

# LA SALETTES



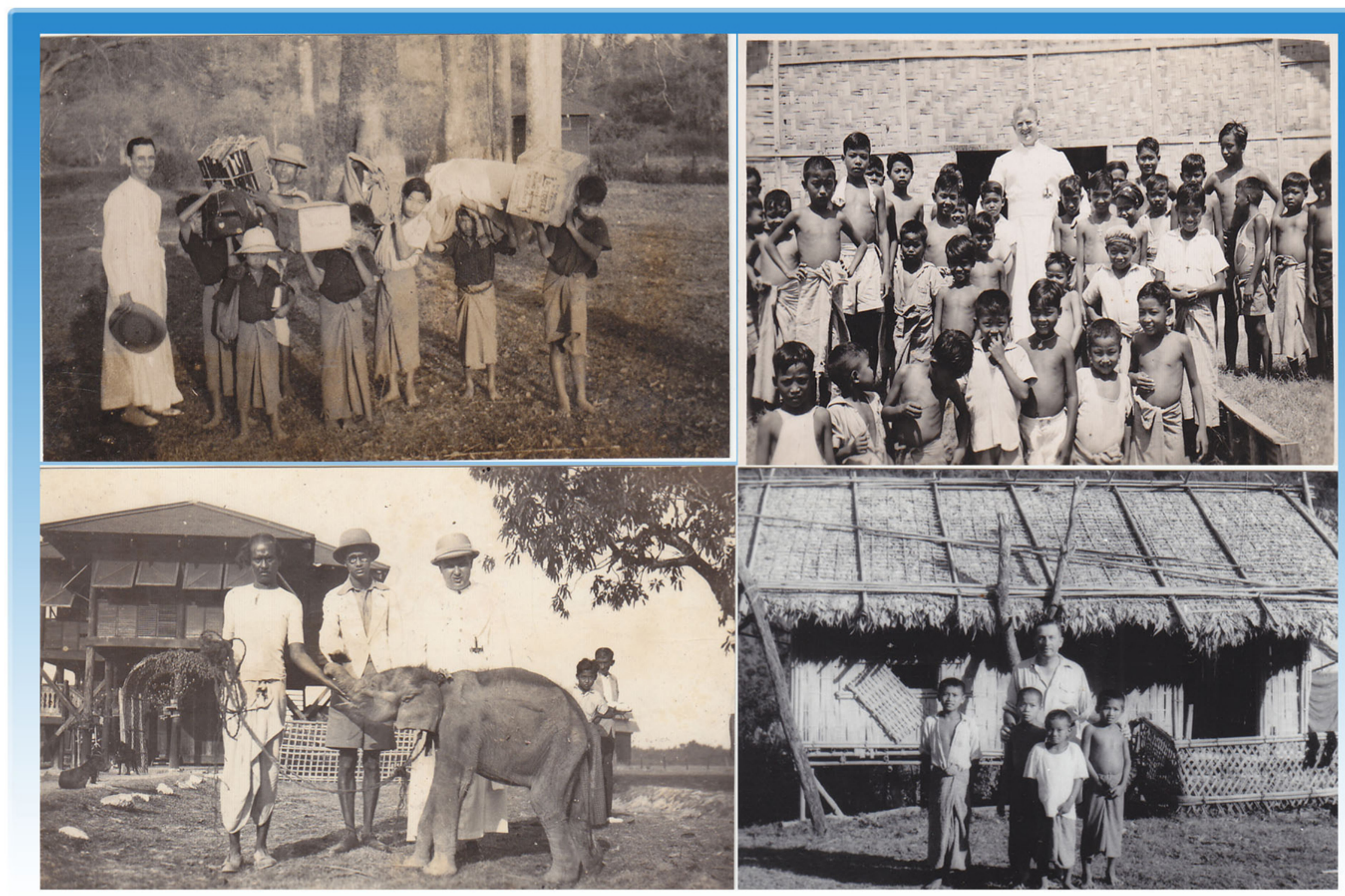
Bishop Thomas Newman  
with members



La salettes in mission



Missionaries seminarians & RNDM sisters



Old mission pictures

## Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette Congregation

### History of Congregation

On Saturday, September 19, 1846, Mother Mary appeared to Maximin Giraud, 11 year-old and Melanie Calvat, 15 year-old, at La Salette, Corps, Grenoble, France. The weeping Mother wore a large Crucifix with a hammer to the left and pincers to the right of the figure of Christ. Mary brought the message of Reconciliation to us through the two children: We all are to Pray well (Morning, Evening, Divine Office, the Holy Eucharist; Observance of Lent), to do Penance everyday, and to have Missionary Zeal.

On September 19, 1851, after "a precise and rigorous investigation" of the event, the witnesses, the content of the message, and its repercussions, Philibert de Bruillard, Bishop of Grenoble, declared the event to be indubitable and certain. On May 1, 1852, the bishop announced to construct the Shrine

on the apparition site and assigned six priests to minister to the pilgrims. These priests took their first vows on February 2, 1858, and Brothers were included in 1862 to form one religious family. The first General Chapter was held in 1876; the Laudatory Decree (1879); the Decree of Approval by the Holy See (1890); final approval to the Constitutions (1926). Although the first six diocesan priests and the bishop are considered as founders, the Apparition itself is the Founding Event.

The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette form a religious apostolic congregation dedicated to the ministry of reconciliation (Const. 1); made up of priests and brothers as well as defined by the Holy See as a clerical religious institute of Pontifical right (Const. 2). The La Salette Fathers from the United States of America arrived in Akyab (Sitway) in 1937 and Msgr. Thomas Newman, MS (consecrated by Pope John XXIII in Rome) became the first Bishop of Pyay (Prome) Diocese in 1961. As Socialist party came to power, the missionaries together with every foreign missionary community had to leave the

country and handed over the diocese to the diocesan clergy in 1976. The Congregation with five native members was able to return to Myanmar and the La Salette Mission was re-established on November 18, 2005. At present, the La Salettes are based at the Shrine of Our Lady of Holy Rosary, Chanthagone, in the Archdiocese of Mandalay, Myanmar.

**Our Vision:** We, Myanmar La Salette, envision ourselves as living signs of reconciliation.

**Our Mission:** In the spirit of genuine love, we, as a religious family of one mind and one heart, strive to become living witnesses of reconciliation to the whole La Salette community and to the Church by discerning the mission given to us by God through our Blessed Mother and by living out faithfully our religious commitment.

**Vocation:** Volunteerism (6 months to one year), Aspirancy (1 year), Postulancy (one year/ two years), Novitiate (one year/ 1 & 6 months/ two years); professed (3 years of renewal and final vows). As of now, we have 6 Scholastics (5

Philosophy students in PyinOoLwin; 1 Theology student in Yangon), 3 Postulants in Pyin Oo Lwin, 2 Aspirants in Paleik, Mandalay.

**Activities:** We have our apostolate in Peace & Justice Commission (CBCM); Retreats & Recollections, Shrine (Mandalay & France), & Parishes (Mandalay, Myitkyina & United States).

**Our Future Plan:** To Witness our Charism and Gospel values to the needs of the Local Church in communion with the Universal Church's response to the signs of the times!

**Number of Members:** 13 Priests, 6 Temporary Professed, 5 Novices, 2 Aspirants



General House



Chanthagone Shrine, Mandalay



Formation House Pyin Oo Lwin



Formation