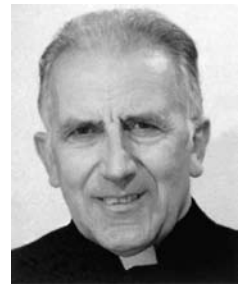




Echo of Medjugorje

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Fr. Angelo Mutti
founder Echo of Medjugorje

Message of 25 March 2013:

"Dear children, In this time of grace I call you to take the cross of my beloved Son Jesus in your hands and meditate on His passion and death. May your suffering be united to His suffering and love will win, because He who is love gave Himself out of love to save each of you. Pray, pray, pray until love and peace begin to reign in your hearts. Thank you for responding to my call."

Contemplate Jesus Crucified!

What a time of grace this is! Both for the liturgical time which accompanies us along the path to Calvary and the Resurrection, and for the historical time in which we live. The great, humble and powerful gesture of Benedict XVI revealed to the world the suffering borne by Peter's successors, and the great hope born from Pope Francis's election. These are events which cannot leave us untouched. It is once again the work of Mary who constantly calls us to the reality of a little once-unknown hamlet that has now become a central motor that generates faith and hope. Are not these the fruits of a heavenly grace?

It is true that the world continues in its course towards the abyss, that the solutions proposed for the serious problems that flail mankind have little more than a palliative or soporific effect and are not able to uproot evil. But it is also true that all this should not take us by surprise, for Scripture revealed it all. And isn't this what Mary is reminding us of in today's message? That the anchor of salvation isn't within us but external to us? Jesus Christ, of course, is our anchor.

I call you to take the cross of my beloved Son Jesus in your hands and to meditate on His passion and death, Mary urges us, together with St. John: "They shall look on him whom they pierced" (Jn 19:37). To look upon Him is contemplation and compenetration, till we rise in Him! It is in him that mankind's cry finds response and where our suffering, united to His, finds and bears salvation. Christ became like us so that each of us could be like Him, follow Him, be assimilated in Him.

The saints understood this, and we can follow their example by living and granting the peace and love we ourselves have received. May Mary, Queen of Peace and Love, bless us! §



Show Love to All

Message to Mirjana, 2nd April 2013:

"Dear Children, I call you to be one with my Son in spirit. I call you so that through prayer and by means of the Holy Mass when my Son unites Himself with you in a special way, you try to be like Him, so that, like Him, you may always be ready to carry out God's will and not seek the fulfilment of your own. For it is according to God's will, my children, that you are and that you exist, and without God's will you are nothing. As your Mother, I ask you to speak about the glory of God with your life because, in this way, you will also glorify yourselves in accordance to his will. Show humility and love of neighbour to everyone. It was by means of this humility and love that my Son saved you and opened the way for you to the Heavenly Father. I implore you to open the way to the Heavenly Father for all those who have not come to know him and have not opened their hearts to his love. With your life, open the way to all those who still wander in search of the truth. My children, be my apostles who have not lived in vain. Do not forget that you will come before the Heavenly Father and tell him about yourself. Be prepared! Again I warn you: pray for those whom my Son called, whose hands he blessed and whom he gave as a gift to you. Pray, pray, pray for your shepherds. Thank you." §

Message of 25 April 2013:

"Dear Children, Pray, pray, only pray, until your heart opens up to faith as a flower opens up to the warm rays of the sun. This is a time of grace which God has given you through my presence, and you are far from my heart. Therefore, I call you to personal conversion and to prayer in the family. May Sacred Scripture always be an incentive for you. I bless you all with my motherly blessing. Thank you for responding to my call."

Open your Hearts to Faith!

Once again Mary calls us to open ourselves up to God in the way Nature does to life! The time of grace that God gives us through Mary's presence is not enough if our heart remains closed! Our response to her call isn't the automatic one of a flower, because ours needs our Yes! This goes for all, even the Church who is called to be, like Mary, a womb for New Life.

"This means that we men and women of the Church are in the midst of a love story. Each of us is a link in a chain of love. And not to understand this is not to understand the meaning of Church," said **Pope Francis on 24th April**. Each link of love that joins Heaven to earth is a reminder of our responsibilities; and it seems that God has no intention of doing without man's collaboration to realise His plan of universal salvation. The call is for each of us, and our response is awaited! We need to let our blessed Mother bring us closer to her Heart, for the sake of our conversion. Rather than being distracted and formal, our response ought to be with awareness that the way on which She leads us is **the high road for a life lived to the full**.

The call to fasting and abstaining from food urges us not to settle for worldly things which easily induce laziness in us. Man's value isn't in his capacity to produce or consume! Man is the image of God and this fact cannot be brushed aside. After Marxism there remains consumerism which today is so inhuman because it is inflated by globalization and because it has nestled into the heart of even the Christian man.

Chasing after Mary's presence within the world without letting ourselves be changed fits into this consumerism. Mary is telling us to **open our hearts and let them be filled by God who is always new**. Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! §

(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)

Today, on this feast day of St. Joseph, we celebrate the beginning of the ministry of the new Bishop of Rome, which also involves a certain power. (...) Let us never forget that authentic power is service... and the Pope too ... must be inspired by the lowly, concrete and faithful service which marked St. Joseph and, like him, open his arms to protect all of God's people and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important (cfr Mt 25:31-46). **Only those who serve with love are able to protect!**

The vocation of being a "protector" (also) means to protect people, show loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. **Be protectors of God's gifts!**

Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, St Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. **We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!**

Hoping against hope, he believed! (cf. Rom 4:8) Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to **be men and women who bring hope** to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! For believers, for us Christians, like Abraham, like St. Joseph, the hope that we



bring is set against the horizon of God, which has opened up before us in Christ. It is a hope built on the rock which is God.

To protect Jesus with Mary, to protect the whole of creation, to protect each person, especially the poorest, to protect ourselves: this is the service that the Bishop of Rome is called to carry out, yet one to which all of us are called, so that the star of hope will shine brightly. **Let us protect with love all that God has given us!** I implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Francis, that the Holy Spirit may accompany my ministry, and **I ask you all to pray for me!**

REGINA COELI - 21 April 2013

"The four verses of the Gospel of the Good Shepherd contain the whole of Jesus' message; it is the nucleus of his Gospel: he calls us to share in his relationship with the Father; and this is eternal life. Jesus wants to establish with his friends a relationship which mirrors his own relationship with the Father: a relationship of reciprocal belonging in full trust, in intimate communion. This parable is so beautiful! **The mystery of his voice is evocative... Jesus' voice is unique!** If we lean to distinguish it, he guides us on the path of life that goes beyond even the abyss of death. However Jesus, at a certain point, **says of his sheep:** "My Father gave them to me..." (Jn 10:29). This is very important; it is a profound mystery, far from easy to

understand. If I feel **drawn to Jesus, if his voice warms my heart**, it is thanks to God the Father who has sown within me the desire for love, for truth, for life, for beauty; and Jesus is all this in fullness!

This helps us understand the mystery of vocation ... Sometimes Jesus calls us, he invites us to follow him, but perhaps we do not realize that it is he who is calling, like what happened to the young Samuel."

To the many young people in the Square, Pope Francis asked: "Have you sometimes heard the Lord's voice, in a desire, a worry? Did he invite you to follow him more closely? ... We must bet on youth for the great ideals. Do you think this? Do you agree? Ask Jesus what he wants of you and be brave! Be brave! Ask him this!

Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life **there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone:** a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community... Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer, and can persevere and bear fruit only through prayer."

"A good Christian does not complain"
(7 May 2013)

"Being patient: that is the path that Jesus also teaches us Christians. Being patient ... This does not mean being sad. No, no, it's another thing! This means bearing, carrying the weight of difficulties, the weight of contradictions, the weight of tribulations on our shoulders. This Christian attitude of bearing up, of being patient, is described in the Bible by the Greek word *Hypomoné* which means to bear ever day tasks, contradictions, tribulations, and all of this.

Paul and Silas bear their tribulations, endure the humiliation. Jesus bore them, he was patient. This is a process - allow me this word 'process' - a process of Christian maturity, through the path of patience. A process that takes some time, that you cannot undergo from one day to another: it evolves over a lifetime arriving at Christian maturity. It is like a good wine."

(www.vatican.va - 1 Jan. 2013)

No One Can Serve Two Masters

A reflection by **Mons. Giacomo Martinelli**, papal chaplain and a delegate of the Pontifical Academy of the Immacolata, given at Varese on the 2nd December 2012 at a prayer meeting with the participation of Marija Pavlovic and six thousand faithful.

"No one can serve two masters: For either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will sustain the one, and despise the other" (Mt 6, 24-34).

[Continued from the last edition]

Then there is one who tries to confound our conscience: Satan, the father of lies, is "homicidal from the beginning", and for this reason, despite the beginning of a new life received at Medjugorje, there still exists the risk of this (new) life being aborted. Satan will try to seduce you with

his lies and by charming you with lust and greed of goods.

Our Lady, however, always gives us light with her messages. One of them in particular might be just the therapy for our souls. **"Dear Children, while with motherly concern I look into your hearts, I see in them pain and suffering. I see a wounded past and a continual searching. I see my children who desire being happy but do not know how."** This is exactly what everyone who goes to Medjugorje desires: find some peace of heart, leave behind a wounded past, a daily life of oppressive and harassing relations. Mary has come to show us the way: **"Open yourselves up to the Father. This is the way to happiness; the way along which I desire leading you."**

This reminds me of an example that Fr. Giussani often gave. He'd say that if you put a child in a dark room and tell him to cross it, even after explaining that there is

no danger and that he shouldn't be afraid; he will be afraid. He'll freeze with fear and will be unable to move. Instead, when his mother takes his hand in that dark room all his fears disappear and he'll walk around in the room. This is what Our Lady is doing with each of us. She is teaching us the art of living which Jesus showed us from the Cross.

"Dear Children, (...) God the Father never leaves His children alone, especially not in pain and despair. When you comprehend and accept this, you will be happy. Your search will end. You will love and you will not be afraid. Your life will be hope and truth which is my Son. Thank you." (2 Jan. 2012).

Our Lady gives us another example. When She had the new life of Jesus within her, her entire existence changed. As every woman knows, when one is in child much attention is required to protect that new life, and some activities of before are

ceased. The same thing happens with us. If we have received a seed of a new life then we also have the great responsibility of keeping it safe. How? Above all, we must be convinced that we did not give this new life to ourselves by ourselves; that we are not capable of giving joy to ourselves. At the most - Pope Benedict XVI once said - *we can organize a party, but we cannot organize the joy, because this is a gift which God grants the soul.* It is God who puts love, peace and life in us, who gives us His Spirit, giver of every good. This life must be kept safely in the daily Eucharist.

Years ago Our Lady had said in a message: **"Give God time, and God will give you time,"** and He will fill your days with an invincible strength. When we go to Mass we hear the priest say, "Mystery of the faith," and we respond, "We proclaim your death Lord." **But why should a Christian be happy to proclaim the Lord's death?** Because in Christ death becomes a fount of new life that enters the soul that receive this regeneration. "Proclaim your death" is to proclaim the presence of a seed of immortality that is now within us and that opens wide our heart so it can blossom in the fullness of life, of love, of forgiveness and of brotherhood: an "atomic bomb" of Christ's presence within us that bears strength and joy that are worth even more than our earthly life.

Our Lady sacrifices herself and offers herself precisely so that each of us might be able to safekeep this new life, the life of Christ present within us. Let us not refuse to open up our hearts to her, because within our hearts there is present this fount of love that must be delivered up so it can bear light and peace to others."

[End]

Sickness and Suffering Vicka on Radio Maria

Fr. Livio: Can you tell us something about suffering and sickness, since you've experienced this first hand?

Vicka: It is a **great joy and gift.** We are prone to think that sickness or suffering can't be seen as gifts. What can we say? When they visit us we MUST SAY: here I am Lord, do with me as you will. We CANNOT say: this is too burdensome. No, we cannot say this. He knows how much he can give us and He knows how much we can take. **We must also thank God for this gift** and ask Him for the strength and the courage to carry on. Our Lady has also said that we don't know how much worth our suffering has before God's eyes! I am very happy when I can offer up some form of suffering for her and for Jesus' sake. I always say: Jesus, I am ready. Whenever and whatever you will. **To all of those who suffer I say:** do not waste time, but offer up everything to Jesus!

Every evening, when I see Our Lady, my very first prayer intention is for the sick. I care a great deal for the sick. I carry them in my heart and **I always commend them to Our Lady,** asking that they be given strength and courage to carry on.

(Excerpt from an interview, 2006)

Fundamental Messages Ivan on Radio Maria

Fr. Livio: Our Lady has been giving us messages for the past 31 years. What are the fundamental ones?

Ivan: The fundamental ones are: peace, conversion, return to God, prayer with the heart, penance and fasting, strong faith, love and forgiveness, the Holy Eucharist, (reading of) Holy Scripture, and the message of hope. These are the most important.

What I see is that during these 31 years Our Lady has "adapted" herself to us a little by simplifying things so that we can put things into practice and live better. **I cannot but notice her attitude, her concern, her eagerness** when she explains something to us, and how much it matters to her that we understand and live what she has told us.

It should be stressed that Her messages are addressed to the whole world. She comes to us as Mother of us all. She has never said, "Dear Italians; dear Americans," etc. I'd say that the message is universal, for everyone. And at the end of every message Our Lady says, *Thank you dear children for responding to my call.* So, we see how Our Lady is grateful!

(Excerpt of interview, 2012)

MIRJANA - Message, 2 May 2013

"Dear Children, Again I call you to love and not to judge. My Son, according to the will of the Heavenly Father, was in your midst to show you the way of salvation, to save you and not to judge you. If you desire following my Son, do not judge, but love as your Heavenly Father loves you.

Even when you suffer the most; when you fall under the weight of the cross, do not despair, do not judge, instead remember that you are loved, and praise the Heavenly Father for his love.

My children, do not deviate from the way on which I lead you. Do not rush into perdition. May prayer and fasting strengthen you, that you may live as the Heavenly Father desires; that you may be my apostles of faith and love; that your life may bless those whom you meet; that you may be one with the Heavenly Father and with my Son.

My children, this is the only truth, the truth that leads to your conversion, and then to the conversion of all those whom you meet and who haven't come to know my Son, of all those who do not know what it means to love.

My children, my Son gave you the gift of your shepherds; care for them; pray for them. Thank you."

Apostles of Faith ³ and Love!

The children of Mary who've come to the Blue Cross this **2nd morning of May** in the first year of Pope Francis' papacy are mostly Italian. The size of the crowd itself is moving, because people are composed and prayerful despite the wait

and the lack of individual space which barely allows one to move. All is ready to receive the message Mary will give us through Mirjana, and which will be communicated to those present and then spread throughout the world...

Today's message (2 May 2103) is particularly beautiful, sweet and strong at the same time, as is true love! True love cannot be separated from the Truth; it cannot exist outside of the Truth which is Jesus. All the rest can be a noble sentiment, an admirable example, something good to imitate, but in any case, unable to change the world. True love is only that which we draw from God! The Apostle John, who knew Love in this world, warns: *"Dearly beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God. And every one that loves, is born of God, and knows God. He who loves not, does not know God, for God is love"* (1Jn 4:7-8).

Mary, with divine patience and unfathomable love calls us anew to follow Christ: ***If you want to follow my Son, do not judge, but love, as your Heavenly Father loves you... May prayer and fasting strengthen you, so that you live as your Father desires, and that you be my apostles of faith and love.***

Mind that prayer and fasting - cornerstones of Mary's teachings - are not ends in themselves, but are **aimed at strengthening us** physically and spiritually so we can live out God's will, and be Mary's apostles. Abstinence from food, or mechanical prayers are not enough to stir in us that radical conversion of the heart which comes from being immersed in Love.

Being one with the Father and with Jesus is impossible for man but not for God, because **everything is possible for and in Him!** and this allows us to respond to Mary's wish, by surrendering ourselves to God through accepting his Will in all life's circumstances. Then, our life will be a blessing for all whom we meet because we will be witnesses that God is in our midst. Courage then, and let us trust and return to God. Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!
N.Q.



From an article by Jesuit priest, Bartolomeo Sorge, published in "Famiglia Cristiana", March 2013.

Poverty and Renewal of the Church: Hope aroused by Pope Francis

Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, held poverty dear, and this love for poverty is an integral part of Ignatian spirituality, as was seen in the person of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who as archbishop of Buenos Aires had neither a personal driver nor an automobile as most prelates would have. He used public transport for his movements around the city, hopping on trams, buses and the underground. It wasn't a show of sobriety, but a spiritual choice. Poverty, Ignatian style, nourished his soul.

The question that many have been asking is: Will Pope Francis impose this same style of life upon the Vatican curia? Good examples attract and encourage others to do the same. In the life of the Church it is the example, rather than the word, that manages to move others. So I'd say that this poverty of his will infect also the Vatican palaces.

His main mission, however, will be to renew the Church. The name he chose says so much. Jesus spoke to Francis from the Crucifix of St. Damiano, telling him: *Go and repair my Church*. We come from a Church that is tired and tried by many humiliations. It is a Church that needs renewal.

Francis also means peace and dialogue amongst religions, in particularly with Islam. The episode of St. Francis who went to speak with the Sultan is emblematic. It is poverty at the service of renewal of the Church and of evangelization. It is a happy choice that is giving much hope.

The fact that Pope Francis asked for prayer (at his election) and he remained silent with his head bowed to receive God's blessing, allows us to see how he sees the Church as God's people.

He bowed before God's people. It was a simple gesture, but at times a gesture is worth an encyclical.



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Year of the Faith Suggestions from Medjugorje

The Light of the True Faith

"Dear Children, I am with you and I do not give up. I desire making you know my Son. I desire for my children to be with me in the eternal life. I desire that you experience the joy of peace and that you have eternal salvation. I pray that you may overcome human weaknesses. I pray to my Son that He might grant you pure hearts. My dear Children, only pure hearts know how to bear the cross and how to sacrifice themselves for all those sinners who have offended the Heavenly Father and who today too offend Him without knowing Him. I pray that you might know the light of the true faith that comes only from the prayer of pure hearts. Then, all those close to you will experience the love of my Son. Pray for those whom my Son has chosen that they might lead you on the way to salvation. May your lips be sealed against any form of judgement! Thank you."
(Message to Mirjana, 2 Aug. 2012)

"Faith is the substance of things to be hoped for, the evidence of things that appear not," is how chapter 11 of the Letter to the Hebrews begins, and even though it may not be a rigorous definition, it is a worthy overture of the beautiful symphony contained in this chapter which is based on the notes of the O.T., and serve as motivation for us as well. "And therefore ... laying aside every weight and sin which surrounds us, let us run by patience to the fight proposed to us: Looking on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith" (Heb 12:1-2).

So, let us run too, delivered of all fear and doubts, of all petty calculations and recurring temptations, for *if God is for us, who will be against us?* (Rm 8: 31).

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

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Kingdom of Peace and Love

"Pray, pray, pray, until love and peace begin to reign in your hearts!"

I confess being rather surprised at Mary's words in her message of the 25th March last when she used the verb **BEGIN**. We need to begin to do the things she has been asking of us for over 30 years! So the question now is: **How to begin?** In His Gospel, Jesus tells us that if we do not become as little children we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, Jesus and Mary want small, humble children.

In his last catechesis, Pope Benedict XVI expressed this intense desire: "I should like to invite all of us to renew our firm confidence in the Lord, to entrust ourselves like children in God's arms, certain that those arms always hold us, enabling us to press forward each day, even when the going is rough. I want everyone to feel loved by that God who gave his Son for us and who has shown us his infinite love. I want everyone to feel the joy of being a Christian. In one beautiful morning prayer, it says: 'I adore you, my God, and I love you with all my heart. I thank you for having created me and making me a Christian...'. Yes, we are happy for the gift of faith; it is our most precious possession, which no one can take from us! Let us thank the Lord for this daily, in prayer and by a consistent Christian life. **God loves us, but he also expects us to love him!**"

What a limpid profession of faith by the most humble Pope Benedict who desired leaving us with a taste of the sweetness of faith of the little ones!

And Pope Francis on his part continues to preach the "patient mercy of God." During his installation Mass he said, **"God's patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to him ...** God always waits for us, even when we have removed ourselves from him! He is never far from us, and if we return to him, he is ready to embrace us."

The first image of this Pope that touched me particularly is that of him paying a floral homage to Our Lady at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major - with the faith of loving child! I bless you in the Names of Jesus and Mary!

J. Remo

Mantua, May 2013

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