

September 17, 2020

Thursday of the 24th Week

1st Day of the Triduum in Honor of Our Lady of La Salette

Theme: Mary, Mother of the Savior

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 1:39-47

MARY, MOTHER OF THE SAVIOR!

When the great painter **Benjamin West**, (October 10, 1738 – March 11, 1820) [*an American artist during the 18th century who eventually settled in London*] was a young boy he decided to draw a picture of his sister. He got out bottles of ink and succeeded in making a mess. When his mother got home, she said, **“What a beautiful picture,”** and kissed him. Later in life he said, **“That kiss made me a painter.”** It was his mother’s unconditional love that encouraged him to continue his passion in painting.

I started with a story of a mother’s love simply because at La Salette in France, on September 19, 1846, a mother named Mary appeared. She was crying. She was hurt with what was happening to her children. It was her unconditional love for her children that she appeared at La Salette.

At La Salette, Mary was not just the mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ, but also the mother of us all. With tears in her eyes, the very first words she uttered to the two children, Maximin and Melanie, were: **“Come near my children. Do not be afraid.”** Her words of invitation demonstrated her being a mother who loves and cares for her children. A mother who, despite her pain, reached out to her children to bring them closer to the Truth, the Way, and the Life. She was a mother who does not want her children to go astray/off track. Indeed, at La Salette, Mary is a mother who went out of her way so she can show to her erring children the way to her son, Jesus.

In our gospel proclaimed we see how Mary, our Mother, went out of her way, not only to visit, but to help her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant in her old age. Mary’s action illustrates to us that she is always thinking of others. Like her son, Jesus, she is always willing to serve and not to be

served'. She is always ready to share the Good News to others no matter what her situation is. Truly, her joy is in God her savior! Her joy is in doing God's will!

At La Salette, Mary, our Mother, came to do God's will. She came to serve God and us, her children. She came to share the Good News so we can have life in its fullness. She came to remind us that we are God's children and heirs of his kingdom.

As our Mother, Mary at La Salette is appealing to us to come to her. She calls us not to be afraid for she will intercede for us to her son, Jesus. She will help us become stewards of the Gospel. She will assist us in the right path in doing God's will. She will accompany us in our desire to make right the wrong we have done. She will always be there for us, loving us unconditionally, simply because we are her children, and she is our Mother.

In this Mass, our 1st Day of the Triduum, we thank God for the apparition of Our Lady at La Salette. We thank God for giving us a Mother who reaches out to us so we can be reconciled to Him.

**Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of Sinners,
Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you!**