



Fr. Angelo Mutti
founder of Echo of Mary

Message of the 25th of November 2011:

“Dear Children, Today I desire giving you hope and joy. Everything around you, my children, leads you towards worldly things, but I desire leading you towards a time of grace, so that in this time you might be ever closer to my Son, that He might lead you towards His love and eternal life for which every heart yearns. Pray, my children, and may this time be for you time of grace for your soul. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Time of Grace for your Soul

The world that we know best is the one that surrounds us - where we make choices, relate with others, occupy ourselves with our errands and business, where we face our difficulties and conflicts... of such things is our world made up. There is a world we know so little of - even though it is more in tune with our true nature - because it escapes our senses. This world is the world of the spirit, the world of our souls. In this world, distance, division and death are cancelled. In this world, Life is triumphant, in a material and spiritual sense because death has been definitely conquered by Our Lord, and if we live in Him, with Him and for Him, we will not die in eternity. **“Dear Children, today I desire giving you hope and joy,”** Mary urges. Hope and joy are important gifts, even though the risk is that if they are founded on worldly things they are transient.

“Everything around you, my children, leads you to earthly things,” says Mary, who neither condemns nor disapproves, but simply gets straight to the point. The things around us lead us to earthly things, but Our Lady desires leading us towards a time of grace. Before that which has none or little worth, Mary shows us what it is that is close to us but which we risk losing without having reaped its benefits. This time of grace is the time of Advent which is a favourable time to welcome Jesus into the heart and soul.

“To us a Child is born, to us a son is given,” says the prophet Isaiah (9:6). For Christmas not to be an external ritual or a mere sentiment, we must welcome this child that has been given to us; to welcome him into our hearts and our lives, and live the time of Advent as a time of expectancy of Life, where the Holy Spirit is able to form Jesus in us, and so the Father can recognize His son in each of us. This great event of God coming into our midst ought to be prepared for with all the means the Church offers us. First of all, through the Sacrament of Confession, then through meditation of the Word, and through prayer and fasting and supplications - which are the same things Our Lady calls us to at Medjugorje.

Let us prepare ourselves with a renewed and more fervent attention towards others, near and far. When Jesus does begin to abide within us we shall perceive His own uneasiness each time we sin against love for our neighbour. **“In this time be ever closer to my Son so he can lead you towards his love and towards the eternal life for which each heart yearns.”** This beautiful auspice of Mary is our guideline for this time of grace, but also for our time in general in this earthly life so we can grow ever closer to Jesus and so our journey of faith is not isolated to the time of Advent or to any other time.

Wishing you a fruitful preparation, in Jesus and Mary.

Nuccio Quattrocchi



*Mater Ecclesiae, St. Peter's Square, Vatican.
As desired by JP II after the attack on his life.*

Message of the 25th of December 2011:

“Dear Children, Also today in my arms I bring you my Son Jesus, that He might give you His peace. Pray, my children, and witness so that not human peace but God’s peace, which no one can destroy, may prevail in every heart. This is that peace in the heart which God gives to those whom He loves. By your baptism you are all called and loved in a special way, therefore, witness and pray that you may be my extended hands to this world which yearns for God and peace. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Be Mary’s Extended Hands

Today it’s Christmas, the day in which every man is called to welcome the birth of God in his midst. It isn’t an event to commemorate or a show to watch. Christmas, like Easter, is a real event to be experienced, and unless we participate with our mind and heart with the help of the Holy Spirit, they merely come and pass, leaving us untouched and unchanged.

To live Christmas doesn’t mean to go to a religious service, or to let oneself be moved by Christmas carols. It boils down to this: Jesus comes, and we either welcome Him or we refuse Him. There is no middle way. Even today **Mary brings us her Son Jesus;** not so we can admire Him - for He wants neither compliments nor gifts from us. He is brought to us so He can give us his peace. We are not called to give, but to receive... to receive his peace. This surprises us because, at least in the western world, we are not only used to providing for ourselves, but we also have the presumption to believe we can do it alone!

Saying that we know how to keep peace in the world is useless. The only way man thinks he can do it, is with the use of weapons, trying to force peace with war, and he is unable to see the diabolic deception of this way of thinking and acting.

What is the way out? **“Pray, my children, and witness so that not human peace but God’s peace, which no one can destroy, may prevail in every heart.”** The Way that Mary shows us is a way of prayer, of vital contact with God, of communion with Him. It is also a way of witnessing, of living the true peace. If we allow God’s Spirit to abide in us, if we allow Jesus in us, then we will have his peace. Peace is a person by the name of Jesus. It is Jesus Himself. *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives,”* Jesus says to us (Jn 14:27), immediately adding: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you’.”* Yes, Jesus is with us and in us, and He remains in us unless we send Him away.

“By your baptism you are all called and loved in a special way, therefore, witness and pray that you may be my extended hands to this world which yearns for God and peace.” Already in 2004 and 2009 Mary called us to be her extended hands, to work with her in this work of salvation of this world which yearns after God without knowing it, that desires peace and is unable to find the Way. In this work of Mary’s, the workers of the last hour will receive the same compensation as the workers of the first hour. Courage then!

Nuccio Quattrocchi

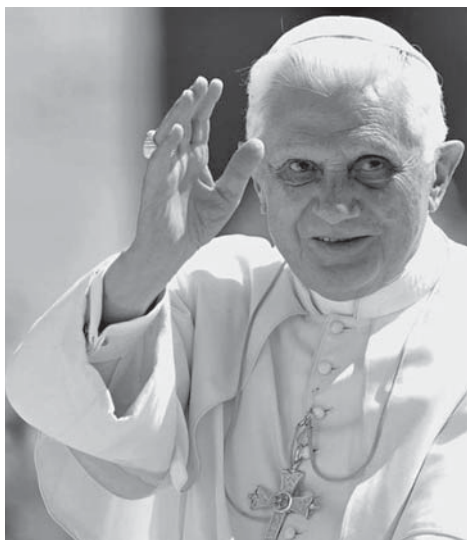
New Evangelization Inseparable from Christian Family

“The new evangelization depends largely on the Domestic Church. In our time, as in times past, the eclipse of God, the spread of ideologies contrary to the family and the degradation of sexual ethics are connected. And just as the eclipse of God and the crisis of the family are linked, so the new evangelization is inseparable from the Christian family. The family is indeed the way of the Church because it is the “human space” of our encounter with Christ.

Spouses, “not only receive the love of Christ and become a saved community, but they are also called upon to communicate Christ’s love to their brethren, thus becoming a saving community” (ibid., n. 49). The family founded on the Sacrament of Marriage is a particular realization of the Church, saved and saving, evangelized and evangelizing community.

The family is a source of wealth for married couples, an irreplaceable good for children, an indispensable foundation of society and a vital community for the journey of the Church” (Homily in Ancona, 11 September 2011). By virtue of this the “family is the privileged place of human and Christian education and remains, for this end, as the closest ally of the priestly ministry.... No vocation is a private matter, and even less so is the vocation to marriage because its horizon is the entire Church.”

L’Osservatore Romano, 1 Dec. 2011



It is urgent to educate youth in justice and peace

Young people today, “can offer new hope” for the “sense of frustration at the crisis looming over society, the world of labour and the economy.” This conviction of the Pope forms the background of the message for the 45th World Day of Peace – to be celebrated 1 January 2012.

Benedict XVI is attentive to the “concerns expressed in recent times by many young people around the world,” and sees in them above all, “the desire to look to the future with solid hope.” Thus, the Pope has chosen to devote his message to “the theme of education,” with the title, “Educating Young People in Justice and Peace.” Benedict XVI also appeals to all the components of society to pay attention to “this unease and its underlying idealism.”

The Pope speaks with concern about the

apprehensions of young people especially “how difficult it is to form a family and find stable employment,” and recalls the centrality of the question of education. “Parents are the first educators,” he underscores, because “family is the first school in which we are trained in justice and peace.”

It is up to the State to offer, “assistance to families and educational institutions in the exercise of their right and duty to educate,” through a series of concrete measures: “adequate support for maternity and paternity;” the guarantee that, “families are able to freely choose the educational structures they consider most suitable for their children;” and a commitment favoring, “reuniting families separated by the need to earn a living.” Benedict XVI asks politicians to also offer young people, “a transparent image of politics as a genuine service to the good of all.”

As to the content of education, he says it “is concerned with the integral formation of the person, including the moral and spiritual dimension” where “the person cannot be sacrificed for the sake of attaining a particular good, whether this be economic or social, individual or collective.” The papal message warns especially against the, “widespread tendency to have recourse exclusively to the criteria of utility, profit and material possessions.” And recalls that, “we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community and concerned to raise awareness about national and international issues and the importance of seeking adequate mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth, the promotion of growth, cooperation for development and conflict resolution.”

L’Osservatore Romano, 17 Dec. 2011

The Miraculous Medal

The 27th November 2011 was a Sunday, and more precisely the first Sunday of Advent. The 27th November 1830 was Saturday, the day before the first Sunday of Advent. The two days are liturgically very close, even though the years that separate the two dates are many: precisely 181 years, and they have marked epochal change in world history.

How much scientific progress! How many discoveries! But also how many wars, earthquakes, floods and violence next to such extraordinary beauty! And man continues to ask himself about the meaning and origin of life, wanting to determine and control it. He finds partial explanations which only open up to other problems and further temporary solutions... And how could it be any other way, because it is only in God that every problem can find its definite answer. If this proves unacceptable for a scientific mind, it is instead very easy to comprehend for

whoever believes in God. “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.” (Lk 10:21)

Precisely 181 years ago – on the 27th November 1830 – Our Lady appeared to a nun, (now St.) Catherine Labouré (she was canonized in 1947), entrusting her with a mission to save the world. Our Lady appeared dressed in white, standing on a globe while she held the world in her hands up close to her heart. The image changed to the one now represented on the medal, around which is written:

***O Mary Conceived without sin
Pray for us who have recourse to Thee***

It should be noted that at the time of the apparition the Dogma of Mary’s Immaculate Conception had not yet been defined. (It was proclaimed by Pius IX in 1854.)

The image in the apparition turned round so that Sr. Catherine could see the other

side, on which was depicted a Cross, the letter M and two hearts, one surrounded by a crown of thorns and the other pierced by a sword. The Blessed Virgin asked Sr. Catherine to have a medal made according to the images she was shown, and to make it known throughout the world. Sr. Catherine expressed a desire to draw up an explanation for the images, but Our Lady responded: “The letter M and the two hearts speak for themselves.”



At the time Paris was devastated by a cholera epidemic. After some resistance, the medal was made by a goldsmith from Paris, and there were so many healings and graces of conversion that in only a few years it was necessary to coin millions of them.

(Avvenire, 27 Nov. 2011)

Jelena: “Seek the Lord’s Face”

From Echo of Mary #139, we have taken the most salient points of an interview with Jelena Vasilj, one of the two young girls who experienced inner locutions during the early years of Medjugorje. The following excerpt is from an interview Jelena gave to Italian pilgrims in 1998.

On knowing how to ask forgiveness: “I think this must be the first step in a serious Christian life; that is, to ask forgiveness. Our Lady then teaches us to pray the same way, so that when we are before God we ask pardon and mercy. This is the first step towards conversion.”

“Our Lady always puts prayer first, because our Christian life draws strength from the encounter with God. So, if there is not an encounter with God, it is very difficult to speak of a spiritual life, since it is not something we can do of ourselves.”

On the Rosary: “To pray the Rosary, I think, makes us similar to Mary, who ‘pondered all these things in her heart,’ said Luke (Lk 2:12, 2:51). I think that we too are called to keep these mysteries in our heart, through the Rosary. The prayer of the Rosary is very beneficial for our spirituality. It is like a mini catechesis of our life of faith.”

On the Sacraments: “It is only through grace that we can walk towards perfection; therefore, with the Sacraments of Confession, and especially the Eucharist which is in particular the heart of our Christian life.”

“Our Lady said we ought to seek two things: first of all **the face of the Lord.** Many times we risk seeing only ourselves, to desire good and right things, but we do not see the person we have next to us. Therefore, Our Lady asks us to lift up our gaze, to look at Christ when we pray, so that our prayer is Christ-centred. The **second step is to seek the Lord’s will,** so that after an encounter with God, we should naturally ask: what do you want of me?”

On silence: “Besides the Rosary, Our Lady insisted on silence; to listen to others, not to remain inactive. This makes of us a gift for others. I think that it is rather difficult to do for our human existence, because we tend to be protagonists, however, also the prayer of listening teaches us to adore, and to understand who the true Author of life is.”

“Penance must be the travelling companion of prayer; it becomes the prayer of the body. The word penance is barely present in our vocabulary today; we think that we suffer enough already and that there is no need for other forms of suffering. However, it seems that penance, especially in a moment of laziness or spiritual sleep, is what gives us a shake to permit us to get up and move on.”

On fasting: “Our Lady insists on fasting, especially on bread and water. I think that this, too, is deeply meaningful. To live with this material bread in a certain sense becomes the expectation of that real bread which we receive in the Eucharist. So, I think that a eucharistic interpretation of this type of fast is right.”

Message to Mirjana, 2 December 2011:

“Dear children, as a mother I am with you so that with my love, prayer and example I may help you to become a seed of the future, a seed that will grow into a strong tree and spread its branches throughout the world. For you to become a seed of the future, a seed of love, implore the Father to forgive you your omissions up to now.

My children, only a pure heart, unburdened by sin, can open itself and only honest eyes can see the way upon which I desire leading you. When you become aware of this, you will become aware of the love of God, and it will be given you. Then you will give it to others as a seed of love. Thank you.”

SEED OF THE FUTURE

If you ever ask why Our Lady should appear at Medjugorje for so long, with such frequency and in a way that is indeed unique in Church History, then today we have been given an answer. Through Mirjana, Our Blessed Mother offers a response to her children who question the reason for her concern.

Every earthly mother concerns herself with the growth of her child, offering it love, prayers and example. Fatherhood and motherhood cannot be reduced to a mere biological function; both parents are responsible for raising their child with love, prayer and example. But what importance is given to these imperatives in today’s world where man has become subordinate to what should have been at his service? Are words such as love, prayer and example still meaningful in our society? Love is on everybody’s lips, but is associated to sexual encounters more than anything else.

Mary is with us as a Mother to help us with her love, prayer and example to become a seed for what is to become; a seed of love. The world cannot continue on its fast track downwards; it cannot exist counting only on its intrinsic resources and forces. We need to find within ourselves the Father of whom we are image, rather, children. It isn’t a question of practising some good works, but of radically changing life-style. And it is necessary both for our own salvation and of the world!

Medjugorje today. Nazareth two thousand years ago. Then, the Seed was enshrined in Mary till Jesus blossomed, new tree of life. Today, it is a seed that will grow into a strong

tree and spread its branches throughout the world.

Today, as then, Mary bears within herself and gives to the world: salvation. However, for today’s seed to be nourished by her, it must be pure and able to be assimilated into Jesus. So to become a seed of love we must seek out the Father’s forgiveness; we must go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. My children, only a pure heart that is not burdened by sin can open itself, and only honest eyes can see the way upon which I desire leading you.

Purity of heart is not a price to pay, but an essential condition for us to see the way. Purification isn’t an injunction, but the breath of the Spirit that blows away the fog in our soul so it is exposed to God’s love and be able to receive it. When you become aware of this, you will become aware of God’s love and it will be granted you. Then, you will offer it to others as a seed of love.

May these words be our Christmas wish!

Nuccio Quattrocchi

Most Important Fact

“At Medjugorje, the fact that is most important for the pilgrims’ conscience is Our Lady’s presence. While they know they must await the Church’s decision, they draw strength from this presence and each message which they perceive and believe in. As soon as someone learns about it, they begin to reflect, and say: ‘Here is an extraordinary power of conversion. Here things are possible that would elsewhere be impossible! How so? God is everywhere. Our Lady works everywhere. Thanks to her divine maternity, She is Mother of the Church, of all men, of sinners. She is crowned Queen of Heaven and of earth. Why should her presence here be so efficacious?’

“Once back home, pilgrims compare their experience of Medjugorje with the way they live their faith at home. They note the difference, and they understand why an unknown force is in action there. At Medjugorje the presence of God, of Jesus, of the Holy Spirit, and of Our Lady, is not a thought-up piece of news. It is an experience, a daily event.

“In the diary of our pilgrim we read: ‘At Medjugorje God is alive. He speaks, listens, converses with each one and with his people. God comes and visits his people every day. And his people await Him, they listen to Him and receive his advice as a gift, and they live out his commandments. The one edifies the other, and they benefit of the help of all because of their resolute and irreversible adherence to the living Lord.’

“God visits his people. Never before had I perceived in such a way this revealed

truth, this daily reality within history. God comes! This announcement has caused a sensation the reflections of which are clearly seen. At Medjugorje obedience to God is cherished as the light of the day and the bread on the table. Thus, God is truly at home, as would be the parent or child. The people listen to their pastor, the pastor listens to the visionaries. The visionaries listen to Our Lady. Our Lady listens to and sees Jesus.

“Through Jesus, Mary, the visionaries, the pastor, the prayer of the people: God the Father is awaited, heeded, obeyed. Mankind has become family, has become brotherly. Christ has his body, healthy and beautiful, full of light, truth and grace!

“At Medjugorje God is very present, very much heeded, that He is central in the decisions of meals, fasting, prayer time, the topics of our conversation, the way of true peace, the frequency of the sacraments; and out of love He imposes great respect, and hence deserves to be acknowledged in his right to have secrets, even regarding men.

“The brighter Revelation is, the more we are able to adore the Mystery. And if there is mystery, it is not out of divine jealousy or to exclude man from the joy of knowing, but to call man to the honour of believing and to the freedom of trusting as he surrenders himself up to God who loves him.”

From: *MEDJUGORJE, Hope for the Third Millennium*, by Fr. Massimo Rastrelli S.J., Michael Edizioni, TV 2010, pp. 54-55

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, (Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal), is a minor basilica and national shrine in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. A reliquary in the church museum contains Brother André's heart. It was founded by Brother André who credited all his reported miracles to St. Joseph. The Oratory has hosted over one million pilgrims annually and hundreds of cures have been attributed to his prayers every year.

Br. André was born in a village of Quebec in 1845, and named Alfred. His health was very frail from the outset, and he was orphaned of his father when he was 10, and of his mother just two years later. He and his siblings went to live with various members of extended family. Alfred went to live with an aunt and uncle. He was frequently sick and rarely attended school. When he was 18 he migrated to the US in search of work. Despite his poor health he was known for working well and hard.

When he was 22 he returned to Canada and began to help the pastor of his local church who saw his holiness and invited him to seek out religious vocation. Alfred was at first rejected because of his poor health, but after he pleaded with Bishop of Montreal, “My only ambition is to serve God in the humblest of ways,” he was able to join the Order of the Holy Cross at the age of 25. He worked for nearly 40 years as a porter at the College of Notre-Dame. He once made fun of himself: “When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door.” As porter, Brother André lived in a small room located near the main entrance and did many menial tasks such as washing and cleaning, fetching firewood, and acting as barber for the students.

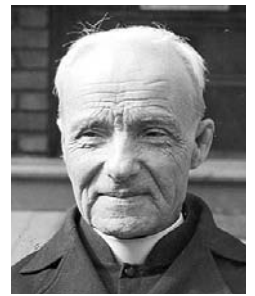
He was eagerly sought out by the people for his healing power, but within the Oratory there were those who supported him and

others who opposed him. Some thought the children of the college were in danger of contagion given the number of ill people who came to see him.

Eventually, the numbers of people seeking him out was so great that the College gave him permission to receive them in a nearby tramway station. Br. André always insisted he was not the healer: “*I am nothing...only a tool in the hands of Providence, a lowly instrument at the service of St. Joseph,*” to whom he had a profound devotion.

In 1904 Br. André was given permission to build a shrine to St. Joseph. He was allowed to add a room to this first structure, and it was here that he lived and received those who sought consolation. By day he received the sick and prayed for them – but not w/o reminding them of the great value of suffering – and by night he'd go to those who couldn't come to him.

He died in Montreal 6 Jan. 1937. Nearly a million people climbed Mount Royale to St. Joseph's Oratory for his funeral. He was beatified by JPII in 1982, and canonized by B.xvi 17 Oct. 2010. together with another saint who also had a profound devotion to St. Joseph: Mary Mackillop, Australia's first saint. But more about her next time. (BK)



St. André's feastday is 6th January.

A beautiful DVD about the life of St. André (in English and French) with historical footage is available here: www.saltandlighttv.org/brotherandre

Echo fully relies on readers' donations.

Our prayers and heartfelt thanks to all who are instruments of providence for Echo, enabling us to continue to help Mary reach her children.

If you desire a written response for your donation, please kindly request it. May God reward you and your loved ones onehundredfold!

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Fr. Remo Sartori, Jesuit Priest, presents himself

I met Fr. Angelo Mutti before the apparitions began at Medjugorje. We lived in neighbouring cities, Mantova and Modena, and there was often the occasion when we would help each out, or pray together.

We always had great regard for each other. I got to know his virtues - mainly his high consideration and love for the Word of God. I also got to know his shortcomings, but it must be said that before he died he managed – by the strength of his will and with the help of the Blessed Virgin – to eliminate them.

Instead, my shortcomings remain, and probably to give me time to work on them still, I have been granted by divine mercy to live much longer. My age is already very advanced.

After the beginning of the events at Medjugorje Fr. Angelo and I went on many pilgrimages together; and I followed him closely when this little publication, Echo of Mary, was first conceived. Now, despite my age, I have been asked to follow the publication more closely and with a certain responsibility. So I accept, until a more suitable person is found to supervise that the Echo of Mary be a true reflection of the desires of the Queen of Peace, according to the original intention of Fr. Angelo.

With Mary, Queen of Peace, I bless all those who in many ways (some unbeknown to others) work for the realization and diffusion of this little instrument to make known this extraordinary, unimaginable event of the daily presence of Mary - over these past thirty years - who was sent to us by God to lead us back to Him. for our salvation.

J. Remo Sartori s.i.

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Mantova, 6 february 2012

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