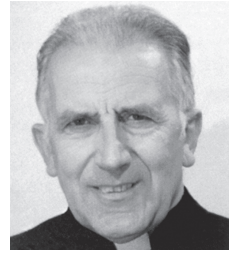




Echo of Medjugorje



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Message of 25 November 2015:

“Dear Children, Today I call you all to pray for my intentions. Peace is in danger, therefore, my children, pray and be bearers of peace and hope in this restless world where Satan is attacking and tempting in every way. My children, be firm in prayer and courageous in faith. I am with you and intercede before my Son Jesus for you all. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Steadfast in Prayer Bold in the Faith

Our Blessed Mother has given us an important message on the eve of the Jubilee of Mercy. Important because it clearly says that peace is at risk, while also pointing out the way to go: **Therefore, my children, pray and be bearers of peace and hope in this restless world!**

So now it is up to each of us to respond. Perhaps we try to put Her teachings into practice; perhaps we pay little attention, but look forward to them anyway; or perhaps we have become tired and have abandoned this Fount of grace and of salvation. **All the same, it is time we woke up from the sleep** one falls when the wait becomes long, and the fatigue makes us close our eyes, or even worse, our hearts!

If we read chapters 12, 13 and 14 of the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, we will find many teachings still valid today. Should this surprise us? Perhaps if we are immersed in the world, but not if we reflect on eternity which is anchored in Jesus Christ the Word of God, and God Himself! This epoch in which we live is plentiful in both good and bad; it is wonderful, but also terrible. Just think of the boatloads of people fleeing situations of terrorism; of the successes of Medicine, but also of genetic manipulation; of the sanctity of life, but also of its commercialization; of the astonishment of every human birth, but also of the way it is brutally suppressed; and of the harnessing of atomic energy with its consequences at the service of life, but also of death!

More than ever, man finds himself having to make decisions which not only are difficult, but are perhaps way beyond his capacity to determine. But why do we try to solve our problems "by ourselves"

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Message to Mirjana, 2 DEC. 2015

“Dear Children, I am always with you because my Son has entrusted you to me. And you, my children; you need me, you seek me, you come to me and you make my motherly heart rejoice. And I have - and always will have - love for you; for you who suffer and who offer up your sorrows and your suffering to my Son and to me. My love seeks the love of all my children, and my children seek my love. By means of love, Jesus seeks the communion between Heaven and earth, between the heavenly Father and you my children [who are] his Church. For this reason, it is necessary to pray much, pray for and love the Church to whom you belong. Now the Church is suffering and needs apostles who through their love for communion, through their witness, and their giving, show the way to God. She [the Church] needs apostles who live the Eucharist with the heart, and by doing such, perform great works. She needs you, my apostles of love. My children, the Church has been persecuted and betrayed since her inception, but she has grown day by day. She is indestructible because my Son gave her a heart. That heart is the Eucharist. The light of his Resurrection shone, and will shine, on her. Therefore, do not be afraid! Pray for your pastors, that they have the strength and the love to be bridges of salvation. Thank you!”

CHRISTMAS, 25 December 2015:

“Dear Children, Also today I bear my Son Jesus in my arms, to bring Him to you. And from this embrace He gives you His peace, and a longing for Heaven. I pray with you for peace and I call you to be peace. I bless all of you with my motherly blessing of peace. Thank you for responding to my call.”

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests” (Lk 2:14) is the praise of God by the angels on the Holy Night. Since that Night, the theme of peace is closely connected to God's love and his justice. As a comment to Our Lady's beautiful message, I'd like to use this comment to the Gospel of Mt 20:1-16 from a Sunday Mass bulletin of several years ago.

God's Love Cannot be Earned!

A human justice is sought by people in a social context; a justice which demands attention, because it is needed to guarantee certain conditions of peace. This is what Bonhoeffer talks about in his “penultimate things.” But this human justice today is contradicted in many ways, and is no longer considered binding. This is why there is so much illegality, so much corruption, and above all, the “people” no longer consider the human justice as something necessary for community life, and for them, the “righteous” no longer appear as exemplary models to follow.

But there is also a divine justice which doesn't repudiate man's work, but transcends it, because God's justice is pervaded by mercy. There are Christians who always affirm and desire that God be recognised as just, and that His justice is final, while projecting human justice onto God, or rather, their own conviction of justice opposing mercy. For them, God's mercy cannot be debased, and this can only be if His justice reigns and is made manifest in the logic which is coded into history: crime demands punishment; sin demands chastisement.

Jesus, however, came to reveal to us the true face of God, he came to shatter the images that we create, lovingly keep and then project onto God. In John 1:18

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we are told that Jesus is the one, revealed by God Himself; and our Lord Jesus uses especially parables to tell us about God's justice, such as the parable of the landowner who seeks labourers for his vineyard (Mt 20:1-7).

In the evening, when the day's work is done, the workers are given their daily wage. The landowner begins to pay those who were called for last, ending with those who were called for first, giving each of them the usual daily wage. Those who worked for the longest began to complain. How could it be that those who worked only one hour could receive the same wage as those who had worked all day long? How can that be fair? But the landowner reminds them of their agreement, and that he (the landowner) had acted according to his promise.

He then adds: "Am I not free to give the same wage to those who worked less?" In fact, at least one denarius was necessary for a man to live and eat with his family. Without that, the labourers of the last hour would have not had anything to take home, and nothing to eat.

So we discover from Jesus that that landowner is the image of God, of a God who cares for all people, especially for the abandoned, the ones rejected by society. He is a God who calls everyone, at every hour and in every situation. All it takes is for each person to respond to that love, which never needs earning! Our God is a God with a merciful heart, and who like for us to learn from His heart to have the same mercy and to rejoice together, rather than protest when a brother or sister receives a gift.

We must never make comparisons between gifts received by us and by others, otherwise we become envious. God's justice includes mercy. It includes love which never requires being earned, and not only is love greater than faith and hope, but in God, love is greater even than his justice (cfr. Ex 34:6-7).

This parable is a hymn to God's love which does not require being earned, but which is meant to be received with joy, as though a gift. It is a gift of love poured out on all of us. We are His children, and God loves us all with the same intensity.

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary, and a blessed Christmas!

Nuccio Quattrocchi



25 December 2015

ANNUAL MESSAGE TO JAKOV

"Dear Children, All these years in which God has permitted me to be with you are a sign of the immense love which God has for each of you, and a sign of how much He loves you!

My Children, how many graces the Most High has given you, and how many graces He desires giving you! But, my Children, your hearts are closed; they live in fear and they do not allow the love and peace of Jesus to take possession of your hearts and your lives. To live without God means to live in the darkness and to never know the Father's love and how He cares for each of you.

Therefore, my Children, today in particular pray to Jesus that from today your life might experience a new birth in God, and that your life might become light which shines from you. This way, you will become witnesses of God's presence in the world, also for each person who lives in the darkness.

My Children, I love you and I intercede every day before the Most High for you. Thank you for responding to my call."

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and repeat the error of our progenitors who chose to believe in the old serpent rather than in God? How foolish and hard of heart we are! It is God who watches over us. It is God who has allowed Mary to come to us at Medjugorje for the last 34 years. Peace is at risk - she has told us today - and the truth of this is before us all: there is war in the family, war in the Church, war amongst peoples, war everywhere!

What is the answer? The Queen of Peace is quite clear in her message, and it is up to us to take her seriously and act accordingly, with trust and serenity.

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

THE JUBILEE OF THE FAMILY

POPE FRANCIS

*Let us not lose confidence
in the family!*

Vatican, 27 December 2015:

"The biblical readings which we have just heard presented us with the image of two families on pilgrimage to the house of God. (1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28 and Lk 2:41-52). We often see pilgrims journeying to shrines and places dear to popular piety. These days, many of them are making their way to the Holy Door opened in all the cathedrals of the world and in many shrines.

But the most beautiful thing which emerges from the word of God today is that the whole family goes on pilgrimage. Fathers, mothers and children together go to the house of the Lord, in order to sanctify the holy day with prayer. It is an important teaching, which is meant for our own families as well. Indeed, we could say that family life is a series of pilgrimages, both small and big."

"It is beautiful when we can always open our hearts to one another, and hide nothing," said the Pope to the many families from Rome and other pilgrims. **"Where there is love, there is also understanding and forgiveness.** To all of you, dear families, I entrust this most important mission - the domestic pilgrimage of daily family life - which the world and the Church need, now more than ever."

How comforting it is for us to reflect on Mary and Joseph teaching Jesus how to pray! This is a sort of pilgrimage, the pilgrimage of education in prayer. And it is comforting also to know that throughout the day they would pray together, and then go each Sabbath to the synagogue to listen to readings from the Law and the Prophets, and to praise the Lord with the assembly.

How important it is for our families

Message to Mirjana 2 JAN. 2016:

"Dear Children, as Mother, I am joyful to be among you because I desire to speak anew about the words of my Son and of His love. I hope that you will accept me with the heart, because the words of my Son and His love are the only light and hope in the darkness of the present time. This is the only truth, and you who will accept and live it will

have pure and humble hearts.

My Son loves those who are pure and humble. Pure and humble hearts give life anew to the words of my Son; they live them, they spread them and they make it possible for everyone to hear them. The words of my Son renew life in those who listen to them. The words of my Son bring back love and hope.

Thus, my dear apostles, my children, live the words of my Son. Love each

other as He loved you. Love each other in His name, in memory of Him. The Church advances and grows thanks to those who listen to the words of my Son; thanks to those who love; thanks to those who suffer and endure in silence and hope in the final redemption. So, my dear children, may the words of my Son and His love be the first and the last thought of your day. Thank you."

NEWS FROM MEDJUGORJE

Church of Medjugorje: a "safe house" for the soul

Simply a Parish Church!

The winter months at Medjugorje are beautiful because the town finally belongs to the local people. It is easier to find a parking place. There is no overcrowding in the shops or restaurants (in the few that remain open during the winter), and it is easy to find a sitting place in church.

The Sanctuary of the Queen of Peace, and the church of St. James - with its international fame - becomes an ordinary parish church this time of the year. And how nice it is to encounter familiar faces after Mass. During the rest of the year they are submersed by the crowd of foreign pilgrims.

There truly is something special about the church of Medjugorje and Mass in the Parish during winter. One's heart is left feeling warm, as if - during the Eucharist - the motherly heart of Our Lady is embracing the heart, making it feel warm and loved. At the end of Mass one's heart even feels a bit divided between feeling happy and satisfied, and at the same time sad from the knowledge of having to descend into the cold day-to-day living.

It is indeed true that the church of Medjugorje and the Holy Mass in the Parish at Medjugorje are like home, a "safe home" for the soul. Perhaps this is why so many pilgrims from around the world have been coming here for so many years!

Go to church!

Since the beginning of the events in Medjugorje, the visionaries have always said how much Our Lady loves the Church. On several occasions in her messages, Our Lady called the parishioners and pilgrims to participate in the parish activities. E.g. "Today I wish to call you to work in the Church. ... You must be courageous and offer up little sacrifices for the Church and for Jesus, so that everyone can be happy" (31-10-1985). And: "I desire that each of you decide to change lifestyle and that each of you work more in the Church - not with words or thoughts, but by example - so that your life might be a joyful witness of Jesus" (25-02-1993).

However, the most significant call, which is often related to pilgrims still today, is when Our Lady wanted us to understand the worth and value

of Mass, and she made it clear that we must choose going to Mass over attending an apparition. The Mass is more important - she said! It is in the Eucharistic Sacrifice that our spiritual lives are nourished and strengthened (church), making us able to comprehend the sacrifice of the Incarnation with the birth of the Word of God (Podbrdo) and the sacrifice of His death on a cross (Krizevac). These three places of grace (the church, Podbrdo and Krizevac) are the main places of pilgrimage in Medjugorje.

Make a Pilgrimage

We are in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. One of the practical pieces of advice on how to live this gift of grace (see Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction on the Face of Mercy) is to take part in a pilgrimage, because "mercy is a goal to reach which requires dedication and sacrifice" (14). The Holy Family, too, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve years old; they taught Him to pray, and they went to the Synagogue every Saturday.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, in this pilgrimage of our lives, let us teach our children to pray, beginning with Grace at meals, morning and evening prayers, the family Rosary.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

In the Year of Mercy, the Holy Father has expressly asked that "every Christian family become a privileged place for experiencing the joy of forgiveness. Forgiveness is the essence of the love which can understand mistakes and mend them. The family is a perfect place to put this into practice, because within the family we learn how to forgive because we are certain that we are understood and supported, whatever the mistakes we make" (Pope Francis' homily, Holy Mass for Families, Dec. 2015).

The Church of Medjugorje and the space surrounding it with the confessionals represent a **privileged space of forgiveness and reconciliation** with God through the sacrament of Confession.

So rather than making a last-minute effort, because "everyone else is doing it", may our pilgrimage this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and our confession, be a **journey towards the Hearts of Jesus and Mary**



to journey together towards a single goal! We know that we have a road to travel together; a road along which we encounter difficulties but also enjoy moments of joy and consolation.

And on this pilgrimage of life we also share in moments of prayer. What can be more beautiful than for a father and mother to **BLESS** their children at the beginning and end of each day, to trace on their forehead **the sign of the cross**, as they did on the day of their baptism? **Is this not the simplest prayer which parents can offer for their children?** To bless them, that is, to entrust them to the Lord.

In the same way, it is important for families to **join in a brief prayer before meals**, in order to thank the Lord for these gifts and to learn how to share what we have received with those in greater need. These are all little gestures, yet they point to the great formative role played by the family in the pilgrimage of everyday life.

In the Year of Mercy, every Christian family can become a privileged place on this pilgrimage for experiencing the joy of forgiveness. **Forgiveness** is the essence of the love which can understand mistakes and mend them.

How miserable we would be if God did not forgive us! Within the family we learn how to forgive, because we are certain that we are understood and supported, whatever the mistakes we make.

“Dear Children, I desire speaking to you again about love. I have gathered you around me in the Name of my Son, according to His will. I desire that your faith be strong, and that it originate in love, so that those children of mine who comprehend the love of my Son and who follow Him, might live in love and in hope. They have known God’s love. Therefore, my children: pray, pray to be able to love as much as possible and do works of love, because faith alone, when it lacks love and works of love, is not what I am asking of you. My children, that is a semblance of the faith; it is praise of self!

My Son asks for faith and works, love and goodness. I pray, but I also ask you to pray and to live the love, because I desire that when my Son looks at the hearts of all my children, that He might see love and goodness in them, and not hatred and indifference. My children, apostles of my love, do not lose hope, do not lose strength. You can do it! I encourage and bless you. Because everything that is of this earth - which unfortunately is given first place by many of my children - will disappear, and there will remain only love and the works of love which will open the doors of the Kingdom of Heaven for you. I will wait for you at those doors. I desire waiting at those doors and embracing all my children. Thank you.”

May Your Faith be Strong!

Mary hasn't come amid us to speak to an audience, but to her people, her children, to each of us personally! Her words are the same for all, but each of us can and must hear them as though spoken directly to us, on a personal level; and then respond to her on a personal level. Think of yourself as a child whispering to your mother in a crowd of other people.

Today's call in this message by Our Lady, should be resounding loud and strong in our hearts, telling us how important our response is. Because what each of us does, or says, or plans, or thoughts, touches those around us, but it also reaches out like concentric circles to the entire universe! It is the effect of grace when we pray well, when we sincerely desire peace, love, and justice on all: good and bad, friends and enemies, the living and the dead. Our

who are so full of mercy!

Only those who have experienced forgiveness can be merciful in turn, and be able to forgive others!

This is why the Church of Medjugorje is so beautiful! Because it helps us discover how little we really are, yet how safe we are in the Heart of God, and that with Him in our hearts, we are also precious in His eyes!

Paula Tomić, Medjugorje

YOUTH FESTIVAL 2016 Medjugorje 1st - 6th August

Preparations are already underway for this year's Festival (the 27th!). Medjugorje is host for thousands of young people who come from all over the world to participate. This year also the **WORLD YOUTH DAY** (a week-long event of prayer with the Pope) is being held: in **Poland**, during the last week of July. It is for this reason that our Festival is beginning on the **1st August**, and **NOT** on the 31st July! It is expected that many young people attending the WYD in Poland will immediately attend the Youth Festival in Medjugorje.

We look forward to seeing you all, dear young people! Come join us and the thousands of other young people in Medjugorje!

prayer in this case is like a drop of water for a thirsting world. God receives our littleness, our nothing, and transforms it into an Ocean of grace for the good of souls.

For love to grow it must be shared; given out. It reaches the Heart of Jesus, and from there is multiplied and showered back down on us. It is love, and works of love that remain in the end, and which will open the doors to Heaven for us - our blessed Mother reminds us: ***I desire that your faith be strong, and that it originate in love, so that those children of mine who comprehend the love of my Son and who follow Him, might live in love and in hope.***

God bless you with peace, joy, love and hope: in your hearts, homes and the entire world!

Nuccio Quattrocchi

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God bless you!

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ANCIENT PRAYER of Entrustment to Mary

We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

ON FASTING

FAST from words that hurt. From anger. From pessimism. From complaining. From bitterness and from selfishness. FAST from words.

USE kind words. BE filled with patience and hope. BE compassionate. TRUST God! BE silent, so that you can listen to Him. (Pope Francis)

**May the Lord bless you
and keep you.**

**May He show His face to
you and have mercy on
you.**

**May he turn His
countenance to you and
give you peace.**

May the Lord bless you!

Mantova, February 2016

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