

# RECONCILIATION

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

*Monthly Bulletin 017 - English – June 2023.*



**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF LA SALETTE LAITY**

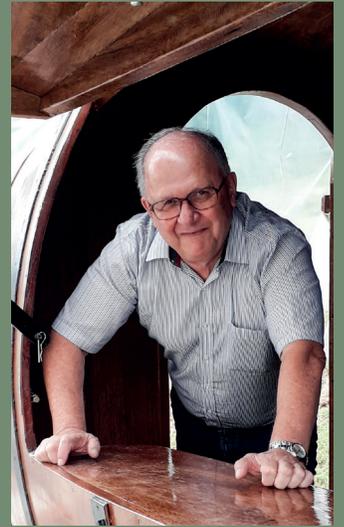
# ACCOMPANYING WORDS

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

We are almost at half-year 2023. The international news continues to perplex us facing a perverse reality: war, corruption, misery, hunger, diseases, degradation of nature by deforestation, pollution, garbage... all these are structures of death.

The scenario spreads and consolidates with time. It leads to a lack of hope, a lack of meaning in life, and a lack of struggle.

Mario Apone  
International Coordinator of La Salette Laity



I believe there are not many reasons for optimism. However, there are reasons of spiritual meaning; more and more the message left by Our Lady at La Salette is prophetic and becomes a rule for a change of life.

To change one's life is not just to abandon "old habits," but to become a superior, better human being. To do this, it is necessary to turn to God and Our Lady makes this clear in her message when she says: "If you turn, the stones and the rocks will be turned into heaps of wheat, and the potatoes will be sown in the fields. Do you pray well, my children? She presents the solution: through prayer, we can strengthen ourselves and fight together for a better world.

We have been saying throughout our time with our fellows La Salette Missionaries and Missionary Sisters that we do not know if the Reconciling Message of La Salette is capable of changing the world, but in the face of it, we must change our lives.

To change our lives is to commit ourselves to follow Jesus footsteps. Following in the footsteps of Jesus brings us closer to holiness.

Here is a brief summary presented in the Document of Aparecida - V CELAM - General Conference of the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopacy (2007) that offers us some possibilities for encountering Jesus:

- ▶ In the ecclesial community - the Church is our home;
- ▶ In the Sacred Scriptures - Jesus lives in the Scriptures and speaks to us in them with love and affection.
- ▶ In the Sacred Liturgy - Jesus lives in the Scriptures and speaks to us in them with love and affection.
- ▶ In the Sacrament of Reconciliation - encounter with the Father's embrace
- ▶ In personal prayer - a place to deepen faith and friendship with Jesus.
- ▶ In our neighbor - especially the poor, the afflicted and the sick.
- ▶ In popular piety - popular manifestations such as novenas, rosaries, Stations of the Cross, processions, pilgrimages
- ▶ In Marian piety - with Mary we learn the Gospel
- ▶ In devotion to the Saints - examples of faith that stimulate our sanctification.

Firm in prayer and in the faith that leads us to Jesus, I leave you a fraternal hug, hoping to see you again soon.

# 33° GENERAL CHAPTER

Congregation of The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette  
April 8 – May 5. 2024  
Antsahasoa - Antsirabe -Madagascar

Roma, May 1st, 2023

Dear Confreres,

The General Chapter is a grace and a blessing for the entire Congregation. The Chapter is an exercise of discernment:

“The role of the general chapter is to examine the spiritual and temporal condition of the Congregation; to give the opportunity for the Congregation as a whole periodically to take account of itself and its mission, to adapt itself to the times in order better to answer to the needs of the world, to assure that it will make the best use of the means at its disposal and to affirm its unity” (Rule of Life 195 C).



On March 1, 2023, our Superior General, Rev. Fr. Silvano Marisa, MS, convened the 33rd General Chapter and appointed the members of the Preparatory Commission. The following is the theme for the forthcoming General Chapter:

## **“A Stronger Identity at the Service of Communion and Hope”**

The Preparatory Commission met in Rome from April 24-28, 2023, under the leadership of our Superior General and his Council. During this meeting, the members of the Commission prepared the Logo, the Prayer, and some reflection on the theme of our 2024 General Chapter. As a result, and with the approval of our Superior General and his Council, we would like to share with the entire Congregation the fruits of this meeting.

We want to invite each confrere, local community, Cluster, District, Region, and Province to take time to reflect on the material included with this letter in order for all of us to prepare ourselves, together, for the next General Chapter, that will be held in Madagascar from April 8 to May 5, 2024.

To ensure a fruitful preparation we suggest that the following be kept in mind.

- ▶ We encourage all members of the Congregation and the entire La Salette family to pray for the success of the General Chapter, using the special prayer prepared for the occasion.
- ▶ We recommend organizing community reflection days, monthly retreats, annual retreats, etc., based on the theme of the General Chapter. To facilitate this synodal process, you can use the material prepared by the Commission, focusing on the four keywords of the upcoming General Chapter: 1) Identity 2) Service 3) Communion 4) Hope.
- ▶ We invite you to organize study days or/and workshops focused around the theme of the General Chapter.
- ▶ We encourage all our confreres to draft and send us any postulata and the fruit of your personal or community reflections no later than September 30, 2023. All materials should be emailed to the General Secretary ([msgenadmin@gmail.com](mailto:msgenadmin@gmail.com)).
- ▶ Finally, we suggest that you post the Logo and the theme of the next General Chapter in appropriate spaces both in your homes and in your parishes, sanctuaries, and websites.

Let us help each other to follow Jesus Christ more effectively and, animated by inner fire and missionary zeal, live a new Pentecost together. Let us entrust all our preparatory work to the guidance and inspiration of the 'Beautiful Lady' of La Salette.

With gratitude,

Fr. Jojohn Chettiyakunnel, MS  
Fr. Flavio Gillio, MS  
Fr. Alex Valummel, MS  
Fr. Paulino Nguli, MS  
Fr. Marcin Sitek, MS

# TOGETHER IN PRAYER

## Prayer for the 33rd General Chapter

God of infinite goodness, hope and communion, we thank you for all the blessings that have been poured out on our Congregation and on the extended La Salette family. As we celebrate the 33rd General Chapter, we ask you for a new outpouring of your Holy Spirit.

May this General Chapter be a grace of conversion and personal renewal as well as an experience of fraternal and ecclesial communion. On this journey of reconciliation, O Lord, enlighten our hearts and give us the joy of walking together, always guided by your Word and of “a stronger identity at the service of communion and hope” as religious and missionaries of the Beautiful Lady of La Salette.

As a one La Salette Family, we pray to you, Lord, for all those who will participate in the next General Chapter. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, O Lord; guide them in all their discussions and enlighten them in the decisions they will have to make for the good of our Congregation and for a better service to the cause of the Gospel and the Church.

We ask you this through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, Mary of La Salette, our Mother and Patroness, who with her last words addressed to Maximin and Melanie, “Well, my children, make this known to all my people,” invites us to become a community of hopes and courage by overcoming fears and uncertainties, to fulfill the mission entrusted to us.

**Amén.**

# EXPLANATION OF THE LOGO



The entire logo is included in a circle whose diameter is red and green. These are the two colors of the flag of Madagascar. Just as the Province of Madagascar will host the next General Chapter, so the circle, part in red and part in green, displays the main elements of the logo.

In the foreground, on the right, is the ‘Beautiful Lady’ of La Salette. On the opposite side, we see the pincers and the hammer. These two elements hint to the first key-word of the theme of the upcoming General Chapter: identity.

The hands of the ‘Beautiful Lady’ are directed toward the five highly stylized human figures. The hands of the ‘Beautiful Lady’ invite them to get closer to her with hope.

Each human figure is drawn in a different color: blue for Australia, black for Africa, red for the Americas, green for Europe, and yellow for Asia. They recall the five parts of the world where our La Salette communities are present (communion); at the same time, they also represent the People of God whom we seek to serve (service/communion), faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Our Lady of La Salette. In the background, extremely stylized and essential lines recall the peaks of the French Alps, the place of the Apparition.

Between the mountains, a rising sun, symbol of hope, stands out in orange.

Thus, the logo for the 33rd General Chapter draws inspiration from both the hosting province, Madagascar, and the chosen theme, which is “A Stronger Identity at the Service of Communion and Hope”.

# UNITED FOR LA SALETTE

## Salutation to La Salette Laity



Dear La Salette friends,

First of all, a very special greeting from the Holy Mountain where I have been for the past few days with the General Council to animate the meeting of the MS candidates and candidates of the SNDS (Sisters of La Salette) to Perpetual Profession. Some of these will make their perpetual vows on July 23, right here in the shrine, while the others will do so in their respective countries during the course of the year.

This month made up of listening, study and prayer constitutes a truly important moment in their vocational journey and human, spiritual and La Salette formation. With Perpetual Profession, in fact, these young people commit themselves forever, with God's grace, to follow Jesus chaste, poor and obedient and to live in community. They come from the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Madagascar, Angola, and the Philippines. I entrust them to your prayer that today's courage and enthusiasm will accompany them throughout their religious life made up of silent witness and humble and precious service to the cause of the Gospel.

In early June, I traveled to Tanzania with Fr. Jojohn, general councilor, to visit La Salette community, which has been in the country for 7 years now. It is composed of 4 religious from three different countries: Philippines, India and Myanmar. They are doing wonderful work both at the level of parish ministry and vocation ministry. Thanks to their missionary efforts, this year 3 young men will begin their philosophical formation and 4 others will begin their vocation discernment journey. In doing so, really soon, we will have the joy of counting among the Missionaries of La Salette also confreres from this African country. May Our Lady of La Salette protect and sustain these young people who desire to live the charism that emanates from her message entrusted to Maximin and Melanie on September 19, 1846.

I also entrust these young people, hope for the Congregation and the Church, to your prayers. With much regret I will not be able to be with you for the prayer of the rosary because of the lack of stability of the network but, I promise you, I will be with you in spirit. I will bring everyone and each one with me to the feet of the weeping Madonna.

I bless you all and embrace.

**P. Silvano Marisa MS**

