

Missionaries of our Lady of La Salette
Ina ng Pag-asa (Mother of Hope) Province

**Novena Prayers
and Reflections:**

**Preparing the International Encounter
of La Salette Laity**



La Salette, France
1-10 September 2011

A GRACE CALLED LA SALETTE

On Saturday, September 19, 1846, a “Beautiful Lady” appeared to two children, both from Corps, in the French Alps: Maximin GIRAUD, eleven years old, and Melanie CALVAT, almost fifteen, who were watching their herds on the slope of Mont Planeau (alt. approx. 6,000 ft.), not far from the village of La Salette. In a little hollow, they suddenly noticed a globe of fire —“as though the sun had fallen on that spot.” Within the dazzling light they gradually perceived a woman, seated, her elbows’ resting on her knees and her face buried in her hands.



The Beautiful Lady rose, and said to the children, in French:

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

She took a few steps towards them. Maximin and Melanie, reassured, ran down to her and stood very close to her.

The Beautiful Lady wept all the time she spoke. She was tall, and everything about her radiated light. She wore the typical garb of the women of the area: a long dress, an apron around her waist, a shawl crossed over her breast and tied behind her back, and a close-fitting bonnet. Along the hem of her shawl she wore a broad, flat chain, and from a smaller chain around her neck there hung a large crucifix. Under the arms of the cross there were, to the left of the figure of Christ, a hammer and, to the right, pincers. The radiance of the entire apparition seemed to emanate from this crucifix, and shone like a brilliant crown upon the Beautiful Lady's head. She wore garlands of roses on her head, around the edge of her shawl, and around her feet.

The Beautiful Lady spoke to the two shepherds, first in French, in these words:

**If my people refuse to submit,
I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son.
It is so strong and so heavy, I can no longer hold it back.
How long a time I have suffered for you!
If I want my Son not to abandon you,
I am obliged to plead with him constantly.
And as for you, you pay no heed!**

**However much you pray, however much you do,
you will never be able to recompense the pains I have taken for you.**

**I gave you six days to work;
I kept the seventh for myself, and no one will give it to me.
This is what makes the arm of my Son so heavy.
And then, those who drive the carts cannot swear
without throwing in my Son's name.
These are the two things that make the arm of my Son so heavy.**

**If the harvest is ruined, it is only on account of yourselves.
I warned you last year with the potatoes. You paid no heed.
Instead, when you found the potatoes spoiled, you swore,
and threw in my Son's name. They are going to continue to spoil,
and by Christmas this year there will be none left.**

Melanie was intrigued by the expression, *pommes de terre*. In the local dialect, potatoes were called las truffas. She looked inquiringly at Maximin, but the Beautiful Lady anticipated her question.

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

Using the local dialect, she repeated what she had said about the harvest, and then went on:

**If you have wheat, you must not sow it.
Anything you sow the vermin will eat,
and whatever does grow will fall into dust when you thresh it.
A great famine is coming.
Before the famine comes, children under seven will be seized
with trembling and die in the arms of the persons who hold them.
The rest will do penance through the famine.
The walnuts will become worm-eaten; the grapes will rot.**

At this point the Beautiful Lady confided a secret to Maximin, and then to Melanie. Then she went on:

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

Do you say your prayers well, my children?

"Hardly ever, Madam," the two shepherds answered candidly.

**Ah, my children, you should say them 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.**

**In the summer, only a few elderly women go to Mass.
The rest work on Sundays all summer long.
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.**

Have you never seen wheat gone bad, my children?

They answered, "No, Madam."

The Beautiful Lady then spoke to Maximin.

**But you, my child, surely you must have seen some once,
at Coin, with your father. The owner of the field told your father
to go and see his spoiled wheat. And then you went, and you took
two or three ears of wheat in your hands, you rubbed them together,
and it all crumbled into dust.**

**While you were on your way back and you were no more than
a half hour away from Corps, your father gave you a piece of bread
and said to you: "Here, my child, eat some bread
while we still have it this year; because I don't know who will eat any
next year if the wheat keeps up like that."**

"Oh, yes," answered Maximin, "now I remember. Just then, I didn't remember it."

The Beautiful Lady then concluded, not in dialect, but in French:

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

Then she moved forward, stepped over the stream and without turning back, she gave the injunction:

Very well, my children, make this known to all my people.

The vision climbed the steep path which wound its way towards the Collet (little neck). Then she rose into the air as the children caught up to her. She looked up at the sky, then down to the earth. Facing southeast, "she melted into light." The light itself then disappeared.

On September 19, 1851, after “a precise and rigorous investigation” of the event, the witnesses, the content of the message, and its repercussions, Philibert de Bruillard, Bishop of Grenoble, pronounced his judgment in a pastoral letter of instruction. He declared that “the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to two shepherds, September 19, 1846, on a mountain in the Alps, located in the parish of La Salette, ... bears within itself all the characteristics of truth and that the faithful have grounds for believing it to be indubitable and certain.”

In another pastoral letter, dated May 1, 1852, the Bishop of Grenoble announced the construction of a Shrine on the mountain of the apparition, and went on to add:

“However important the erection of a Shrine may be, there is something still more important, namely the ministers of religion destined to look after it, to receive the pious pilgrims, to preach the word of God to them, to exercise towards them the ministry of reconciliation, to administer the Holy Sacrament of the altar, and to be, to all, the faithful dispensers of the mysteries of God and the Spiritual treasures of the Church.

“These priests shall be called the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette; their institution and existence shall be, like the Shrine itself, an eternal monument, a perpetual remembrance, of Mary’s merciful apparition.”

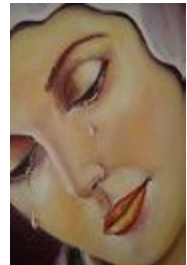
The first priests imbued with the spirit of the Apparition and who devoted themselves to the service of the pilgrims, felt from the beginning the call to and the need for religious life. Six of them pronounced their first vows on February 2, 1858, in accordance with their provisional Constitutions, adapted in 1862 to include Brothers. From that time, Fathers and Brothers have constituted one religious family. The first General Chapter, in 1876, framed the Constitutions, and gave the Congregation a clearly apostolic thrust. The “Laudatory Decree” (1879) and the Decree of Approval (1890) placed the Institute directly under the authority of the Holy See, which in 1926 gave final approval to the Constitutions.

And now most recently, over a period of several years, our religious family has undertaken the revision and updating of its Constitutions and Capitular Norms, in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, and in keeping with papal exhortations and directives regarding the renewal of Religious Life in the modern world. This work is the fruit of prayer and meditation, of the fidelity and experience of the communities and members of every province. Here, then, are presented the Constitutions of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, and the Capitular Norms. They are the means by which the Spirit which gives life to the Church calls us, day by day, to the perfection of love in Christ, in the service of all his people, to the glory of God the Father.

Novena Prayers and Reflections: Preparing the International Encounter of La Salette Laitiy

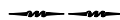
"YOU ARE MY BELOVED, MY FAVOR RESTS ON YOU"

This is the still, small Voice of Love. Many voices ask for our attention. There is a voice that says, "Prove that you are a good person." Another voice says, "You'd better be ashamed of yourself." There also is a voice that says, "Nobody really cares about you," and one that says, "Be sure to become successful, popular, and powerful." But underneath all these often very noisy voices is a still, small voice that says, "You are my Beloved, my favor rests on you." That's the voice we need most of all to hear. To hear that voice, however, requires special effort; it requires solitude, silence, and a strong determination to listen. That's what prayer is. It is listening to the voice that calls us "my Beloved." (*Henri Nouwen*)



GOD WHISPERS

Not long ago I heard a story about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see the old preacher. Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn't God answer?" The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply - something so hushed it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked. The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair. "Sorry," he said. "I still didn't hear you." With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. "God sometimes whispers," he said, "so we will move closer to hear Him." This time the young man heard and he understood. We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice ... the gentle whisper. Perhaps there's a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God's whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. And then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God.



DAILY INVOCATION

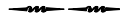
LEADER: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

LEADER: Together, we pray

OPENING PRAYER FOR EACH DAY

Dear loving Mother, Our Lady of La Salette, you tearfully pleaded and appealed to us to be reconciled with God, with one another, with all of creation and with all of humanity. We humbly pray that you intercede on our behalf that God may grant us the grace to follow you in the spiritual journey to a reconciled life and a reconciling way of life by “keeping, treasuring, and pondering all things in our hearts”. We entrust ourselves, La Salette Fathers, La Salette Brothers and La Salette Lay Associates to your maternal care, honoring you as our inspiration in becoming faithful Stewards of the Charism, Spirituality, and Mission of Reconciliation.



FIRST DAY:

DO NOT BE AFRAID. DRAW NEAR

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: You may not know me, but I know everything about you ~ Psalm 139:1...I know when you sit down and when you rise up ~ Psalm 139:2...I am familiar with all your ways ~ Psalm 139:3...Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ~ Matthew 10:29-31....For you were made in my image ~ Genesis 1:27...In me you live and move and have your being ~ Acts 17:28... Your Loving Father, Almighty God.

LEADER: “Do not be afraid, Mary” (Luke 1: 30)

Mary was told, and we are told, not to be afraid precisely because, in spite of faith, so often we are afraid. Fear, at its core, is a faith issue. Are we so accustomed to living in fear that we have become deaf to the voice that says: “Do not be afraid?” Throughout scriptures, this reassuring voice, which repeats over and over again: “Do not be afraid, have no fear” is the voice we most need to hear.

Response: *“Do not be afraid”*

LEADER: » God said to Abram when God came to Abram in a vision. ®
» God said to Hagar as God heard Ishmael, son of Hagar and Abraham, crying in the wilderness. ®
» God said to Isaac before God blessed Isaac with a multitude of descendants. ®
» God said to Moses before Moses and his companions found themselves wandering through the desert for 40 years. ®
» The angel of the Lord said to Joseph in the Gospel of Matthew as Joseph contemplated leaving a pregnant Mary. ®
» The angel Gabriel said to Zechariah, spouse of Elizabeth, when Zechariah was told he was father to the prophet John the Baptist. ®
» Jesus said to his disciples the night before he was executed. ®

LEADER: These words changed the world. These words marked a point where something dramatic and life changing was about to happen.

LITANY OF HUMILITY

LEADER: O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

Response: **Lord Jesus, deliver me.**

LEADER: From the desire of being esteemed; ®
From the desire of being loved; ®
From the desire of being extolled; ®
From the desire of being honored; ®
From the desire of being praised; ®
From the desire of being preferred to others; ®
From the desire of being consulted; ®
From the desire of being approved; ®
From the fear of being humiliated; ®
From the fear of being despised, ®
From the fear of suffering rebukes; ®
From the fear of being calumniated; ®
From the fear of being forgotten; ®
From the fear of being ridiculed; ®
From the fear of being wronged; ®
From the fear of being suspected. ®

LEADER: (*John 16: 33*): I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

HYMN (*Alternating*)

God is Love. His Love endures forever
It's the constant whisper heard from time's beginning.
It's the light that spills across the universe.
All creation finds its own way of revealing
what is carried on the wind around the earth.

*We are fragile, so He reaches down to help us.
We're in chains, and He won't rest until we're free.
We are lost, and so He makes a way to save us.
Yet, it's hard to comprehend the mystery.*

God is love! Won't you open up your heart and believe?
God is love! There is hope for everyone who receives,
the grace He lavishes on us. God is love!

*Every one He heals could gladly tell the story,
those who trust Him when He says, "I am the way."
It is written at the cross in crimson letters.
And it rolls like thunder from the empty grave.*

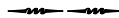
God is love! Won't you open up your heart and believe?
God is love! There is hope for everyone who receives,
the grace He lavishes on us. God is love!

*When the hurt you feel is so real you can't go on,
just remember, you are in His hands and He'll never let you go.*

God is love! Won't you open up your heart and believe?
God is love! There is hope for everyone who receives,
the grace He lavishes on us. God is love!

(MAKE IT RIGHT/MAKE IT COUNT MOMENT)

"LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR"
DO I BELIEVE IN A GOD WHO CONTROLS AND PUNISHES US
OR IN A GOD OF LOVE AND MERCY?



SECOND DAY:
**“DO YOU SAY YOUR PRAYERS WELL,
MY CHILDREN?”**

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: You may not know me, but I know everything about you ~ Psalm 139:1...I know when you sit down and when you rise up ~ Psalm 139:2...I am familiar with all your ways ~ Psalm 139:3...Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ~ Matthew 10:29-31....For you were made in my image ~ Genesis 1:27...In me you live and move and have your being ~ Acts 17:28... *Your Loving Father, Almighty God.*

LEADER: Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without heart. Prayer does not require words... Just the passion of the heart. Prayer is God's passionate Longing for us and our Hunger Thirst for God. **Just like the Lord's prayer....**

ALL: *"Our Father who art in heaven".*

LEADER: You belong to God. He created you and watches over you. He wants you to live with Him in heaven forever.

ALL: *"hallowed be Thy name,"*

LEADER: You pray that God will be respected by all

ALL: *"Thy kingdom come,"*

LEADER: You pray that God will be loved and worshiped throughout the world

ALL: *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"*

LEADER: You pray that God's laws will be followed on earth as willingly as they are followed in heaven

ALL: *"Give us this day our daily bread,"*

LEADER: You ask for your spiritual and physical needs

ALL: *"and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,"*

LEADER: You ask God forgive your sins you have committed against His laws and promise Him that you will forgive people who cause you harm

ALL: *"and lead us not into temptation,"*

LEADER: You ask God to keep you safe from all people and places that may lead you to sin

ALL: *"but deliver us from evil,"*

LEADER: You ask God to protect you from both physical and spiritual harm

LEADER: This is then our constant, persistent and relentless prayer attitude

ALL: *Abba Father, Lord Jesus, in the Spirit, one God the Abba Father, Christ Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. Here I am Lord, listening, open to Your words, and though I stumble and fall, I keep my focus on Your presence. In Jesus name I ask and pray, that You bless me and mine for fulfillment of Your will and that You create in me a clean heart, renew a right spirit within me ; in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

PRAYERS:

Salvation: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (*Psalm 51:1-4; 10-12*).

In our struggless with evil and sin: Dear God, You know the struggles I am having with ongoing sin. Please forgive me my sins. Please deliver me from bondage to sin and create in me a pure heart to live only for you. I rededicate my life to you. Please send your Holy Spirit in all His power to help me live my life exclusively for you. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

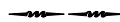
Wisdom and Direction: Dear God, You know the situation I face. I don't know what to do. I release my need and my anxieties to you right now and ask that you give me your peace that surpasses understanding, and the wisdom how to resolve my circumstances. Enable me to patiently await your timing for the resolution of the problem and what I need to be doing on my own in the meantime. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Physical Healing: Dear God, I know that you can heal me. You know the pain I am in. I ask that you heal me from my sickness, whether it be divinely or through doctors and medicine. I also know that your will is made perfect through me when I am surrendered to you. If your perfect will does not include my healing, then I ask you to give me the joyful patience of affliction and the peace of heart to glorify you through my illness. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Faith & Trust: Dear God, Please give me the faith and trust in you for the circumstance I'm facing. Please develop my faith to think and act in line with your ability to provide, not mine. Please enable me to trust you with all my heart and not to lean on my own understanding. Please teach me to see the incomparably great power you have and not limit myself to my abilities. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

(MAKE IT RIGHT/MAKE IT COUNT MOMENT)

WHAT ARE MY MOMENTS OF PERSONAL PRAYER LIKE?
DO I MANAGE TO MAKE MY ENTIRE DAY A PRAYER,
LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE IN EVERY EVENT
AND IN EVERY PERSON?



**THIRD DAY:
THE HAMMER AND PINNERS -
CHOOSE LIFE SO YOU MAY LIVE**

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: For you are my offspring ~ Acts 17:28...I knew you even before you were conceived ~ Jeremiah 1:4-5...I chose you when I planned creation ~ Ephesians 1:11-12...You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book ~ Psalm 139:15-16...I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live ~ Acts 17:26...You are fearfully and wonderfully made ~ Psalm 139:14...I knit you together in your mother's womb ~ Psalm 139:13...And brought you forth on the day you were born ~ Psalm 71:6... *Your Loving Father, Almighty God.*

LEADER: This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land. *(Deuteronomy 30,19-20)*

ALL: O God, you created us to be in relationship and call us to live in one sacred community. May we celebrate the strands of God's life and love that bind us together as one human family. We give thanks for the gifts of creation, and for the gift of technology. May we use the technology we have wisely and for the good of all life and the glory of God. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pause

PRAYER REFLECTION 1:

LEADER: Out of your energy of love, came heat and light for our warmth and growth.

ALL: Out of our energy production and use, comes both progress and harm.

LEADER: Out of your energy, came sacrifice and self giving love.

ALL: Out of our energy use, comes greed and self interest.

LEADER: Out of your energy, came creativity freedom and inspiration.

ALL: Out of our energy we compromise these gifts with complacency violence and stupidity.

LEADER: Lord, eyes we have, but see not. Lord, ears we have, but hear not. Lord, minds we have, but will not. Lord, hearts we have, but care not. Lord, life we have, but live not.

ALL: Lord, teach us to look with your seeing, to hear with your hearing, to commit with your willing, to feel with your feeling, to care with your heart and to live in your love. AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

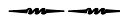
PRAYER REFLECTION 2:

**Response: We choose. We choose Life.
We choose God's Reconciling Love!**

LEADER: » We choose a world of justice where God's resources are cared for and shared fairly where we conserve creation for future generations where all people can live in peace. ®
» We choose. We choose God, for God is justice. We choose a world of peace where God's children no longer destroy each other, where everyone is treated with respect for their uniqueness where lasting peace is built on God's love. ®
» We choose. We choose God, for God is peace. We choose a world of love where God's love is known to all the children of the Earth where everyone can feel accepted by their brothers and sisters where God's purpose for the world is finally revealed. ®

(MAKE IT RIGHT/MAKE IT COUNT MOMENT)

DO I CHOOSE LIFE IN THE WAY I LIVE
OR THE WAY I RELATE TO PEOPLE?



FOURTH DAY: FAMINE, CHILDREN DYING, MOTHER EARTH IS SICK

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me ~ John 8:41-44...I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love ~ 1 John 4:16 ...And it is my desire to lavish my love on you ~ 1 John 3:1...Simply because you are my child and I am your father ~ 1 John 3:1 ...I offer you more than your earthly father ever could ~ Matthew 7:11...For I am the perfect father ~ Matthew 5:48 ... *Your Loving Father, Almighty God.*

PRAYER REFLECTION 1:

- LEADER:** The Dance of God -- "This universe was created to an expression and extension of the dance of God—so all can share in the dynamic joy of movement, love, vitality, harmony and celebration .
- ALL:** Electrons, protons, and neutrons—light, gravity, and motion—galaxies, suns and planets—water, snow, ice, and vapor—winter, spring, summer or fall—planets, animals, male and female—nations, tribes, clans, families, and individuals—art, sport, business, government, science, agriculture—every facet of creation had a role in the dance.
- LEADER:** But we humans broke with the dance. We stomped on the toes of other dancers, ignored the rhythm, rejected the grace, and generally made a mess of things.
- ALL:** God sent Jesus into the world to model for us a way of living in rhythm of God's music of reconciling Love, and ever since, people have been attracted to the beauty of His steps and have begun rejoining the dance." Everything is a face of the mystery. The universe is an inexhaustible celebration of the Mystery: THE BLESSED TRINITY.

PRAYER REFLECTION 2:

Response: Take off your shoes for where you stand is Holy. The earth is a burning bush; the Earth is Holy ground!

- LEADER:**
- » All universe is aflame with the presence of God and only those who see take off their shoes! ®
 - » We live on a wondrous spinning jewel; so fragile and precious is she. Oh earth, beautiful one! Oh earth, awesome and good! Gentle planet, giving all; Oh earth, our home! ®
 - » There is a circle in the universe, a circle holding all. It is a holy embrace. It is a holy embrace holding all. It is an arm of love. It is an arm of love holding all. We're in a holy embrace, a holy embrace holding all. ®
 - » Some people never look and see the miracles in the sky, The magnificence of a sunrise Or clouds drifting by. They miss the glory of a sunset , The lovely rainbow colors And what could have more splendor than a starry night to view. ®
 - » And I thank you Lord for eyes to see All the beauty and the wonder You placed in the sky for me. I stand in awe of your presence as I gaze at the marvels your display ®
 - » For no human hand could ever form such a grand and glorious array. No artist's brush could ever paint all the beauty that I see. No poet's words could ever describe what that beauty means to me. Life is sacred, life is holy. Spirit flows through everything. Living Earth breathing ®

LEADER: In Exodus 10: 12-20: This is an overwhelming plague that surrounds, smothers, and otherwise destroys the economy of Egypt along with the lives, or life styles, of its citizens. Pharaoh describes this plague as 'death'. It means death politically for him, and death financially for those of wealth, and death for the citizens of Egypt in their broken lives.

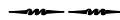
Response: Lord, heal our land.

LEADER: » We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth. We have turned our backs on the cycles of life. ®
» We have sought only our own security. We have exploited simply for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power. ®
» On our knees we pray with a weary heart for the earth, our home. Waters spoiled with waste, air unsafe to breathe, chemicals in the soil. ®
» On our knees we pray for the animals, species longing to live. Habitats destroyed; forests, waters, fields. Where will they birth their young? *Response*
» On our knees we pray for the future of the children of earth. How are they to live in a poisoned world? ®

(MAKE IT RIGHT/MAKE IT COUNT MOMENT)

DO I UNDERSTAND HOW ECOLOGY IS RELATED TO RECONCILIATION AND TO THE QUALITY OF
LIFE
OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS?

*Be Grateful...Be a Blessing...Be Life-giving
Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves so that
He Who gives Himself totally to you may receive you totally.
May your being be filled with the beauty and wonders of Life.
May God's Loving Presence in the whole universe be your courage and strength
from day to day.
May your heart be full of gratitude ...
May your life be a blessing and life-giving to all of humanity and to all of creation.*



**FIFTH DAY:
MARY CRIED**

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand ~ James 1:17 ...For I am your provider and I meet all your needs ~ Matthew 6:31-33 ...My plan for your future has always been filled with hope ~ Jeremiah 29:11...Because I love you with an everlasting love ~ Jeremiah 31:3 ...My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore ~ Psalm 139 ...I will never stop doing good to you ~ Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession ~ Exodus 19:5 ...*Your Loving Father, Almighty God.*

“...a sword will pierce your soul” (*Luke 2:35*). These words were fulfilled to the letter.

John 19: 25-27: Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother... When Jesus saw the Mother and the disciple... He said to the Mother, “Woman, This is your Son”. Then He said to the disciple, “There is your mother”. And from that moment the disciple took her into His own home

PRAYER REFLECTION 1:

LEADER: The tortures that wracked the sacred members of Christ's body were all collected in Mary's heart - the thorns, the nails, the cross, the wounds, the bruises, all the pains and spasms. All these Mary suffered in her heart while she stood at the foot of the cross under the gaze of her dying Son

ALL: O Mary, all the most cruel torments that were inflicted on the bodies of the martyrs were as nothing compared with what you suffered in your most tender heart! I would not believe, O most sweet Virgin, that you could endure so much suffering without losing thy life, were it not that you were sustained by thy divine Son.

LEADER: At the foot of the cross, Mary is deeply grieving but no means despairing. Even beneath the shadow of the death of her only Son, she does not despair. She possesses the strongest faith, knowing Jesus to be Lord, knowing that He suffers according to His will and she is at all times accepting of God's will.

ALL: At the foot of the cross where grace and suffering meet. You have shown me Your love Through the judgment You received. And You've won my heart. And You've won my heart.

At the foot of the cross Where I am made complete. You have given me life Through the death you bore for me. And You've won my heart And You've won my heart. I lay every burden down I lay every burden down. At the foot of the cross At the

foot of the cross

LEADER: This is quite frankly a perfect depiction of how great suffering can coincide in the soul along with great joy. Joy does not in one small part diminish her suffering, but the suffering does not take away from her joy. It is as if you can hear Mary saying "You have done it! Amen my Son, you have accomplished the redemption of Man! O how terrible! O how wonderful!"

LEADER: When I say, "Yes to new life"

ALL: I don't speak with human pride. I'm confessing that I stumble - Needing God to be my guide.

LEADER: When I say, "Yes to new Life"

ALL: I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.

LEADER: When I say, "Yes to new Life"

ALL: I don't think I know it all. I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught.

LEADER: When I say, "Yes to new life"

ALL: I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are all too visible but God believes I'm worth it.

LEADER: When I say, "Yes to new life"

ALL: I still feel the sting of pain I have my share of heartache, Which is why I seek His name

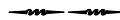
LEADER: When I say, "Yes to new life"

ALL: I do not wish to judge. I have no authority. I only know I am loved.

(MAKE IT COUNT/ MAKE IT RIGHT MOMENT)

WHAT HAPPENS TO ME WHEN I SEE A MOTHER CRY?
HOW DO I FEEL KNOWING THAT, AT LA SALETTE,
MARY CRIED FOR ME?

Pour out your heart to Jesus. Pour out your doubts, your hurts, your fears to Him for He is able to wipe every tear. Pour out your hopes, desires, your dreams for He is able to answer every prayer. The Lord Jesus can heal your hurts, can make right your wrongs, can give strength to your weakness and can bring meaning to your life.



SIXTH DAY:
"IF THEY ARE CONVERTED"

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul ~ Jeremiah 32:41
...And I want to show you great and marvelous things ~ Jeremiah 33:3...If you seek me with all
your heart, you will find me ~ Deuteronomy 4:29 ...Delight in me and I will give you the desires
of your heart ~ Psalm 37:4 ...For it is I who gave you those desires ~ Philippians 2:13...I am able
to do more for you than you could possibly imagine ~ Ephesians 3:20 ... *Your Loving Father,*
Almighty God.

A summary of the core of Jesus' message:

*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and
believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14-15).*

THE CALL TO CONVERSION *(Alternating)*

Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.
(Isaiah 45:22)

*Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will
freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)*

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of
your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out., that times of
refreshing may come from the Lord., and that he may send the Christ, who has been
appointed for you - even Jesus. (Acts 3:19-20)*

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32)

*There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine
righteous persons who do not need to repent. (Luke 15:7)*

LEADER: God desires an intimate relationship with you .To believe means to start a
relationship! Asking God to make Himself known to you. Learning how to completely
trust Him; how to get to know Him; how to spend time with Him; how to become

like Him.

ALL: "I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (*Ezekiel 36: 26-27*)

**Response: O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;
My soul thirsts for you, My spirit longs for you.**

LEADER: » Lord God, you who provide the fire for a transformed life, I come before you this day and beg for the fire of your love and mercy to forgive my sins and free me from my self-imposed bondages.®
» I pray for the fire of your Spirit to lead me in repentance and conversion so I may be faithful in following you. ®
» I pray for the fire of your love to ignite my heart with love for my brothers and sisters and lead me to intercede in faith for them. ®
» I pray for the fire of faith to be committed to you and your teaching as a servant to His Master. ®
» I pray for the fire of your desire to save all mankind to inflame me so that I can witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ and be a channel of Reconciling Love. ®

(MAKE IT COUNT/MAKE IT RIGHT MOMENT)

DOES MY STYLE OF LIFE INVITE PEOPLE TO A
"CHANGE OF HEART" OR "CONVERSION"

LEADER: Choose to love	ALL: rather than hate.
LEADER: Choose to smile	ALL: rather than frown.
LEADER: Choose to build	ALL: rather than destroy.
LEADER: Choose to persevere	ALL: rather than quit.
LEADER: Choose to praise	ALL: rather than gossip.
LEADER: Choose to heal	ALL: rather than wound.
LEADER: Choose to give	ALL: rather than grasp.
LEADER: Choose to act	ALL: rather than delay.
LEADER: Choose to forgive	ALL: rather than curse.
LEADER: Choose to pray	ALL: rather than despair.

Change my heart, O God Make it ever true (*may be sung*)
Change my heart, O God May I be like You. Change my heart, O God Make it ever true
Change my heart, O God May I be like You. You are the Potter I am the clay;
Mold me and make me This is what I pray. Change my heart, O God Make it ever true
Change my heart, O God May I be like You.

**SEVENTH DAY:
AFTER THE APPARITION, WATER WAS FLOWING
IN THE PREVIOUSLY DRY RAVINE.**

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles ~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4...When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you ~ Psalm 34:18 ...As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart ~ Isaiah 40:11...One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes ~ Revelation 21:3-4 ...And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth ~ Revelation 21:3-4 ... *Your Loving Father, Almighty God.*

PRAYER REFLECTION 1:

LEADER: "Jesus answered and said to her,

ALL: 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (*John 10:14*)

LEADER: Water was scarce in Jesus' day, yet water was as much a necessity for life then as it is today. Just as the physical body needs water to continue living so does the spirit. Jesus is the water needed by the spiritual part of man. Without Him the soul will eventually die. The soul is thirsty and we try to quench that thirst with many things that satisfy for awhile, but eventually we get thirsty again. The only thing that can truly quench the thirst of the spirit is the living water, Jesus Christ.

LEADER: Be Still, and Know that I Am God, My Father said to Me, And I will fill you with My Peace, And set your Spirit Free.

ALL: You are my Own; I've Chosen You: You are Precious in My Sight. Give Me your Heart; I Promise You I'll be Your Guiding Light.

LEADER: My Love for you will Never fade By your side I'll Always Stay. My Joy will be your Strength and Shield, If you'll let Me have My Way.

ALL: I'm Standing here with Arms Outstretched. I want to Touch and make You Whole. Of My Living Waters, Come and Drink, I will Quench your Thirsty Soul.

LEADER: Peace! Be Still! I am with You now, And no-one could Love You More. My Love for you will never Die. Of that You can be sure.

ALL: That's what my Father said to Me and I know His Words are true. I know that He has Set me Free and He'll do the Same for You. So just Reach Out, ask Him to Forgive and Pardon all your Sin. Ask Him to be your God and King and He will take You In.

LEADER: Jesus is the only thing that can quench the thirst of the spirit. Anything or anyone else will only wear out and leave the spirit thirsty again.

ALL: Jesus is what my spirit needs in order for me to be able to live eternally with Him. Without the Living Water my spiritual body will die just as my physical body would if I didn't drink any water or other liquids.

PRAYER REFLECTION 2: (Alternate or may be sung)

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more--
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

*Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy;
But then I heard my Savior speaking:
"Draw from the well that never shall run dry".*

There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures earthly things afford;
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

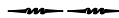
*So, my children, if the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you,
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray:*

(MAKE IT COUNT/MAKE IT RIGHT MOMENT)

FAITH, LIKE WATER, SUSTAINS LIFE AND GROWTH. AM I LIVING WATER FOR OTHERS?

I will quench my spiritual thirst with Jesus, the Living Water, by looking to Him each day. I will also share the Living Water with others by telling them about Jesus and how He can quench their spiritual thirst like He does mine.

*Today I smiled, and all at once things didn't look so bad.
Today I shared with someone else, a bit of hope I had.
Today I sang a little song, and felt my heart grow light,
And walked a happy little mile, with not a cloud in sight.
Today I worked with what I had and longed for nothing more,
And what had seemed like only weeds, were flowers at my door.
Today I loved a little more and complained a little less,
And in the giving of myself, I forgot my weariness.
~ Author Unknown*



**EIGHTH DAY:
MARY LEAD US TO HER SON**

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus ~ John 17:23...For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed ~ John 17:26...He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you ~ Romans 8:31 ...And to tell you that I am not counting your sins ~ 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ...Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled ~ 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ...His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you ~ 1 John 4:10 ...I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love ~ Romans 8:31-32 ... *Your Loving Father, Almighty God.*

PRAYER REFLECTION 1:

Response: Jesus is the way. He is the truth. He is the life

LEADER: » There is a place, a beautiful mansion with many rooms And in this place Eternal joy is waiting for you How do we get there? How do we go? *Response.*

LEADER: » There is a word. This word became flesh so that we might hear. And through this word, The truth of the Father's love appeared. How do we learn? How do we know? *Response.*

LEADER: » There is a love. A love that was willing to sacrifice and in this love we can share in the feast of the Bread of Life. How do we find it? How do we go? *Response.*

PRAYER REFLECTION 2: John 2: 1-5

LEADER: Do whatever He tells you. Do whatever He says. Everything will work out fine. Jesus will turn water into wine. Do whatever He tells you.

ALL: Mary knew that Jesus was God's Son, And she sensed His time had finally come. So to keep the wedding feast from coming to an end, She called the servants out and said to them: "Do whatever he tells you" . "Let it be, according to your will."

LEADER: Mary's words of faith inspire us still. Lowly one, she bore the Son and to the cross she stayed. She always modeled how we should obey.

ALL: Listen harder when you pray and Do whatever He tells you. It may see foolish to obey, but Do whatever He says. When the wine of life runs out, Do whatever He tells you. You'll see what grace is all about. Do whatever He says.

LEADER: *(Broken Dreams)* As children bring their broken toys With tears for us to mend, I brought my broken dreams to God. Because He was my friend.

But then instead of leaving Him In peace to work alone, I hung around and tried to help With ways that were my own. At last I snatched them back and cried, "How could you be so slow" "My child," He said, "What could I do? You never did let go."

LEADER: In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

ALL: What heights of love, what depths of peace. When fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My Comforter, my All in All. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

LEADER: In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless Babe. This gift of love and righteousness. Scorned by the ones He came to save.

ALL: There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious Day. Up from the grave He rose again.

LEADER: And as He stands in victory. Sins curse has lost its grip on me.

ALL: For I am His and He is mine. Bought with the precious blood of Christ; No guilt in life, no fear in death. This is the power of Christ in me; From a life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.

LEADER: No power of hell, no scheme of man. Could ever pluck me from His hand; Till He returns or calls me home. Here in the power of Christ I stand.

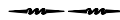
ALL: I will stand, I will stand. All other ground is sinking sand; So I stand now and forevermore.

(MAKE IT RIGHT/MAKE IT COUNT MOMENT)

DO I THINK LIKE JESUS?

DO I LOOK AT THE WORLD WITH LOVE AS JESUS DID?

MY BELOVED: Choose not to see Me with your eyes, or hear Me with your ears, for who I Am is who you are. Never search for Me in things, for things were not made by you or Me. Search not for happiness and love in that which you can touch with your hands or taste with your tongue, for you have already tried that, and where has that gotten you? Search not for me outside yourself, for I Am in you, and I Am you. In times of insanity when illusions surround you, offer me an instant and sit in the power of your silence and understand that I Am all that you need and that you are all that completes Me, for as you hold a place in my heart, so too do I live in yours.



**NINTH DAY:
RECONCILIATION**

(Silent reading and moments of reflection)

Dearly Beloved: If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me ~ 1 John 2:23...And nothing will ever separate you from my love again ~ Romans 8:38-39 ...Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen ~ Luke 15:7 ...I have always been Father, and will always be Father ~ Ephesians 3:14-15 ...My question is ~ Will you be my child? ~ John 1:12-13...I am waiting for you—Luke 15: 11-32 -----*Love, Your Father, Almighty God.*

PRAYER REFLECTION: Who Are You, Lord?

LEADER: While praying one day a woman asked,
ALL: "Who are you, Lord?"
LEADER: God answered,
ALL: "I Am".
LEADER: She said,
ALL: "But who is I am?"
LEADER: And God Replied ..
ALL: "I Am Love, I Am Peace, I Am Grace, I Am Joy, I Am the Way, Truth, and the Light ... I Am the Comforter, I Am Strength, I Am Safety, I Am Shelter, I Am Power, I Am the Creator, I Am the Beginning and the End, I Am the Most High".
LEADER: The woman with tears in her eyes looked toward heaven and said,
ALL: "Now I understand. But Lord, who Am I?"
LEADER: Then God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered,
ALL: "You Are Mine".

PRAYER REFLECTION 2: A lost Son; not a lost Sonship

LEADER: "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (Luke 15: 20)
ALL: Coming home, coming home, nevermore to roam, open wide thine arms of love, Lord, I'm coming home.
LEADER: I've wandered far away from God,
ALL: Now I'm coming home;
LEADER: The paths of sin too long I've trod,
ALL: Lord, I'm coming home.
LEADER: I've wasted many precious years,

ALL: Now I'm coming home;
LEADER: I now repent with bitter tears,
ALL: Lord, I'm coming home.
LEADER: I'm tired of sin and straying,
ALL: Lord, Now I'm coming home;
LEADER: I'll trust Thy love, believe Thy Word,
ALL: Lord, I'm coming home.
LEADER: My soul is sick, my heart is sore,
ALL: Now I'm coming home;
LEADER: My strength renew, my hope restore.
ALL: Lord, I'm coming home.
LEADER: My only hope, my only plea,
ALL: Now I'm coming home;
LEADER: That Jesus died, and died for me.
ALL: Lord, I'm coming home.
LEADER: I need His cleansing blood, I know,
ALL: Now I'm coming home;
LEADER: O wash me whiter than the snow,
ALL: Lord, I'm coming home.

LEADER: *(2 Cor 5: 19-20): . . . God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

(MAKE IT RIGHT/MAKE IT COUNT MOMENT)

MARY AT LA SALETTE IS A RECONCILER.
 AM I A RECONCILER LIKE HER?
 DO I FORGIVE AS READILY AS THE FATHER
 OF THE PRODIGAL SON?

LEADER: **We pray . . . together** *(after moments of reflection)*

"Dear God, we pray for this world.
 We ask that you remove the walls that separate us
 and the chains that hold us down.

*Use us to create a new world on earth,
 One that reflects Your will, Your vision, Your peace.*

In this moment, we recognize the power You have given us
to create anew the world we want.
Today's world, dear Lord, reflects our past confusion.
Now, in this moment, we ask for new light.
Illumine our minds.

*Use us dear Lord, as never before,
as part of a great and mighty plan
for the healing of this world.*

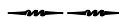
May we no longer be at war with each other.
May we no longer be at war with ourselves.
Let us forgive this century and every other,
the evils of history, the pain of our common fears.

*Remove from our hearts the illusion that we are separate.
May every nation and every people and every color
and every religion find at last the one heartbeat we share
Through you, our common Father and the redeemer of our broken dreams.*

May we not hold onto yesterday.
May we not obscure Your vision of tomorrow
but rather may You flood our hearts.
Flow through us, work through us,
that in our lives we might see the illumined world.

*Create, sustain that world on earth, dear God,
for us and for our children.
Grant us the grace to live
a Reconciled life and a Reconciling way of Life;
True witnesses and messengers of
Peace and Reconciliation.*

Praise you our God, of the the possibility
that such a thing could come to be,
through You, through your light that shines within us.
So may it be. So may it be. We thank you, Lord Amen"



PRAYERS YOU ALSO MAY FIND HELPFUL

Healing a Broken Relationship

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
I freely choose to praise and thank you
for all you did through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who came to teach me how to live life to the full.
I pray for (*insert name of person you want to reconcile*)
and ask that you take him/her into your loving arms
and fill him/her with your mercy and peace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Love,
I commit (*insert name of person you want to reconcile*)
to your authority and ask that you present him/her
to the Father and to the fullness of His glory.
I seek forgiveness, Lord, for not doing this earlier.

I ask that (*insert name of person you want to reconcile*)
may know my personal love and reconciliation.
Here I wish to show forth to (*insert name of person
you want to reconcile*) and all his/her family
all that You have achieved; that in the bread I will hold
is Your life and teaching, Your body and blood,
Your brokenness and healing through Your stripes.
In Your shed blood is the gift of freedom from the guilt
and stain of all sin. Through the torn veil
we have direct access to You, for in rising,
You defeated Satan and his companions,
and You became available to all who seek Your mercy.

Now, may the Angel of Mercy embrace (*insert name
of person you want to reconcile*) and at this moment
may he/she be empowered with Your loving gentleness.
I choose to surrender all my concerns, thoughts,
feelings and desires for (*insert name of person you
want to reconcile*) and place them
at the foot of Your cross to become
what You choose them to become.

Now, Lord because I choose to surrender
(*insert name of person you want to reconcile*)
to your loving care. I no longer will be pressured

nor oppressed by this relationship.
May I now be healed and become the person
You intended me to become,
to live Your praise and glory. Amen.

A Litany of Forgiveness

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord our God. We come before you to ask your forgiveness for all of our failings both great and small.

Generous God, you give us so many gifts in life, yet sometimes we forget to share them. And so we say...

All: We are sorry.

Leader: Faithful God, you are with us in one another, yet we sometimes refuse to recognize you. And so we say...

All: We are sorry.

Leader: God of gentleness, you ask us to bring peace to our family and to the world, yet sometimes we spread anger and trouble. And so we say...

All: We are sorry.

Leader: Gracious God, you give us a voice with which to sing, and words to speak, and yet sometimes our words are hurtful or untrue. And so we say...

All: We are sorry.

Leader: Loving God, you sent your only son to show us how to love and serve one another, and yet we sometimes are selfish and unloving. And so we say...

All: We are sorry.

Leader: Merciful God, as we prepare for reconciliation, help us to ask forgiveness when we need to. Help us to forgive others who have wronged us. And let us be peacemakers in our school and in our family, in our community. We thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and reconciling love.

All: Amen.

Prayer for Healing

Loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit
I am calling on You today to ask for healing
for myself and my world.
Your Divine wisdom and power brought us all into being;
And You sustain and support us every moment of every day.
Every breath I take, every morning I wake,
Every moment of every hour,
I live within You, as You are alive in me.

And so it shall be in all eternity.

Please, fill my whole being with the gift of
the blessing and healing power of Your great love.
And with the power of Your Divine thoughts
that once brought me into this life,
Help me to re-generate and heal my whole being.
May Your prayers of healing and peace flow through me,
and help me do my share of Blessing and healing,
saving and redeeming myself and everything/everyone
that shares my world with me.

Help me to cast out all that is no longer of any use to me;
And mending that which is broken in me and my life;
Help me to renew all unproductive cells;
Open up any blocked arteries and veins;
Remove inflammations and cleanse my body of infections;
Rebuild and regenerate all damaged areas
of my inner and outer being.

(Pour your heart out and talk about everything that is troubling you)

May the warmth of Your Divine healing love pass through me,
To regenerate and restore all unhealthy of me into perfect health,
So that, from now onwards, my whole being can function
The way You created it for me.

I wish to serve You
With all my heart, mind, body, spirit and soul,
For the rest of this lifetime and throughout Eternity.
First though I need Your help
to restore my whole being
to full health.
In the name of love,
Your own sacred name,
I ask this from You. AMEN.