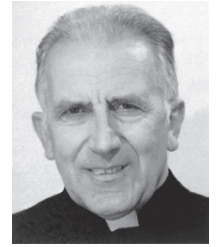




Echo of Medjugorje

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Fr Angelo Mutti
Founder Eco di Medjugorje

Mary Assumed into Heaven

25 May 2015:

“Dear children, Also today I am with you, and with joy I call you all: pray and believe in the power of prayer! Open your hearts, my children, so that God may fill you with His love and you will be joy to others. Your witness will be powerful and everything you do will be interwoven with God’s tenderness. I am with you and I pray for you and your conversion until you put God in the first place. Thank you for responding to my call.”

God First!

The story of the Covenant between the Creator and mankind continues thanks to God’s promise and fidelity to that promise, and despite man’s weakness and infidelity. We owe much to our older brothers, the chosen people of God, who bore the human weight of that covenant.

And now we have the weighty responsibility of witnessing our faith in Christ, not with theological debates or the like, but by living a life that reflects the Life of Jesus. Easy to say; not so easy to put into practice. And though it may seem impossible for us, we are reminded that with God, all things are possible (cf. Lk 18:27). And it is on this word of His that we must place our hearts, and do as Mary calls us to do: **Pray, and believe in the power of prayer. Open your hearts so that God may fill you with His love, and you will be joy to others.**

Mary’s exhortations, far from being metaphoric, are to be taken literally. To be that joy for others, we need to open up to the Holy Spirit and **surrender to His action** of grace; and learn to feel God’s presence in us: *with His sighs too deep for words* (cfr Rm 8:26) which are worth much more than our own words however articulate one might be. But woe to us if we think these prayers of the Holy Spirit can make us exempt from doing our part!

We have to firmly believe that God is Love and that He always keeps us, especially when we might suffer loneliness and abandonment... for if we are in union with Jesus, we can say with Him: *My God, why have you forsaken me?* (Mk 15:34) and God’s Spirit will purify the bitterness in our hearts. **Your witness will be powerful and everything you do will be interwoven with God’s tenderness**, Mary tells us; as she reminds us that she is with [to pg 4]



Message, Mirjana 2 June 2015

“Dear Children, I desire to work through you - my children, my apostles - so that in the end, I may gather all of my children there where everything is prepared for your happiness.

I pray for you, that you might convert others through works, because the time has come for acts of truth, of my Son. My love will work in you; I will make use of you. Have trust in me, because everything that I desire, I desire for your good, the eternal good created by the Heavenly Father.

You, my children, my apostles: live your earthly life in union with my children who have not come to know the love of my Son, who do not call me ‘mother’ - but do not be afraid to witness the truth. If you are not afraid and you witness courageously, the truth will miraculously win.

But remember: strength is in love. My children, love is repentance, forgiveness, prayer, sacrifice and mercy. If you know how to love, by your works you will convert others, you will enable the light of my Son to penetrate into souls. Thank you.

Pray for your shepherds. They belong to my Son. He called them. Pray that they may always have the strength and the courage to shine with the light of my Son.”

25 June 2015 (34th anniversary):

“Dear Children, Also today the Most High has given me the grace to be able to love you and to call you to conversion. My children, may God be your tomorrow, and not war or lack of peace, not sorrow, but joy and peace must begin to reign in the heart of every person - but without God you will never find peace. Therefore, my children, return to God and to prayer so that your heart may sing with joy. I am with you and I love you with immeasurable love. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Joy and Peace in Hearts!

The world has been paying more attention to Medjugorje lately, with the usual polemics and hypotheses on one side, and rebuttal and hope on the other. Words flow, to express convictions, certainties, even undue judgements. However, rather than throwing light on the matter, there has been an increase of confusion, which distracts people’s attention from the core matter. It isn’t important that we know the day and the hour, so to speak, but rather that we prepare for that day and hour, with prayer and conversion according to Our Lady’s request.

Nothing new with respects to Our Lord’s requests; nothing new with respects to the Gospel (Mk 1:15). In substance it is the same, and Mary’s work is not an optional but a necessity desired by God the Creator. *The salvation of the world began through Mary and through her it must be accomplished*, affirms Montfort in his Treatise on True Devotion (no. 49). And the Medjugorje events confirm this prophecy.

Mary’s work exists so that we open up to the grace of God who, through her, wants to call us both personally and collectively as People of God! So rather than play guessing games, what we need to do is to pray so we open up to the Father’s Love which comes to us by way of Mary Immaculate! In doing so, we will find ourselves on the way of conversion. “My children, may God be your tomorrow, and not war or lack of peace, not sorrow, but joy and peace must begin to reign in the heart of every person - but without God you will never find peace.”

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POPE FRANCIS - Charismatic Renewal a Current of Grace

"The Charismatic Renewal comes from God and goes to God. It is a current of grace, a renewing breath of the Spirit for all the members of the Church: lay people, religious, priests and bishops. It is a challenge for us all. One does not form part of the Renewal; rather, the Renewal becomes a part of us provided that we accept the grace it offers," pointed out the Pope.

What is the **common sign** of those who are reborn of this current of grace? To become new men and new women: this is Baptism in the Spirit! I ask you to read John 3:7-8 where Jesus talks to Nicodemus about rebirth in the Spirit.

Not leaders, but servants: Beware of the temptation of being called "leaders". I prefer the word servants [to leader]. This temptation comes from the devil, the temptation to believe one is indispensable. And step by step, we slip into authoritarianism, into personalism and do not let the renewed Community live in the Spirit. May it be clear to us: the only irreplaceable one in the Church is the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is the only Lord!

This current of grace leads us forward in a path of the Church that in Italy has borne much fruit, I thank you. I encourage you to go forward. You have lived this experience; share it in the Church... help the People of God in their personal encounter with Jesus Christ, in

little groups, humble but effective, because it is the Spirit that works. Do not look so much at having great gatherings which often end there, but to "crafted" relations stemming from witness, in the family, at work, in social life, in parishes, in prayer groups, with all ... and in cooperation with the Bishops.

You Charismatics have a special grace to pray and work for Christian unity. Christian unity is the work of the Holy Spirit and we must pray together. This current of grace goes across all the Christian Confessions, all of us who believe in Christ – unity first of all in prayer. Work for Christian unity begins with prayer. Pray together. [There must be] unity, because the blood of today's martyrs [Christian, not specifically Catholic] makes us one.

It is the **ecumenism of blood.** If the enemy unites us in death, who are we to be divided in life? Let us allow the Spirit to enter, let us pray to go forward all together [walking] with what we have in common, which is enough: there is the Holy Trinity; there is Baptism.

Let us go forward in the strength of the Holy Spirit.



Unity in working together for the poor and the needy, who are also in need of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It would be very good to organize seminars of life in the Spirit, together with other Christian Charismatic realities, for brothers and sisters that live on the street: they also have the Spirit within that pushes them, so that someone outside will open wide the door.

With Bibles, with the Word of God, go, preach the novelty that Jesus has given us. Preach to the poor, to the marginalized, to the blind, to the sick, to the imprisoned, to all men and women. The Spirit is within every one, who wishes to be helped to open wide the door to make him flourish again. May the Lord accompany you in this mission, always with the Bible in hand, always with the Gospel in your pocket, with the Word of Christ!"

3 July 2015. www.vatican.va

The BEATITUDES Programme of Holiness

Pope Francis recently asked the youth to "go against the current," adding that "Jesus' plan always goes against the current." The following words are the Pope's reflection on the Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-10) which he has commended to the youth as a programme of life to follow:

Blessed are the merciful.

Blessed are those who know how to put themselves in the shoes of the other.

Blessed are those who are able to embrace and to forgive. All of us, at some point in time, have experienced this; have experienced having been forgiven, and we know how beautiful it is! It is like being born again; being given new opportunity. There is nothing more beautiful than to have new opportunities. It is as if life begins again.

Blessed are those who are bearers of new life, of new opportunities.

Blessed are those who work for this, who fight for this. All of us make mistakes, by the thousand even. For this reason, **blessed** are those who are able to help others when they err. These are true friends who do not leave anyone who is in trouble. These are the pure in heart; those who can see beyond pretence, and know how to overcome difficulty.

Blessed are those who can especially see the positive in others.



The 26th International Prayer Meeting for Youth

The Youth Festival at Medjugorje was held also this year from 31st July to 6th August. This year's theme was **Peace be with you!** (Jn 20:21), and the programme included catecheses, testimonies, liturgical celebrations, moments of prayer and Eucharistic adoration.

At the beginning of the Festival a message was read from CARDINAL SCHÖNBORN (Archbishop of Vienna Austria)

which he wrote for the young people attending the Youth Festival. The Cardinal, a friend of Medjugorje, sent it from California where he was attending an important conference.

The message said:

"Dear young people who are gathered in Medjugorje again in great numbers, I am intensely united with you in heart and in prayer. Today we celebrate the memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola. He had only one desire: to completely place himself at God's disposal to spread His Kingdom! That readiness brought so many great fruits, the most recent of which is our dear Holy Father Francis, the first pope from the Jesuit order. Let us entrust him and his service to the Gospa! Jesus asks us to say to Him the words which St. Ignatius put into practice: **Here I am! I want my life to be in communion with You!**

May the Lord bless you, and may He bless the days you spend with Him and His Mother here at Medjugorje! Please pray for the Synod on the Family!

Yours, Card Christoph Schönborn."

THE FESTIVAL IN NUMBERS

At the beginning of the 26th Youth Festival, on Saturday, 1st August 2015, those present came from **66** different countries; and there were **333** priests from all over the world; and a **choir** made up of people with **24** different nationalities. (Fonte Radio Maria)

On the 4th August, there were **500** priests present; and at the final evening Mass of the 5th August, the number of concelebrating priests was **528**. The number of young people present was about **130,000**.



5th AUGUST Our Lady's Birthday

The evening Mass was celebrated by padre Marin Karačić, a newly ordained priest for the Franciscan Province of Hercegovina. A total of 528 priests concelebrated. The homily was delivered by padre Marinko Šakota, who is the present parish priest in Medjugorje.

During this Mass, a **LONG CLOTH**, on which the young people had previously written their prayers and gratitude to Our Lady, was carried to the Altar and offered up to God.

The Mass was followed by Eucharistic Adoration, after which the priests blessed those members of the youth who were representing their countries, and gave them gifts of a walking stick and rosary beads which were symbols of the mission they were entrusted with for their return to their countries.

After farewell in music and praise, the youth went up Krizevac, the hill of the cross, for the final Holy Mass celebrated at 5 o'clock in the morning on the 6th August, the feastday of the Transfiguration of the Cross.

An Italian weekly reports: "In the Bosnian village 130,000 young people have arrived for the Festival. They line up for hours, waiting for their turn to confess; they pray the Rosary; they sing and dance. There are those who climb up trees to see the place of apparitions, and those who give thanks for the vocation they received whilst visiting this rocky land, and those who seek the faith."

'Popular piety has the ability to see beyond,' says **Fr. Livio**, director of Radio Maria who has come here for his holidays.

The youth of **Mother Elvira's Cenacolo Community** are putting rods on a seat so they can carry a paralytic up Podbrdo.

Two guys with rosary beads round their necks have climbed up a tree so that can see [over the crowd] the exact spot where Our Lady was first appearing.

'This is a time of grace,' says **Sr. Cornelia** who runs an orphanage with



150 war orphans and abandoned elderly. Her order is called **Missionary Sisters of the Wounded Family**; which recalls the 'field hospital church' desired by Pope Francis."

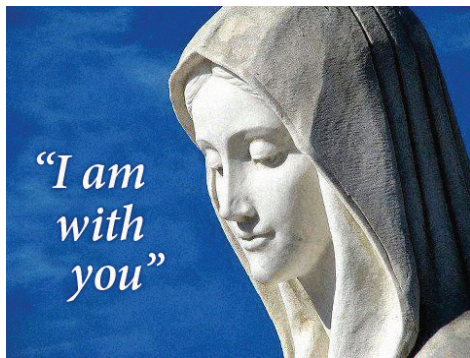
And at the conclusion of the Festival: "About 500 priests and religious were available from dawn to dusk for the sacrament of reconciliation in languages that ranged from Arab to Hungarian. Many penitents were in tears. 'It's a river of grace,' they say."

“Dear Children, I call you to spread the faith in my Son – your faith. You my children, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, my apostles: transmit it to others; to those who do not believe, who do not know, who do not want to know! For this you must pray very much for the gift of love – because love is the mark of true faith – and you will be apostles of my love.

Love always revives anew the sorrow and the joy of the Eucharist. It revives the sorrow of the Passion of my Son, by which he showed you what it means to love immeasurably. It revives the joy of having left you his Body and Blood by which He feeds you with himself and so to be one with you.

As I look at you with tenderness, I feel immeasurable love which strengthens me in my desire to bring you to a firm faith. Firm faith will give you joy and joyfulness on earth, and in the end the encounter with my Son. This is his desire.

Therefore, live him, live love, live the light which always illuminates you in the Eucharist. I am asking you to pray very much for your shepherds, to pray to have as much love as possible for them, because my Son gave them to you so as to feed you with his Body, and to teach you love. Therefore, you are also to love them! But, my children: remember that love means to endure and to give, and never, ever, to judge. Thank you.”



[From page 1, column 1] us and prays for us and for our conversion, until we put God in first place. There is no doubt about Mary's prayer reaching God's heart! but we know that its efficacy depends on us putting God first! **Courage then!** There is no better life insurance policy than the one Mary is offering us!

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! N.Q.

IVAN'S PRAYER GROUP

Ivan's prayer group recently celebrated its 33rd anniversary, and for the occasion Nedjo, a member of the group, spoke about the origin and the reason for the group. Following is an excerpt:

“The Queen of Peace prayer group in Medjugorje started on the 4th July 1982 after Our Lady had called for a group during an apparition to **Ivan** on Podbrdo, apparition hill. This prayer group still exists today.”

Nedjo explained that the reason for the group has always been to pray for the realization of Our Lady's plans. “She taught us,” he said, “as though in a school, with great patience and love, and respect for our possibilities and desires. At the beginning, only members of the group were present for the apparitions to Ivan. Later, Our Lady said that those who wanted to and were able to, could come. And that is how it is still today.

Perhaps **many people think** that we ought to be saintly, supernatural, charismatic, that we pray over people and heal them, and who knows what else! Instead, what Our Lady wanted from us was something entirely different. **She wanted for us to grow in a natural way**, like a flower that doesn't wilt the day after when instead of being watered with its 'concentrated plant food' it is given just plain water. That is what she said; that we grow naturally. So, thanks to God, **we have remained normal people** who live a normal family life, **who pray normally**, who work normally.

Perhaps the only difference is that this prayer group does not pray for its own small interests, but **it offers its prayers to Our Lady for the realization of her plans**, for which God sent her to the earth.

One of the nicest things is that Our Lady has often asked us to offer up our problems, our difficulties, our sicknesses – everything – **and that we rejoice!**

The greatest gift that Our Lady has given me is that I have always felt in my heart that God loves me; that I am in His hands; that I feel His closeness, even during day-to-day life; even when speaking to others.”

Font Radio Maria

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[From pg 1, column 3]

Mary's work is therefore necessary and wanted by God. And while many seek leadership roles, Mary has come to us and said: **“Also today the Most High has given me the grace to be able to love you and call you to conversion.”** These humble words beautifully describe her work which has been going on for 34 years in Medjugorje.

“May God be your tomorrow!” is not a catchphrase! It is a summary of Mary's catechetical teachings on surrender to God! And if we open our hearts to God's presence, Mary's wish will become real. God will be our tomorrow, and war, lack of peace, and sorrow will disappear before His divine Presence; and joy and peace will reign in the hearts of all men. But without God, peace will not be had.

Man is made to live in communion with God, and he cannot live without this, for he would never find peace. The entire Bible confirms the truth of these words, from the Old through to the New Testament, and up to the present-day martyrs, whom we can recognise in Rev. 6:9-11.

So why wait to begin founding our tomorrow in God? Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!

I commenti ai messaggi a cura di Nuccio Quattrocchi

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*The LORD bless you, and
keep you;
The LORD make His face
shine on you, and be gracious
to you;
The LORD lift up His
countenance on you, and give
you peace.*

(Aaron's blessing, Num. 6:24-26)

Mantua, August 2015

Resp. Ing. Lanzani - Tip. DIPRO (Roncade TV)