

**NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE
JUNE 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

An Intimate Call

"Come near my children, do not be afraid."

"Do not live in fear little flock, it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom."(Luke 12:32)

Mary's call echoes a theme at the heart of the gospel. She listened and responded to Gabriel's reassuring voice. Shepherds proclaimed what angels heralded as peace. Jesus himself gave courage and strength to his followers in words pronouncing friendship and intimacy with his Abba, bringing peace to anxious hearts. He proclaimed our interdependence with God with tenderness towards God's children whom he blesses for their insight into the giftedness of the kingdom. We suffer most when we forget the profound wisdom of who our provider is.

Mary's message at La Salette is a call to a deep intimacy with God which brings reconciliation by its power to draw us from fear to courage, from despair to hope, out of ourselves into a communion of reconciling love.

As today's children of God may we relearn the lessons of reconciling intimacy, recognize our need for God, overcome our fear of this world and 'take courage' in Christ's victory. Helping this 'good news' become a lived reality is our apostolic call to reconciliation. Let us again open the 'locked doors' of our lives as we hear Christ's familiar words echo in our hearts: 'Peace be with you.' Only in this intimacy can we boldly go forth.

- What hinders my intimacy with God?
- How do I express my union with God?

Prayer: Lord, may I have a consciousness of your tangible presence, as I learn how to have an inner peace in intimate union with you through my relationships with others. May I be calm in order that you may work in me.

Day Two A Summons to Pray

“Do you pray well, my children?”

“Lord, teach us how to pray.” (Lk.11:1-4)

Mary’s words at La Salette teach us that to draw near to her and her son we must learn to communicate our needs, hopes, fears and joys. Prayer is a powerful means of reconciliation! This too was Christ’s wish for all: the oneness of mind and heart he had with his ‘Abba’ which is only possible only through the prayer which enlivened him. Effective prayer for Jesus was based in a trust in the Father’s promise to hear and answer all. Speaking, listening, responding, receiving and giving, these are its context and content. our search for meaning and direction, for unity and intimacy are made verbally flesh in prayer.

In praying we hear the call to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters that together we might bring the gifts such a power offers-peace, patience and forgiveness, into a divided world.

At La Salette, Mary knew this search so well, and to our human quest, taught us anew the two most powerful prayers steeped in the gospel and calling us to reconciliation: the Our Father and the Hail Mary. Prayers of need, hope, grace, intimate love and energizing care. Caught up in this world’s business we can forget these simple but profound expressions of our deepest lives. Mary teaches us that in our weakness we have a Spirit-filled advocate to enliven us once again.

- How do I keep my prayer life from becoming a mere routine?
- What does my prayer life express about me?

Prayer: Lord, may I not interfere with the working of your Spirit within me.

May I know that your love will never fail. Grant me confidence in your intimate love and energizing care.

Day Three

A Call to Solitude

'The children saw the Lady seated alone.'

"He went up on the mountain by himself to pray, when it was evening he was there alone." (Matthew 14:23)

At La Salette, Mary mirrors a lifetime of understanding the plight of the lonely. She experienced the depths of loneliness in her own life. Chosen to bear Christ she knew the pain of misunderstanding, the hurt of ignorant gossip, the isolation of bearing a truth beyond belief. The 'swords of sorrow' would prophetically pierce her heart and she alone would experience the full force of her Son's self-gift. Mary believed in the shattering of life's loneliness by her Son. His intimate strength would frighten desolation to death in every day and age. She knew that as loneliness still stings the world, the 'good news' preached would inspire a healing communion of hearts, and called us to this reconciling mission.

In and through moments of solitude, when God speaks to us heart to heart, we can experience the appeal of reconciling love reaching out and calling us to sense the urgency to share with the lonely the power of such intimate care.

Like her Son, Mary knew that loneliness and solitude were not the same. Jesus's familiarity with God was intimately found in moments of solitude and he taught its power. If we follow his way of prayer in our call as reconcilers, the burdens borne in this lonely world will be lifted and lightened by the strength of solidarity. Mary, in like manner, came to La Salette, so that all might rediscover how to speak to the forlorn a word of comfort, a message of care. May our solitude in intimate prayer lead us to this same apostolic end.

-How do I deal with loneliness in my life?

-What place in my life do I make for times of solitude and silence before God?

Prayer: Lord, make me conscious of your support today. May I rest safe and sure therein as my burdens are lifted and lightened by the strength of solidarity met in my brothers and sisters and with those most in need.

Day Four

A Summons to Discipleship

“How long a time do I suffer for you?”

“Can you drink the cup of which I drink?” (Mt. 20: 20-28)

Christ, the model reconciler, calls us to the imitation of his life and our discipleship becomes a committed response to follow his ‘way’ into the mystery of reconciliation.

Mary’s words are an echo of a love so familiar in her life with Jesus that Simeon prophesied her own ‘sword of discipleship’ as imitation. To follow we must allow our lives to be broken and pierced so that life will flow again. This imitation is our reconciling call: ‘Take up your cross and follow’ Discipleship implies sharing in all the ‘blessed’ experiences of the Master: joy, pain, grief, giving, hope, hurt, pain sorrow, love, insult and acclamation. These human experiences cannot be foreign to us who hope to ‘share in his divinity’. This course of life will free the lonely and bound and immerse them in the baptism of intimate, reconciling care.

Mary knew this cost of ‘peacing’ together, of making whole, the lives of those shattered by loneliness and alienation. She proclaimed in her life the patience and generosity needed, the conversion and metanoia of those called to reconciliation and to be suffering servants of her Son.

-How is my discipleship and imitation of Christ?

-How is my ministry one of reconciling love?

Prayer: Lord, may I have a sincere willingness to give, not holding for myself alone the baptismal strength I have received. May I never become discouraged in helping others in the work of ‘peacing’ together, in the intimate reconciliation of self. May I always rely on your power to help me.

Day Five

Sin and Reconciliation

“These are the things that make the arm of my son so heavy.”

“He stretched out his arms between heave and earth in the everlasting sign of the covenant.” (Eucharistic Prayer or Reconciliation I)

Calling out to us in Calvary consciousness, Mary knew that sin burdens even the strongest. She stood prophetically in the tradition that realized that to break the bonds of oppression and slavery we must reach out to all and bear the burdens of liberation. Mary recalled in her words what effort and energy were needed to break the chains of sin and so free the arms of God’s children to stretch out in reconciling love. To make reconciliation a reality we must support one another, lift each other up and be free to embrace the lonely, doubting, hurting and fearful through healing acts. These lessons we must relearn as we are called to be reconcilers.

As Moses stretched out his arms in acts of liberation and found support in his burden; as God’s ‘strong right arm’ of protection, love and forgiveness was celebrated and recalled, and as Christ’s arms were stretched out in healing to extend God’s Sabbath rest to all, we must as reconcilers keep these ‘dangerous memories’ alive in our acts, lest in forgetfulness we increase the strain of love by the burden of sin.

The ‘sins of the world’ often present themselves as an attraction, luring us away, keeping us at arm’s length from a life lived in communion. The reconciling love of Christ, modeled on the cross, calls out to us to reach out in forgiveness, to hold one another in an embrace of peace.

-In my life, how do I experience the burden of sin?

-How do I lift up and ease the burdens of others weighed down by sin?

Prayer: Lord, I pray that I may serve as a channel for your power to come into the lives of others. May I try to understand and walk with them as I reflect on my own sinfulness and need of reconciliation. Let your loving thoughts effectively work through my thoughts.

Day Six

A Call to Worship

“Six days I have given you to labor, the seventh I have kept for myself.”

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”
(Mk.2: 27)

Mary reminds us that the call to worship the One who created all and saved us by his sacred name comes from the urging of restless hearts to seek rest in the God who created all 'good'. Jesus gave us pause to see that worship is not simply localized in one place or day, but in our love and service of all who bear God's 'good' mark. In our care for God's creation, our wise stewardship becomes worship. In our service to our 'neighbor in need' we offer living praise. Authentic worship of God is framed by the call to be reconciled with our neighbors in need, with the depth of the divine in us and with the world 'groaning' in incompleteness as it waits for our response if reconciling wisdom. True worship is formed when we are united in a liturgy overflowing in works of justice and peace. The summit of worship and prayer is found in the love we bear for all God's creation brought into being by God's Spirit.

This recognition of the sacramental nature of all creation is essential to our call as reconcilers and becomes the catalyst of daily devotion. The presence of the 'Spirit of Truth' will guide us wisely to the 'place' of worship. We need to pray, and united few or many, we are assured of God's presence. Coming to the sacred places of worship we can experience a sense of peace in an all too hectic world. Respect for God's presence in all creation is the source of our worship and renewal. It takes courage to worship in and with my neighbor, but here God is found.

-How do I worship God in the way I live?

-How can I make my public prayer life more effective?

Prayer: Lord, I pray for a truly thankful heart. May I be constantly reminded of all the causes for sincere gratitude in all of creation. Let me be in harmony with the music of the spheres as I worship God in and with my neighbor.

Day Seven

The Language of Tears

She was seated on a stone weeping.

“Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be comforted.”
(Lk.6: 21)

The language of tears is an urgent call to make effective the power and promise of reconciliation. We cannot stand silent and helpless in the face of such an intimate appeal.

Tears speak: 'What have I done?', "Forgive me", "How deeply I must be loved", "What can I do?". Tear-talk lies deep in the gospel as the language of our Lord: weeping over Jerusalem, as the cost of love in Gethsemene, as the power of care for Lazarus. Jesus taught us the language of touch, tone and tear. The depths of our emotional life become the content of a powerful dialogue, speaking volumes to those in need of hope and life. Tears flow from reconciling lives called to love with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. In Christ, God reaches out to us in actions, touch and feelings as well as words. Jesus gave our tears the power to move hearts and minds like no other language: Mary Magdalene seeking forgiveness, the widow of Nain begging solace, Peter repentant, Paul pleading in love for greater life in Christ.

Jesus knew that tears, whether divine or human, had the power to break even the strongest hearts of stone and turn them into flesh. They can be the vehicle that brings compassion, healing, metanoia and hope. At La Salette Mary wept in answer to our tears and called us to be reconcilers fluent in this precious language of love.

-If my tears could talk what would they say?

-How do I respond to the tears I encounter from others?

Prayer: Lord, I pray that I may be conscious of your support today, not keeping my eyes forever downcast. In the midst of storms may I be calm, confident in faith and hope, trusting in your response. I pray that I may be a vehicle of compassion, healing, metanoia and hope for your People.

Day Eight

The Call to Heal

"If my people are converted the wheat and potatoes will be plentiful."

"I came that you might have life and have it in abundance." (John 10: 10)

Mary knew that healing and conversion walk hand in hand and that together they provide the basis for the abundance of God's life to flow into the world. Christ healed as a response to belief found in tears, touch, actions and words. The courage to believe in him included his power to forgive and bring wholeness. Conversion to this belief in Christ is the first step to being made well and whole again. For Jesus, this conversion was our response to God's will to answer all our needs.

If conversion brought the miracle of healing, healing insured the abundance of life and reconciliation. So touched, we are called to respond in kind. Our continued metanoia forms us as healers and reconcilers and in this life begins anew. The Pauline appeal: 'In Christ's name, be reconciled to God', is a call imploring us to bind up the wounds of the world and God's children in and by lives of reconciling action, expressing our hope in the promised fruits of an abundant life. We bring life to others by working the miracle of healing hurts and so bring an abundance of new hope to an eagerly awaiting world. The message of La Salette, calling us to be reconcilers, is thus a bold and clear reminder of our power in Him, to make our world whole and healthy again.

- Where in my life is there a need for conversion?
- How can I be an instrument of healing peace?

Prayer: Lord, I pray that I may keep myself open daily to your tangible healing touch as I experience it together with those around me. May I attune my spirit with the Spirit of the universe. Lord through faith and communion with you, may I receive the strength that I need to make the world whole and healthy again.

Day Nine

Faith, Call and the Message of Reconciliation

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

“Go therefore, make disciples of all nations...I am with you always.”

(Mt. 28:19-20)

Mary's mandate at La Salette recalls the commissioning of the disciples by her son. A call made in faith to encourage faith. His belief in the earthen vessels that hold his message was her belief to share: then, now, always! What do the messengers hold: God's intimate love to share, the oneness to be made ever active and alive and faith to make effective the healing of God's people and world.

Christ came to call forth faith and it is to this hope and promise-filled faith that Mary summons us to be reconcilers in the grace of La Salette. Belief begins to blossom in listening to the Good News with open ears and hearts; the temptation to doubt can be overcome and the world of fear, anxiety and distraction is conquered. Christ's faith is in us and our ability to carry out his mission-the same call he received from his 'Abba' With trust in this message and action on its behalf, the promise of eternal unity is ours to herald as those called into the depths of the mystery of reconciliation.

Faith in Christ and our call demand self and neighbor love. Growth in this love heals our troubled hearts and brings us to the reconciliation we are called to make known. At La Salette the Lord's belief in us is revealed again that we might not keep hidden what we have heard. The La Salette mandate is a reconciling call that forms our common life, a summons that frames our ministry and an energy that enfleshes our chosen charism. God's faith in our ability to be reconcilers is the grace that prompts us into action.

- Do I believe and act so as to show God's faith in me?
- How do I help others know that God believes in them?

Prayer: Lord, I pray that I may have faith to believe without seeing. May I so live that others will see in me the working out of your will. I pray that my life may be a lived demonstration of what your grace can accomplish. Be with me as I seek to make this my lifetime work.