- Do we pray well enough for our own conversion? Do our prayers make us more zealous and lead us to greater penance?
- 2- Are our ministries liberating? Or are we just satisfied with the status quo - indifferent to the pains of our people and apathetic before unjust situations and oppressive structures?

Day Eight:

A Church Called to Justice

Apparition Text:

"I gave you six days to work; I kept the seventh for myself, and no one will give it to me."

Biblical Text:

Luke 20:25 *"...then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."*

Meditation:

-Our call to faith today is a call to justice because the vision of a new humanity of freedom, fellowship and justice is confronted with an actual world where there is poverty, oppression, inequality, unfreedom, injustice, violence and hatred.

-Our life today is a call to the Eucharist. When Our Lady was talking about worship she was talking about the Eucharist. If we are not being rooted - in being a "bread of life" - we become poison to one another. We remain in the vicious circle of consumeristic, opportunistic, unjust and oppressive relationships. -If we truly believe that we are "bread of life", then we can be truly just to our brothers.

Reflection:

- 1- Do we labor for profit or do we work to proclaim more profoundly the WORD of GOD?
- 2- Do we offer enough opportunities to our brothers and sisters to grow in freedom in the fullness of being?

Day Nine:

A Prophetic Church

Apparition Text:

"...make this known to all my people..."

Biblical Text:

John 8:3-11 *"...nor do I condemn you. You may go. But from now on, avoid this sin."*

Meditation:

-*As prophetic reconcilers, we shall never be afraid to speak the truth, make sacrifices and confront the evil of the times in spite of the threat and danger of one's life for the sake of God's Kingdom.

-*As prophetic reconcilers, we shall remove the spirit of fear that paralyzes the weak in order to instill hope, courage and trust in God.

-*As prophetic reconcilers, we shall protect and defend human life and its values, and be on the side of the weak, the underprivileged and the oppressed.

Reflection:

- 1- Do we still have our prophetic zeal as La Salette reconcilers? (Did we have any, in the first place?)
- 2- Am I honest and sincere to Christ in my life and in my service to other people?
- 3- Like Mary, are our lives a proclamation event, an apparition of God's Good News?