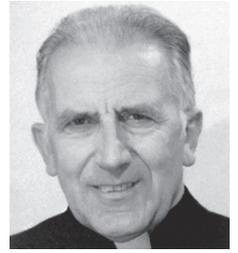




Echo of Medjugorje

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Fr. Angelo Mutti
Founder Eco di Medjugorje

Message, 25 March 2016:

“Dear Children, Today I bring my love to you. God has permitted me to love you and, out of love, to call you to conversion. You, my children, are poor in love, and you still have not comprehended that my Son Jesus, out of love, gave His life to save you and to give you eternal life. So pray, my children, pray so that in prayer you may comprehend God's love. Thank you for responding to my call.”

“Pray to understand God's Love!”

This message is but a few lines, and in these few lines "love" (the noun) is mentioned five times, and "to love" (verb) once. This is enough to encourage those who love Medjugorje to call Our Lady Queen of Peace and Love, thereby enriching her title as Queen of Peace. But words are not enough to honour Our Lady who has come today to remind us precisely that.

Right away Our Lady says, **“I bring you my love”**; and from this we can see that love is not to be *declared*, but is to be *borne*. It cannot be just an intention, because it has to be materialized; and this is something that a woman more than a man, a mother more than a father, is capable of.

But as the message continues it rises above the experience of natural love, which though beautiful it cannot equal God's love: **God has permitted me to love you - says Our Lady - and for love's sake He has permitted me to call you to conversion.**

Our Lady knows well how poor our ability to love is: **You, my children, are poor in love, and you still have not comprehended that my Son Jesus, out of love, gave His life to save you and to give you eternal life.** It hurts to hear her say that we have still not understood the Sacrificial love of Jesus, but we all know that it is the truth because we experience our poverty in love every day.

Mary, as Mother unable to abandon her children, speaks to us to encourages us: **So pray, my children, pray so that in**

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Message to Mirjana, 2 March 2016

“Dear Children, my arrival in your midst is a gift of the heavenly Father to you. With His love I come to help you find the way that leads to the Truth, to find the way that leads to my Son. I come to confirm the Truth. My desire is to remind you of my Son's words. He pronounced words of salvation for the whole of humanity, for the whole world: words of love for everyone; the love that He showed us through His sacrifice. But also today many of my children do not know Him, and do not desire knowing Him. They are indifferent. Their indifference makes my heart suffer bitterly. My Son has always been in the Father. With His birth He brought us the Divinity, while He received His humanity from me. With Him the Word came into our midst; with Him came the Light of the world - light that penetrates hearts and illumines them and fills them with love and consolation. My children, my Son can be seen by all those who love Him because His countenance is seen in those souls which are filled with love for Him. Therefore, my children, my apostles, pay heed to me! Leave aside vanities and egoism. Do not live only for the things of the world, for material things! Love my Son, and make it so others can see His face in your love for Him. I will help you come to know Him as much as possible, and I will speak to you of Him. Thank you.”

Message, 25 April 2016:

“Dear Children, my Immaculate Heart bleeds as I look at you in sin and sinful habits. I call you: Return to God and to prayer that you might be happy on earth!

God calls you through me so that your hearts can be hope and joy for all those who are distant. May my call be for you a balm for the soul and heart so that you may glorify God, the Creator, who loves you and calls you to eternity.

My children, life is short; make good use of this time to do what is good. Thank you for responding to my call.”

God calls us through Mary

This message is addressed to everyone, believers and non believers, religious and lay people, good and bad, wise and ignorant, rich and poor, young and old. Each of us is called to acknowledge life, one's own life, and realise what it ought to be!

There is something urgent in this message by Mary today. It is something that sounds like a last call, which comes from her Immaculate, and bleeding, Heart as a gift to us. Prayers that are mere lip service are not enough. For nearly 35 years Mary has come to us to admonish us, entreat us and encourage us. Her entreaties from the Parish of Medjugorje have reached to the ends of the world, but what has changed in the life of each of us on this old and tired planet?

Yet God continues to call us through Mary with insistence so that all of us can be present at the Wedding Feast of the Son (cf. Mt 22:1-14). God doesn't ask big things of us; He doesn't demand that we undertake risky investments. All He desires is that we have hearts that are open and alive to the love of Jesus' Sacred Heart, and seek refuge in Mary's Immaculate - and bleeding - Heart.

Life is short, Mary tells us: Make good use of this time to do what is good. Let us not confuse these words with those of the world which wants us to store up consumer goods, because what is at stake

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This post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, dedicated to the family, was presented in the Vatican on Friday 8th April 2016.

Fr. Antonio Spadaro, editor of "La Civiltà Cattolica", made this introduction:

"The joy of Love" (Amoris Laetitia) has come after two Synods, an extraordinary and an ordinary one, on the family. The family is a challenging environment, as is life in general. And **the strength and level of humanity in the family is incalculable**, for there we find reciprocal help, relationships that grow as the people themselves grow; we find generativity, educational support, and the sharing of the joys and difficulties of day-to-day life.

It is in the family that one experiences the joy of love. And it is precisely the capacity to love that gives one the strength to live every day in the family. There are many signs that indicate that marriage and the family are in crisis. Yet, the desire to live in a family persists, because, as the Pope says, no family is perfectly formed. The Pope stresses that families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love; encouraging us to make this journey as families, and to keep walking together, and never to lose heart because of our limitations (AL 325)".

The following passage from the document clearly expresses the Pope's spiritual and human closeness to Christian spouses.

"In the course of every marriage physical appearances change, but this hardly means that love and attraction need fade. We love the other person for who they are, not simply for their body. Although the body ages, it still expresses that personal identity that first won our heart. Even if others can no longer see the beauty of that identity, a spouse continues to see it with the eyes of love and so his or her affection does not diminish. He or she reaffirms the decision to belong to the other and expresses that choice in faithful and loving closeness.

The nobility of this decision, by its intensity and depth, gives rise to a new kind of emotion as they fulfil their marital mission. For emotion, caused by another human being as a person does not perse tend toward the conjugal act. It finds other sensible expressions.

Indeed, love is a single reality, but with different dimensions; at different times, one or other dimension may emerge more

Medjugorje: A Work of Mercy

During the **holy year of Mercy**, the Pope has repeatedly spoken of the need for **Christians to manifest their identity and belonging** to Christ by making acts of spiritual and corporal mercy towards others since it is this that allows us to see if we are living or not as disciples of Jesus (Misericordiae vultus, 15).

In a similar way, also Our Lady calls us to the same thing: "Dear Children, today I invite you to do works of mercy with love, and [to do them] out of love for me and for your and my brothers and sisters. Dear children, all that you do for others, do it with great joy and humility towards God. I am with you and day after day I offer your sacrifices and prayers to God for the salvation of the world" (25 Nov. 1990).

After many years during which the messages have repeatedly called us to do works of mercy, we can say that Medjugorje not only teaches us to practise mercy, but that it is of itself a great and universal work of mercy, in the spiritual and corporal sense, and through which Mary offers up to God all that she inspires us to do, for the salvation of the world.

There are above all **two aspects** in this work of mercy that are quite clear: **the first one** regards one of the main attributes of the Father's mercy



clearly. *The marriage bond finds new forms of expression and constantly seeks new ways to grow in strength. These both preserve and strengthen the bond. They call for daily effort. None of this, however, is possible without praying to the Holy Spirit for an outpouring of his grace, his supernatural strength and his spiritual fire, to confirm, direct and transform our love in every new situation.*" (AL 164)

www.vatican.va

which is, as John Paul II said, **a divine limit imposed on evil** in the history of mankind. "Stop" or "overcome" evil is an expression we have heard many times at Medjugorje:

"With the Rosary you can overcome all the obstacles which Satan is now trying to inflict on the catholic Church" (25 June 1985); *"With the love of Jesus you will be able to overcome all the misery in the sorrowful world which is without hope for those who do not know Jesus"* (25 November 1991); *"It is only with prayer and fasting that wars can be stopped"* (25 February 2003); *"As individuals my children, you cannot stop the evil that wants to reign in the world to destroy it. But by means of God's will, and united to my So, you can change everything and heal the world"* (2 Aug. 2011).

Mercy becomes visible when Christians use the means at their disposal; and Our Lady has repeatedly pointed them out to us: **prayer, fasting, communion in Christ**, i.e. belong to the Church, knowing that we are part of a real and intense spiritual battle: *"I call you all to pray for my intentions so that, through your prayers, a stop is brought to Satan's plan for this world which is further from God every day, and into which he puts himself in the place of God and is destroying everything that is beautiful and good in the souls of each of you. Therefore, my children, arm yourselves with prayer and fasting so that you are aware of how much God loves you, and that you carry out God's will."* (25 October 2008).

Mercy is a limit on evil not only in the history of the world, but also in the **personal history** of each of us. **This is the second aspect** that emerges from the messages of Medjugorje, and is particularly seen in the spiritual experiences that the Lord has granted to thousands and thousands of people who go to Medjugorje. The aforesaid spiritual experiences are what Our Lady describes in simple terms: *"In prayer you will experience a great joy and you will find the solution to every difficult situation"* (28 March 1985); *"When you attain unity with God, you experience hunger for the word of God, and your hearts, my children, will overflow with joy. You will bear witness to God's Love wherever you are"* (25 Jan. 1997).

One message, in particular, is very eloquent: "Dear Children, If only you could, if only you would open your



THE MONTH OF MARY

May is the month of Mary. It is the month dedicated to **mothers, and Mary is Mother par excellence**. It is the month that perhaps more than any other helps us to see the importance of the motherly presence in our life. Specialists agree that the “touch of a mother's love is very powerful; it helps to shape the child's development on social, emotional, cognitive and physiological levels.”

The most important thing is thus to experience a mother's love. Experiencing this love gives us the right to witness to this love in an authentic way. The experience makes us credible, and our witness has the “weight” of the truth.

For this reason, the motherly presence of Our Lady at Medjugorje is so special! Because She wants to teach us how to open our hearts to Her - and thereby to God. And all this has the purpose of making us experience the reality of the life and love of God so we can become credible witnesses to others.

If we analyse the messages which Our Lady has given over the last few years during the month of May, we will find that **there is precisely an insistent call to prayer that makes us able to open our hearts to God's love and the call to witness to this love**. (Cfr. *Open your hearts, my children, so God can fill them with His Love and so you can be joy for others. Your witness will be strong and all that you do will be interwoven with God's tenderness* (25.05.2015), *Trust in His love. In the Spirit of God you are children, all called to be witnesses* (25.05.2014); *Pray, my children, pray without stopping until your heart opens up to God's love* (25.05.2013).

Fr. Slavko Barbaric gave as among the most important reasons behind Mary's apparitions at Medjugorje the importance for each person to experience motherly love. As a matter of fact, Mary appears above all as a mother who is full of motherly love, and lavishes abundant motherly blessings on us. (Cfr. the numerous messages of Our Lady).

Fr. Slavko wrote a great deal about the importance of motherly love for a child to grow and mature and develop a healthy personality: “When a man knows that someone loves him with unconditional love, he is given the strength to begin to love others with a love that creates conditions for the development of life, which naturally

opposes destruction and death. It is precisely this quality of love that is lacking in today's world. The more a mother's love is missing, the more there will be violence and the spirit of destruction.” (Cfr. Slavko Barbaric, Message for the Present Moment.)

Fr. Slavko had also seen that another aspect of motherly love is its power to move things. He wrote: “Mary's love has moved many by opening them to God's love; and that's how many of them were able to begin a new life. The mother's love and our love for the Mother are the driving forces that can change the world. Restoring a global awareness that there is a Mother who loves us, is a means for restoring peace among peoples.

A family's happiness and peace rely on the motherly presence in the family. And it is the same for the Church and the world. The more we can welcome into our lives the maternal love of Mary, so that motherly love fills our hearts, families, the Church and the world, the more we can move forward towards peace. It takes motherly love to unite joy, peace, justice and love. Motherly love is not only a characteristic of women who give birth to a child, but it extends to all those who with their lives, words and facts, are able to love and protect freedom and human dignity. How lovely would it be if people respected and accepted one another with the same motherly love!” (Slavko Barbaric, In the School of Love, Medjugorje 2003).

Sadly, today's world seems to have engaged in a WAR AGAINST MOTHERS. It has become 'fashionable' to be against motherhood. We see the use of birth control prior to and during marriage, the pursuit of a career at all costs, the choice of full-time work in the name of gender equality, the fear of losing one's figure. And the worse thing is that through pressure by the mass media, mothers have been robbed of the awareness of the importance of their role as irreplaceable educators and examples for their children.

With the removal of the responsibility and **the importance of the mother figure** within the family, so that the mother no longer realises she is the first and most important educator for their children, the way is open to the action of evil, which works to steal the souls of the children.

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the apparitions, let us reconsider the most beautiful and important

hearts to me with complete trust, you would comprehend everything! You would comprehend with how much love I call you; with how much love I desire changing you, and making you happy; with how much love I desire making you followers of my Son and giving you peace in the fullness of my Son. You would comprehend the immense greatness of my motherly love. Hence my children, pray! Pray because through prayer your faith grows and love is born, the love by which even the cross is no longer unbearable, because you would no longer be carrying it alone. In union with my Son, you will glorify the name of the Heavenly Father. Pray, pray for the gift of love, because love is the sole truth: it forgives everything, it serves everyone and it sees everyone as brothers and sisters.” (2 Aug. 2013)

Of course, there is much more to the "story of mercy" which the Mother of God spreads via Medjugorje; more than what we can say here, yet even a brief glance is sufficient for us to say that in this place (Medjugorje) there has been for many years **an indelible mark of the Father's mercy**; a mark that has the power of reality, because as Pope Francis teaches, reality is always more important than ideas which are defined and explained; but it is reality that makes others become involved, and that transmits something new: “*You who live in the love of God and have experienced His gifts, witness them with your words and life that they may be joy and encouragement for others to the faith*” (25 Sept. 2011). “*Pray, pray, pray for the reflection of your prayer to have an influence on those whom you meet*” (25 Jan. 2014).

Marco Vignati,
Comunità Casa di Maria, Roma.

prayer you may comprehend God's love.

How many times has she said to us: **pray, pray, pray!** Used to praying only at times of need, we forget that prayer is the way we connect to God, communicate with the Father, and in Him find rest and light.

In a society like ours where we have become slaves to the grinds of production and consumption, we are tempted to pray only in rare moments of freedom. Instead, when we are wrong, when we fall, we must do as little children do: run to our Mother's embrace. Let us not forget the message of Our Lady today: **Pray, my children, pray so that in prayer you may comprehend God's love.**

Peace and joy! *Nuccio Quattrocchi*

Message to Mirjana 2 April 2015:

"Dear Children, do not have hard and closed hearts that are filled with fear. Allow my motherly love to enlighten them and to fill them with love and hope, so that, as Mother, I can soothe your sorrow. I know them, I have experienced them.

Sorrow has the ability to raise you up; it is the greatest prayer. My Son especially loves those who suffer sorrow and pain. He has sent me to alleviate them, and to bring you hope. Trust in Him! I know it is difficult for you, because around you, you see ever more darkness. My Children, it must be torn asunder with prayer and love. Those who pray and love are not afraid; they have hope and merciful love. They see the light, they see my Son.

As my apostles, I invite you to try to be an example of merciful love and hope. Pray always anew to have as much love as possible, because merciful love bears the light that pierces all darkness; it bears my Son. Do not be afraid, you are not alone: I am with you!

I ask you to pray for your pastors, that they might have love in every moment and act with love for my Son, through Him and in memory of Him. Thank you!"



is the eternal salvation of the entire world with its peoples. *"When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him?"* we read in Psalm 8 (vs 3-4). These words should suffice to make us open wide our hearts and souls and embrace the conversion of heart that Our Blessed Mother is asking of us!

"The night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light", says St. Paul (Rm 13:12). Courage then!

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!

Nuccio Quattrocchi.

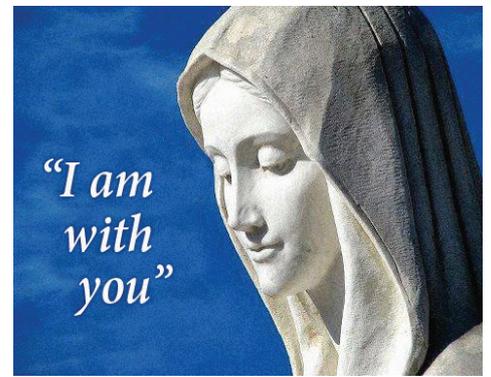
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role of Mary at Medjugorje. **Fr. Slavko** spoke about it out in an interview with the famous German writer and psychotherapist, **Christa Meves**: "We talked about Medjugorje. I was surprised that she believes that the most beautiful and important things happening at Medjugorje are that Our Lady appears every day, that she has been with us for so long, and that her messages are so simple. Surprised by this statement, I spontaneously said: That is curious, because these are the three points seen as the biggest hurdles for approval in the eyes of the theologians on the commission!

"Just the fact that Our Lady appears daily, for so long, and that the messages are so simple?" Christa remarked. Then she responded: "What I say now is as a mother, a grandmother and a psychotherapist. In my work I am always in contact with people who have been hurt. The deepest wounds in hearts and souls - which are those that cause fear, depression, and all kinds of problems to do with the meaning of life - are invariably caused by the absence of parents, by the lack of real love and affection, the lack of the presence of a mother and father who embrace you. Our Lady wants to teach us how to relate to each other, and this is far more important than having our mothers in factories and offices."

May is the month of Mary. It is the month which teaches us that as we sow, so shall we reap. And it also makes us understand the importance of our daily example in the eyes of our children.

Paula Tomić, Medjugorje



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God bless you!

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**Dear Friends of the Echo of
Medjugorje,**

The Queen of Peace helps us to see ourselves. She wants us to see ourselves. She knows us the same way God sees us. And She speaks to us in a way that we are able to see ourselves.

Our Lady desires that we do not attach ourselves to earthly things. We are made for the beauty of heaven. So let us lift our eyes upwards, to heaven.

I bless you with a heavenly blessing.

The Queen of Peace makes us free. What an immense gift for us to be her people and her apostles!

I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Today and always.

May God fill you with joy.

Fr. Massimo Rastrelli, S.J.

Mantova, June 2016

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