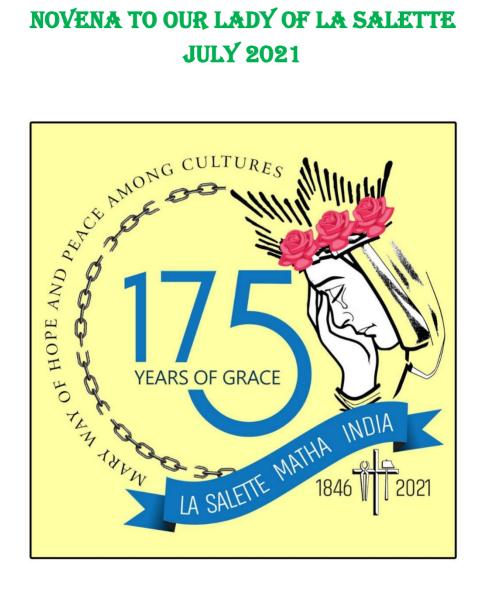
NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE **JULY 2021**



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 Real World: A World without Compassion

Opening Song

Leader: Brothers, joined in the spirit of being a La Salette community, we begin our Novena at this gathering. We will reflect on the compassion of God as revealed in Scripture and at La Salette. We are invited to live this compassion between ourselves and to witness it to the People of God. We begin ... 'In the name of the Father ... Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation' (2 Cor. 1\3).

All: Blessed be God now and forever!

Leader: Following the example of Mary at La Salette, we look at the reality of the today's world through the eyes of God. We will discover the forces of death in a world without compassion and, at the same time, hear our God, wounded by these oppressions, calling for compassion.

Reader 1: Today's world is hostile. It sacrifices everything on the altar of the 'god of business'. Economic profit determines the life of people as well as social and political alliances. It engenders the domination of some countries or classes of people; dependence and misery for others. The current process of globalization of the economy, with its totalitarian characteristics, privileges the few who become wealthier while the many become destitute.

Reader 2: Brotherhood and solidarity, justice and peace, life and human dignity are all destroyed. Wars, dictatorships, the trade of arms and drugs, forced migrations, genocide, oppression of minorities, racism and socio-religious discrimination, corruption and social violence cause sufferings that cry for compassion.

Leader: The Word of God denounces all states of sin, personal and social. It proclaims the necessity of conversion.

Reader 1: Ecclesiasticus 34\ 18 - 26.

Song of Forgiveness

Leader: God turns His gaze to the weak and the oppressed. He has an affection for the poor. His compassion always awakens hope for a new life and liberation. Jesus, seeing the multitude of poor who followed Him, "..took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6\ 34).

Song of Acclamation

Reader 2: John 10\ 7-18

Leader: God reveals His maternal compassion for His People through the tears of the Beautiful Lady at La Salette. Mary said: "How long a time I have suffered for you ...'. My brothers, glorify the Lord and our Mother of La Salette for their compassion. In their merciful love, they desire a full life for their People.

Song of Praise

Leader: We may now share our reflections:

- 1) Following the example of Jesus, do we allow ourselves to be touched by compassion in the face of the suffering found in today's world?
- 2) How do we approach the challenge of Reconciliation in today's world?

Day Two

God Sees the Suffering of His People

Opening Song

Leader: Brothers, welcome to this gathering in which we pray for ourselves and all our brothers and sisters. Today' world is hungry and thirsty to possess power and pleasure. It is without compassion. But our God is not like the gods of this world: 'they have eyes but do not see, ears but do not hear.' God, in His compassion has seen the pain of His people. He has heard their cry. He shared their passion and death during their slavery in Egypt. We celebrate His saving Love ... 'In the name of the Father ... May God embrace us with His tenderness!'

All: "Praised be God for His everlasting Love!'

Reader 1: Exodus 2\ 23 to 3\ 7.

Reader 2: The suffering of His People is not yet finished. It is prolonged in today's world by oppression. The 'pharaoh' continues to live and breathe through the idolatry of money, through the neoliberal ideology of our society of consumption and waste, and by dividing the world between the rich and the poor. The sufferings of millions who are impoverished in the Third and Fourth World and the masses of humanity who are excluded from a decent life is the greatest scandal of the 20th Century. Yesterday, it was the menace of the nuclear bomb. Today, the bomb is hunger. This hunger includes: not having the right to own land, to own a house, to have employment, an education, health and the right to life.

Reader 3: God continues to be compassionate to His People. Do we share this compassion? Are we aware that the greatest part of humanity lives in misery? Are we aware of their anguish? Or do we close our eyes and hearts so that the pain is not seen?

Time of Silence for Reflection

Leader: God, our Father, in His tenderness, once again, has looked upon His People and shares in their suffering. The Beautiful Lady at La Salette said: "How long a time I have suffered for you ... There will come a great famine ... Small children will die ..." Mary weeps over the tragedy that is the result of sin in the world. She urges her People to be reconciled. We invoke the Mother of Reconciliation by praying:

Side One: Mother, give us an understanding of the reconciling dimension of the 'option for the poor'.

Side Two: Give us an effective love that sees the 'poor' as being entitled to have their lives changed in our world.

Side One: Give us, as a community, an attitude to confront the oppression of consumer societies and dominating cultures.

Side Two: Give us the courage to struggle on the side of the poor against the poverty that dehumanises men and women.

Leader: As Missionaries of La Salette and at the service of a Reconciliation that frees people from sin, may we always have 'eyes' to see the pain of our people and to work so that everyone may live a decent life. Let us pray as Jesus and the Virgin at La Salette taught us: 'Our Father ... Hail Mary ... And may the blessing of the Life and Compassion of God descend upon us! AMEN'

Day Three

God Comes to Free His People

Opening Song

Leader: 'In the Name of the Father ...' Welcome! May the compassionate love of God, our Father, the grace and peace of Christ, our Brother, the sharing with His Holy Spirit of Life and the maternal presence of Mary be always with us!

All: Blessed be the God who has united us in the love of Christ and who sends us as Missionaries of Reconciliation.

Leader: The compassion of God entered our world in response to the cry of His People who were enslaved in Egypt. God saw their pain. He came to free them, to led them to a land of peace, liberty and dignity.

All: Great is our God. He frees His People and proclaims the Good News to us.

Song of Acclamation

Reader 1: Exodus 3\ 7 - 15.

Reader 2: The God of the Exodus, the God of the faith of our ancestors, is impassioned for His People. He sees their misery. He descends to be with them and experiences the very depths of their oppression. He stirs the hope of a new life and a co-responsibility in the work of freedom. He proposes a journey to a world of brotherhood. God descends and His coming is the beginning of His People's ascent to a Kingdom of Life in justice.

Leader: God descends once again at La Salette with Mary at His side. The Lord God renews the Good News of salvation in the hearts of His sons and daughters through the Beautiful Lady. He

shows again the way of Life to His People who are afflicted by tragedies that are the consequences of sin. He sees our situation and the urgency of conversion. Mary comes to announce the Good News of the compassion of our Saving God.

All: "I am here to give you marvelous news."

Reader 3: Mary is the Mother and Servant of the Lord and His People. Compassionately, she comes close to her poor ones, Maximin and Melanie. She invites them to draw near. She speaks to them in their local dialect. She welcomes them in their vulnerability and poverty. Through them, she welcomes all of her people, the poor and the sinful alike. She is saddened by the misery and asks for conversion. In turn, she intercedes for us. She asks her Son Jesus to guide us toward Reconciliation.

All: Blessed is the Lord, our God, our Deliverer!

Leader: We now meditate on the inexhaustible mercy and love of God. We are guided by the Word of God and the Message of Mary at La Salette and by sharing together our reflections:

- 1) How do we experience and witness the compassion of God in our La Salette Spirituality and in our Ministry of Reconciliation?
- 2) Does our spiritual experience of a compassionate God lead us to being compassionate in our communities and to the people we serve?

All: Chant or Recitation of Psalm 103 (102).

Day Four

God Establishes a Covenant with His People

Opening Song

Leader: Welcome, my brothers. May this gathering of our community make us more aware that we are of the People of God and we are to be of service to His People. 'In the name of the Father'

Reader 1: Scriptures tell us that God came to free His People and to establish a covenant with them. It was a covenant of life to be lived by one and all in the presence and the fear of the Lord.

All: "I shall take you as my people and I shall be your God.' (Exodus 6\ 7)

Reader 2: And He gave them a Rule of Life to transform them into a PEOPLE with freedom and dignity based on brotherhood and justice; a PEOPLE OF GOD living in piety and fidelity to the Lord. Moses "took the Book of the Covenant and read to the People who affirmed":

All: "We shall do everything that Yahweh has said: we shall obey' (Exodus 24\ 7).

Reader 3: Joshua called the people together and said: "So now, fear Yahweh, and serve Him truly and sincerely ... today you must make up your minds whom you do mean to serve ... as regards my family and me, we shall serve Yahweh" (Joshua 24\ 14 - 15). The people replied:

All: "Yahweh our God is the One whom we shall serve; His voice we shall obey' (Joshua 24\ 24).

Reader 1: And God says: "Follow the whole way that Yahweh has marked for you, and you will survive to prosper and live long...' (Dt. 5\ 33).

All: 'Happy are they who walk in the way of the Lord.'

Reader 2: And God said again: "Listen Israel: Yahweh our God is the one, the only Yahweh. You must love Yahweh your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let the words I enjoin on you today stay in your heart!' (Dt. 6\ 4 - 6).

All: Blessed is the Word of the Lord! Blessed is the one who lives it with love!

Leader: Jesus, Mediator and Reconcilier, Missionary of the compassionate Father, achieves a new and eternal Covenant of perfect Reconciliation by His life, death and resurrection. We proclaim his Word:

Song of Acclamation

Reader: John 15\ 7 - 17 and Mt. 26\ 26 - 28.

Quiet Time for Meditation

Leader: Mary said to her people at La Salette; "If my people do not submit ...' The Virgin, Mother of Reconciliation, weeps over the infidelity of her people to God and the Covenant. She calls her People to Reconciliation. She asks them to change their lives and live in harmony with the Covenant.

All: "Remember, O Lady of La Salette'

Leader: We may now share our reflections:

- 1) Our religious consecration is a covenant with God and our community. How do we live our religious life?
- 2) As a Missionary of La Salette, we are at the service of the covenant of God with His People. How do we fulfil our mission?

Day Five

God Calls His People to Conversion

Opening Song

Leader: My brothers, with Mary, let us welcome and cherish in our hearts the Word of the Lord that calls us to conversion. 'In the name of the Father May God, rich in mercy, the Source of Life and forgiveness, be always with us!'

All: Blessed be the Lord, the Source of all compassion and love!

Leader: The Word of God tells us that "in the past and by many means, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets but in our time, the final days, He has spoken to us in the person of His Son ...' (Hebrews 1\1 - 2). He calls us to conversion.

Reader 1: The Lord told us: Isaiah 1\2, 15b - 17.

All: Show us, O Lord, your grace and compassion (Isaiah 30\ 18).

Reader 2: The Lord again said to us: Hosea 4\1 - 3.

All: Lord, have mercy on your people!

Leader: God does not forget His People. God, although wounded in His love, is faithful to His Covenant with us. He searches for His unfaithful but beloved Spouse. He continually whispers ... 'Come Home!'

Reader 3: The Lord says in His reconciling compassion: Hosea 2\16, 21 - 22.

All: Lord, help us to change; we will live in your love!

Leader: God desires to establish a new Covenant written in the very hearts of His unfaithful People (Jer. 31\33). Reconciled, His People will have graces and prosperity, peace and security, an abundance of what is needed in daily life, justice and universal brotherhood. These are fruits of the renewed Covenant! This is God living with His People!

Leader: The Lord says again: Isaiah 32\ 15 - 20.

All: Blessed is the Lord for He is compassionate to His People!

Leader: Conversion is also the call of Jesus, Prophet of the Father.

Song of Acclamation

Reader 2: Mark 1\ 14 - 15.

Leader: Mary, in a prophetic stance at La Salette, speaks to her People in the name of God. She denounces the sins of the People. She weeps over their sufferings. As a Mother of Reconciliation, she invites her People to conversion ... if they convert, there will be an abundance of goods, new life and peace in their faithfulness to the Lord.

All: "If they are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat ..."

Leader: Let us share our prayers and reflections:

- 1) Compare the reality of the world of the Prophets, Jesus and La Salette with the world of today.
- 2) As a Missionary of La Salette, do we fulfil the Word of God and the Message of Mary?

Leader: God, unconditionally loving His People, demands

conversion from them. Paul also urges us by saying: "Reconcile yourselves to God!' (2 Cor. 5\ 20). May Mary be compassionate to us and give us the grace of conversion. Let us pray as she requested: "Our Father ... Hail Mary.'

Day Six

God Guides His People in becoming a Reconciled Community

Opening Song

Leader: Welcome to our time for prayer. We will be meditating on God's intention to guide His People and all peoples to a unity in diversity. The Hebrew people welcomed the call of God during their tragic slavery and exile in Egypt and Babylonia. They experienced His compassion in the restoration of life, freedom and peace. May the peace and understanding of the Holy Trinity, Source of Unity, be always with us!

All: Blessed be God who unites us in Christ through His Holy Spirit!

Leader: From all eternity God had a plan: to create a world of life, of goodness and of beauty for His People who would live in harmony with all creation.

Reader 1: The created world having woman and man at its center (Genesis 1 & 2) is the cosmic sacrament of God sharing His Love and Life.

All: To Him be glory and eternal praise!

Reader 2: Evil, the result of human pride, is structured in social and personal sin. It breaks the harmony of creation and gives rise to oppression and corruption, violence and death (Genesis 3 & 4).

All: Save us Lord for we have sinned!

Reader 3: And so, as humanity lived in darkness, God in His compassion brought forth a Light, the Faithful Servant, Who reinstates harmony through Reconciliation. He took upon Himself

the sufferings of the People with obedience and gentleness. It is through Him that the plan of God will triumph (Isaiah 53). For this reason, He has been empowered to be the LIGHT OF NATIONS for the re-establishment of a solidarity in justice, integrity and the fear of the Lord (Genesis 6\9).

All: We celebrate your glorious Name, O Lord our God!

Reader 4: In the fullness of time, the Father sent His Son to us, as Servant of God and His People. He was to fulfil the plan of salvation. Jesus, filled with the Spirit of the Lord, announced the Good News of the compassion of our reconciling God to the poor and the oppressed. Having fulfilled the will of the Father, Jesus confided to His disciples the mission of guiding all peoples to be one community in God.

Song of Acclamation

Reader 5: Matthew 28\ 16 - 20.

Silence and Time for Meditation

Leader: We may share our prayers at this time.

Leader: Mary, the Woman announced from the very beginning (Genesis 3\ 15), invites her People during her Apparition at La Salette to approach her. "Come closer, my children, do not be afraid! I am here to tell you great news!' Tearfully, the Beautiful Lady implores her compassionate Son. She calls her People to Reconciliation which is the path to unity; the ultimate plan of the Lord. By her maternal intercession, may we in our Congregation live fraternal community in the presence of the Father ... and may the blessing of the Lord descend upon us all! AMEN.

Day Seven

Jesus: The Human Face of a Compassionate God Opening Song

Leader: Welcome to this time of prayer. Together we celebrate the inexhaustible compassion of God for His People that expressed itself in Jesus Christ who lived among us. 'In the name of the Father ... May the tenderness of the Father, the Brotherhood in the Son and the Peace in the Holy Spirit be always with us!'

All: Blessed be God who has united us in the love of Christ!

Reader 1: The Gospels reveal that God became our Brother in Jesus, His Son. In Him, God the Father assumed a human Face: "The one who sees me sees the Father (John 14\9). The Life and the Word of Jesus is the Word-Life of the Father through His Holy Spirit. The compassion of Jesus towards the poor and the suffering is the expression of the mercy of our God. The forgiveness of Jesus is the sacrament of Reconciliation that the Father desires for all His children (Luke 15\11 - 32). The wounded love of the Father and the suffering of all who are excluded from Humanity is reflected on the disfigured Face of the Man of Sorrows (Mt. 25\31 - 46).

All: Show us your face, O Lord, and we shall be saved!

Reader 2: Jesus was touched by a deep compassion when He saw the multitudes who were hungry, whose expectations were betrayed and whose dignity was violated ... and yet, who trusted in His power. In the first miracle of the loaves (Mt. 14\13 - 21), He gathered His disciples and, with them, organized a service to sustain the life and journeying of His People. They distributed their food and showed a compassion that encouraged people to share with each other.

Song of Acclamation

Reader 1: Mark 6\ 30 - 44.

Reader 2: Today, the Face of the Suffering Servant is reflected in the face of the Indian and the Black, victims of discrimination; in the face of the peasant and the exploited worker, the marginalized woman, the child and the youth without a future, the abandoned old man, the multitudes who are hungry and without hope ... This is the Face of God and Father.

All: Blessed are those who have compassion for they will obtain mercy!

Reader 1: The Face of the Resurrected One is reflected in the eyes of those who are willing to seek God in their brothers and sisters; in the hearts of those who listen to the Word and live it daily; in the solidarity of the church community that brings about a path of hope by reconstructing a new society. To these, the Lord reveals Himself in the sharing of the Life and the Word, of the Bread and the Mission (Luke 24\ 13 etc.)

All: Let your Face shine upon us, O Lord! Leader: Let us now share our reflections:

- 1) Where does the Face of the Lord shine? ... in what kind of daily situations of our people?
- 2) Jesus welcomes the poor and the sinners. Whom do we welcome?

Leader: Mary, at La Salette, is the Mother that weeps because of the sufferings of her unfaithful people. The sorrow of her crucified Son is reflected in her tearful face. The glory of the resurrected Lord is reflected in the brightness of her appearance. The brightness of the Apparition pours from the living and glorious Crucifix that the Beautiful Virgin carries on her bosom. She *is* the Mother of Reconciliation. Her call to conversion reveals the compassionate desire of God: to give a new life to His People (Ez. 36\ 26 - 31). May the Face of the Lord Jesus also shine from our faces! AMEN

Day Eight

Jesus on the Cross: The Reconciling Compassion of God Opening Song

Leader: Welcome Brothers! May the good and merciful Father through His Son and in the Holy Spirit bestow His reconciling compassion throughout our Congregation. May we gratefully welcome the Gift that Jesus gave to us, His Mother!

All: We thank you, Lord Jesus, for our Mother who stood by You at the cross!

Leader: The Gospel presents Mother and Son, united in life and death, in order to fulfil the compassionate will of the Father: Reconciliation. We welcome the Word and Gift of the Lord, recognising His effective participation in God's plan for humanity.

Song of Acclamation

Leader: John 19\ 25 - 30.

Silence and Time for Meditation

Reader 1: "Woman, this is your son ..., Son, this is your mother." During the Last Supper, the Lord Jesus left us the Last Testament of His Life in the Bread of the Eucharist. Nailed on the cross, He left the gift of His Mother. In the Face of the crucified Son, God reveals the Face of a compassionate Father. In the face of the Mother, a woman of faith at the cross, is imprinted the maternal Face of the Trinity. Mary is the Mother of Compassion. At the foot of the Cross, Mary shared in the death of Jesus which was the Reconciliation that freed His People. Seated and in tears at La Salette, the Mother shares in the life of her suffering People and calls them to conversion.

All: We adore you, Lord Jesus, for the Reconciliation achieved on the Cross!

Reader 2: The apparition of Mary at La Salette renews our faith in the infinite tenderness of our Saving God. In the maternal sorrow caused by a People who forgot God, Mary carries the crucified Christ, the living source of light that is the Apparition. The death and resurrection of Jesus are the ultimate signs of the Father's reconciling Love through His Son. The cross, a sign of death, is transformed by Christ into the path of Life to the Resurrection. The death and resurrection are sacraments of the reconciling compassion of the Father for His People. The crucified Christ takes upon Himself the cross of His People's sin and death. The resurrected Christ unveils the glory of New Life, achieved by pardon and peace. He reveals the Living Light of our compassionate God and His love and mercy.

Song of Acclamation

Leader: We will now share our community reflection and prayer:

- 1) How is the Cross understood in my personal life and in today's world?
- 2) How do we live our vocation as sons of Mary, Mother of Reconciliation? How do we live our vocation as brothers in Christ Crucified?

Leader: We conclude our gathering by praying: 'Our Father ... , Hail Mary'

Day Nine

Mary at La Salette: Presence of a Compassionate God in the Life of His People

Opening Song

Leader: Welcome to the last day of our Novena. Confidant in the presence of God and Mary in the daily life of their People, we begin: 'In the Name of the Father ...'

All: Blessed be God who, through Jesus and Mary, is present among us!

Leader: Mary at La Salette is a sign of the maternal presence of God in our lives. She invites us to drink the pure water of our faith: the Word of God and the Message of La Salette. We praise this presence of Love.

Song of Acclamation

Reader 1: Elisha, the Prophet, asks his servant to share the bread, a gift of God that is present in the daily life of His People. This sharing creates an abundance. Listen to the words of scripture speaking to us: 2 Kings 4\ 42 - 44.

All: Blessed is the one who shares bread with his brother!

Reader 2: Jesus, in his love for the poor, teaches His disciples to share bread by organising communities for the service of compassion. The organised and brotherly sharing allows for a surplus of bread. Listen to the Gospel of John: John 6\1 - 15.

All: Blessed is the one who shares bread with his brother!

Reader 3: Mary at La Salette, as at the wedding of Cana, is a

Mother attentive to the well being and happiness of her children. She is vigilant and obedient to the Word of Jesus. The episode of the 'field at Coin' demonstrates the unceasing and maternal presence of Mary in the life of her People. Welcome the words spoken at La Salette (a reading of the episode of the 'field of Coin' in the message of La Salette).

All: Blessed is the one who shares bread with his brother!

A La Salette Song

Silence and Time for Meditation

Leader: In the light of the Word of God and Message of Mary, we reflect on these questions and share our reflections:

- 1) How do we share ourselves and our possessions with the members in community and with the poor?
- 2) How do we organise pastoral services for the people? Do we help each other in these services?
- 3) How do we live the charism of Reconciliation, the gift of God to our Congregation? How do we witness this charism?

Leader: At the conclusion of the Novena, we ask for the grace of conversion, compassion and reconciliation for ourselves, for our communities, for the Congregation of Our Lady of La Salette and the People of God. We ask for these graces by praying: "Remember, O Lady of La Salette'.

May the blessing of God, the Compassionate Father, through His Son Jesus, the Reconcilier and in the their Sanctifying Spirit descend and remain forever upon us and our Congregation! AMEN!