

MANDALAY NOTES

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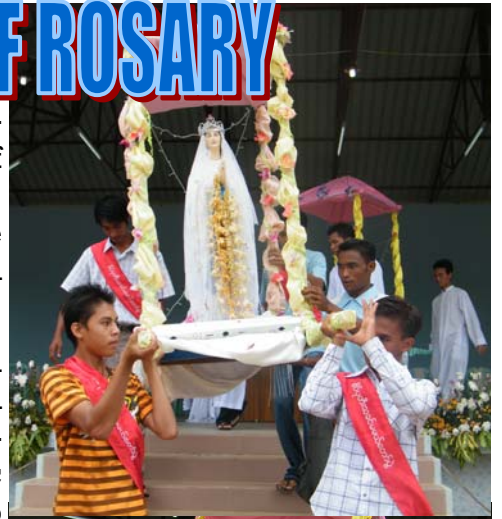


FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF ROSARY

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in Chanthagon was celebrated on the 2nd and 3rd of October with a great number of devotees from all over the country. Some arrived since Oct 1, and crowded the place so quickly. On the eve of the fiesta, the opening mass was presided by Mgsr. Mg Nee at 5:00pm and followed by Marian Procession and ended with Benediction.

Starting from 9:00pm till 5:00am, 9 Novena Masses were offered for all the dioceses in Myanmar and so lively was participated by the people throughout the night. The fiesta mass was presided at 8:00am, by His Grace Bishop Paul Grawng. Fr. Dominic Jodu gave his sermon, stressing on the message of La Salette, to repent and return to her Son, Jesus, with love so as to let her promises be fulfilled in life.

During the fiesta, things were all in time and in order through the hard work of everyone under the leadership of Fr. Bernie, MS. Thanks to Our Blessed Mother for the good weather, and for the peaceful participation of people. Some even mistook the date and arrived in the afternoon just after celebration. Besides, it is so wonderful to see how Our Lady of the Rosary could knock and move the hearts of so many people to be in prayer and in love as she invites everyone to come closer to her. Congratulations to all Myanmar La Salettes.



Feast Day of Our Lady of La Salette

The La Salette Missionaries celebrated the 163th anniversary of the Apparition of our Lady of La Salette which is the foundation of the existence of the community and its mission in the world. The Myanmar District also had a community mass in honor of Our Lady of La Salette at 9 o' clock in the morning of September 19. The holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Nicodemus, MS while Fr. Bernie, MS gave a very inspiring sharing in his homily, welcoming everyone to come to Mother Mary, who knows every moment in our lives, just like when the potatoes got spoilt, she was aware of it though Maximin did not. After she reminded him, the boy remembered her loving presence.

Salesian Sisters also joined in the mass, together with some villagers. After the mass, the sisters and the village youth rendered a Marian song to the La Salette Fathers and brothers in honor of Our Lady of La Salette. After a short meeting, Fathers and Brothers shared lunch together in fraternal communion. The day had gone so simple. The Myanmar MS community gives special thanks to Our Lady of La Salette for all the blessings and for the presence of the community in Myanmar.



During the Buddhist lent, the students have classes even on Saturdays and Sundays. Their holidays coincide with the Buddhist Sabbath. So the students will have a celebration, the mass was scheduled on the 18th of September for them. After the mass, the procession of the statue of Our Lady of La Salette took place. She was paraded throughout the village and after that a merienda cena followed. Many appreciated the gesture. Practically the whole village was present for the celebrations.



THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL

The parish of Than Win celebrated the feast of St. Micheal, with nine days of Novena Masses. His Grace Bishop Paul Grawng, DD, presided over the holy Eucharist, focusing his homily on the defense of one another in terms of faith and charity. The celebration went so smoothly in the evening without rain that people could enjoy the procession and the benediction and the presence of people round Mandalay.

It had been more special this year since the church would be demolished at the beginning of October. The old church had existed for almost a hundred years. The parish under the leadership of Fr. John Maung San started to build a new Church, aiming for a bigger and stronger church to be. The new church will be of the same style with a slight change of the position of the altar. The altar at the new church will be facing the west contrary to the former one.

Reverend Robert Zaw Lwin, MS, had served there for four months and had his pastoral experiences. He had said "Good bye" to the parishioners. And they promised him to come to attend his presbyteral ordination in Pyaw. Let's pray for them all.



Many priests come from the town of Monhla. One of the most famous sons of Monhla is Charles Bo, the Archbishop of Yangon. The patron of the town is also St. Michael. But since it is difficult to go there not too many go there to celebrate. The best way is to come by train as the railway tracks pass not too far from the village. Those who come by car, usually leave their vehicles to the main road and walk the rest of the way. But with the help of many friends and benefactors, the Archbishop has built a cemented road to the village from the "high way". At least you can be sure of being able to get out of the village after the meal. This road is along the irrigation canal and so the foundation is not very solid. Even before the opening of the road (most probably it will be in December of this year) some of the areas have to be patched up. The ceremonies were done beautifully. Fr. John Aye Kyaw, a biblical scholar, preached at the principal mass.

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Alam Festival



The first La Salette Sisters come from the northern section of the diocese of Myitkyina. Fr. Paul La San La erected a big cross on top of a mountain not too far from town. A lot of improvements have been made and a road had been bulldozed to make it possible to bring up things. Every year on the feast of the Exaltation of the cross thousands of pilgrims brave up the seven mile climb to the top of the mountain and hold prayer vigils and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. More and more people are coming up to the area and the mass is scheduled to start at eleven in the morning. Fr. Bernie Taylor, MS was invited to preach at the principal mass in Myanmar (the whole liturgy is in Kachin). The bishop was waiting for him in the afternoon of the 13th of September but since the plane from Mandalay was delayed, he went ahead. As soon as the plane arrived landed at Myitkyina, they tried to go up the mountain but decided to go back because it was raining on top of the mountain. The roads were slippery and they did not want to take any unnecessary risks as it was getting dark. The next day was worse. Even with the four wheel drive Land Rover jeep, they had to walk up. After a few falls and near falls, the party arrived just in time for the mass. It was delayed as there were many going to confession but very few priests were available. Another mass was scheduled at the foot of the hill to accommodate those who cannot go up the slippery muddy road. It is encouraging to see that there and many young people coming to the ceremonies. The children went up and down the hill very fast. Words were not necessary to preach to the people of the crucifixion. This ministry is being offered to the La Salette Missionaries.