



## OUR PATRONESS

The relationship between Our Lady of La Salette with the Movement started when Angela Abdo (the foundress) travelled to the very south of Brazil, the state of Rio Grande do Sul. She was visiting one of the Shrines of La Salette, in Marcelino Ramos city, and in front of a statue she started to weep, her tears fell abundantly. In that moment a priest came by, and Angela asked him who was that Saint.

The priest answered: "She is more than a Saint. She is Our Lady of La Salette." The priest explained that Our Lady had appeared weeping for the sins of her children. Angela returned home bringing a souvenir, a statue of Our Lady of La Salette took to the group of Mothers who Pray for their Children, Mata da Praia, in Vitoria – ES. In a certain time, Fr. Anderson Gomes, the spiritual director at that moment, started to discern the Patroness and Co-patroness for the Movement.

Angela told him about the episode of her travel and what happened at Our Lady of La Salette's Shrine. Immediately Fr. Anderson confirmed all the action of the Holy Spirit. So, La Salette became the patroness, and her message takes us to a Path of Holiness.



## The Apparition of Our Lady of La Salette

### 19TH SEPTEMBER 1846

On Saturday, September 19, 1846, the children are again on Mount Pleneau, each one with his flock. There is a small fountain there that only appears when snow melts, or during heavy rains. It is the small fountain that, from the next day, poured water again and never dried again. Near this fountain, the two children lie on the grass... and fall asleep. Melanie wakes up and shakes Maximin. Go check on the cows... all quiet. The girl starts to go down and, suddenly, seeing something strange, she screams: "Maximin, look at that flash!" Next to the small fountain, on one of the stone seats... a fireball. "It's like the sun has fallen there. The flash moves, stirs, turns on itself. A woman appears seated, her head in her hands, her elbows between her knees, in a spectacle of profound sadness. The Beautiful Lady stands up. The two didn't move. She tells them in French:

**"Come, my children, do not be afraid, I am here to tell you a great news!"**

Then the children go down to the Beautiful Lady. Look at her. She doesn't stop crying. The Beautiful Lady is tall and all light. She is dressed like the local ladies with an apron, a peasant shawl and a servant's cap. Roses crown her head, flank her scarf and adorn her shoes. In her front head, a light like a diadem. Over her shoulders she carries a heavy chain. A lighter chain holds a resplendent crucifix with a hammer on one side and pincers on the other. The shoes were white, but a silvery white, shiny. There were roses around them. Two children witnessed the apparition of Our Lady in La Salette: Maximin and Melanie. They were poor, but with a simple heart and a pure soul.



# OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE





# THE MESSAGE OF LA SALETTE

1 The beautiful lady stood up and said: "If my people do not obey, I shall be compelled to loose my Son's arm. It is so heavy that I can no longer hold it. How long have I suffered for you! If my Son is not to abandon you, I am obliged to entreat him without ceasing. But you take no heed of that. No matter how well you pray in the future, no matter how well you act, you will never be able to make up what I have endured on your behalf."

2 "I have given you six days to work. The seventh I have reserved for myself yet no one will give it to me. This is what causes the weight of my Son's arm to be so heavy."

3 "The cart drivers cannot swear without bringing in my Son's name. These are the two things that make my Son's arm so heavy."

4 "If the harvest is spoiled, it is your own fault. I warned you last year by means of the potatoes. You paid no heed. Quite the contrary, when you discovered that the potatoes had rotted, you swore, you abused my Son's name. They will continue to be spoiled, and by Christmas time this year there will be none left."

Seeing the puzzled look of the children, Mary changed from French to the local dialect in order to make herself better understood. "If you have wheat, it will do no good to sow it, for what you sow the vermin will eat, and whatever part of it springs up will crumble into dust when you thresh it." "A great famine is coming. But before that happens, children under seven years of age will be seized with trembling and die in the arms of those holding them. The others will pay for their sins by hunger. The grapes will rot and the walnuts will become worm-eaten."

5 "If my people are converted, the very stones will become mounds of wheat and the potatoes will grow self-sown."

6 "Do you say your prayers well, my children?" The children answered with one voice: "Not too well, Madame, hardly at all!"

The Lady said: "Ah, my children, it is very important to do so, at night and in the morning. When you don't have time, at least say an Our Father and a Hail Mary, and whenever you can, say more."

7 "Only a few rather elderly women go to Mass in the summer. Everyone else works every Sunday all summer long. And in winter, when they don't know what else to do, they go to Mass only to scoff at religion. During Lent, they go to the butcher shop like dogs."

8 "Have you ever seen spoiled wheat, my children?" "No, Madame," declared Maximin, quick to speak for Melanie as well as for himself. Turning toward Maximin, the Lady replied: "But you, my child, must have seen some once near the field of Coin with your papa. The owner of the field said to your papa, 'Come and see my spoiled wheat.' The two of you went. You took two or three ears of wheat in your hands. You rubbed them together and they crumbled into dust. Then you came back from Coin. When you were only a half hour away from Corps, your papa gave you a bit of bread and said: 'Here, my son, eat some bread this year anyhow. I don't know who will be eating any next year if the wheat continues to spoil like this.'" "Oh, yes, Madame, now I remember! Until now I didn't," admitted Maximin.

9 The Beautiful Lady concluded, no longer in dialect but in French: "Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people." These were her last words. The radiant vision now began to disappear. "We saw her head no more, then the rest of the body no more; she seemed to melt away. There remained a great light," related Maximin, "as well as the roses at her feet which I tried to catch with my hands; but there was nothing more." "We looked for a long time," added Melanie, "to see if we could not have another glimpse of her," but the Beautiful Lady had disappeared forever. The little shepherdess then remarked to her companion: "Perhaps it was a great Saint." "If we had known it was a great Saint," said Maximin, "we would have asked her to take us with her."

## CHURCH APPROVAL

After five years of thorough analysis, Dom Felisberto, on the 19th of September 1851, to pronounce in a "Doctrinal Decree" on the "Fact of La Salette". At the most important point of the pronouncement, he states: "We believe that the apparition of the Holy Virgin to two shepherds, on the 19th of September 1846, on the mountain range of the Alps, located in the Parish of La Salette, in the decanate of Corps. It carries, in itself, all the characteristics of the truth, and that the faithful are right to believe in it as undoubted and certain." The specific pronouncement of the competent Ecclesiastical Authority closes the matter. Following the Church norms in analysing the Fact of La Salette, Dom Felisberto acknowledges the authenticity of event and, authorizes the faithful to recognize in it a sign of God and a path of conversion without imposing it as a dogma of faith.

## THE SECRETS OF LA SALETTE

*Father Jean Stern, a missionary of La Salette and a great scholar of the apparition's history, analysed with great competence La Salette's Fact and believes that neither Maximin nor Melanie wrote the secret they had kept with such firmness during the five years of rigorous investigation of the apparition.*

*In all this troubled history, what remains officially authenticated by the Church is only the Fact of La Salette with its respective Message. And this message is the legitimate La Salette's word, loaded with biblical and theological meaning, with a vehement appeal to Reconciliation according to the Gospel, and which the Movement of Mothers who Pray for Children welcomes and spreads.*

*Salette is a message of hope, as John Paul II said. Salette is not the focus of darkness that threatens and depresses human beings, but, above all, a lighthouse that illuminates the world and unceasingly supplicates to the Crucified-Risen Son to the conversion of her children.*



## JOHN PAUL II IN LETTER FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITION IN SALETTE

"In this place, Mary, the ever-loving mother, showed her grief for the bad morals caused by humanity. Her tears help us to understand the gravity of sin and rejection of God, while at the same time manifest the passionate loyalty which His Son maintains to every person, even though His redeeming love is marked with the wounds of mankind's betrayal and abandonment." "The irradiation of the La Salette event confirms well that the message of Mary is not fully in the suffering expressed by tears; The Virgin appeals to repentance; she invites to penance, to perseverance in prayer and, above all, to loyalty to Sunday practice; She asks for her message to "reach out all your people" through the testimony of two children."

"Salette is a message of hope, as long as our hope is sustained by the intercession of the One who is the mother of men. Infidelities, even serious ones, are not irreparable. The night of sin disappears before the light of divine mercy."