

JUBILEE YEAR OF THE LA SALETTE APPARITION

Monthly Recollection for Members of La Salette Matha Province- September 2020

1. Opening Song: Holy Spirit Song

2. Opening Prayer: Prayer for the Marian Year

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;

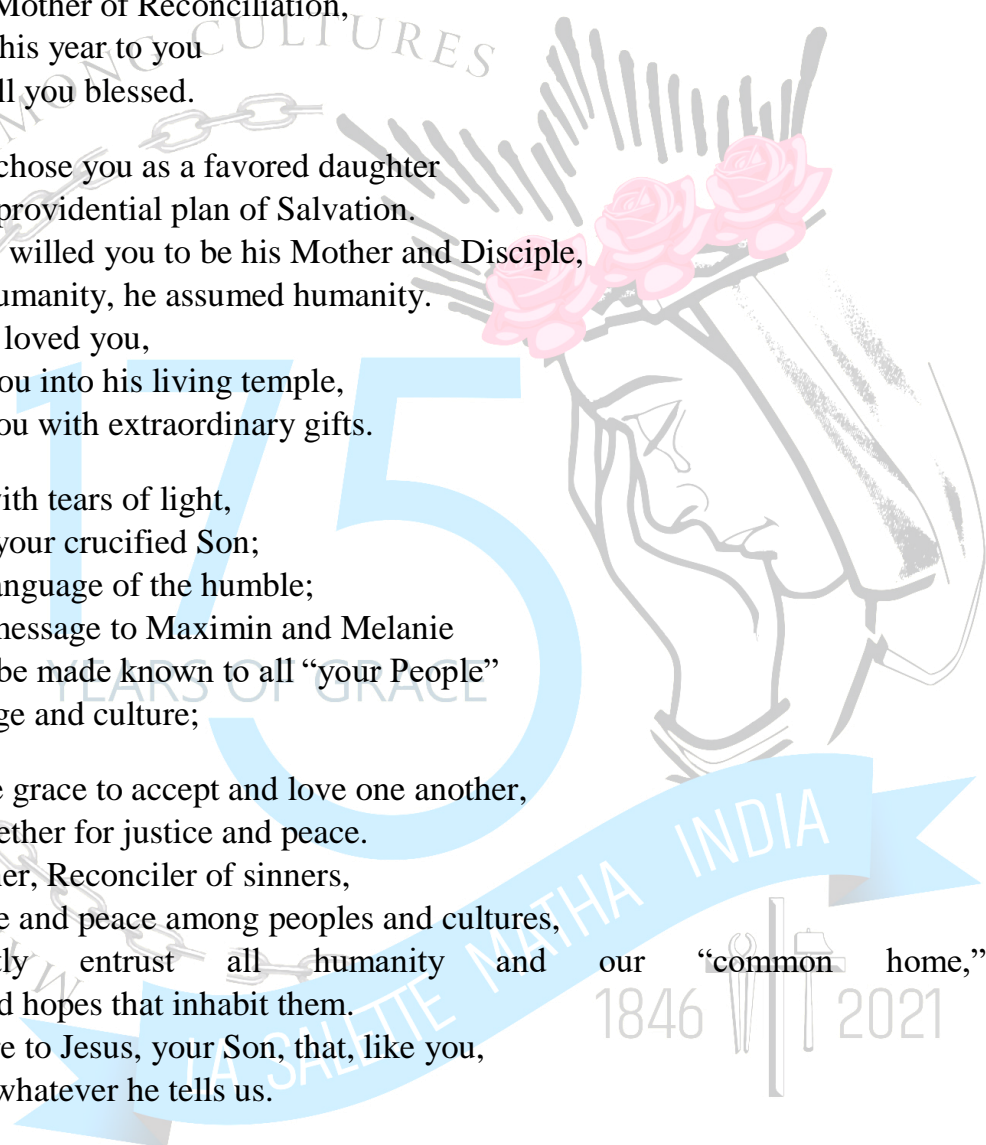
obtain for us the grace to accept and love one another,
and to work together for justice and peace.
To you, O Mother, Reconciler of sinners,
Pathway of hope and peace among peoples and cultures,
we confidently entrust all humanity and our “common home,”
and the fears and hopes that inhabit them.
Speak once more to Jesus, your Son, that, like you,
we too may do whatever he tells us.
Amen.

3. Scripture Passage

Acts 10:9-16, 28, 34-35

4. Theme of Meditation:

How can La Salette be seen as a “prophetic” apparition?



5. Reflection

5.1 What is the Difference between Public and Private Revelation within Catholicism?

5.1.1 About Public Revelation:

"The Christian economy (that is, our history beginning with Christ's birth), ... since it is the new and definitive Covenant, will never pass away; and *no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

"Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; *it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries*" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #66).

5.1.2 About Private Revelations (or Apparitions):

"Throughout the ages, there have been so-called '*private*' revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. *They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history.*

5.2 What then, is the Expectation from Private Revelations like La Salette?

"*The possibility of private (apparitions) through visions ... is evident in principle for a Christian.* God as a free personal being can make himself perceptible to the created spirit, not only through his works but also by his free, personal word.(An) 'apparition' represents and manifests God, his will, or the like."

5.3 What does the Bible say about Apparitions?

5.3.1 In the Old Testament: "The prophet who is to become the mouthpiece of God for (humans):

- **He Hears a Voice:** "Just like the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day so was the appearance of brilliance that surrounded him. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. *And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speak.*" (Ezekiel 1:28)
- **He has a Vision:** "*This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.* In days to come, The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it". (Isaiah 2:1-2)
- **He Sees God's Revelation in Pictures and in Symbols:** "A second time the word of the Lord came to me: What do you see? I replied, "*I see a boiling*

kettle whose mouth is tipped away from the north.” The Lord said to me, And from the north evil will pour out over all who dwell in the land”. (Jeremiah 1:13-14)

5.3.2 In the New Testament:

- **Angels Appear Delivering a Message:** “Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, ***the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense.*** Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him”. (Luke 1:11)
- **The Divine Communication can Happen in a Dream:** “Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to (Joseph) in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”. (Matthew 1:20-21)
- **It May Occur While the Seer is in an Ecstasy (St. Paul):** “After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, ***I fell into a trance and saw the Lord saying to me,*** ‘Hurry, leave Jerusalem at once, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ... Then he said to me, ***‘Go, I shall send you far away to the Gentiles’***” (Acts 22:17-18, 21).

“... the history of Christianity would be unthinkable without prophetic and visionary elements (in the broadest sense).”

5.4 How can La Salette be Seen as a “Prophetic” Apparition?

“...prophetic (personal apparitions)” ... are concerned not only with the individual visionary and his (or her) spiritual life, but which—although they are ‘private’—address the Church or major parts of the Church through the visionary: ***private (apparitions) ... (often include) exhorting to penance, giving certain instructions, ... recommending a spiritual doctrine or manner of life and so forth.*** Without a doubt, in the course of the Church's history there have continually been private revelations of this kind, and they have exercised great influence.”

In the La Salette apparition, Mary at La Salette showed the qualities of prophetic revelations (personal apparitions) including:

5.4.1 Exhorted to Penance (Our Need for Conversion and Obedience to Her Son)

- “*if they are converted, rocks and stones will turn into heaps of wheat, and potatoes will be self-sown in the fields*”
- “*if my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son*”

5.4.2 Gave Certain Instructions (Concerning Daily Prayer):

- “Ah, my children, *you should say (your prayers) well, at night*

and in the morning, even if you say only an Our Father and a Hail Mary when you can't do better. When you can do better, say more."

5.4.3 Recommended a Spiritual Doctrine (Weekly Eucharist and Lenten Practices):

- "In the summer, *only a few elderly women go to Mass...* In the winter, when they don't know what to do, they go to Mass just to make fun of religion."
- In Lent they go to *the butcher shops* like dogs."

5.4.4 Recommended a Manner of Life (Follow the Message of Her Son and Make her Message Known):

- "I will be forced to let go *the arm of my Son...* If I want *my Son* not to abandon you, ..."
- "Well, my children *you will make this known* to all my people."

5.5 How has the Purpose of "Revelation" Changed from the Old to the New Testament?

"Before Christ, in the historical dialogue between God and (humanity) which we call the history of the world and of salvation, everything was always unsettled, everything was assigned to the free counsel of God, still shrouded from (People), still to be awaited in the event of the future. **Before Christ it was still possible for something unprecedented to happen in history...that would change (humanity's) whole relationship to God. (Humanity) had to be ever ready for a new revelation which might radically alter the course of his salvation...**

"But now, with Christ and 'since' Christ, the last days have come, God's salvific action towards (humanity) has reached its definitive and final phase. With Christ the 'last hour' is here, not substantially alter the conditions of our salvation"

5.6 What is the Purpose of Private Apparitions in our Present Christian Age?

"... private (apparitions) are essentially imperatives showing how Christianity should act in a concrete historical situation ; not new assertions but new commands. What they affirm is already know from faith and theology. Yet they are not superfluous, are not mere heavenly refresher courses in public revelation or a ... method used by God in order to lead us to the knowledge of what in principle could be learnt without this help."

5.7 Do Prophetic Private Apparitions have a Place in our Contemporary Church?

"In principle the Holy Spirit can act upon the Church through any one of her members to announce what he requires of her, what command he lays upon her for the moment it seems to us that this is the essence of post-apostolic, prophetic

‘private revelations’; *God inspiring a member of the Church with his imperative for the Church in a concrete historical situation!*

“It should not be too readily assumed that the prophetic charisma was only a transient privilege of the primitive Church. There must always be in the Church a prophetic vocation as well which is not handed down by (humans). Neither of these two gifts can replace the other. The prophetic element then, despite the conclusion (or ending) of public revelation, retains unique importance in the Church”

5.8 How do we Balance Our Appreciation of Private Apparitions with the Rest of Our Life of Faith?

“Even the best devotion which we should all practice, is not the whole of Christianity, and we are certainly not meant to conclude that it is as if heaven recommends the devotion in a vision.

*“Though God speaks to us in diverse ways, it is not clear....that his most important instruction will be given in visions. Rather **they are contained in the Gospel and are proclaimed by the church in her ‘ordinary’ preaching.** God’s Spirit stirs...even **in the Church’s theologians and various movements,** even if they cannot appeal to visions. Lovers of revelations and apparitions should not forget either (as often happens) that Christ appears to us **most surely in the poor and suffering.** In the (celebration of the) **Sacrament (of the Eucharist)** and in the grace of the Holy (Spirit), offered to every Christian, **we have God’s most real presence.***

“The only good in any spirit is what makes us better Christians, and our conscience, trained by the spirit of the Church, tells plainly what does that. The Church has always adopted this attitude and she will continue to do so.”

5.9 Visions and Prophecies by Fr. Karl Rahner, S.J.

*“In turbulent times, the minds of (people) are agitated not only by the events themselves, but they also seek an interpretation of present events and a promise for the future. **And if they are believers, they know that the interpretation of the present and the promise of the future ultimately can be found only in God.** Then they hope that **this enlightening and auspicious word of God** may be imparted to them as clearly and unequivocally as possible... But to weakness of faith and difficulties with regard to faith, as well as the misery of life can drive people to excessive (doubts) where visions and prophecies are concerned...*

“.....we shall hazard the attempt to say something about visions and similar phenomena... But we shall deal with visions in general... We address believing Christians, and thus presuppose the convictions proper to them. We shall seek to treat the subject soberly in the light of a Christian theology and philosophy... Our general intention is only to repeat here the teaching of traditional mystical theology”.

6. Meditative Music

7. Questions for Personal Reflection and Discussion:

- As La Salette how do I perceive the event of apparition at La Salette?
- What is your response to Fr. Rahner's statement: "... the history of Christianity would be unthinkable without prophetic and visionary elements ..."? How can they be helpful?
- What apparitions have caught your interest and/or devotion?

8. Group Sharing Based on the Questions above (Optional)

9. Spontaneous Prayers

10. Concluding Prayer

We pray, God of grace and eternal life,

that you may increase in us and strengthen hope in us.

Grant us this virtue of the strong, this power of the confident, this courage of the unshaken.

Let us always have a longing for you who are the infinite fulfillment of our life.

Let us always count on you and your faithfulness; let us unflinchingly hold onto your power.

Shape in us such a mind by your Holy Spirit, for then, our Lord and God, will we have the virtue of hope.

Then we can tackle the task of our life with courage; then there will

live in us the joyous confidence of not having labored in vain;

then we will do our work knowing that you, the Almighty One, are at work in us and through us

and, wherever our strength fails, ... strengthen in us your hope.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives with you, Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Invocation:

Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners,

Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

11. Concluding Song: La Salette Song