

# RECONCILIATION

*“Lay Saletenses - Called and sent - The joy of Reconciliation”*

*Monthly Bulletin 019 - English – August 2023*



**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF LA SALETTE LAITY**

# ACCOMPANYING WORDS

Dear la Salette brothers, health and peace to you all!

“GROWING IN OUR IDENTITY TO SERVE COMMUNION AND HOPE”.

This is the theme of the 33rd General Chapter of the Missionaries of Our Lady of Salette. General Chapter of the Missionaries of Notre Dame de la Salette, which will take place from April 8 to May 5, 2024, at the “Antsahasoa” Spirituality Center in Antsirabe, Madagascar.

**Mario Apone**  
International Coordinator of La Salette Laity



In particular, as a La Salette Laity, even before I became International Coordinator of La Salette Laity, I feel fully identified with the proposal of the theme of the 33rd General Chapter: “Growing in our Identity to Serve Communion and Hope”.

I remember that in the final decisions of the 3rd. International Meeting of La Salette Laity last year, the following observation was made:

## 1 – Communion

We know that in order to live the charism of Reconciliation together, we have to prioritize the theme of LA SALETTE CHARISMATIC FAMILY, in a mutual relationship between the Missionaries, the Religious Sisters and La Salette Laity.

To this aim, this theme of LA SALETTE CHARISMATIC FAMILY should be part of the initial formation programs of the laity and especially of the Religious Missionaries. It is necessary to begin a journey of reflection so that, by 2028, a document on our identity as LA SALETTE CHARISMATIC FAMILY can be approved.

I think that La Salette identity shines through in the humble and unpretentious attitude of Maximino and Melanie. In the simplicity of their answers and their firm attitude, they knew how to mold the La Salette way of being in the crucible that heats and melts metal.

Certainly, the General Chapter will open new doors and windows, opening new horizons so that we can find the path of our identity, which will have to express faces, needs and proposals that will allow us to serve communion and hope.

Here in Brazil, we usually put our requests in the “apron of Our Lady of Salette”. May all of us in the Salette Family place our humble and unpretentious proposals on this wide and generous apron that the Blessed Mother wears.

The face of our family will appear.

Once again, I ask you to pray daily for next year’s General Chapter.

With a big and affectionate hug, in the hope of meeting you soon.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LA SALETTE LAITY

September 10th

Dear La Salette brothers, health and peace to you all!

The month of September, for us, La Salette Laity, is totally dedicated to our beloved Mother, Our Lady of Salette.

In all the places where there is devotion to Our Lady of Salette, La Salette laity in particular have redoubled their pastoral services and duties during the feasts and celebrations.

For us, it is a source of great joy to have a day dedicated to us - September 10th.

This date was set and approved at the end of the 1st. International Meeting of La Salette Laity - September 2011, on La Salette Mountain, where it all happened.

Faced with so many tasks and assignments on this day, I ask you to take some time, however short, and celebrate, commemorate and enjoy this date.

Invite your La Salette Missionaries to take part in all this with you. Maximin and Melanie, if they were alive, would certainly do this.

And don't forget to send a hug and a thank you to our Provincials, our parish priests, our Spiritual Directors and the members of the General Council, after all, they are the ones who have given us this opportunity to also be agents of reconciliation.

With a big and affectionate hug, in the hope of meeting you soon,

**Mario Apone**  
**Międzynarodowy Koordynator**  
**Świeckich Saletynów**



# LIVING PRESENCE - POLAND - SLOVAKIA

## La Salette Laity presence in the world

We are lay people who desire to live the charism of the Communities of La Salette. As lay people, every day we fulfill our usual roles in society. However, we are aware of the great dignity that God granted us as His redeemed children, the gift of calling to live the Gospel, and the mission of reconciliation resulting from the apparition of Our Lady at La Salette. This calling stems from the La Salette source of the reconciliation of everything in Christ and it shapes our identity.

We seek to discover the tasks God is currently setting us, being attentive to the signs of troubled times in Central and Eastern Europe and reaching out with our own commitment to improving relationships in three dimensions: with God, with other people, and with oneself.

Hearing Mary's invitation: "Make this known to all my people," we want to respond each time: "Here we are, send us!".



**Lidia Miś-Nowak**  
National Coordinator of the La Salette Laity  
in Poland and Slovakia

In Poland, La Salette Laity are present in 5 cities, while in Slovakia in one city. On a daily basis, we are formed in different communities at the parishes of Our Lady of La Salette. There, we get our fundamental formation within the mission of the Church, trying to be the people who are evangelized and evangelizing. In 2019, we were asked if we wanted to enter the path of living the charism of La Salette.

During the years of formation in our communities, we have had the opportunity to learn about the apparition of Our Lady of La Salette and her message. Some of us welcomed the invitation and thus we started a new journey of formation in the spirit of La Salette while remaining in our parish communities.

### Formation and prayer

In all our communities we gather on every 19th of the month for the Eucharist. Assisted by a Missionary of La Salette, we reflect on the message of Our Lady and we relate Mary's words to our lives. Twice a year, we all gather to form ourselves, which so far took place in the retreat house at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Dębowiec.

We pray every day for the vocations to the Congregation of La Salette Missionaries, Sisters Congregation, and La Salette Laity: Our Father, Hail Mary, and Memorare. We celebrate our Feast Day on the 10th of September and our Patronal Feast on the 19th of September.

## Mrągowo - Olsztyn

This community consists of people living in northern Poland: Olsztyn and Mrągowo – towns that are 65 km apart. We live in a beautiful region of Poland, Warmia and Masuria, called the Land of Thousand Lakes. We are the people of all ages, working and retired, singles and with families. Our spiritual assistant is Fr. Henryk Przeździecki – the parish priest in Mrągowo.



## Rzeszów

We live almost 550 km from Olsztyn, in south-eastern Poland. Our province borders Ukraine. Every 19th day of the month we celebrate together the Eucharist after which, from May to October, we join in praying the Rosary for vocations and peace in the world. Our spiritual assistant is Fr. Wojciech Bober MS, the parish priest of Our Lady of La Salette church in Rzeszów.



## Cracovia

The community consists of two people living in southern Poland. The city of Kraków is situated 175 km west of Rzeszów. This is one of the most precious cities when it comes to architecture, historical monuments, and culture. Its roads were traversed by many Polish saints, among them St. Faustine and St. John Paul II.



## Dębowiec

Our village is located 75 km from Rzeszów and 155 km from Kraków, in the south of Poland. The community consists of people following formation program in Dębowiec, by the Minor Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary of La Salette, called our Polish La Salette. We are involved in a wide range of ministry at the Sanctuary – serving pilgrims, vigils, Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament, musical settings for the evenings of worship, as well as help for Ukraine.





## Formation of the La Salette Laity

The last meeting of our formation program in the Polish Province took place on the 28th of January 2023 in Dębowiec, in the Reconciliation Retreat House at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette. The sermons were preached by Fr. Jan Gierlak MS, the main assistant of the La Salette Laity in Poland and Slovakia. The aim of the formation was to review the current condition, present the basic formation program, and prepare for the next stage of development.

As the preaching priest pointed out: La Salette Associates live the reconciliation and spread the reconciliation, only then they are credible. Accepting this vocation and being involved in the mission of reconciliation gives birth to the identity of the La Salette Laity. La Salette Associates are the people who live in communion with the Church and in the Church they become a tool of reconciliation. We delved deeper into our spirituality of La Salette and the mission to collaborate in the work of reconciliation people with God.

Formation is also the time spent with all our communities. It is the time to be together in the charismatic family with the La Salette Missionaries and Sisters in this beautiful place that Our Lady of La Salette has chosen for us, Poles and Slovaks – the Shrine in Dębowiec.

Our next formation will take place during the upcoming indulgence in honor of Our Lady of Saletyńska on September 16, 2023 in Dębowiec.





The La Salette Laity in Slovakia were established in 2019 in Považská Bystrica, at the parish church run by the Missionaries of La Salette. Our spiritual assistant is Fr. Czesław Oko MS, parish priest in Chrenovec. We meet regularly on the 19th of each month. During the meetings, we learn more about the message of La Salette and share our experience of how we realize this message in the environment we live in. During the winter months, we are involved in helping homeless people, for whom we prepare warm meals that we take to the shelters where they spend the night.

This year, we have decided to bring the message of reconciliation to the places we live in and all the people who are open to receiving it may get for 9 days the statue of Our Lady of La Salette with a short information about the message that the Blessed Virgin gave us at the apparition, together with novena and consecration prayer. We do this in pairs and throughout 9 days we pray for the person who took the statue of Our Lady. We get a lot of good testimonies of this action from the people who participated in

it. They claim that the Blessed Virgin helped them in the problems they are experiencing.

We also participate in the formation program: this year it was the formation with brothers and sisters from Poland that took place in January in Dębowiec, and then the next meeting in May for the Slovakian La Salette Laity in Chrenovec.



# TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Oto jesteśmy!

Wszchemogący Boże, Trójjedyny prawdziwy! Niech wszelkie kolano zegnije się przed Twoim majestatem i uzna Ciebie jako jedynego i wiecznego Boga! Niech wszelkie usta wyznają Twoje Święte Imię, a wszystkie narody niech Cię wywyższają i chwalą na wieki!

Obdarz swój Kościół Święty, nas, swoje dzieci, niezbędnymi łaskami i spraw, abyśmy w świecie rozdartym niezgodą byli Twoimi świadkami. Byśmy miłowali miłością nieobludną i Tobą ożywieni służyli sobie nawzajem.

Przez wstawiennictwo Matki Bożej Saletyńskiej, prosimy Cię, o dobre rozeznanie, co jest Twoją wolą i prowadź nas kiedy współpracować będziemy z Twoją łaską przy jej pełnieniu. Niech przez posługę saletyńskiej rodziny charyzmatycznej ci, którzy Cię jeszcze nie poznali, zostaną doprowadzeni do pełni prawdy, którą jesteś. Uczyni nas narzędziami pojednania i poślij nas. Oto jesteśmy!

**Amén.**



# 33° CHAPITRE GENERAL

Congregation of The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette

April 8 – May 5. 2024

Antsahasoa - Antsirabe - Madagascar



## Temat 33 Kapituły Generalnej:

„Wzrastać w naszej tożsamości, aby służyć komunii i nadziei”

### II – SERVICE

In the Gospel according to John (John 4:9), we find the following: “The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?’ (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans).”

It is Jesus, a Jew, who approaches the Samaritan woman and asks her for water to drink. During his public ministry, more than by water, Jesus is moved by a much deeper thirst or desire: to bring to faith in Him all those he encounters. In the majority of cases, these encounters generate a mission. This is also true of the Samaritan woman. Indeed, as a result of her personal encounter with Jesus of Nazareth at Jacob’s well, the Samaritan woman becomes a fervent and fruitful missionary-disciple.

Something similar is now offered to each of us. The Risen One is willing to come and meet each of us, just as He took the initiative to meet the Samaritan woman. And, as with the Samaritan woman, a true encounter with the Risen Christ always generates a missionary vision that leads us to share the faith in the Risen One, serve with charity, and bring hope to today’s world.

Like her Son, at La Salette, at the end of her message, Mary tells Maximin and Melanie: “Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people.”

### Questions for personal reflection

1. How are we responding to Our Lady of La Salette’s missionary call?
2. Taking into account the ministries of your community, Province or Region, what challenges or barriers do you experience in carrying out the mission given to us by Mary at La Salette?
3. What changes do you believe are required in your Province or Region in order to live a more effective and inspiring community and apostolic life as Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette?

# UNITED FOR LA SALETTE



## Salutation to La Salette Laity

Dear La Salette Laity,

Greetings to all of you from Rome, which has found itself particularly inflamed in this month of August because of the ongoing and increasingly extreme climate changes that are afflicting our planet, our common home, everywhere.

The General House is almost empty because both our student guests and some members of the General Administration are spending a period of rest in their home countries. They will return shortly.

In a few days we will begin the month of September, which is so dear to all of us and also to the many devotees of the Beautiful Lady of La Salette scattered around the world. It offers us a 'favorable opportunity to reread and meditate further, alone, as a family or in a group, on the message that Our Lady entrusted to Maximin and Melanie on September 19, 1846 on the Holy Mountain of La Salette.

I invite you to drop into your daily experience the content of this message and ask yourself: how can it stimulate and thus orient my life of relationship with God, with others, with myself and with the natural environment around me?

The episode of the land of Coin evoked by Mary in her apparition presents itself as the key to reading the whole message addressed to "her people." Indeed, it invites us to read our lives with and through God's eyes. God is not absent from the good or sad events of our existence. He walks with us unnoticed, in a discreet but real way. It is up to us to seek him and discover him in silence and listening to the Word, as the two disciples tried to do one day on the way to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35).

September 10, the International Day of La Salette Laity. It is your celebration. To all of you, my wish and the wish of the General Council that it be lived in faith and praise to God and the Beautiful Lady. Celebrate it possibly in your respective parishes as a moment of communion with the local Christian community and as a witness to a public lay life commitment made before and in service to the Church.

Happy and holy feast also of the 177th anniversary of the Apparition, in union with all the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. May Mary continue to guide and protect each of you, your families and loved ones.

With my blessing.

**P. Silvano Marisa MS**

