

### The Second Commandment

#### ***You shall not take the name of God in vain***

The name of God is blasphemed constantly in our schools, in our movies, and in printed literature. Much of mainstream entertainment mocks or even curses the things of God, right religion, and the Church. In 1846 it wasn't as bad, but bad enough for Our Lady to say: "The cart drivers cannot swear without bringing in my Son's name. These are ... things which make my son's arm so heavy. If the harvest is spoilt, it is all on your account. I gave you warning last year ... but you did not heed it. On the contrary, when you found the potatoes spoilt, you swore, you took the name of my Son in vain. They will continue to decay, so that by Christmas there will be none left."

### The Third Commandment

#### ***You shall keep the Sabbath day holy***

Very few people in San Francisco go to church on Sunday. Our Lady said this of the villagers of La Salette in 1846: "Only a few rather old women go to Mass in the summer. Everyone else works every Sunday all summer long. And in the 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 shops like dogs."



*Our parish pilgrimage to La Salette, 2017*

### **Reconciliation with God**

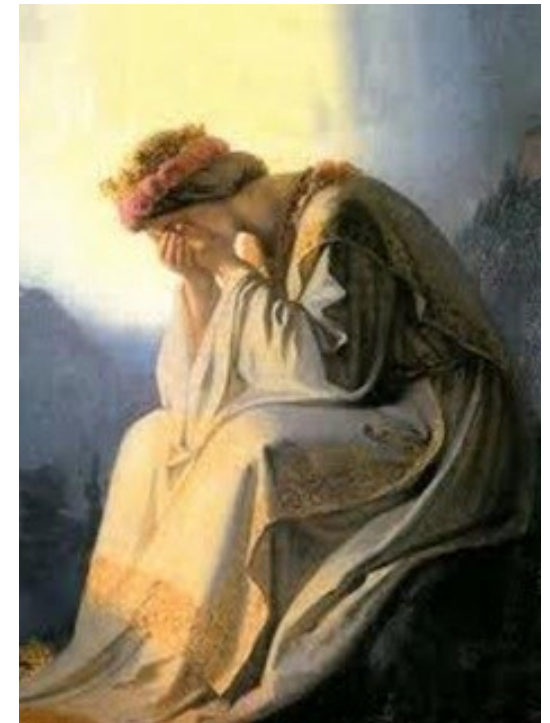
"Be reconciled to God" the Apostle Paul begged his beloved Corinthians. Our Lady came to a nation that had revolted against the Gospel and the Church of Christ. She begged them to be reconciled with God before it was too late. Deathbed conversions are rare, and most of us die the way we live, either in submission to God or rejecting Him. Our Holy Mother wept as she pleaded with her children: "If my people will not submit, I shall be forced to let fall the arm of my Son. It is so strong, so heavy, that I can no longer withhold it.... There will come a great famine.... children under seven years of age will be seized with trembling and will die in the hands of those who hold them; the others will do penance by the famine. The walnuts will become bad, and the grapes will rot." There is yet time to be reconciled to God, but we must be serious about conversion.

Mélanie describes how Our Lady left them: "She walked up to where I had gone to see our cows. Her feet touched nothing but the tips of the grass without bending them. She rose imperceptibly from the ground ... Hanging in the air, my beautiful Lady looked up to Heaven, then down on the earth to her right and then her left. She looked at me with eyes so soft, so kind and so good that I felt She was drawing me inside Her. The beautiful face of my good Lady disappeared little by little. ... the body of my Lady was melting into light...."

### **Recommended reading**

The official website of the La Salette Missionaries, [lasalette.org](http://lasalette.org), contains excellent articles on the apparition and the message. I have used some of the ideas from this website in this pamphlet, with grateful recognition.

## **Our Lady of La Salette Historical Facts and Essential Messages of Our Lady in 1846**



*Welcome to Our Lady's Shrine here in San Francisco. In this pamphlet, prepared by our pastor, Fr. Joseph Illo, you will learn the basic facts and message of this apparition. You are encouraged to spend some time in quiet prayer and perhaps go to confession. Please keep a reverent silence in the Church, especially when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.*

### **Star of the Sea Church**

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**What:** One appearance of Our Lady

**Where:** La Salette, France

**When:** September 19, 1846

**To Whom:** Mélanie Calvat (age 14) and Maximin Giraud (age 11)

“La Salette” is a cluster of eight or nine poor hamlets in the alps of southeastern France, elevation 5,000 feet. Most of the 800 villagers were farmers and their dependents, grazing cows and sheep on the alpine slopes.

**A Beautiful Lady sitting, with her head in her hands, weeping**

On a Saturday morning, September 19, 1846, 14-year-old Mélanie and 11-year-old Maximin took their family cows to graze on Mont Sous-Les Baisses. When the Angelus bells struck in the village below, they prayed briefly, and then played a game building a miniature house of stones decorated with flowers, which they called their “paradise.” Having finished their game, and looking at the little house, they moved off to rest in the grass while the cows grazed. When Mélanie woke up, the cows had disappeared, and she ran up a little hill to see where they had gone. “From there,” as Mélanie later described it, “I could see our cows grazing peacefully and I was on my way down, with Maximin on his way up. All at once I saw a beautiful light shining more brightly than the sun. I kept my eyes firmly fixed on this light, which was static, and as if it had opened up, I caught sight of another, much more brilliant light which was moving, and in this light I saw a most beautiful lady sitting on top of our ‘Paradise,’ with her head in her hands.”



Mélanie described the lady as seated, elbows resting on her knees, and her face buried in her hands. She wore a white robe studded with pearls, wrapped in a gold colored apron. On her feet were white shoes with roses about them; around her neck a crucifix suspended from a small chain with a hammer and tongs at each end. She wore a high headdress and although quite evidently a noble lady, she wept with head bowed as she spoke to the children. “Come near, my children, be not afraid,” she said to Mélanie and Maximin. “I am here to tell you important things.” She begged the children to tell the villagers to be reconciled to God and to each other. The faith had grown cold in France since the Revolution of 1789. Just a few hours’ drive from La Salette, a few years before, a young priest had been assigned to a small village called Ars. The vicar general told Fr. John Vianney: “I’m sending you to Ars. There is not much love in that parish. You will bring some into it.” France, the eldest daughter of the Church, had become an enemy of Christ, and so the Lady told the two children at La Salette: “If my people will not submit, I shall be forced to let fall the arm of my Son. It is so strong, so heavy, that I can no longer withhold it. For how long a time do I suffer for you!” In other words, the people will suffer the consequences of their atheism unless they return to God, and yet reconciliation is always within their grasp.

**The First Three Commandments**

Very much like our own time, most people in 1840s France lived as if God did not exist. They routinely violated the First Three Commandments, which pertain to God. Commandments four through ten order our love for each other, but if we do not love God first, we will not love each other, or even ourselves. In our own time, self loathing (cutting, suicide, drug addiction) and hatred for others (school shootings, terrorism, public vitriol) have increased because love for God has decreased. At La Salette, Our Lady begged the villagers to keep the First Three Commandments.

The First Commandment:

***You shall have no other gods beside me***

People who say that they “adore” some celebrity usually mean it! We sacrifice great amounts of time and money to see a sporting event or entertainer but will not sacrifice much to attend Mass. We live without the sacraments but we will not live without our personal devices and the pornography, endless distraction and gossipy social media they deliver. In 1846 Our Lady called the villagers to put God first rather than working seven days a week. “If my people will not submit,” she said, “I shall be forced to let fall the arm of my Son. I am compelled to pray to him without ceasing; and as to you, you take no heed of it.” Later she asked Mélanie and Maximin: “Do you say your prayers well, my children?” They answered, “Not very well, Madam.” “Ah, my children, you must be sure to say them well morning and evening. When you cannot do better, say at least an Our Father and a Hail Mary. When you have time, say more.”