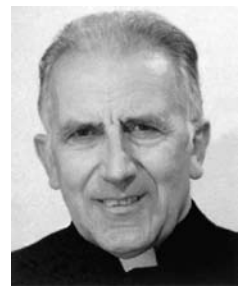




# Echo of Medjugorje

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Fr. Angelo Mutti  
founder Echo of Medjugorje

14 Sept. Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Message of 25 July 2014:

**“Dear Children, You are not aware of the graces that you are living in this time in which the Most High gives you signs so that you might open up and convert. Return to God and to prayer, and may prayer begin to reign in your hearts, in your families and in your communities, so that the Holy Spirit may lead and inspire you to be more open every day to God’s will and to His plan for each of you. I am with you and with the saints and angels I intercede for you. Thank you for responding to my call.”**

## 33 Years of Signs!

After 397 months since the beginning of the events of Medjugorje, Our Lady in today’s message still appeals to us to return to God and to prayer: **“You are not aware of the graces that you are living in this time in which the Most High gives you signs so that you might open up and convert.”**

This is the time in which we are called to **adhere, heart and soul, to God**. The time is still opportune for conversion; and will be for as long as our blessed Mother is present in Medjugorje.

**But do we know how to make the most of this exceptional time of grace?** Mary is asking for awareness of the time, and of the immense grace that God is granting us with her presence in Medjugorje. We are being asked to pray and to surrender our lives to God; not with external gestures, but by profoundly believing, and communing deeply with God.

In Eden, Adam and Eve were very close to God, but that didn’t impede them from being tempted by the Evil One. **Today, we are given a chance that our forefathers did not have.** Today, thanks to the Coming of God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, in our midst, we can receive God’s Spirit within us and let ourselves be inhabited by Him. This is not “being close” to God; this is being **IN** Him; it is receiving Him into our hearts. This communion - real and vital - was unthinkable before the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ! This is God’s plan for each of us.

**“May your will be done,”** we say in the Lord’s Prayer. It is by doing and accepting His will in every circumstance of our lives that we can be children worthy of the Father. Faith is not a lucky charm; the yoke of suffering and pain - which life inevitably deals out - are made easier and lighter. \$



Message to Mirjana, 2 AUG. 2014:

**“Dear Children, The reason that I am with you - my mission - is to help you so that the good may win; even though this does not seem possible to you now. I know that you do not comprehend many things, as I also did not understand everything my Son taught me as He was growing up alongside me; but I believed Him and I followed Him. I ask this of you also: to believe me and to follow me. However, my children, to follow me means to love my Son above all else, to love Him in every person without distinction. For you to be able to do all this, I call you anew to renunciation, to prayer and to fasting; I call you; that the Eucharist may be the life for your soul.**

**I call you to be my apostles of light who spread love and mercy throughout the world. My children, your life is only the bat of an eyelid in contrast to eternal life. When you come before my Son he will see in your hearts how much love you had. In order to spread love the right way, I ask my Son that through love, He might grant you unity through Him: unity among you and unity among you and your shepherds. Through them my Son always gives Himself to you anew and he renews your soul. Do not forget this. Thank you.”**

The teachings in this message are a synthesis of the entire work by Mary at Medjugorje, to take seriously without neglecting any part of it. The teachings and messages given at Medjugorje are **words of Life** to be lived out, experienced, prayed over and meditated upon, so our own existence is nourished and can open up and blossom with Life. \$

Message, 25 August 2014:

**“Dear Children, Pray for my intentions because Satan wants to destroy my plan which I have here and to rob you of your peace. Therefore, my children, pray, pray, pray, that God may act through each of you. May your hearts be open to God’s will. I love you and I bless you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for responding to my call.”**

## That God Work Through Us!

In the early years of Mary’s presence at Medjugorje, many doubted the need to pray for peace (even though Our Lady had repeatedly asked for this). Yugoslavia at the time, was at peace, and no one thought that a war would break out in 1992!

**This month’s message bears similar warnings of Satan’s attempts to destroy Her Plan for Medjugorje, the need to pray with the heart, and to pray constantly for peace and the triumph of Peace that she has been working for since June 1981.** It would seem that the calls and requests fall on deaf ears, and that prayer is a sterile act of submission to a distant god who cares little about man’s destiny. But our blessed Mother points out that God works for us: **“my children, pray, pray, pray, that God may act through each of you.”** Her words explain that prayer, instead, is a noble act that allows **God to work through us if we pray.** God needs us! What greater proof of God’s love could there be!

**Through prayer man is united to God** in a profound and real communion. God communing with man, with his creature! And this union, this communion, **purifies** us of our doubts and fears and hesitations; it **strengthens** our faith, and our capacity to surrender our lives to God’s Will. This is what Our Lady is pleading for us to experience. It is what Our Lord taught us with the most beautiful prayer in the world: the **Our Father!** The more we are able to surrender our lives up, the more we can trust in God, the more our own hearts are purified; and our lives, and our prayer, can then contribute to the triumph of the Plan to defeat Satan.

*Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!*

*(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)*

*"A Christian must necessarily be merciful, because this is the centre of the Gospel,"* said Pope Francis at the General Audience of 10th September 2014.

**"Dear brothers and sisters, Good morning!** The Church is Mother. She lets us grow, she shows us the path of salvation, and she defends us from evil. **The Church teaches us works of mercy!** In the Gospel, the essential thing is mercy. God sent his Son, God made himself man in order to save us, that is, in order to grant us his mercy. [...] **Can there be a Christian who isn't merciful? No.** A Christian must necessarily be merciful, because this is the centre of the Gospel. [...]

**Mother Church teaches us to give food** and drink to those who are hungry and thirsty, to clothe those who are naked. And how does she do this? **She does it through the example** of so many saints, men and women, who did this in an exemplary fashion; but she does it also through the example of so many dads and mums, who teach their children that what we have extra is for those who lack the basic necessities. It is important to know this. **Hospitality has always been sacred** in the simplest Christian families: there is always a plate and a bed for the one in need. **Mother Church teaches us to give of our own.** 'But I don't have any leftovers... Give some of your own!

**Mother Church teaches us to be close to those who are sick.** So many saints and simple men and women, every day, practise this work of mercy in a hospital ward, or in a rest home, or in their own home, assisting a sick person. **Mother Church teaches us to be close to those who are in prison.** "But no Father, this is dangerous, those are bad people". **Listen carefully to this: all of us have the capacity to sin and to do the same,** to make mistakes in life. They are no worse than you and me! Mercy overcomes every wall, every barrier, and leads you to always seek the face of the man, of the person. And it is mercy which changes the heart and the life, which can regenerate a person and allow him or her to integrate into society in a new way.

**Mother Church teaches us to be close** to those who are neglected and die alone ... to allow them to feel that God is greater than death, and that abiding in Him even the last parting is a 'see you again.' **Help people to die serenely, in peace!**

This is how the Church is Mother, by teaching her children works of mercy. [...] **It's not enough to do good to those who do good to us** - Jesus says the pagans do this too.

**How much have we paid for our redemption? Nothing, totally free!** Doing good without expecting anything in return: this is what the Father did with us and we must do the same. **Do good and carry on!"**

## **Foolish Christians Love Enemies Without Fear**

It is only with a merciful heart that we can truly follow Jesus - said Pope Francis during the morning Mass at *Domus Sanctae Marthae* [11 Sept. 2014].

Said Pope Francis: **"Being Christian means being 'a bit foolish'** at least according to worldly logic." The Pontiff recalled that Jesus gave us "the law of love: to love God and to love one another as brothers.

And we ask, "whom must I love?". He answers us, "your enemies". And, with surprise, we ask for confirmation: "our actual enemies?". "Yes", the Lord tells us, actually "your enemies!". But the Lord also asks us to "do good". We ask him: "to whom?" and He tells us straight away, "to those who hate us.". This time, too, we ask the Lord for confirmation: "But must I do good to those who hate me?". And the Lord's reply is again, "yes".

Then he even asks us to **"bless those who curse us"**. And to "pray" not only "for my mom, for my dad, my children, my family," but "for those who hurt us, who do bad to us." And "not to refuse anyone who begs from you". **The "newness of the Gospel"**, the Pope explained, lies in the "giving of oneself, giving the heart, to those who actually dislike us, who harm us, to our enemies".

It is therefore evident, the Pope continued, that "the Gospel is a new message that is difficult to carry forward". In a word, it means "go behind Jesus". Follow him. Imitate him. Jesus does not answer his Father by saying, "I shall go and say a few words, I shall make a nice speech, I shall point the way and then come back". No, Jesus' response to the Father is: "I shall do your will". And indeed, in the Mount of Olives he says to the Father: "Thy will be done". And thus **"he gives his life, not for his friends" but "for his enemies!"**

The Christian way is not easy, the Pope recognized, but "this is it". Therefore, to those who say, "I don't feel like doing this", the response is "if you don't feel like it, that's your problem, but this is the Christian way. This is the path that Jesus teaches us", the Pontiff said. This is the reason to **"take the path of Jesus, which is mercy:** be merciful as your Father is merciful". Because "only with a merciful heart can we do all that the Lord advises us, until the end". And thus it is obvious that "the Christian life is not a self-reflexive life" but "it comes outside of itself to give to others: it is a gift, it is love, and love does not turn back on itself, it is not selfish: it gives itself!".

The passage of St Luke concludes with



the invitation **not to judge** and to be merciful. However, the Pontiff said, "it often seems that we have been appointed judges of others: gossiping, criticizing, we judge everyone". But Jesus tells us: *"Judge not and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven"*. And so, "we say it every day in the Our Father: forgive us as we forgive". In fact "if I do not first forgive, how can I ask the Father to forgive me?".

**There is also another really beautiful image** in

the Gospel reading: "Give and it will be given to you". And here "Jesus' heart can be seen to grow and he makes this promise which is perhaps an image of heaven". The Christian life, as Jesus presents it, seems truly to be "folly", Pope Francis indicated. St Paul himself speaks of "the folly of the cross of Christ, which is not part of the wisdom of the world". For this reason "to be a Christian is to become a bit foolish, in a certain sense". And "to renounce that worldly shrewdness in order to do all that Jesus tells us to do. And, if we make an accounting, if we balance things out, it seems to weigh against us". **But "the path of Jesus" is "magnanimity, generosity,** the giving of oneself without measure". He "came into the world" to save and he gave himself, "he forgave, he spoke ill of no one, he did not judge".

The Pontiff recognized that "being Christian isn't easy" and we cannot "become Christian" with our own strength; **we need "the grace of God"**. Therefore, there is a prayer, said the Pope, which should be said every day: *"Lord, grant me the grace to become a good Christian, because I cannot do it alone."*

www.vatican.va





## "Here" at Medjugorje, and "the world"

**"I, Mother of those of you gathered here, and Mother of the whole world."**

These words at the beginning of the message of 2 July 2014 offer a clear and concise definition of the significance of a Marian shrine, and at the same time they tell us something of the nexus between Medjugorje and the world as part of Our Lady's "programme".

**Even in the early years Our Lady often used the word "here" to call attention to the place she chose to appear in, not to close up the phenomenon within a local milieu, but to indicate that there is a main centre in this "operation".** And from here there are numerous rays that carry the grace of Medjugorje to the whole world, but for this transmission of grace to be successful there must be an order of priority: first **here**, then **the world**. This calls into question the responsibility and the missionary task of those who come back home after a pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

**We begin to see this dual characteristic of "here" and "the world"** in the messages to the parish: *"Dear Children, above all learn to love your family, and love one another in the parish. Then, you will be able to love and receive all those who will come here"* (13 Dec. 1984). Here is the reason why Medjugorje must be defended and kept in adequate conditions: *"Dear Children, God has permitted me to make with Him this oasis of peace. I desire calling you to preserve it so that it is always pure. There are those who by their carelessness are destroying the peace and the prayer"* (26 June 1986).

**The important thing** is to receive the *"messages which I give to you here, through this place which is dear to me"* (25 Feb. 1995), to *"witness with your life to my presence here"* (25 June 1999), to *"thank God, here with me, for the graces that He gives you"* and to *"pray and rejoice for all that God is working here"* (25 July 1999).

**The meaning of this particular attention for what happens "here"** is explained very explicitly in a message of 2011: *"I began here with this Parish, and I invited the whole world. Many have responded 'yes', but enormous is the number of those who do not want to hear or accept my call. Therefore, those of you who have responded 'yes', be strong and determined!"* (25 Aug. 2011). Our Lady has realised a place, a **"here"**, where it is possible to obtain the grace of this strength and determination, and where one comes (and returns) to consolidate this new identity with which one witnesses and makes room for **"the whole world"**.

Several times the messages have **stressed the need** to be fully aware of being **"here"**: *"Dear Children, you gather round me, you seek the way, you seek, you seek the truth; but you forget the most important thing; you forget to pray correctly. Your lips*

*speak countless words, but your spirit feels nothing"* (2 Feb. 2011); and: *"You gather round me full of enthusiasm, desires and expectations; but I pray to the Good Father that he - through the Holy Spirit of my Son - put faith into your purified hearts"* (2 July 2011).

**This awareness is what allows us to take part in the passage from "here" to the "whole world"**. It is a passage desired by Our Lady as part of her programme. She has oft repeated: *"Dear Children, as your Mother I am here with you to help you. I help you with my love, my prayer and my example to become a seed of what will be, a seed that will develop into a strong tree and will extend its branches throughout the whole world"* (2 Dec. 2011).

**The dynamics that join the "here" to the "whole world"** is an essential element of Christian life that cannot overlook neither one's immediate context, nor the larger perspective of the Church. In *Evangelii Gaudium* we read: *"The whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts. There is no need, then, to be overly obsessed with limited and particular questions. We constantly have to broaden our horizons and see the greater good which will benefit us all ... without evasion or uprooting. We need to sink our roots deeper into the fertile soil and history of our native place, which is a gift of God. We can work on a small scale, in our own neighbourhood, but with a larger perspective. Nor do people who wholeheartedly enter into the life of a community need to lose their individualism or hide their identity ... The global need not stifle, nor the particular prove barren."* (235).

**The larger perspective** is in the messages that call us to the witness, to the mission, to the transmission of gifts received: *"Do not forget that you are not in this world just for yourselves, and that I do not call you here just for yourselves"* (2 Nov. 2011); *"You who live in God's love and who have experienced his gifts, witness them with your words and your life!"* (25 Sept. 2011); *"pray, that the reflection of your prayer may influence all those you meet"* (25 Jan. 2014).

**There are many other messages** in line with this double perspective of **"here"** and the **"whole world"**. But the above allow us to see how the development of Medjugorje fits into the Catholic faith. *"Faith is necessarily ecclesial, professed from within the body of Christ as a concrete communion of believers..."* (*Lumen Fidei* 22).

We could also consider other aspects concerning the **authenticity** of the witness and the realism of the Church's faith, mission, unity, and her multiplicity of



charisms. However, to <sup>3</sup> remain at the starting point we simply highlight that **Our Lady has chosen a way of being present in Medjugorje** which reflects the great mystery of the Catholic communion, which is to say, the communion

that is **'here'** - that is true in the particular situation in which we find ourselves - and which includes at the same time **"the whole world,"** the fullness of the Church, the Body of Christ of which we are members.

Marco Vignati, Com. Casa di Maria Roma

## Youth Festival at Medjugorje

The 25th international prayer meeting for youth had its conclusion, as usual, with a Mass of thanksgiving celebrated on Križevac at daybreak on the feastday of the Transfiguration, with the main celebrant this year being the Parish Priest of Medjugorje, Fr Marinko Šakota.

This year's theme for the Festival was **"Behold your Mother!"**. And, as with previous years, **tens of thousands of young people** converged on Medjugorje for the Festival. The daily programme for the youth - who came from **60** different countries - began at 9 am with morning prayer, testimonies, singing and fraternal sharing. The most important part of each day was the **Holy Mass** in the evening. The opening Mass for the Festival was celebrated by the **Provincial** of the Franciscan Province of Hercegovina. Masses on the following days were celebrated by **newly ordained priests from the same Franciscan Province**, many of whom had found their vocation at Medjugorje. There were more than **530 priests** present for the Festival. These came from all over the world, and they spent of lot of their time during the Festival listening to confessions.

**The Youth Festival was an experience of particular grace** for all those present. Thanks to the grace of Mary's presence, many were able to re-centre their lives on Christ, the *God with us*, the *Emmanuel*, who alone can give meaning to our lives, and free the heart from the demon of the senseless dispersion of futile living. Through this grace, many of the youth at the Festival were able to make a turn-about in their lives. Truly, the **Blessed Virgin is forming her apostles** for the new times which she is preparing.

[www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr); [childrenofmedjugorje.org](http://childrenofmedjugorje.org)



## Message to MIRJANA

2 SEPT. 2014: *"Dear Children, I, your Mother, have come once again amongst you out of love which has no end, from the immeasurable love of the immeasurable Heavenly Father. And as I look into your hearts I see that many of you accept me as a Mother, and with sincere and pure hearts, you desire being my apostles.*

*But I am also the Mother of you who do not accept me and who, in the hardness of your hearts, do not desire knowing the love of my Son. You do not know how much my Heart suffers and how much I pray to my Son for you. I pray to him to heal your souls because He CAN do it. I pray to him to illuminate you with a miracle of the Holy Spirit, that you may cease to continually betray, curse and wound him. With all my heart I pray that you might comprehend that only my Son is the salvation and the light of the world.*

*And you, my children, my dear apostles, always carry my Son in your hearts and thoughts so that you are carrying love. All those who do not know Him will recognise Him in your love. I am always by your side. In a special way I am beside your shepherds because my Son has called them to lead you on the way to eternity. I thank you, my apostles, for the sacrifice and for the love."*

This beautiful message is a call for us to **choose between Good and Evil**; a choice given to mankind long ago (Dt 30:15-20), but **a call every generation and every individual needs to hear**. By this stage, Medjugorje is clearly perceived as a dockyard for the salvation of the universe. Our blessed Mother is with us: her work is not comparable to any other theological school. Her lessons are all about LIVING. It doesn't take intelligence to understand the things of God; one only needs **an open and pure heart**. One doesn't need to be an orator to speak with God; one only needs to say, *My Lord and my God with the heart!* Prayer with the heart is what Our Lady has always suggested we use to put us in touch with God.

In this particular message, Our Lady addresses **two groups of people**: 1) those who **receive** her as Mother and desire being her apostles; 2) those who **do not receive** her and do not desire knowing the love of Jesus. It ought not be necessary to point out, but *"knowing Jesus' love"* doesn't only mean we know He loves us, for it also implies knowing how to live out His Love, as described in the above verse from Deuteronomy.

So, there are those who do not receive Mary as Mother, and in the hardness of their hearts they do not desire knowing the love of her Son. Mary keeps both under her mantle, and she prays that the latter might stop betraying, cursing and wounding Jesus. **The clear separation** between Good and Evil must come about also in one's heart; and it is within the heart that we are called to acknowledge (or deny) Mary's role as Mother. Those who choose her as Mother and who sincerely desire being Jesus' friend,

know they can no longer trust in their own strength (cf. St. Paul's experience in Rm 7:14-21). So let us surrender ourselves to Mary, and may our place always be in her most pure Heart! NQ

Message, IVAN 17 August 2014:

*"Dear Children, Today in particular I call you to pray for peace. Open yourselves to the Holy Spirit, my children, that the Holy Spirit may guide you. In particular, my children, pray at the present time for my beloved Holy Father. Pray for his mission; his mission of peace. [I], your Mother, pray with you, intercede before Her Son for each of you. Thank you, dear children, because also today you have responded to my call."*

It is remarkable that this important message by the Queen of Peace has practically gone unnoticed even among accredited media that normally reports on Medjugorje. Our Lady has rarely spoken explicitly about the **Pope**. In only a few messages, she called **John Paul II "her beloved son"** (25.08.1994). The expression used to indicate **Pope Francis** is even greater: *"my most beloved Holy Father."* It is as though, through him, the Holy Spirit is wanting to give the Church a new impetus for an accelerated return to the Gospel, from which man has diverged due to complex historical events and deviant cultural influences.

**Pope Francis seems to be proceeding** at such a fast pace as to leave feeling displaced, if not shocked, many so-called good Catholics who in good faith often confuse human traditions and cultural legacies of the past with authentic Gospel. Heaven is calling for a radical and urgent conversion (so often repeated by the Queen of Peace) which desires of us to journey bravely and without hesitation along the ways indicated by Our Lady's "beloved" Pope.

We are convinced that this is the way for the Church to be a true instrument for the Peace of Christ to be brought into the world. It is **through a consistent testimony** of Christian life that multitudes of brothers and sisters will open up to the real proclamation of Christ's Gospel, which has too often been suffocated by layers of "religious" structures and customs that, in effect, have only reduced the power of the liberating and saving truth of Christ.

Giuseppe Ferraro

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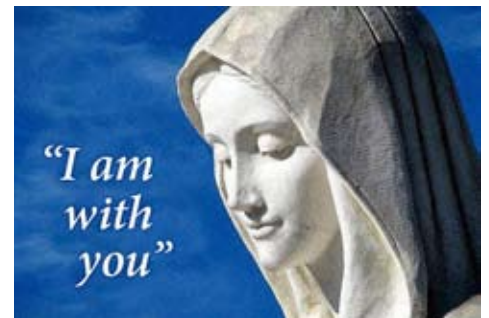
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## Only Some See but All Can Feel Her Presence

Dear friends, Our Lady never fails to call us "dear children," and as a pupil in Her school, I too wish to say to you not only, "dear friends," but particularly, "dear brothers and sisters" because the experience of Medjugorje that unites us also creates bonds of spiritual accord and unanimity.

A few days ago one of our national newspapers reported that at Medjugorje Our Lady had been seen in the sun by the crowd at Medjugorje. I was not there. So, many saw the miracle, but I did not, and you did not. I recall Jesus' words: *"Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

I have reflected, and I now say: Some see Our Lady. However, all of us can "feel" (or sense) her presence. But to be aware of this **extraordinary presence** at Medjugorje one must be there in Medjugorje. In one of her latest messages, as a matter of fact, Our Lady made a **distinction** between those who are gathered there, and her other children who are in the world.

Brothers and sisters, read the Book of Exodus and note how it was Pharaoh who had said: *"God is everywhere, so why do you want to go to Sinai?"* It is true that God is everywhere, but **it is also true** that God works differently in different places. And so does the **Queen of Peace work differently in different places**, e.g. at Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje. And we, who live in this particular time, are given the graces of Medjugorje which are suited to our needs and to the needs of our times which have been poisoned by widespread disbelief and secularism.

**I bless you all** with my priestly blessing, and with you all I receive from our most beloved and tender Mother her wonderful motherly blessing.

Fr. Massimo Rastrelli, S.J.

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**Mantua, September 2014**

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