

September 19, 2020
Saturday of the 24th Week
3rd Day of the Triduum in Honor of Our Lady of La Salette
Theme: Mary, Mother of Reconciliation
Gen 9:18-27
2 Cor 5:16-20
Jn 19:25-27

MARY, MOTHER OF RECONCILIATION!

Once upon a time, there were two brothers and their father had a large farm. When the father became too old to work, he called his sons to him. **"I am too old to work anymore," he said. "I will divide my farm in half and give each of you one half. I know that you will always work together and will be good friends."**

When the brothers first started farming on their adjoining farms, they were the best of friends and would share everything together. Then, one day there was an argument between the two brothers and they stopped speaking to one another. For many years, not a word was spoken between them.

One day, one of the brothers was at his house when a carpenter came to his door and said, **"I would like to do some work. Do you have any work that I can do?"** The brother thought for a moment and then replied, **"I would like for you to build a fence on my property. Build it down near the stream there that separates my farm from the farm of my brother. I don't want to see my brother anymore and I would like for you to build a high fence there please. I'm going into town and I'll be back this evening."**

When he came back that evening, he was shocked to see that the carpenter had not followed his instructions. Instead of building a high fence there, he had built a bridge over the stream. The man walked down to take a look at the bridge, and as he did, his brother walked toward him from the other side. His brother said, **"After all the terrible things I've done to you over the years, I can't believe that you would build a bridge and welcome me back."** He reached out to his brother and gave him a big hug. The brother then walked back up to his farmhouse to talk to the carpenter. **"Can you stay?"** he asked. **"I have more work for you to do."** The carpenter answered, **"I'm sorry but I can't stay. I have to go, for I have many other bridges to build."**

Reconciliation is about 'tearing fences and building bridges.' **Do we have fences to tear down? Do we have bridges to build up?**

Mary, at La Salette, is not just a mother and evangelizer. She is a reconciler. Her apparition is aimed at bringing us back to her Son, Jesus. At La Salette, she is building a bridge through which we can walk going back to God. In her message of reconciliation, she is trying to tear down the fences we have built through our sins committed. She cares so much about us that she is encouraging us to turn away from sins, pray more, and be courageous in sharing the Good News of her Son, Jesus. Truly, At La Salette, Mary, our Mother, is faithful and obedient to the responsibility given to her. Her love for God and for us ushers her to comply humbly to the final words of her Son, Jesus, who said: **"Woman, behold, your son."**

Mary, our Mother, is a reconciler calling us to be reconciled to God and then be reconcilers ourselves. This is the same message and call that St. Paul is conveying to us in our 2nd reading. St. Paul says that we have 'given the ministry of reconciliation;' we have 'entrusted with the message of reconciliation.' Therefore, we have the responsibility to carry it out. He says, **"We are ambassadors for Christ."**

Are we up to the task of being agents of reconciliation, of building bridges rather than fences?

We are now on the 3rd Day of our Triduum and, today is the **Feast Day of Our Lady of La Salette**. We thank God for giving us Mary as our **mother, evangelizer** and **reconciler**. We thank God that thru Mary's apparition at La Salette we are reminded of our call to build bridges and not fences in today's world.

As we continue our celebration, let us lovingly embrace Mary's invitation at La Salette **'to make her message known to all her people.'**

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