

September 18, 2020
Friday of the 24th Week
2nd Day of the Triduum in Honor of Our Lady of La Salette
Theme: Mary, Mother of Evangelization
1 Col 1:21-24
Mt 28:16-20

MARY, MOTHER OF EVANGELIZATION!

Last week, I was invited by a family to enthrone the image of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** at their home. I started blessing the home and then I continued with the rite of enthronement. Part of the rite was praying of the **Our Father**. And so, I invited the whole family to pray with me the **Our Father** and they did. While praying the **Our Father** I did not expect that the youngest kid in the family, who is only 3-year-old, will be praying it. When I heard her tiny voice, I started to smile for I know that something beautiful is happening to the faith and the domestic church. I can only surmise that the parents are trying their best to teach, in words and deeds, the faith to their kids.

Why did I share with you that story? I shared with you that story simply because it was a beautiful and wonderful example of evangelization.

We always hear the word 'evangelization.' But **what is it really?** The word '**evangelization**' comes from the Greek word '**evangelion**' which means '**glad tidings or good news.**' Therefore, **evangelization** simply means '**bringing or sharing the good news to others.**' To be more specific, in the mind of the Church, evangelization is simply witnessing and proclaiming the Good News of Christ Jesus to all. The Church says, "**Evangelization must always be directly connected to the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed.**" (usccb.org)

Evangelization is a very important mission of the Church and all intentional disciples of Christ are called to evangelize others in words and deeds. This call to evangelize is clearly reiterated by Jesus to his disciples when he said: "**All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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.**" Jesus was not requesting his disciples but commanding them to go and do it. They are commanded/ordered to evangelize. It was not an option. It was a requirement!

As people called to be disciples of Christ, **are we fulfilling this requirement? Are we doing what we are commanded to do? Do we evangelize others particularly the members of our family?**

At the annunciation, Mary, our Mother, was evangelized by the angel Gabriel. The Good News was shared to her. It was through this evangelization that Mary was able to give her unconditional YES to God. After she was evangelized, **what did she do?** She went out of her way and went to help her cousin, Elizabeth. It was in this visit that she was able to share the

Good News. Her presence was an evangelization for Elizabeth that the latter was touched and said, "**Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.**" Mary was evangelized and, in return, evangelized others.

At La Salette, Mary, our Mother, was true to her work as an evangelizer. She appeared to tell the Good News. Her presence was to communicate the love of her son, Jesus, to the human race. She came to reiterate the importance of prayer and penance. She encouraged the two children, Maximin and Melanie, to pray more. She said, "**If you have time, pray more.**" She also challenged them to evangelize others when she said: "**Make my message known to all my people!**"

Yes, Mary at La Salette, our Mother, evangelizes us, her children and, at the same time, she challenges us to evangelize others. **Are we up to the challenge to evangelize others? Do we have someone in mind to share the Good News to after this Mass?**

In this Mass, the 2nd Day of our Triduum, let us ask the intercession of Mary, our Mother, to help us in carrying out our mission to evangelize others. With Mary, let us always bring the Good News of her son, Jesus, wherever we go.

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