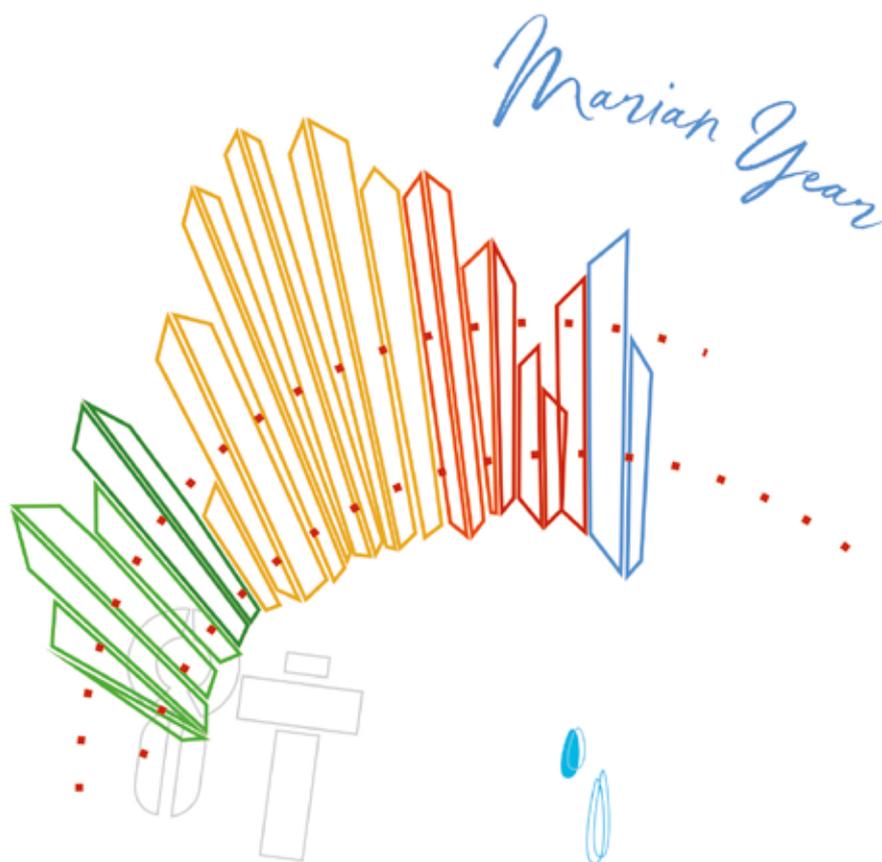


2020
N° 57

Salette Info



Marian Year

**MARY,
WAY OF HOPE AND PEACE
AMONG CULTURES**

La Salette 1846 - 2021

JUBILEE PRAYER

FOR THE 175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN AT LA SALETTE

O Mary, 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 Mélanie
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

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CELEBRATION OF THE 175TH - NOSTALGIA OR PROPHECY?



175 is the number of the years that separate us from the Apparition of the “Beautiful Lady” to Maximin and Melanie in the mountains of La Salette (France), which happened in 1846.

It seems to be a long period of time, and one even would say that the message from this event is getting old as it is affected by the weight and rust that time brings with it. If this is true for many things that happen in the course of history, it is not true, however, for what happened on September 19, 1846. The echo of this historical prophetic and spiritual event with particular ecclesial relevance did not end in the second half of the nineteenth century. But has come down to us with all its original load of novelty and challenges for the Church and for the world.

It is an anniversary that we are all called to experience firsthand with constant commitment, joy and enthusiasm as it has to do with our life and our vocation as religious and as La Salette missionaries.

For each of us to appropriate as much as possible of the spiritual and charismatic treasure that emanates from it, I think it is useful, if not necessary, to make our own the attitudes that have characterized the life of the people of Israel on their journey to the promised land and summarized here in these three verbs: remember, celebrate and scrutinize.

1. Remember

The duty of remembrance induces us not to let what happened in the past fall into oblivion and which had a very strong impact of significant and emotional importance in our personal life as well as in the life of the society and the Church. It invites us, not to say obliges us, to return to the roots of what we are today and to restore luster and depth to our human, religious and La Salette identity. The apparition, as such, in fact, is the inspiring event of our presence in the Church as “a religious apostolic Congregation dedicated to the ministry of Reconciliation” (Rule of Life, 1).



Furthermore, looking to the past does not mean “worshiping the ashes” of a certain experience, but rather rediscovering and claiming that religious and missionary zeal, that strength and those profound motivations that characterized its beginning. If today our Congregation is what it is, we owe it above all to the grace and mercy of God but also to the full dedication, unflinching tenacity and faithful

witness of those who preceded us in religious life.

2. Celebrate

Without remembrance there can be no true celebration worthy of the name. In fact, it motivates us to see the stated event as a time of grace through which God wanted to enter in contact and dialogue with each of us, to make history with us, and tell us all of his love and closeness. Celebrating means, as already mentioned in the Bible, “remembering”, that is, making present today and reviving in signs what God has accomplished for the good of his people by showing them the path to follow in order to follow him.



Celebrating, moreover, means acknowledging that what we have received from the beginning is simply a gift, unexpected and undeserved, for which we are sincerely grateful. For us, Missionaries of La Salette, this extraordinary gift is identified with the apparition of the Beautiful Lady and with her message to be received, to be lived personally, and as a religious community, and to be faithfully transmitted to all his people.

Celebrating, again, means affirming that Christ was, is and will forever be the “Rule of our Life” (Rule of Life, 7). In fact, since, hanging on the cross on the chest of the Beautiful Lady, wasn't he at the center of the apparition and of the message proclaimed on the Holy Mountain?

3. Scrutinize

This jubilee must not be reduced to a pure and simple “self-celebration”, an end in itself and with the risk of making all the spiritual and charismatic heritage handed down to us sterile and vain, but rather transform itself into a real laboratory of ideas and a springboard not only of new strategies of religious and community life but also of possible renewed pastoral paths in keeping with the sensitivities and needs of the present time. It carries within itself a singular charge of personal and community renewal and a great challenge that pushes us to scrutinize new horizons for a new evangelization.

This is perhaps the time to ask ourselves what image we would like our Congregation to take on in the near future and what useful service it can render to the Church and to the world today. Furthermore, on which aspect of the spiritual, ecclesial or social life we should put more emphasis so that our charism becomes the promoter and leaven of a renewed and reconciled Church as well as of a new world where the great expectations of justice, peace and brotherhood find acceptance and adequate and shared solutions.

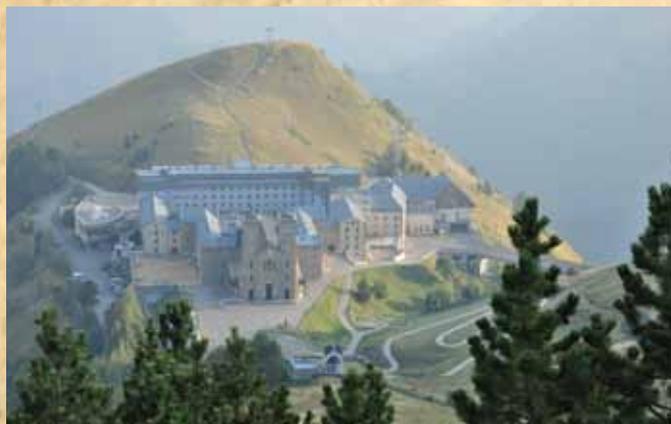
Why a “Marian Year” in the Congregation?

In 2021, the 175th anniversary of the Apparition is to be solemnly celebrated everywhere in the world where the Missionaries and Sisters of La Salette work as well as the numerous La Salette laity and friends of the Beautiful Weeping Mother. This is the hope and basic orientation set out by the General Chapter of the Congregation held in Las Termas (Argentina) in 2018 in view of the celebration of this important anniversary.

In order that this celebration does not go unnoticed or is simply improvised and so that it bears the hoped-for fruits, it was asked that it be prepared at every level (personal, community, Province/Region and of the Congregation) to make it become a true source of grace and spiritual renewal, charismatic, pastoral and vocational for each La Salette missionary and for the people of God he serves.

In order for all of this to be assimilated in the best possible way, a special Marian Year dedicated to reflection and prayer (2020 – September 19 – 2021) has been proclaimed throughout the Congregation, lived in communities and places where the missionaries of La Salette are carrying out their ministry, commemorating - in the most true sense of this word - the riches of this miraculous event, which already in 1846 was accepted and recognized as a generous gift for the Church and for the whole people of God.

So that the desired spiritual and community renewal is not limited to an arid, complacent self-celebration which would ultimately humiliate us, it was requested that it lead to concrete actions, aimed at confronting and mitigating certain problematic situations of marginalization, critical situations encountered in pastoral and missionary service (General Chapter 2018, decision n. 1h), with particular attention, of course, to the harmful effects of the pandemic which puts the whole world to the test, especially the less fortunate and the most fragile and vulnerable, the sick and the elderly. Each Province has the task of studying and preparing, as far as possible, programs and projects suitable to meet these needs of the present moment.



In order to better assimilate all this, a special “Marian Year” of reflection and prayer (2020 – 19 September – 2021) has been proclaimed throughout the Congregation to be lived in the communities and places where the Missionaries of La Salette exercise their ministry by remembering, in the truest sense of the word, the richness of this prodigious event which since 1846 has been accepted and recognized as a gracious gift for the Church and for all God’s people.

For a whole year, therefore, starting from 19 September 2020, every La Salette Missionary is invited to return with his mind and heart to the roots of his religious vocation in order to give a new impetus to the spirituality that animates his life as a Christian first and then as a religious and to assume his mission in the Church and in the world today with renewed enthusiasm and motivated commitment.

It is not a simple and nostalgic return to the past but an expression of a strong desire to highlight the founding values of our identity as a La Salette and to verify their relevance and their implementation today with a particular eye to the future.

Rediscovery of Mary in the history of salvation

The celebration of this anniversary also has the purpose of allowing each of us to rediscover the fundamental role that Mary had in the history of salvation and also the important meaning of her “becoming a pilgrim” alongside the Church of all times.

Mary presents herself at La Salette as a mother who truly cares about the material and spiritual good of her children and the abundant tears that streak down her face attest to this in an irrefutable way and she is aware that right under the cross, a few moments before expiring, Jesus entrusted us to her in the person of the apostle John: “Woman, behold your son... , son behold your mother” (Jn 19, 25-27). And from that moment she took on the mission entrusted to her by her Son with a profound sense of maternal responsibility and absolute fidelity. Her primary task is to introduce us to Jesus who, out of love accepts to die on the cross for us.

...And of our life as La Salette

Since the Congregation of the Missionaries of La Salette was born as a response to the invitation addressed by the Beautiful Lady to the two little shepherds Maximin and Melanie at the end of her apparition “Well, my children, make this known to all my people”, it is certain that Mary holds a particularly important and respectable place in our spirituality, as can be seen also from the various references present in our Rule of life.



“Faithful to our origins, we profess a deep love for Mary, Mother of Christ and of the Church. In our apostolate, we follow the example of the handmaid of the Lord who was made Reconciler particularly at the foot of the cross” (Rule of Life, 5).

“Our life of religious consecration finds its inspiration in Mary, – whose life is a model for all – and whose unceasing intercession supports our efforts. Conscious of the challenge which the Apparition of the Lord’s Handmaid continues to put before us, we resolve to devote ourselves entirely, as she herself did, to the person and work of her Son” (Rule of Life, 13).

For us Missionaries of La Salette, Mary is therefore: **mother** in that her appearance and her message are at the origin of our existence as a Congregation in the Church; **model of disciple** because she invites us to “do what her Son tells us” (Jn 2,5) and to place him at the center of our life (Rule of Life, 7); **example and rule of conduct** for our religious and apostolic life, inviting us to put all our strength at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel for the realization of the mystery of Reconciliation in the Church and in the world (Rule of Life, 4).

May the Beautiful Lady continue to make the heartfelt invitation to Maximin and Melanie resound in our hearts and minds at the end of her Apparition: “Well, my children, make this known to all my people” so that we become more and more those missionaries who are ready to profess and to bear witness by our religious life before anyone and everywhere a deep, passionate and total love for Christ who loved them to the end (Rule of Life, 10cp).

On behalf of the General Council, I wish everyone, religious, young people in formation and lay people to live intensely in the company of Mary this year of preparation for the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Apparition as a true time of grace and spiritual and pastoral renewal that the Lord grants us in his goodness and mercy.

Silvano Marisa MS
General Superior

La Salette mission in Haiti

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

(Our Lady of La Salette)

For nearly 175 years, the messengers of La Salette continue to respond to the invitation of the Beautiful Lady to Maximin and Melanie during her Apparition on September 19, 1846. The Missionaries of La Salette carry on this Message, which is the echo of the ever-current Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these few lines, I would like to present to you one of the most recent missions of our Congregation, that is our Haiti mission.

The Republic of Haiti, which is among the poorest country in the western world, is located on the western part of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea and shares the border with the Dominican Republic to the east, while the neighboring islands are Cuba and Jamaica. It is characterized by a mountainous landscape with a humid tropical climate. Deforestation and erosion caused by the island's rocky mountains have reduced the country's forest to less than 4% of its area.

The first contacts of the Haitian people with the Message of Our Lady of La Salette were with Missionaries from the Province of the United States who had been carrying out humanitarian activities in schools and in parishes in the north area of the country for more than twenty years.

In 2009, Father Ralohotsy Evariste MS arrived from Madagascar to officially begin the activity of the new La Salette permanent presence in the country which was entrusted to the Province of Mary Mother of the Church (Madagascar) in collaboration with the Province of the United States. For a few months, Father Evariste was hosted by the parish of Sainte Claire in Marchand Dessalines, where he learned the Creole language which is spoken by the vast majority of the population.

Subsequently, the Community was strengthened with the arrival of two other Malagasy priests who quickly learned the local language, studied and deepened the culture and customs of the population. During these first ten years, six La Salette from Madagascar worked in the country. Currently, three of them are carrying out their mission in two parishes entrusted to us by the bishop of the diocese of Gonaïves, located in the north-west of the

country: Fr. Rakotondraibe Maminiaina Romuald, Fr. Rarivoarivony Maximin and Fr. Randriamirado Odon. Because of their work, La Salette continues to be known and their life testimony inspires many people, especially parishioners and youngsters.

In addition to the difficulty of learning the language and dealing with cultural differences, the Country's insecurity and political instability are among the challenges our brothers had to face in their mission in Haiti. The poverty has been worsened by natural disasters, especially the terrible earthquake of January 2010 and the health crises following the cholera epidemic in October of the same year, to name a few. Not to mention the political crises which have left the population in a situation of extreme poverty, alone in the face of the daily battle for survival. In the



midst of all of this, our Missionaries have never ceased to serve and to be with the Haitian people, in particular with the parishioners of the two parishes of Bayonnais and Haute Feuille.

The parish of Saint Augustin of Petite Rivière de Bayonnais was our first parish. In addition to the pastoral work in the two churches that make up this parish, our missionaries take care of young people and a school. The 700 members of the parish also need home visitation to nurture their faith. Very few are observant and many follow the traditional religion which is widespread in the country, in most cases people mix it with their faith and Christian practice (syncretism). Just like in the parish of Saints Anne and Joachim of Haute Feuille, located about twenty miles from Bayonnais, which has about 300 Christian families. This second parish also has two other churches: the Notre-Dame de La Salette Chapel (Gilbert) and the Immaculate Conception Chapel (Hatte Chevreau). Our missionaries cross the mountains and valleys of these localities to visit the sick, animate communities and urge parents to send their children to school.

The Haitian population is very young, more than 40% of them are under 15, only 3% are over 65 and life expectancy is very low: 52 years for men, 54 years for women. This is why the priorities of the pastoral care of

our Missionaries are focused primarily on the basic needs of the children and young people and providing poor people with the minimum necessary for a healthy living.

It is for this reason that our missionaries are so involved in the pastoral education in schools. The parish of Saint Augustin de Bayonnais has an elementary parish school where more than hundred children come every day to learn and have lunch. The parish of Haute Feuille has two primary and a secondary schools with around 1,000 students, who are also granted one meal per day. The management of school canteens is obviously one of the main concerns and tasks of our priests.

The Missionaries of La Salette in Haiti are engaged in social pastoral work and the sustainable human development project in their sector. In a country of extreme poverty, providing people with access to safe drinking water and teaching them how to use it for their own hygiene are major public health concerns. Thanks to the support of benefactors, our missionaries are able to assist the local population to have access to clean drinking water by digging wells and pumps. They also help people living in poverty meet their basic needs with the collaboration of the sisters who work closely with them.

Despite the difficulties and challenges, this community holds great promise for the future. Young Haitians, for example, have repeatedly demonstrated their desire to join them and to become Missionaries of La Salette.

For several years our confreres have preferred to strengthen their assimilation of and their integration to the local culture before thinking of a probable project of vocation and religious formation. This year more than ten young people expressed their desire to become Missionaries of La Salette after having seen the works and the testimonies of life of our Brothers and also after having heard the Message of La Salette.

Now that our missionaries are beginning to feel more at ease with the ecclesial, social and cultural situation of the country, which are essential elements in wel-



coming candidates for religious life, they presented a recruitment and formation project they prepared and it has been approved by the Provincial Council of Madagascar and of the United States. And with the permission of the latter and the blessing of the General Council, they were able to start in September 2020 a formation program for young Haitians in Haiti itself.

For the moment six young men have started their discernment with our brothers. While waiting for more stable and long-term solutions (acquisition / rental of land or a house), they are having their vocational, religious and community discernment in the two parish houses of Bayonnais and of Haute Feuille. It is one of the most beautiful gifts we have received for the Year of Vocations.

La Salette message continues to make its way in different cultures. What is happening in Haiti marks a new start for missionary zeal and the proclamation of the message and the event of La Salette to all God's people to evangelize cultures and to bring justice and peace to reign.

Romuald Rakotondraibe MS

General Secretary



La Salette Mission in Mozambique

Responding to the missionary dimension of the Church and its appeal our Congregation undertook the mission in Mozambique, one of the ten poorest countries in the world. La Salette mission in Mozambique is set in Cabo Delgado Province, and more precise in the Diocese of Pemba, whose shepherd is bishop Luiz Fernando Lisboa from the Congregation of the Passionists.

The mission entrusted to us by the bishop is placed in the north of the Diocese, by the border with Tanzania. The northern region consists of nine municipalities with 600 residents who are being served by 35 missionaries (priests, religious sisters and lay) residing in seven parishes. Among these seven fronts there is the Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the region of Muidumbe. The region with 79, 000 inhabitants was entrusted to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette: Fr. Edgard (Brazil), Fr. Hélio (Angola) and Fr. João (Brazil).

We arrived here in 2017. Our presence was marked with great challenges. We experienced moments of joy and feast, especially when we met to celebrate Holy Eucharists. A Eucharistic celebration is always a feast!

When we arrived in the northern region we encountered the war which started in October 2017 and lasts till now. The region was affected by the cyclone Kenneth, and at the end of 2019 was disturbed by the heavy rains that separated us for five months, and now the pandemic which affects the whole world prevailed here, too.

The Pandemic

On March 22, 2020 the government declared a state of emergency which was prolonged until September 2020. It resulted in cancelling school lessons on all levels of education, religious services in tem-

ples, community gatherings, etc. In response to the appeal of the government the bishop of Mozambique implemented a set of procedures.

Few people in our villages have access to the Internet or other means of communication. Many people are not aware of what happens in the world. When we explain, it seems a distant reality and incomprehensible to them. Vast majority of the society do not obey the indications or the reality of poverty makes the hygienic restrictions impossible to follow. Many do not have an access to water or soap.

Thanks to a simple radio station that we own, we were able to broadcast many programs and transmit the indications of the Ministry of Health. Some of the 55 states of Africa had a high level of Covid-19 infection number as for example in the Republic of South Africa.

Mozambique struggled to follow all the international procedures. We may confirm that there weren't so many cases of Covid-19

in the country. Despite the fact that the official numbers refer to the whole country, they are concentrated particularly in three provinces: Maputo, Nampula and Cabo Delgado. In August, 19 deaths were reported. People in remote villages did not believe in existing in a pandemic which claimed so many lives in many parts of the world. The authorities continuously informed in the media though the news did not reach the people because of the lack of means.

Inhabitants of the northern regions call the virus a war

The mission entrusted to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette consists of 26 communities, out of which 14 have been attacked. We live in the region



called Planalto do Povo Maconde. 10 communities live on the plains and 16 on the plateau. The communities settled in the lower part had been attacked by terrorists since December 2019. Everybody believed that they will not attack the communities on the plateau. However, on April 7 there was an attack at the place we live. The terrorists occupied five villages including Muambula – our mission’s headquarters. We were forced to escape and spend 3 months in Pemba.

In July we asked the bishop to let us return to the mission site. However, the war intensified in the nearby municipality to that place. The terrorists overtook the whole city. The municipality is a strategic point as it has a little harbor. Because of the gravity and unsteadiness of the situation in the region our diocesan bishop told all the missionaries to return to the headquarters of the Diocese of Pemba.

The result of the war is sad. Families are scattered in different parts of the country, over 200, 000 people were displaced. If anybody manages to find some money, they escape to another city, and those who can not afford or for other reasons like the elderly in particular, are thrown on the terrorists’ mercy. The pace of life in each of the seasons changes. Fear and unsteadiness dominated the site.

Such is a depiction of the reality we missionaries have experienced. And not only we Saletinians. There are other eleven religious congregations, besides diocesan priests, in the northern region. We ex-



perienced an exile and instability living on the things we were able to carry out at the time of our escape.

We desire to confirm our will to stay here because these experiences are special to us Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette in spite of all the difficulties – here is our place! We need to save our lives to serve people later when the war finishes, but never give up! We were called here to be “ambassadors of reconciliation”.

May Our Lady of Reconciliation intercede for PEACE we miss so much and we desire for the region of Cabo Delgado/Mozambique.

Dear Saletinian Brother from any part of the world, you can help us in this mission. Pray for us! For the African people! Try to learn more in social media about this our work which belongs to OUR CONGREGATION. Brotherly embrace!

Edegard Silva Junior MS
Hélio João MS



Mission in Myanmar

The second stage of the La Salette Mission started at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary on November 18, 2005 as a district directly dependent on the General Council. The pastoral care of this diocesan Marian shrine and some parishes nearby was given to the Missionaries. At the Council of the Congregation in India (February 2017) the district was raised to a region. On May 2017, the first Regional Chapter, was held in Chanthagone, presided by the Superior General, Fr. Silvano Marisa. At the request of the Missionaries the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Myanmar at their January 2020 meeting decided to approve the Feast of Our Lady of La Salette (September 19) to be registered and celebrated as an optional memorial in the national liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church in Myanmar. They also recommended that it will be put in the universal calendar. However, after 15 years of administering the diocesan shrine, on April 19, 2020, at the request of the new Archbishop Marco Tin Win, it was given back to the Archdiocese of Mandalay. In the meantime, the care of a small parish in Sinlan, not far from the new central house, was given to the La Salette Missionaries.

The Region now has 12 priests; 4 perpetually professed deacons, 5 in temporary vows; 2 aspirants and 3 college (pre-aspirant) students. 4 priests and 4 deacons take up their residence in Pyin Oo Lwin. In Paleik, there are 2 priests and 5 students (pro-paedeutic: pre-aspirant). 3 theology students and 2 priests are in Yangon. In residence in Loikaw, where there is an alternate center for theology, there is one priest and 2 theology students. Thanlegyi, Pyay, is the site of the new shrine of Our Lady of La Salette. Two priests stay there. One priest is working in America for the American Province.

The Corona virus, like in other countries, locked down areas. The number of positive cases was not much at the beginning. But the second wave, even though small in comparison to Europe and America, pushed the number to almost 55000 positive cases. All non-essential international travel restrictions extended to the end of November. Classes were suspended but schools were allowed to reopen but again closed. Even though delayed, the theologate in Loikaw conducted classes. The Yangon Theology Seminary remained closed as it was used as one of





the centers of quarantine. Finally, the professors decided to have classes by Zoom. Because of this, 3 of our 4th year theology students will be able to finish their studies in a year. Covid-19 pandemic limited the attendees of the diaconate ordination last September 19. Travel restrictions imposed by the government made it impossible for some members to attend the delayed Regional Chapter to be further postponed to December.

In 2019, we began the constructions of the Central house and the retreat center. Only the first phase can be finished. Hopefully the second stage can begin after the pandemic ends. More financial help will be needed to have this retreat center to be completed. It is necessary for our retreat apostolate. Even though we can respond to the request of working in many mission areas, we would not like to have one-man posts. Another problem area is that of on-going formation. A solid program needs to be formulated as many young clergy will be a part of the community. As many young members are added, we may be able to send some members out to some foreign assignments.

David Kyaw Kyaw Lwin MS
Superior of the Region



Moving Forward with Hope

“Polepole mwenendo”. A Swahili proverb which literally means ‘even if we move slowly we are moving forward’. Four years have already passed (17 July 2020) since our arrival in this mission station here in Bukoba Catholic Diocese in Tanzania. Those were years of great adjustment to adapt on the new environment and new culture. Despite that we are happy to say that we are moving forward with good fruits on the way.

It is our joy to have the privilege to serve the people in this part of the world despite our weaknesses and shortcomings. New way of life is always an opportunity to learn and to bear fruits. We enjoy the simplicity of life here where simple foods are available from our farm, organic vegetables are harvested from our garden and the demand of luxury is less. Our community as La Salette Missionaries is also our source of joy added with the love and care we are receiving from our parishioners.

Challenges remain and will always be around. They keep us to strive for the better every day. Language is still a big challenge considering that most of the people around us are more comfortable to use the language of the tribe rather than the national language which is Swahili. It is, as always, for new comers like our new community member, Fr. Sajith Kallakkudiyan from India. Fluency of the language is not the issue but understanding it in relation to





their culture. Swahili is deeply rooted in their culture therefore knowledge of the grammar is not enough to understand them.

Some new challenges are coming our way like the culture and social practices which are not easy for us to accept and understand. As they always say “You have the watches but we have the time.” Consciousness of time and punctuality are a little far from their system. Evangelization is impeded by the clash between Christian teaching and local tradition. Most of the time, local tradition is preferred over Christian morality and teaching. The social system is heavily influenced by the culture of the tribe like male dominance which is carried out even in the Church’s system.

We understood that we are not here to change them but to accompany them and lead their way through the proclamation of the Gospel in all ways possible. We cannot set aside the fact that still many, though not all, are trying their best to fulfill their Christian responsibilities like attending the Mass, receiving Sacraments and helping the Church within their capacity. Such is the source of our strength to keep us going. It is always Christ not us at the center of all these things.

With the abundance of natural resources, Tanzania cannot be considered a poor country but people are suffering because of bureaucracies. These give



us some worries for the people. As the case of many countries in the world, it seems that the government lacks transparency especially in this time of pandemic. Poor road condition outside main cities and towns contribute to slow development and poverty and sometimes make pastoral work a little difficult. Many have no access to good medical services. In addition, the effect of climate change has a big impact for the people who largely depend on farming. Prolong dry or rainy season cause problems economically for the farming families.

Nevertheless, hope for a bright tomorrow is in front of us. Vocation to religious and priestly life is bountiful. The Church has a big hope for young men and women of Tanzania. This hope also transcends to the community because they can also bring good changes to the country and to the world. Our community is looking ahead in this path. Even though we are not yet recruiting there are some young men who expressed their desire to join us. With the approval and assistance of the General Council, formation of local men for our congregation might also begin soon.

Let us always pray to Our Lady of La Salette, with her help and prayers, that the mission entrusted to us will succeed to make her message known to all people.

La Salette Community in Tanzania

The signs of the times

– the challenges of the new forms of poverty for Religious Men and Women after the pandemic

“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”.

A little virus has stopped the planet. Locked up, everyone at his own home, some have wondered why we have come to this? The assumptions have come from everywhere. There are, of course, those who were looking for the culprits and those who anathematize their own enemies. These have done little to advance the search for the underlying reasons.

Many are those who have accepted to be challenged. In France numerous expressions have been used, in a humorous way, or in a more fundamental reflection. Christians also reacted: journalists, theologians, biblical scholars, historians who compared periods and recalled experiences that were sometimes astonishing, such as promises meditated during the First World War, which had to wait for the end of the Second World War to materialize. Members of church movements also brought up some reflection, they shared them among themselves, and proposed some possible road maps to follow so as not to stop there, as an example, the Christian leaders, the ACI (Catholic action of independent circles), the workers’ mission, the scouts... to name a few. Christians in their ordinary life have shared in various places lessons of common sense, of wisdom, even in the book of prayer intentions of the chapel of Mont Saint Clair in Sète.

On the very concrete ground, we always find those who are usually at the sites of the reality and who braved the risks of contamination to carry food, to rescue those they could. With St Vincent de Paul Ministry, Catholic Charity..., who were not able to receive these needy people in their sites. Among these committed ones, there are La Salette Laity.

I had the chance to accompany a group of “Entrepreneurs et Dirigeants Chrétiens” (EDC, French Catholic Company Directors and Entrepreneurs). We don’t talk much about them. What struck me was their humility, their faithful listening to the Social Doctrine of the Church, their way of listening to the world which is very complex and violent too, of the economy and the markets, their determination to succeed with their staff, and at the heart of all of this the recognized essential

place of prayer. Members of this movement, confronted violently with this situation, testified to their choices to protect people and keep the structure during the storm. I mention this team and their missionary movement, because I have heard their very explicit request to be accompanied in their commitment by a Church that knows how to nurture their faith up to the

requirements of the situation they face.

We speak of “new poverties”. By listening to these regular actors, we can notice that the “new forms of poverty” are recurrent. The pandemic has only brought to light what is forgotten, ignored, left in the dark in our society, to the point that some public words have expressed the desire to change the paradigms that create this endemic poverty and the growing disproportions in the gap in standards of living in our society.

As La Salette Missionaries, how can we welcome this information, discern the calls for what concerns our charism and our commitments? With some exceptions, we are not specialists, or even connoisseurs of how our complicated society works. But our vocation is to “accompany” by deepening our fundamental references. Thus, Our Lady, through her visit to Maximin and Mélanie, gives us very useful benchmarks for our “ministry”, our service of accompaniment and reconciliation.

So, she doesn’t wait for the children to come to her. They would have remained huddled in their fear on the mountain. It is she, the Beautiful Lady who gets up and



goes towards them. Pope Francis speaks very often of the Church which must go out of herself to go to the peripheries, to reach out to others. In France, a priest who stays in his rectory will not meet anyone, except a few devout people. Jesus, in the Gospel, never stays in one place for long (Mark 1,37-38). It is he who, on behalf of the Father, came down from heaven to meet the human being and share our condition.

The Beautiful Lady shows that she was attentive to the living conditions of the inhabitants of the country. She does not give details of the situation of famine, but she knows and names its origin in the human heart, and she perceives the consequences. She also listened to the swearing of those who drive carts, the sufferings of the inhabitants, the concerns of the priest... (“Only a few elderly women go to Mass...”).

She is very present to the two children with whom she speaks. Thus, she sees their facial expressions when they do not understand French. And she continues in their patois. She is interested in them. Maximin will be delighted: “She asked me a lot of questions!” (Prayer, spoiled wheat...).

She does not put herself in the center of the Apparition. The children cannot make out her face, she does not have a crown on her head during the Apparition. The center of the Apparition is her Son Jesus, the Christ on the cross, whom the children recognize perfectly: “he was almost alive”. All the light was coming from him, and there was no shadow in that light that enveloped all three of them. “Do whatever he tells you!”

And Mary asks them if prayer has a real place in their life. Don't we sometimes have a very ritualistic way of praying, as with the Psalms. The Church asks us to lend our voice in particular to the voiceless, to those who cry, to those who call for justice ... This plausible story is told: in 1944, while the bombardment was approaching their city, one of the canons of the cathedral said to his companions who “recited the service” with him: “let us stop the service, my friends, and let us pray!”

Here is another challenge for us: to learn to pray with the Master and like him. The guideline is the Our Father.

We can continue to point out these important themes of the mission throughout the message and which recall the recommendation of Jesus in Matthew 18,18: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”.

I would like to focus a little on the last word of Our Lady before the sending and her departure: the piece of bread and the spoiled wheat. The Beautiful Lady freed Maximin's father from his anxieties and refusals to be-

lieve, his use of Sunday works to escape and his guilt for not taking care of his child. How did she do it? She confided in the boy a blessing for him: “Dad, she told me about you!”. One day, he took his son Maximin to the hamlet of Coin. On his return he gave him some bread - regardless of the severe famine that affected the region. And this father received this little wink from heaven full of kindness in the heart. So much so that he asked his son to take him up the mountain to tell him everything. And we know the rest of the story. The great challenge that Our Lady calls us to attempt is to learn to take up and offer real blessings. A blessing does more for conversion than a sermon. After hearing his little one tell him that there was good in him, the disbeliever was able to consult in confidence with the parish priest of Corps what he needed to change.

How will this heritage serve us as we, with others, go through the ordeal our planet is experiencing today? The pandemic is not due to chance. This is not a punishment from heaven, but a consequence of the many inconsistencies of our humanity. Evil most often begins with the claims of the highest placed to reach the poorest among us. Corruption thus affects everyone, including us. Are not the terrible trials inflicted on our planet remotely controlled and motivated by the idolatry of “progress” to the detriment of the weakest? The better-off devour what they can, without worrying about the renewal of the benefits of the Creation. There are many voices today who denounce the deadly process. And yet!

We entered the *Laudato Si'* era with Pope Francis. The very title of his encyclical calls us to stand resolutely, humbly before the Luminous Cross, to contemplate and receive the Spirit of him who took nothing for himself but gave us everything. As La Salette Missionaries, we have promised to live a simple life, shared with brothers, open to those who struggle on our way to listen to them and accompany them in whatever the tasks entrusted to us.

May this time of grace make us appreciate the vows we have taken. The way of life is reminded to us by today's challenges: Happy are the poor at heart, happy are those who truly listen, happy are those who love, chaste and true, as Christ loves us.

“Father, keep your Church alert in faith to the signs of the times and eager to accept the challenge of the gospel. Open our hearts to the needs of all humanity, so that sharing their grief and anguish, their joy and hope, we may faithfully bring them the good news of salvation and advance together on the way to your kingdom” (Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs).

Louis de Pontbriand MS



By our baptism we are incorporated into the Church and share in its mission. By our profession of the public vows of poverty, chastity and obedience we are consecrated in a new way to this mission and we bind ourselves to live in a religious community which is a sign of the Kingdom (*Rule of Life, 3*).



ANGOLA

PROVINCE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE

I've Heard the Lord's Voice

Deeply moved by the call of Our Lady of La Salette, “Come closer my children, do not be afraid”, and by the vocational song, “On the desert of my heart I've heard the Lord's voice and answered to the call...”, on the 11th January 2020 in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of La Salette in Mapunda – Lubango, the following novices said their first religious vows: Angelino Katchivela, João Somakuenje, Leonardo Ndjele, Luís Samandjata, Luís dos Santos, Martinho Guelengue, Paulo Martinho.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided by over the Provincial, Fr. Celestino Muhatili MS, assisted by the numerous of La Salette missionaries taking part in this year's gathering, together with the religious from the Archdiocese of Lubango. There were also relatives and friends of the novices, sisters and brothers from different religious congregations, lay Saletinians and a lot of faithful gathered there. Their presence was an important sign of being accepted to the Congregation and the Church. The liturgy was animated by the choir of pilgrims from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of La Salette in Mapunda, which raised the voice of glorification and gratefulness for the gift



of vocation. The Provincial, Fr. Celestino directed the question to the professed, “What made you give up everything and undertake the religious life?” This question together with the time of formation in the novitiate allowed the professed to become aware of the fact that the religious life is not about gathering treasures, but a community life in full accord to the will of the Father in Jesus Christ.”

In response, the professed declared to follow Christ closer with the help of the Holy Spirit, giving themselves to God, to love Him above all others, to search for the happiness in the chosen way of life, to do their best to be good religious, and in particular Saletinians, living and making alive the charism of reconciliation which is so much needed in their country.

José João Gime MS

***“Were not our hearts
burning within us
while he talked with us on
the road and opened the
Scriptures to us?”***

(Łk 24:32)

We give thanks to God for the gift of the call to existence, to the Christian and consecrated life, and for this special time of formation before perpetual vows (from August 31 to September 9). We are grateful for the topics discussed which reflect the present situation in the society and the Church. This way, deepening different issues, we were taking the journey with the Master, who in His pedagogic plan was reminding what had been written in the Bible, and what He had been teaching

us. This experience of the way to Emmaus directs us to Jesus as a necessary waypoint in the personal and consecrated life. He has the power to renew our history, to dignify it, and to make it more enlightened by the light of His resurrection.

Finally, we are responding, as the missionaries engaged in the mission of the Church proclaiming the message of reconciliation, to the invitation of Mary of La Salette of not being afraid. She calls us to take a prophetic attitude which is the desire to bring people back to a deeper unity with God. The message of reconciliation transfers through the ecclesiastical sphere and social one, as it affects the whole of man. As La Salette missionaries we are called to act for the benefit of people by being witnesses of justice and love, and living according to the Gospel in the light of the message of reconciliation.

During our retreats before our perpetual vows, the ordination to diaconate and priesthood, Fr. Benjamim Zani PSDP reminded us about the meaning of being “a disciple and a missionary” which points



that each vocation is a missionary one. In the Church we are all called to be missionaries, each in their own state of life. In this missionary spirit a disciple is called to incarnate the code of behavior:

- **sympathy** which is having a sensitive heart to the sufferings of brothers;
- **solidarity** as a concrete action aiming at changing everyday life for the better;
- **courage** – not to be afraid in confrontation with challenges, conquering everything which is in opposition to the loving plan of the Holy Trinity;

● **ability to serve**, as our lives should be directed towards God’s will to be fulfilled in the service of life. Christian life has its sense in service, to whom with God’s grace we have been called to answer actively and faithfully, like Mary who answered “yes” to God’s will.

This way lead us to our perpetual vows on September 19, and the diaconate ordination on September 20, 2020 together with other co-friars who were ordained priests! It was an unforgettable experience. Thank you!

Manuel Mateus Tchinhundu MS



BRASIL

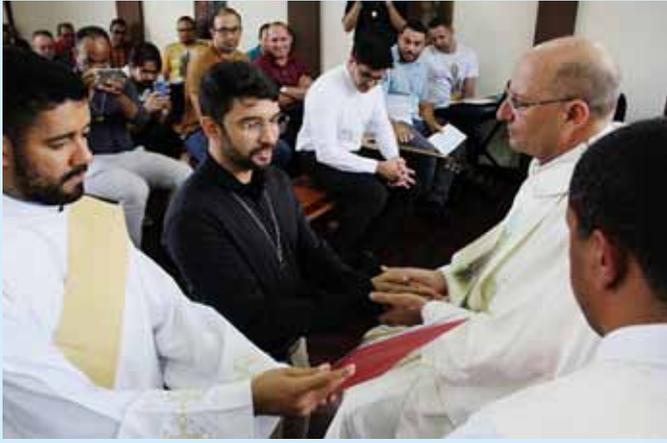
PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

God’s Life within Me, and Me in God

A call is God’s invitation, of the one who first loved me and despite my limitations I also love Him. The One, who is faithful, and entrusts me with the mission in religious life and introduces me into the adventure of love, inviting me to follow and imitate Him. I had never expected God to call me to consecrated life, far away from my family place. Missionary life leads me to perceiving the whole world as my missionary ground. My first vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience I professed on January 29, 2020 giving my life to God because of the Kingdom, the Church, and the people and the Congregation of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. In the martyrdom of that day there was a great grace hidden and the in-

itation to die to myself and the world by undertaking the consecrated life reserved for God. Each “yes” pronounced till the present day shapes within me the eternal “YES” which I want to pronounce ultimately.

It was necessary to empty my inner self from myself, so that I could be filled with God. It was indispensable to purify myself, so that I would be worthy to be dwelt by God. Nothing was my exclusive merit, the Lord Himself prepared me to belong only to Him, to be consecrated to Him, and to become a servant of reconciliation. The Beautiful Lady of La Salette brought me to her Son, and made Him the rule of my life. I am fully happy to be a servant of reconciliation and a Saletinian.



Christ's call is the way from, and to happiness. It is not a way devoid of suffering but has its deep meaning. Therefore, I rely on the grace of the Holy Spirit who motivates me each day to live with courage, sacrifice and readiness.

While professing my vows I experienced a strong presence of the merciful God, and this mercy shaped within my body an exchange of love by pronouncing "yes", God's life within me, and me in God.

"Yes" pronounced wholeheartedly and freely, becoming a gift, opening the door to eternity for the world, allowed me to discover God who by giving Himself to others ultimately directs me towards love.

The unconditional "yes" is a total openness and definite sacrifice. Like any other "yeses" this one was not easy as it assumes both joy and pain, death and resurrection. It will have to wait to accept with enthusiasm what comes, but it will reflect God's love. Living the sacrifice of my life I carry gratefulness that as a young boy I had been chosen by God. Touching me with His Love He conquered all my fears, and today I am wholly His, without fears of being different, though not better from others but called to a different life.

To say "yes" to this call is to live through, what the children experienced that day on September 19, 1946 afternoon, to listen to the voice of the Beautiful Lady who said, "Come near, my children, be not afraid"; and later, "Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people". It means to be with Mary who introduces us to her Son, to go for the encounter with the poor, the most needy of this world, to become an ambassador of reconciliation.

The words I took for the motto are, "Loved by God, to love the unloved in the world." Despite my limitations growing up each day in this love, I experience the joy of fully belonging to God. Thank you, God, that You chose me!

Herbert Oliveira MS

Lord, here I am

"Where there are men and women religious, there is joy!"

(Pope Francis)

My name is Maurício Dias de Araújo, MS and I belong to the Province of Immaculate Conception in Brazil. My perpetual vows I professed on August 15, 2020. Directed by the words of Mary: "for the Mighty One has done great things for me" [Lk 1:49] I gave myself entirely to God, professing my vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. I desire to express my joy that I had been allowed into the Congregation of the Missionaries of La Salette. United with my brothers I want to realize the plan of God's Kingdom with perseverance, being a witness of Reconciliation, as Beautiful Lady requested: "Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people". I count on your prayers, and may the Virgin of La Salette intercede for us.

Maurício Dias de Araújo MS



I dare to say with courage, that this joy Pope Francis talks about, is the same that fills my heart and inspires me to endure in my vocation.

Be exalted, O God, in the joy of being consecrated!

Be exalted, O God, in the joy of being Saletinian!

Be exalted, O God, in the joy of serving the Church of Jesus!

Taking vows is a moment of reflection on the way of vocation. It is a glance at the sowing and the beginning of gathering the first crops. It is time of growing the generous "yes" in response to God's call and answering: Lord, here I am.

Confronted with so many feelings I may only give thanks to the living God for the gift of consecration in service of the Church and reconciliation. I unite with God's people in the prayer so that many young people would answer God's call: "Vocations are born in prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit" (Pope Francis). My consecration is the fruit of prayers of many of my brothers, together with others I pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Carlos Guimarães MS





INDIA

PROVINCE OF LA SALETTE MATHA

Glance into the Canonical year of Novitiate

The canonical year of novitiate was a God given time and an important experience for me. I thank the Lord for His special call to religious life and to live it meaningfully. When I joined the La Salette congregation I did not know the differences between diocesan priests and the religious priests. During the canonical year of novitiate, I learned deeply about religious life.

By trusting in the grace of God and asking the special intercession of Blessed Mother, the novices: bro. Bins Muttathil and myself joyfully professed our first vows on May 1st 2020. Rev Fr. Jojo Kachappilly MS, Provincial Councilor, the delegate of the Provincial Superior Rev Fr. Sajive Maliakal MS, was the main celebrant for the Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Fr. Jojo Kachappilly MS in his meaningful and thought provoking homily, focused on the community life and missionary endeavors. He said that, "The Novitiate House is the power house of the province". According to him the novitiate life can be compared to withdrawal and returning. It is withdrawal because we withdraw from all our usual seminary patterns and

dedicate oneself totally to the prayer atmosphere. We withdraw from every common program in order to energize oneself and return with total conviction and zeal. He also added that, "Religious life receives its flesh and blood from the community life".

We began the canonical year of novitiate on 1st of May 2019 with much desire and happiness. When I glance through this one year of novitiate life, I see tremendous improvement in my prayer life and knowing the sense of religious life. I really got inspired and

convinced about community life. I love my congregation and would like to die as a La Salette religious. At this time, I want to express my gratitude to my Novice Master Fr. Johnny Vadakkan MS for his continued support and assistance that motivated me in religious life. My dream is to make the message of our Blessed Mother known throughout India. My future dream, if God wishes, is to involve in the education ministry of the Province. I thank each and every one for their prayer, support and guidance to live as a committed La Salette religious.

Suresh Marlapudi MS





ITALIA

PROVINCE OF MARY MEDIATRIX

My religious profession in La Salette Family

On Sunday October 4, 2020, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, I pronounced my first vows, in the Congregation of Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. Surrounded by friends, brothers from the province, the Missionaries, the lay people of La Salette and collaborators of our Parish of the Visitation of Torino, in that precious Church, I expressed my vows before our provincial Gian Matteo Roggio.

Pronouncing my vows was for me, corresponding to the great love that God has shown me throughout my life and at the same time the answer to the call that Jesus made to me. I feel very happy and I recognize that it has been a gift of God to be able to do so. The Yes that I pronounced is because I am willing to live my life in his pursuit, according to his lifestyle, I want to be his disciple by experiencing his love and making it known to others.

When I now take a “peek” through this door, I realize that my religious profession lasted a moment, just a few hours. The moment of profession, properly speaking, barely reached a minute: what it takes to pronounce these words that I know by heart:

“I, Antón, in accordance with the constitutions approved by the Holy Apostolic See, make vow of chastity, poverty and obedience for three years, as a brother of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, in whose service I want to live and to die”.

It was only an instant. But, in my life, it was a turning point. At that moment, two things happened:

On the one hand, that I, Antón, conscious, free, exercised one of the highest capacities of the human being: *the capacity to commit myself*. At that moment, it opened my path of searching, thinking, weighing, choosing, maturing... to break with the inertia of our world, and find *my way of living this life*. And from that moment came up a way of living: living my life, my affection, the use of material goods, my time and my abilities, living my deci-

sions, my way of loving... A way of living emerged that makes me be authentic, or better, within which I strive to live with authenticity and coherence.

The second thing that happened is that God *welcomed my commitment*. The moment of my profession was the moment of God’s wink. Wink that said to me that yes, that in this way life deserves to be lived, that I could trust in Him. At that moment, my leap into the void “by intuition”, after so many doubts and uncertainties, became a leap into His hands.

And in this way, what I promised with my small and human word, was sustained by His firm and faithful Word, so that I would not lack anything from my commitment... that which we call “grace”, gift.

And if you could now look at other moments in recent years, you would

see that my religious profession was not something that happened only in an instant: I continue to renew it every day: when I wonder, clumsily, what do chastity and poverty and obedience signify in this world; or when I look for a way to serve, from those three promises, to my brothers and sisters who suffer; or when, finally, I thank God that he has dreamed of me on this path that makes me a person in the best way that was possible for me. I hope my religious profession is something that I continue to do every day. Not only until the moment when, God willing, I make my perpetual profession in the future, no; I hope it will continue to be so every day, until reaching the true perpetual profession, which is having lived to the end, a lifetime of service to the La Salette family.

Now I have the certainty that I do not walk alone, because He goes with me, my community, my family, the Church. I am aware that it was He who called me and made an alliance with me. That is why I abandon myself to him to live a passionate life and thus work on the extension of his Kingdom. And by his grace to be faithful to my vocation. May Our Lady of La Salette always accompany me.

Antón Rodríguez MS





MADAGASIKARA

PROVINCE OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

On our way to the 175th Anniversary of the Apparition through our missionary commitment

The Province of Mary Mother of the Church (Madagascar) has planned several events to celebrate the Year of Vocations, decided by the last General Chapter in Argentina, but the Covid-19 pandemic has changed everything.

Fortunately, the Province has been able to celebrate living testimonies which will inspire youngsters to join the Congregation of the Missionaries of La Salette in the future. In fact, on September 19, 2020, in Antsahasoa, during the celebration of the 174th anniversary of the Apparition, six novices made their religious vows of obedience, poverty and chastity in the presence of many La Salette Missionaries, some Sisters of Notre-Dame de La Salette as well as some members of their families and members of the La Salette laity. The Mass was presided over by Bishop Philippe Ranaivomanana of Antsirabe, and concele-



brated by bishop Fulgence Razakarivony of the diocese of Ihosy, Bishop Donald Pelletier, Bishop Emeritus of Morondava as well as several La Salette Missionaries and priests of the diocese of Antsirabe.

Brother Jacques-Yves Herimilanto Njakatiana, one of the newly professed, expressed his joy in these terms: “This is the most important moment of my life. After a year of prayer and discernment with an intense initiation into community life, I freely decided to say “yes” like Mary. I am overwhelmed with joy for being part of the La Salette Family. With my brothers, I am ready to work for reconciliation”.

Like his colleagues Jacques-Yves will begin his studies of philosophy at the Catholic University of Madagascar in Antananarivo.

Province Secretariat

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me” (Ps 139,1)

Sunday the 3rd of May was really exceptional. Brothers Andriamparany Tahina Christian, Razafimahatradraibe Aimé Joseph, Rakotomalala Herinirina Jules and myself professed our perpetual vows at the mass in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of La Salette in Antsahasoa. The liturgy was celebrated by Bp Philippe Ranaivomanana, the Bishop of the Antsirabe Diocese, and assisted by the fathers from our Congregation. Our perpetual vows we professed in the hands of Fr. Bertrand Ranaivoarisoa MS, our Provincial who represented the General Superior.

Despite restrictions and severe recommendations dealing social distancing in the time of the pandemic of Covid-19, we could share this memorable day with some



co-friars from our community and our parents. The celebration was preceded by the vigil prayer when we told the stories of our vocations and shared the experience of our religious life, following Jesus together with other brothers from our Congregation.

As for me, I do not know how to express the joy I felt on that day. From the moment of my first profession on 19th September 2012 I’ve put my trust in the Lord and my co-friars, the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. This trust attracted me to keep following Christ and to respond to Mary’s call directed to two shepherds in La Salette. The motto I have chosen which motivates me is: “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me” (Ps 139:1).

Maminaina Lucien Rakotosoa MS (Ralosy)



MYANMAR

REGION OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE MISSION

This is the day the Lord has made (Ps 118,24)

In the presence of God and His people together with the members of La Salette Community, bro. Anthony Maung, bro. Brian Joseph Phyo Zar Ni Kyaw, bro. Henry Aung Myo Kyaw and bro. Michael Kyaw Swar Naing, professed their religious vows for life as a religious in the community of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette.

The Eucharistic Liturgy was celebrated in the community Chapel, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay, Myanmar, on Monday, May 4, 2020. The Reverend Father David Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, MS, Regional Superior of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette – Myanmar, was the presider and received their vows as delegated by the Superior General – Reverend Father Silvano Marisa, MS. Father Philip Mahka Naw Aung, MS, Vicar of Regional Superior was the homilist. During that joyous event Father David Kyaw Zwa Latt, MS the Regional Secretary served as master of Ceremonies. Participants in the Eucharistic celebration were limited due to Corona Virus restrictions imposed by the civil authorities in Myanmar. Family members and friends also were invited to unite with them in prayer.

We Myanmar La Salette, are very thankful to God for calling four brothers to consecrate themselves freely and entirely to God and to the entire Congregation for life.

Michael Kyaw Swar Naing MS





NORTH AMERICA

PROVINCE OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE AMERICAS

I was born in St. Louis, MO, on July 17, 1990 to Donald and Denise Jones. In December of the next year my dad passed away. I like to describe my family life as that of a starfish, because when you ask me how many siblings I have, I don't know how many fingers to hold up. I am my mother's only biological child, but I have over 10 siblings across Missouri, the United States, and the World; some of them are half, step, adopted, foster, and foreign exchange brothers and sisters.

I grew up living with my mom and her parents in Festus, MO, about 45 minutes south of St. Louis. I attended Catholic School from 1st–12th grade. Then I went on to attend Southeast Missouri State University, where I graduated in December 2012 with my Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Technical Theatre. From 2014-2017, I studied and received my Masters of Fine Arts degree in Stage Management from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.

After the second year of grad school, I met the Missionaries of the Holy Family and began externally discerning with them. In May of 2018, I received word from the Missionaries of the Holy Family that they would not be accepting anyone into formation due to personnel shortages. Then once again, as if through Divine Providence, I was led to the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, who I knew of through the Missionaries of the Holy Family. Shortly after, I became in contact with Fr. Lamartine, through whom I was invited to a Come and See in Marietta, GA. Later that summer I moved into the House of Discernment in Attleboro, MA.

One of the major hobbies that has followed me throughout my years is my "geeky" hobby of loving ta-

First Profession



ble top and card games. In grad school I amassed a very large collection of over 100 table top games. My favorite part of the week was getting together with friends to play on Sunday nights. I also love playing the organ, and it was one of my favorite ministries at the shrine.

Another talent and hobby I picked up through my years of theatre work is stitching. I learned how to

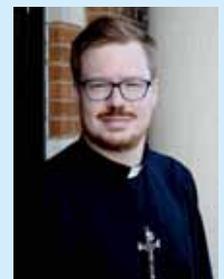
sew and pattern many things, but more recently other than day to day repairs, I use my skills to make vestments and other liturgical items.

I am looking forward to my upcoming years in the Brighton house and my studies at Boston College. It will be exciting to be able spend more time getting to know my fellow community members in the Boston area.

On July 26th, 2020 I was blessed to profess my first religious vows with the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. It has been a journey of many blessings and trials to get to this point. I was so pleased to share the vow ceremony with Bro. Joseph Everton and his perpetual profession. Community is everything to me and having spent the majority of my novitiate without a fellow novice, it was wonderful to share that day with Joe and the rest of the La Salette community. The Shrine community in Attleboro really made the day great for my family and me, despite the Covid-19 restrictions.

I look forward to the journey my first year as a professed member of this community will bring, and hope for many more years to come with the religious community.

Ryan Jones MS



Perpetual Profession

Hello, my name is Br. Joe Everton, MS, and a La Salette scholastic in formation attending Boston College, School of Theology and Ministry. I was born and raised in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The La Salette Shrine was an influence in my decision to enter the seminary because of the message and charism of La Salette. Before joining the community, I worked in manufacturing as a quality assurance inspector, and I was the youth coordinator at the Shrine in

Attleboro. Growing up near and working at the Shrine influenced my decision to enter La Salette. As I take the next step towards perpetual profession with the community I hope to continue to learn and grow more in La Salette community life and spirituality and use my experiences to shape my pastoral work towards helping the people of God and find reconciliation with God, self, and others. Please keep me in your prayers and pray for vocations.

Originally my perpetual profession was to take place on the Holy Mountain with the other La Salette brothers and sisters professing their final vows. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic we did not profess them at the Shrine in France but at home.

While I regret, I did not get to experience going to La Salette to profess my vows; I had the pleasure to make my vows in the presence of my province community and with my family and friends. The ceremony differed from others I had experienced before since all attendees had to wear face coverings and keep socially distanced. Regardless of these requirements, the ceremony was special.

As I was kneeling and professing my perpetual vows, I wondered how blessed I am to be received into the religious community. The journey through my vocation discernment has placed me at this moment as I felt a sense of peace that I had made the best decision to say “yes” to La Salette as I read the words of the profession ritual. After the ceremony, the community and my guests gathered for a small reception to celebrate the special day.



Joseph Everton MS



PHILIPPINES

PROVINCE OF MARY, MOTHER OF HOPE

Profession and renewal of vows in the midst of a pandemic

As a thief at night it came... never expected and never thought of the magnitude the virus, popularly known as Covid-19, could cause problems globally and to the personal life of people. No one was exempted and no one was spared, yet the community bond grew all the more strong. May 01 is the date specified for the profession and renewal of vows in the Ina ng Pag-asa (Mother of Hope) Province in the Philippines. Since the lockdown began on March 15, 2020 and extended through the months, we were not allowed to travel and gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady



of La Salette in Biga II, Silang, Cavite, Philippines, the usual venue for the celebration, and were forced to profess and renew the vows in the respective places we had been. At least the novices Arnold Redulfin Macabitas and Eduardo III B. De Vera took their first profes-

sion at the National Shrine itself. The regent brothers Rogie Mark Guanzon at San Roque Parish, Ramon, Isabela, Rancel Cesar at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Naguelguel, Lingayen, Pangasinan, and the scholastics, Joey Balunsat, Joel Galgo, Ian Ronquillo, James Sollano, Ian Quinatadcan, Jasper Escano, John

Zeus Aduan and Lawrence Adrian Rubrico at the La Salette Scholasticate Chapel in Cubao, Quezon City, renewed their vows respectively. With the first profession and renewal in this time of pandemic and lockdown there came a challenge to be true to our charism of Reconciliation and en flesh it in our daily living. May the Beautiful Lady who brought light to the mountain of La Salette, drive away the darkness around us and illumine our way.

La Salette Scholastic Community



POLSKA

PROVINCE OF MARY, QUEEN OF POLAND

I Received God's Call...



Early morning on September 7, 2020 in Dębowiec before the image of Our Lady of La Salette I was granted the gift of a great peace which I was lacking for the whole feast of my perpetual vows.

I remember the moment of expressing my request 'to profess my vows. The words: "till death" which I was pronouncing made me feel the



dignity of the moment. Just after professing my vows into the hands of the Provincial, Fr. Grzegorz Zembroń and having signed the protocol on the altar, I noticed that the whole of me was taking part in the liturgy. With the bread and wine, the Lord accepted my decision, my life and my love – my response to His call.

Kamil Staćel MS

PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS

ITALY

PROVINCE OF MARY MEDIATRIX

(21-25.09.2020)

Provincial Council:

Fr. Gian Matteo Roggio, provincial superior – second term (center)

Fr. Heliodoro Bernardos Santiago, provincial vicar (right)

Fr. Amador Marugán Patiño, second assistant (left)

Date: 24.09.2020

Location: Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, Salmata, Italie

President of the Chapter: Fr. Jacek Pawłowski (general vicar), Fr. Venâncio Nunda (general councilor)



BRAZIL

PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

(26-30.10.2020)

Provincial Council:

Fr. Leonir Nunes dos Santos, provincial superior – first term (center)

Fr. Marcos Antonio Pereira de Queiroz, provincial vicar (left)

Fr. Marcos Antonio Dias de Almeida, second assistant (right)

Date: 28.10.2020

Location: Curitiba, Brazil

President of the Chapter: P. Ildefonso Salvadego (Provincial Superior)



N E C R O L O G



Urs Siegrist

Polska (Switzerland)
+ 28.02.2020
N 06.07.1935
P 07.10.1966
S 01.04.1973



Robert Vachon

North America
+ 12.04.2020
N 02.04.1930
P 02.07.1949
S 29.09.1955



Gérard Peeters

France
+ 8.03.2020
N 16.10.1943
P 08.09.1964
S 19.12.1970



James M. Winiarski

North America
+ 16.04.2020
N 09.04.1940
P 21.06.1961
S 18.12.1966



René Bisailon

Philippines
+ 10.03.2020
N 17.03.1931
P 19.09.1953
S 25.04.1959



Richard R. Boucher

North America
+ 1.05.2020
N 16.01.1934
P 02.07.1954
S 28.05.1960



Tomás Kapiñgala

Angola
+ 02.04.2020
N 11.09.1956
P 19.09.1984
S 29.01.1989



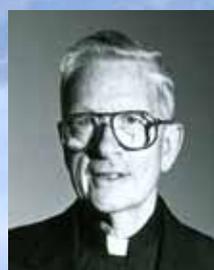
Mark L. Gallant

North America
+ 13.05.2020
N 14.04.1941
P 12.05.1963
S frater



William M. Muclair

North America
+ 12.04.2020
N 12.02.1934
P 01.11.1952
S 29.05.1965



Maurice F. Linehan

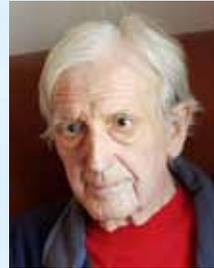
North America
+ 14.05.2020
N 21.12.1925
P 02.07.1945
S 01.05.1952

I U M 2 0 2 0



Gabriele Lagamba

Italia
+ 22.05.2020
N 05.08.1933
P 01.11.1951
S frater



Christophe Talbourdel

France
+ 01.08.2020
N 07.09.1935
P 05.05.1954
S frater



Donald G. Baribeau

North America
+ 26.05.2020
N 30.11.1945
P 15.08.1969
S 17.05.1975



Antonio Abuan

Philippines
+ 03.10.2020
N 13.11.1954
P 16.06.1981
S 16.05.1984



John M. Garvey

North America
+ 28.05.2020
N 23.01.1925
P 08.12.1950
S 02.05.1953



Gilbert Rakotorahalahy

Madagasikara
+ 21.10.2020
N 02.01.1939
P 08.09.1959
S 08.09.1968



Yves Marie Pleyber

France
+ 15.06.2020
N 01.02.1926
P 19.09.1945
S 24.02.1952



Victor W. Chaupetta

North America
+ 04.11.2020
N 13.05.1942
P 02.07.1964
S 30.05.1970



Thomas A. Reilly

North America
+ 13.07.2020
N 04.11.1943
P 02.07.1964
S 27.05.1972



Pierre Bihan-Poudec

France
+ 26.11.2020
N 30.04.1939
P 07.10.1958
S 17.07.1966



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!