

Novena to Our Lady of La Salette



*Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette
Province of Mary, Mother of the Americas*

Table of Contents

Novena to Our Lady of La Salette—pages 1-9

First Day of the Novena—*Theme: Why is every person so important to God?*

Second Day of the Novena—*Theme: What does it mean to build “God’s Kingdom”?*

Third Day of the Novena—*Theme: What does it mean to look at our life with God’s eyes? 3*

Fourth Day of the Novena—*Theme: How can we be Christ’s presence for others?*

Fifth Day of the Novena—*Theme: How is prayer involved in our “conversion”?*

Sixth Day of the Novena—*Theme: What are the blessings of our conversion?*

Seventh Day of the Novena—*Theme: What is the gift of listening?*

Eighth Day of the Novena—*Theme: How is reconciliation a lifelong journey?*

Ninth Day of the Novena—*Theme: What is our mandate from Mary and her Son?*

La Salette Prayers:

- *Memorare to Our Lady of La Salette*
- *Dedication to Our Lady of La Salette*
- *La Salette Invocation*
- *Prayer on the Titles of Mary, based on Her Message at La Salette*



Novena to Our Lady of La Salette

First Day of the Novena

Theme: Why is every person so important to God?

Jesus says:

“What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. ***In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost***” (Matthew 18:12-14).

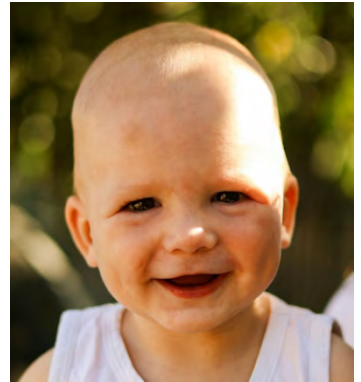
Mary said:

“Come closer, my children; don’t be afraid. I am here to tell you great news.”

Meditation:

Matthew communicates the value of the one, the individual. In a preceding passage, Christ warns that “if any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone....” Our Lady chose one of the "little" villages of France as the site of her apparition. She chose Maximin and Melanie, two waifs and no mean candidates for the smallest of the "little" people of the world.

The apparition alone makes a powerful statement for the worth of the individual. The Lady could have appeared over the city of Grenoble, or Paris, and proclaimed a message to all nations. She proclaimed a world message, surely, but she spoke to two little people, singling out one and the other for special attention. She entrusted to them a message destined for all the people of the world. La Salette reminds us once more of Christ's love of the individual person. ***It affirms once again that in the heart of the Lord, every little one is greatly loved.***



Reflection Questions:

- In what way has your faith helped you to care for those around you, your own family, as well as those in your circle of family and friends?
- Whom have you reached out to who, for some reason, need to know that you care for them with the warmth and love of Jesus?

Our Prayer:

Virgin Mother of La Salette, your words, “come closer,” were a way of warmly welcoming us. Your attitude of motherly hospitality calms our hearts and opens our minds to listen well to your challenging and uplifting words. May you teach us how to follow your Son by your loving words and gestures, your questions and gentle responses.

Help us to be open and listen to the wisdom of your message at La Salette and respond with faith to your guidance and suggestions. We ask all this through your loving intercession and in the grace of your Son, who lives with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord’s Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconcile of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Second Day of the Novena

Theme: What does it mean to build “God’s Kingdom”?

Scripture says:

“[Jesus] summoned his twelve disciples... [and] sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, “Go ... to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: ***‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give***” (Matthew 10:1,6-7,8b).

Mary mentions five times the central figure of her message:

“arm of my Son... my Son’s name... my Son...”

Meditation:

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom as a gift of God, a gift of salvation. This Kingdom has already broken into our world by the *word and works* of Jesus, in the *person* of Jesus. The Kingdom of God is promised to those who do the will of the Father, to those who serve ‘the least’ of Christ’s sisters and brothers.

We must seek the Kingdom of God and his justice. We must be prepared to give up everything that might compromise this pursuit of the Kingdom. Hence, the Kingdom of God is a task, a project. Truly, the purpose of the Church is to establish the Reign of God.

At La Salette, Mary came to remind us of our purpose in this life, namely, to follow her Son, Jesus, and build God’s kingdom among us, a place of love and understanding, of peace and reconciliation.



Reflection Questions:

- How are you building the Kingdom of God—in your family, church community, neighborhood, and city?
- Who has shown themselves to be a definite presence of Jesus in your life today?

Our Prayer:

Remember, Mother of Sorrows, your Son wishes to make clear our purpose in life. We are to build God’s Kingdom on earth, and our loving God will save us. Jesus has saved us by his death and resurrection. Now we are to extend this same gift of salvation to others and the great news of his gift of eternal life.

Indeed, you were the messenger of this “great news” and asked these two children and their successors to pass it on. We ask all this through your loving intercession and in the grace of your Son, who lives with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord’s Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Third Day of the Novena

Theme: What does it mean to look at our life with God's eyes?

Scripture says:

“Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God ... For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy” (Exodus 20:8-10a,11).

In the voice of a prophet, Mary says:

“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.”

Meditation:

The Bible commands that the Sabbath day ... be kept holy.

This commandment, found in Exodus 20:8-10a,11, instructs believers to set aside this day for rest and worship, commemorating God's rest after creation. The Sabbath is a gift, a sanctuary in time, and a sign of God's covenant with his people.

To look at creation with God's eyes means to see it with an understanding of God's perspective, recognizing God's creative power, love for creation, and the purpose God has for it. In addition, it involves appreciating the beauty, order, and intricate details of the natural world as a reflection of God's glory and character. It also means recognizing the value and purpose of all living things, including humanity, as created truly in God's image (Genesis 1:27).



Reflection Questions:

- How do you assess or have opinions of others, people who are different from you? Do you look down on anyone? What did Jesus say about all this?
- Who is someone with whom you don't get along? How do you make steps to treat them the way God does?

Our Prayer:

Gentle Virgin of La Salette, your generous visit to La Salette was a welcome gift of grace that keeps on giving. Your children hear your words spoken as a prophet. Then you warn us of coming dangers. Yet you always remain our concerned and gentle Mother, urging us to respond to God's invitations and generous mercy.

You are the heavenly Messenger of great news and ask us to join you in this blessed mission. We ask all this through your loving intercession and in the grace of your Son, who lives with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconcile of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Fourth Day of the Novena

Theme: How can we be Christ's presence for others?

Scripture says:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him *Emmanuel*," *which means "God is with us"* (Matthew 1:23).

Mary says:

"How long a time I have suffered for you!"

Meditation:

We are called, as members of the Catholic Church, to be evangelizers who are immersed in the life-pulse and heart-stories of others. And while we are cognizant and critical of cultures of corruption and sin, we are nevertheless aware of our vocation to assimilate, renew, and revitalize the richness of our shared heritage according to our basic Gospel values. Mary appeared at La Salette in the local dress and gave her message in the local dialect. She was very much a part of her culture, and yet her message was indeed universal.

For our faith to mature in love, it must be interiorized. Church teachings and practices must be personally appreciated and appropriated by us, as a people with our own particular culture, with our own ways of thinking and valuing. By way of an example, faith must take root in the matrix of our own culture, being so that we may truly believe and love as full, active members of this Church community. Like Mary, are we local enough to be understood, and yet universal enough to help transform others?



Reflection:

- Are you "at home" or at ease with your various communities, whether at home, in your neighborhood, in your church, and in civil communities?
- What human relationship is your main source of love and peace?

Our Prayer:

Faithful Virgin of La Salette, your words and constant tears at La Salette show your deep concern for your needy children. In your words to Maximin about the event at the Field of Coin, you mirrored God's own concern for each moment of our daily life.

May we always be open to the promptings of grace which your Son gives us. We ask all this through your intercession and in the name of your Son, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Fifth Day of the Novena

Theme: How is prayer involved in our “conversion”?

Scripture says:

“The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard ‘delay,’ but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that ***all should come to repentance (conversion)***” (2 Peter 3:9).

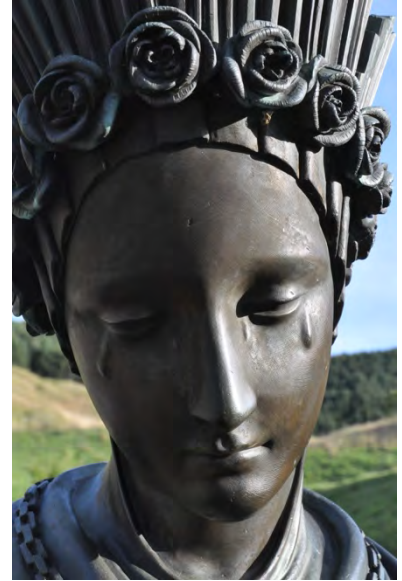
Mary asks:

“Do you say your prayers well, my children?” “Hardly ever, Madam,” the two children 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.”*

Statue of Meditation:

The Virgin will now outline for us this path to conversion – through prayer. From a simple question, she indicates three starting points accessible to everyone. Our mother in faith is an effective educator.

First, begin with the prayer that Jesus taught us: the Our Father. Then the Hail Mary, which speaks to the one who is mandated to intercede for us with her Son, and persuade us to return to Jesus. Evening and morning: this type of prayer is really only a beginning, and an easy one at that! Then we can progress and eventually “do more.” ***The steps are small but important.***



Reflection Questions:

- Who taught you to pray? Who is a good example for you of “one who prays well”?
- What are your best prayer times?

Our Prayer:

Mother of Compassion, pray for us, your needy children, that we may weave prayer into each day so that we may serve your Son on this earth. May we use the events of our daily life as opportunities to listen to, comfort, serve, and be good examples to all those whom we meet.

Your visit to La Salette showed us how to be good reconcilers in the ebb and flow of daily living. We ask all this through your intercession and in the name of Jesus, your loving Son, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconcile of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Sixth Day of the Novena

Theme: What are the blessings of our conversion?

Jesus promises:

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Mary says:

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

Meditation:

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, features a recurring call to conversion, emphasizing repentance and a turning away from sin towards God. This involves a change of heart and mind, often associated with the Greek word "metanoia," which signifies repentance or a change of mind.

The call to conversion lies at the heart of La Salette. Every detail of the Apparition contributes to this call: the tears, the crucifix with its hammer and pincers, the chains and roses. The light and the discourse. To return to Jesus, to be reconciled by Jesus to the Father, brings us to the fullness lavished upon us in the Kingdom of the Messiah. "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). *The most powerful images cannot describe the boundless abundance and blessings of the Kingdom of God.*



Reflection Questions:

- What is a “conversion-point” in your life that significantly changed you?
- Who in your life could benefit from a “conversion experience”?

Our Prayer:

Virgin Reconciler, your open and generous response to God's call with your “yes is stunning in its directness and inspired by God's grace. Your visit to us on the mountain of La Salette had as its main purpose: the sharing of God's love for us. You have given us an additional gift of your abundant tears, which touched our hearts and opened us up to your message— the message of your Son.

Grant that we may, through your intercession, respond to your invitation with our own “yes” to live our faith and make your message known. We ask all this through your intercession and in the name of your Son who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Seventh Day of the Novena

Theme: What is the gift of listening?

Scripture says:

“Know this ...: everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of a person does not accomplish the righteousness of God” (James 1:19).

Mary says:

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

Meditation:

The Bible emphasizes the crucial importance of listening, both to God and to others, as a key to wisdom, understanding, and healthy relationships. Listening is presented as a virtue, a sign of humility, and a path to spiritual growth, while a failure to listen is linked to folly and negative consequences.

During the Apparition, Mary stops and then speaks in the local dialect with Maximin and Melanie. What she has said up to this point was addressed to everyone. Setting general remarks aside, she watches and listens to the reaction of the two young shepherds and adapts her words to the children. What she now says concerns the local situation more directly: harvests, religious practices, and even the most concrete and personal acts of life. ***Hearing Mary's indictment of the evils of 19th-century France requires us to listen to and recognize the evils present in our own day.***



Reflection Questions:

- Whom do you know who is a very good listener? What can you or have you learned from that person?
- With whom do you need to share your gift of listening, to understand them better?

Our Prayer:

Mary, first disciple of Jesus, your tears came not from physical pain but rather from your overflowing emotions expressed in your abundant tears. As a prime example of someone who cares for us so deeply, we should emulate you as a model of our earthly relationships.

Help us to experience the true freedom that can only come through submission of our will to that of Jesus. We ask this through your intercession and in the name of your Son, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord's Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Eighth Day of the Novena

Theme: How is reconciliation a lifelong journey?

Scripture says:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; ***In all your ways, be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths***” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Mary says:

“If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son

Meditation:

The journey, or pilgrimage, of reconciliation is a slow one. It is a lifelong journey into love. Just as no one can claim to have reached the full potential of love here on earth, so no one can presume to say that he or she has been fully reconciled. ***A reconciled life is made up of hundreds of small events of reconciliations.***

We guard against discouragement. This is the most frequent foe of reconciliation. The yearning to travel fast and efficiently, to make dramatic progress, to forge ahead spiritually and quickly get rid of faults and weaknesses, is overwhelming. Then, there is possibly a failure, a falling back into faults and bad habits, which is so common to all of us humans. The reconciler has to understand this.

Reconciliation is a beginning. It means to begin again—“reconciliation”—as in re-new, re-birth, re-create, re-habilitate. It means to begin anew constantly. This is the opposite of our so-called instant way of life. We live in an era of instant coffee, instant copy, fast foods, supersonic flight, computer speeds, shoes ***process*** repaired, and keys made “while you wait.” Human beings are necessarily gradual, whether it be in learning, in experience, in growth, or skills. ***We ingest, comprehend, and assimilate only gradually—in steps, in an ongoing journey of faith.***



Reflection Questions:

- Who would you consider a person who has lived a long and faith-filled journey?
- What elements of faith have helped you “grow up” in your faith? For example, certain ways of praying, liturgical celebrations, sacraments, religious groups, education, and so on.

Our Prayer:

Mother, ever attentive to our needs, you reminded us at La Salette, through your own gentle way of communicating, that love can encourage the fearful and motivate the hesitant. Pray for us in our journey of faith that we may also serve others with such a loving heart as yours.

We ask this through your intercession and in the name of your Son who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord’s Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconcile of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

Ninth Day of the Novena

Theme: What is our mandate from Mary and her Son?

Jesus says:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Mary says in conclusion:

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

Meditation:

The Beautiful Lady then concluded, not in dialect but in French: ***“Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people.” To make it known: this is our mission.*** To be a mischievous youngster, Maximin one day shot back: “The Lady told me to make it known, *not* to make *you* believe it!” We stand confronted: what Mary brings out at La Salette is essential to our faith. ***The best way to “make it known” is to live it!***

Then she climbed the steep path out of the hollow and rose into the air as the children caught up to her. She looked up at the sky, then down at the earth. Facing southeast, “she melted into light.” The light itself then disappeared. ***The Lady concludes with a word of insistence and encouragement: “Very well, my children, you will please make this known to all my people.”***

Melanie was asked: “What do you understand by the expression ‘my people?’” “I really don't know. I believe it means the whole world,” she replied. ***Mary is concerned for all the sisters and brothers of her Son, whose journey is not yet ended. Each day, the people of God can grow anew by following the ways and message of her Son.***



Reflection Questions:

- How have you “made Mary’s message known”—perhaps in your family life, your involvement in your parish family, in La Salette ministries, or other worthwhile experiences?
- What drew you to “come nearer” to Mary through your involvement in the La Salette Laity group?

Our Prayer:

Mother of the Church, your final words sound much like your Son, as he sent forth his disciples to “make disciples of all nations.” But this was to be expected since your message, your gospel, could be none other than that of your only Son. Please pray that your loving Son will give us the courage, strength, faith, and vision to make his message known to all God’s people.

We ask this through your loving intercession and in the grace of your Son, who lives with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.** [Mention intention]

Pray: the *Lord’s Prayer* and the *Hail Mary*.

Invocation: Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners,
pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

La Salette Prayers

Memorare to Our Lady of La Salette

Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for us on Calvary. Remember also the care you have taken to keep us faithful to Christ, your Son. Having done so much for your children, you will not now abandon us.

Comforted by this consoling thought, we come to you pleading, despite our infidelities and ingratitude.

Virgin of Reconciliation, do not reject our prayers, but intercede for us, obtain for us the grace to love Jesus above all else. May we console you by a holy life and so come to share the eternal life Christ gained by his cross. **Amen.**

Dedication to Our Lady of La Salette

Most holy Mother, Our Lady of La Salette, who for love of me shed such bitter tears in your merciful apparition, look down with kindness upon me, as I dedicate myself to you without reserve. From this day, my glory shall be to know that I am your child. May I so live as to dry your tears and console your afflicted heart.

Beloved Mother, to you and to your blessed charge and sacred keeping and into the bosom of your mercy, for this day and for every day, and for the hour of my death I commend myself, body and soul, every hope and every joy, every trouble and every sorrow, my life and my life's end.

O dearest Mother, enlighten my understanding, direct my steps, console me by your maternal protection, so that exempt from all error, sheltered from every danger of sin, I may, with ardor and invincible courage, walk in the paths traced out for me by you and your Son. **Amen.**

La Salette Invocation

Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.



Prayer on the Titles of Mary, based on Her Message at La Salette

“If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my Son.”

Mary, Mother of Jesus, help us to embrace your Son as the Way to follow his word as the truth to live.

“If I want my Son not to abandon you ...”

Mary, Woman of Courage, strengthen us to announce Christ, who died and rose from the dead for love of us. Transform us into the yeast of hope in a world that has abandoned God, the source of life and joy.

“However much you pray, however much you do, you will never recompense the pains I have taken for you.”

Mary, Missionary Woman, you welcomed the two children with great compassion. Inspire us to reach out to the poor and marginalized who hope to live in a more loving and just world.

“If they are converted ...”

Mary, Reconciler of sinners, continue to inspire us to be active reconcilers in our daily lives and be lovingly present in the heart of today’s world.

“You will make this known to all my people.”

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray that we may respond to your call to discipleship by making your message known to all your people. May Jesus bless and grant us the grace to make our world truly reconciled.

We ask all this through your loving intercession and in the grace of your Son, who lives with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Fr. Isidro Perrin, M.S., adapted

