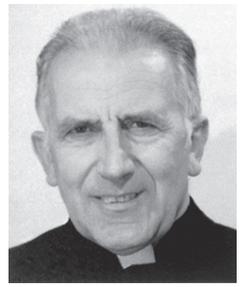




Echo of Medjugorje

January - February 2013 - Edited by: Eco di Maria, Via Cremona, 28 - 46100 Mantova (Italia) - Year 29, nr. 1/2
Poste Italiane s.p.a. - Sped. in A. P. - D.L. 353/2003 (conv. in L. 27/02/2004 n° 46) art. 1, comma 2, DCB Mantova

224



Fr. Angelo Mutti
founder Echo of Medjugorje

Message of 25 November 2012:

"Dear Children, In this time of grace I call you all to renew prayer. Open yourselves to holy confession so that each of you may accept my call with all your heart. I am with you and I protect you from the ruin (abyss) of sin, but you must open yourselves to the way of conversion and holiness, that your heart may burn out of love for God. Give Him time and He will give Himself to you and thus, in the will of God, you will discover the love and the joy of living. Thank you for responding to my call."

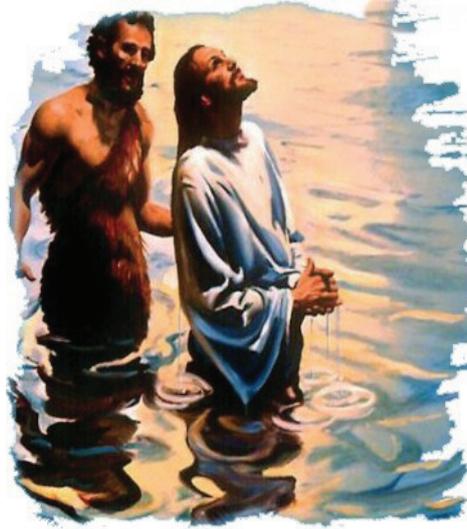
Conversion and Holiness

This is time of grace because Jesus intercedes before the Father for us, and so it shall be till the end of time. This means that Heaven is open for us; so it's a good time to renew our prayer, to seek the grace of **Confession**, to accept Mary's call with an open heart. Furthermore, we are about to begin the time of Advent which is the liturgical time that prepares us for Christmas.

The Time of Advent prepares us to enter the Mystery of the "marvellous exchange" when the Creator of Man becomes man by being born of the Virgin. He shares our humanity so we can share his divinity (cf. CCC 526).

I am with you and I protect you from the abyss of sin, and you must open yourselves up to conversion and holiness so your heart might burn out of love for God, Mary advises. This is an occasion we shouldn't miss, given us to undertake the way of conversion and holiness and have a deeper love for God.

We need to find the time to dedicate to God; time to pray, and in prayer encounter Him, to listen, assist and serve Him in the ways of our world. In exchange, He will give himself to us, and we will discover the joy and love of living. We can't make time expand, so we must recover it from time given to other things of lesser importance. If we really want to, we'll find the time. The earthly life is so often problematic, difficult and bitter; and how joyful it could become if we live out God's will. §



Message, 2 Dec 2012 (Mirjana):

"Dear Children, with motherly love and motherly patience I call you anew to live according to my Son; to spread his peace and his love; and, as my apostles, to receive with all your heart the truth of God, and to pray to the Holy Spirit for his guidance! Then you will be able to faithfully serve my Son and show his love to others with your life. Through the love of my Son and my own love, I - as Mother - strive to bring all of my stray children into my motherly embrace and to show them the way of faith. My Children, help me in my motherly battle and pray with me that sinners may become aware of their sins and repent sincerely. Pray also for those whom my Son has chosen and consecrated in his name. Thank you."

Spread His Peace and Love

Live according to Jesus: This lovely message reminds us of the foundations for living the Christian faith, and it confirms that we are all called to carry out the work of apostleship, which is a life-long programme, not only for the time of Advent or for the Year of the Faith. We are encouraged by Our Blessed Mother's support and her untiring patience, her closeness. With her as our guide, we will learn to live according to her Son, which we should not see as a privilege but as a duty, a way of fulfilling the Father's will. So, armed with faith, joy, hope and humility we will overcome the obstacles on life's ways, along with the help of the Holy Spirit! §

Message of 25 December 2012:

Marija refers: Our Lady came with the Child Jesus in her arms and she did not give a message, but the Child Jesus began to speak and said: "I am your peace, live my commandments." Together, and with the sign of the cross, Our Lady and the Child Jesus blessed us.

I Am Your Peace Live My Commandments

This is a novel thing, though not absolute, because twice before Our Lady didn't give a message (the 14th and 28th June 1984). What most surprises us is that *Jesus spoke*, which is for the first time. It is something to meditate on in our heart without trying to interpret. If God so desires, we will understand sooner or later. For the moment Jesus' words - so clear - are sufficient! He is our Peace; there is no other.

His peace was announced by the Angels when He was born (Lk 2:14), it gushed forth from Simeon's heart before the Temple (Lk 2:28-29) and Jesus himself proclaimed his peace upon the Cross (Jn 14:27): "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid.*"

Our Lord Jesus gives himself to us. He gives us his peace. Here we see no difference between the Giver and the gift. To the Apostles he says: "*Peace be to you! As the Father hath sent me, I also send you*" (Jn 20: 21), and He breathes on them to instil in them the gift of the Holy Spirit to qualify them for the Mission.

Jesus is the Peace that the world cannot receive because it will not acknowledge Him. Our salvation does not come by way of a passive or formal obedience to the Law. It passes through Love, which is fruit of His Sacrifice, and asks from us a response of love by living out his commandments. Let us receive the blessing of Jesus and Mary, that it might be a true Christmas! §

(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)



The Decalogue

"The Decalogue takes us back to Mount Sinai when God enters in a special way into the history of humanity. But **let us ask ourselves**: what meaning do these Ten Commandments have for us in the **present cultural context in which secularism and relativism risk** becoming the criteria of every choice and this society of ours that seems to live as if God does not exist? **We answer** that God gave us the Commandments to teach us **true freedom and genuine love**, so that we can be truly happy. They are a sign of God the Father's love, of his desire to teach us **how to distinguish between good and evil**, truth and falsehood, right and wrong.

They are comprehensible to all because they set **fundamental values** as concrete rules and regulations, by putting them into practice man can walk the path of true freedom, which set him firmly on the path that leads to life and happiness. **By contrast, when man ignores** the Commandments in his life, not only does he alienate himself from God but he also distances himself from life and lasting happiness. **Man left to himself**, indifferent to God, proud of his absolute autonomy, eventually **ends up following the idols of selfishness**, power, domination, polluting the relationship with himself and with others and taking paths that do not lead to life but death. The sad experience of history, especially of the last century, is a warning to all humanity.

Jesus brings to fulfilment the path of the Commandments ... to radically overcome selfishness, sin and death with the gift of

himself for love. By welcoming the infinite love of God, trusting him, following the path that he has laid down, we give deeper meaning to life and **open up a future of hope**. (Sept. 2012)

World Day of Peace

Blessed are the Peacemakers! "The beatitudes which Jesus proclaimed are promises. They are not only moral exhortations, for they consist in the fulfilment of a promise made to all those who allow themselves be guided by the requirements of truth, justice and love. In the eyes of the world, those who trust in God and his promises often appear naïve or far from reality. Yet Jesus tells them that not only in the next life, but already in this life, they will discover that God has always been, and ever will be, completely on their side. Jesus Christ grants us true peace, which is born of the trusting encounter of man with God. Jesus' beatitude tells us that peace is both a messianic gift and the fruit of human effort. [2]

Peace concerns the human person as a whole. It is peace with God through a life lived according to his will. It is both interior peace, and exterior peace. Authentic peacemakers keep in mind that the attainment of peace depends above all on recognizing that we are, in God, one human family... Peace is an order achieved in freedom, in a way consistent with the dignity of persons who, by their very nature as rational beings, take responsibility for their own actions. Peace is not a dream or something utopian; it is possible. Our gaze needs to go deeper, beneath superficial appearances, to discern a positive reality which exists in human hearts. The peacemaker is the one who seeks the good of the other today and tomorrow. [3]

The path to the attainment of the

common good and to peace is above all that of respect for human life in all its many aspects. Anyone who loves peace cannot tolerate attacks and crimes against life. Those who insufficiently value human life perhaps do not realize that in this way they are proposing the pursuit of a false peace. There is also a need to acknowledge and promote the natural structure of marriage as the union of a man and a woman in the face of attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different types of union; such attempts actually harm and help to destabilize marriage, obscuring its specific nature and its indispensable role in society. These principles are not truths of faith. They are inscribed in human nature itself, accessible to reason and thus common to all humanity. The Church's efforts to promote them are not therefore confessional in character, but addressed to all people, whatever their religious affiliation. [4]

Noon should ignore or underestimate the decisive role of the family... which is one of the indispensable social subjects for the achievement of a culture of peace. The rights of parents and their primary role in the education of their children in the area of morality and religion must be safeguarded. It is in the family that peacemakers, tomorrow's promoters of a culture of life and love, are born and nurtured. [6]

In the end ... there is a need to renounce that false peace promised by the idols of this world along with the dangers which accompany it, that false peace which dulls consciences, which leads to self-absorption, to a withered existence lived in indifference. The pedagogy of peace, on the other hand, implies activity, compassion, solidarity, courage and perseverance. [7]"

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

Message to MIRJANA, 2 Jan. 2013

"Dear Children, With much love and patience, I strive to make your hearts similar to mine. By my example, I strive to teach you humility, wisdom and love, because I need you. I cannot do without you, my children. According to God's will I choose you, and according to his strength I try to invigorate you. Therefore, my children, do not be afraid to open up your hearts to me! I will give them to my Son, and in return, He will grant you divine peace. You will bear (this divine peace) and take it to all those whom you meet; you will witness God's love with your life, and with your life, you will bear to others the gift of my Son. Through reconciliation, fasting and prayer, I will lead you. My love is immeasurable; do not be afraid!

My children, pray for your pastors. May you lips never speak words of condemnation, because - and I want you not to forget - my Son chose them and He alone has the right to judge. Thank you."

I NEED YOU! - There's something new in the air today. Perhaps it's the void we feel

from the lack of a message by Our Lady, even though Jesus Himself spoke a few but very significant words.

But here Mary tells us that she **needs us**. It appears as an urgent appeal; otherwise, Mary's Work risks being banalized in superficial practices. How can we not pay heed to the urgent call to a conversion of heart; of a heart which again places its trust in God? How can we not feel the need to follow through on Mary's teachings? Yet our response to Mary's call seems less fervent as the extraordinary has become ordinary... Could it be that Mary's prolonged presence is not enough for us, and we've gone off in search of something "newer"? But this would be in contrast with the faith we profess.

Mary's words prompt us to ask: What changes has Mary's Work produced in us? Rather than being discouraged, we should draw hope from Mary's call. The Father's arms are always open and ready to embrace us, so tarry no longer, and let us give our hearts with joy and enthusiasm to Mary. **"I will give them to my Son, and in return, He will grant you divine peace,"** Mary

has promised. **"You will bear (this divine peace) and take it to all those whom you meet; you will witness God's love with your life, and with your life, you will bear to others the gift of my Son."** God's love and peace, can be and ought to be lived, enjoyed and witnessed to others. They are not anaesthetics, but rather a balm able to heal pain, soothe suffering, and graft Life into life.

Eternity begins now on the Earth. We cannot do without the help of God, but we are not alone! The Lord Jesus is with us, as is Mary, His and our Blessed Mother. **"Through reconciliation, fasting and prayer, I will lead you. My love is immeasurable; do not be afraid!"** we are ensured!

Each time we err, we can pick ourselves up and start off anew. The life of Jesus cannot grow in us automatically, nor can it grow without difficulty; but all is overcome if our heart is open and receptive to Grace. We are chosen by the Will of God, and strengthened by God's Power. All we need do is joyfully and gratefully receive His work of grace. *Edit. Team*

Year of Faith
Suggestions from Medjugorje

Word of God becomes Light through Faith!

"Dear Children, I call you to my mission. Accompany me with an open heart and total trust. The way along which I lead you to God is difficult, but persevere, and at the end we shall all rejoice in God! Thus, my children, do not cease to pray for the gift of faith. It is only through faith that the Word of God can be light in this darkness that wants to engulf you. Do no fear, I am with you. Thank you."

(Message to Mirjana, 2/10/07)

Mary's call to accompany her with an open heart and total trust in her mission has not expired even though this message is over five years' old, and just as her messages of thirty years ago are not expired, but continue to irrigate the world.

Mary's Work is noticeable but not sensational; it is public but is not given as food for those who seek novelties; it is discreet but has universal importance; though it might be classified dated, it is in fact timeless. Even more so, her message cannot be reduced to thirty or so years because it actually began with Jesus' Passion and will cease when He returns! *The way upon which we are invited is difficult* because it leads to God, but the goal is certain and it is joy in God.

Faith is a requisite, but this is assured to anyone who asks for it from God. Prayer is not the price, because the price has already been paid by Jesus Christ. The gift is free, as is the request, but it isn't encapsulated in the ways of bureaucracy, as it must pass through the heart, and be true prayer.

Ed. Team



Podbrdo
28 December
2012

IVAN:

"To talk about the encounter with Our Lady

is very difficult, because words cannot describe the beauty of this encounter, nor especially her Love. In simple words, all I can say is that this evening Our Lady came and was joyful. At the beginning she greeted us in the usual manner by saying, *"Praised be Jesus, my dear children!"* She then prayed lengthily over us all with her hands extended, especially over the sick, and then said:

"Dear children, also today I desire calling you to joy. I call you anew to joy. At the same time, I call you to

responsibility. Dear children, receive my messages responsibly and live them, because it is through living my messages that I desire leading you to my Son.



All these years that I have been with you I have been pointing out to you my Son Jesus because my desire is to lead you all to Him.

Therefore, also over the next days ask yourselves: 'What can I do so my heart is closer to Jesus? May this question guide you. Ask yourselves: 'What must I leave, what must I reject, so my heart is closer to Jesus?' Pray, my children! I shall pray for you all so that the response in your hearts may be 'Yes, I desire being closer to Jesus!' Thank you, my dear children, for also today you have responded to my call and you have said 'yes!'

Our Lady continued praying especially for priests and for vocations. She then left in the sign of the luminous cross, saying: *"Go in peace, my dear children!"*

(font: Radio Maria Italia website)

Annual apparition to JAKOV



Christmas 2012: In his last daily apparition, in 1998, Our Lady told Jakov Colo that he would receive an apparition once a year, on Christmas day. This year, Our Lady came with the Child Jesus in her arms, and gave the following message:

"Dear Children, give me your lives and surrender yourselves entirely to me so I can help you comprehend my motherly love and the love of my Son for you. My Children, I love you immensely, and today in particular, on the day of my Son's birth, I desire receiving each of you into my heart and offering your lives to my Son. My Children, Jesus loves you and He grants you the grace to live in His mercy. However, the hearts of many of you are overcome by sin and you live in darkness. Therefore, my Children, tarry no longer. Say 'NO' to sin, and offer your hearts to my Son, for it is this way alone that you can live God's mercy and undertake the way of salvation with Jesus in your hearts."

VICKA in the Holy Land



Vicka, with the coordinator of "Maranatha"

Vicka Ivankovic accepted an invitation to take part in an international pilgrimage to the Holy Land next August. It will be the first international pilgrimage of the "Maranatha" organization founded and run by Mons. André Léonard of Brussels in Belgium. "Maranatha" says that it has contacted other prelates many of whom have shown interest in the pilgrimage. There are already many priests and representatives of over ten countries in Europa and North and South America who have confirmed their presence. The co-ordinator of 'Maranatha', Sabrina Covic-Radojicic, has confirmed the presence of **Fra Petar Ljubcic**, known as the priest chosen by Mirjana to announce the contents of the ten secrets.

During her time in the Holy Land, **Vicka will have three public apparitions** in Bethlehem. Vicka says, "It will be wonderful to be united to people from so many other nations, to share the messages of Our Lady and to tell them of her love for the whole world." In the video published on the web pages of Medjugorje Today, Vicka also says, "It is wonderful to bring love to everyone. Mary once said that the divisions in religion are caused by people, not by God, because God is One. This is very important because Our Lady wants us to know that **we are all loved in an equal manner**. Differences do not exist for her..."

"I am very happy. The Holy Land is where it all began, where the most important places for Christianity are," Vicka added. www.medjugorjetoday.com



Ivan, how do you feel after an Apparition?

Ivan: "It is difficult to explain in words the joy I feel in the heart. It's difficult to transmit this to others. Those who are with me during an apparition know I always say how difficult it is to recover, to come back to this world after the encounter with Our Lady. There is always a hope in me during the Apparition that makes me say in the heart: "Mother, stay a while longer during this apparition because **it is so beautiful to be with you, because your smile and your eyes are so full of love.**"

"Then as I see the tears of joy on Our Lady's cheeks when she looks at all of us here praying, I get the feeling that she would like to come close to us all and embrace us. **Such is her love!** This love and peace and joy that I feel during an apparition of Our Lady stays with me all day long. There are nights (previous to an apparition) when I cannot sleep, thinking about what Our Lady will tell me. So I examine my conscience, considering what I did during the day, asking if my deeds were in accordance to God's will, and if Our Lady will be happy with me.

"But to get back to your question, Fr. Livio, it is the **peace and joy and love** that I am immersed in during an apparition that stays with me afterwards. Then what I find most encouraging is how Our Lady will tell me what I must do with the pilgrims, how to transmit the messages, etc. I can truly confess that with my human strength I could not put up with everything if Our Lady did not give me that special daily strength."

Interview by Radio Maria Italia, Aug.'12

Praying to the Lord to increase our faith

Take your time when you pray, suggested Thomas Merton, to improve your prayer. According to Merton, if a person really desires it, he ought to slow down to a more human rhythm and begin to find time to listen. His suggestion was to live time in a new way, saying that the reason we don't have the time is based on the idea that we must continually be on the move, which is an illness of our day and age.

Every moment is good for God. It is up to us to find the time to stop and reflect; but **which prayer?** Here are just two examples: the Rosary, and the "Jesus Prayer" (**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner!**) The latter is brief, and goes from heart to Heart, and can be said at any moment. All it requires is a flash of the mind. The Rosary, on the other hand, isn't just a family prayer, but can be said as we drive, or in front of the Blessed Sacrament, for instance.

From Prayer to Action:

Forgive your enemy; and Console the afflicted - This could be someone in the family, or a neighbour. Perhaps the "enemy" could be someone with whom we have

argued. The suggestion is to forgive with concrete acts: a telephone call, a note or a visit. The "afflicted", likewise, could be a family member or neighbour who is sick, alone or concerned, and would benefit from a chat, a coffee, a game of cards. (*credit: Fr. Barron, www.wordonfire.org*)

Key to Joy

With the first table (the first three commandments) in mind, Fr. Barron invites us to consider a particular scene from the New Testament, where **Jesus cleanses the Temple**: "The temple was the place where these Commandments were especially honoured by the people; it was where one kept holy the Sabbath day. In the New Testament scene, Jesus comes in, looks around, and says: 'You've turned this house of prayer into a market place' (in John's Gospel), or worse, 'a den of thieves', in the other Gospels. Then he turns over the tables, He cleanses and purifies the Temple. St. Paul says that the individual Christian (his body) is a temple of the Holy Spirit!; a place where God alone is praised, honoured by speech and honoured by action."

If Jesus were to come into the temple of our body, Fr. Barron asks: "What would he find? It's meant to be a house of prayer! Does he find a market place? A lot of false gods exist, such as power, honour, pleasure; but perhaps in today's society, the "market place" has become the principal false god. How much time do you spend fussing about money, shopping, worrying about material things, trying to fill up your life with all sorts of... things? Have you turned what's meant to be a temple into a market place? There are a lot of other gods; but which one is being honoured inside this temple (of your body)?"

On the other hand - he says - "**If you allow Jesus into that temple to look around**, chances are he's going to want to turn some things over. That's why letting him inside is a dicey business, because he will effect change, he'll turn things upside down. Were the money-changers or the temple establishment happy with his invasion? Certainly not." We also have a certain temple establishment going on within us, a certain way of doing things," says Fr. Barron. "When Jesus comes in he rearranges, upsets, turns upside down; but does he want to cause you trouble? No. He wants to turn that market place into a house of prayer, which is what it's meant to be, where God alone is given proper praise.

That's the key to joy. That's what the commandments are about: to make us happy. **So, let Him in!** It'll be a little tricky, a little unsettling, but he's trying to rearrange things to bring you joy!"

(credits: Fr. Barron, [wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org))



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.

PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT US:

We accept: **Personal cheques, International Postal Orders,**

Bank Transfer:

Assoc. Eco di Maria
Bank: Monte dei Paschi di Siena
Agenzia Belfiore - Mantua, **Italy**

IBAN IT 45 M 01030 11506
000004754021
BIC PASCITM1185

CONTACT US

Address: Eco di Maria, Via Cremona 28,
I-46100 Mantova, Italy

E-mail: eco-segreteria@ecodimaria.net

Webpage: www.ecodimaria.net
www.facebook.com/echoofmedjugorje

**Happy new year
with Jesus and Mary
every day of the year!**

*At Christmas Our Lady appeared to Marija with the Child Jesus in her arms, but she did not give a message. However, the greatest and the most beautiful gift Mary could give us is **Jesus Himself.** Her daily presence and her messages are given us so that we can finally come to acknowledge and accept Jesus as our sole Saviour!*

*On Christmas day Jakov had his yearly apparition; Our Lady appeared to him with the Child Jesus in her arms. To Jakov Mary said: "Give me your lives and surrender yourselves completely to me so that I can help you comprehend my motherly love and my Son's love for you..." **Devotion to Mary** is not true if it does not lead us to Jesus, for Jesus came to us through her, and she must lead us to Him.*

A new year has begun, and it has been 31 years since Mary has been appearing on a daily basis, coming to us and calling us. Do not tarry, she tells us today (in Jakov's message). So let's not wait any longer; let's not wait another Christmas or another Easter to allow ourselves be taken by the hand of the Mother of God. Let's put aside our hardness of heart and allow ourselves to be touched by her tender love.

J. Remo

Mantua, January 2013

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