

MEDJUGORJE NOTES

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20th Year

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Message from Our Lady - 25th April

Dear children! Also today, I call all of you to grow in God's love as a flower which feels the warm rays of spring.

In this way, also you, little children, grow in God's love and carry it to all those who are far from God.

Seek God's will and do good to those whom God has put on your way, and be light and joy.

Thank you for having responded to my call.

Notes

1. The Medjugorje visionary **Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti** is coming to London next month and will be giving her testimony on **Saturday, May 10**, at St Mary & St Michael Church, Commercial Road, E1 0AA.

The evening prayer programme begins at 6.00pm with the Rosary. Holy Mass of Pentecost will be celebrated at 7.00pm, after which Marija will give her testimony. This will be followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

2. Between these Notes and the next is the month of May, a special month of Our Lady, including the feast of **Our Lady of Fatima** on May 13th.

Thoughts on the message

Dear children! Also today, I call all of you to grow in God's love as a flower which feels the warm rays of spring.

At this time of the year, when we see so much new life springing up, growing in the warmth of the sun, Our Mother invites us in just the same way to grow in our closeness to God. These flowers respond to the warmth of their Creator, and in the same way we are invited to respond to the warmth of God's Love.

In this way, also you, little children, grow in God's love and carry it to all those who are far from God.

When we receive this love, this closeness to God, it will change us, and we are asked to pass it on. Remember the effect of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles - they could not keep this to themselves - it was so special that they had to give it to those they met. In our world, where so many are far from God, we are asked to carry and to pass on this gift of God's love.

Seek God's will and do good to those whom God has put on your way, and be light and joy.

We do not know the effect of our lives on others around us - isn't it good that this is so! We can live

for God, follow Jesus in whatever way and wherever we know we are being asked to go, and by this we will be a signpost, an encouragement to those we meet. We also know that Our Mother will be with each of us every step of the way to her Son.

(From the Yellow Book - I beseech you, listen to my messages and live them - P. 96 -)

"Opening our heart to the Holy Spirit leads us to deep understanding"

A few explanations about the messages. Whilst I was praying for you pilgrims today I searched for God's Word and found these words in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 13, verse 26, "Brethren, you who are sons of Abraham, and you others who fear God, this message of salvation is sent to you. The people of Jerusalem, like their rulers, did not recognise Jesus for what he was; unwittingly they fulfilled, by condemning Him, those utterances of the prophets which they had heard read, Sabbath after Sabbath ... "

And then in verse 41, "Look upon this, you scornful souls, and lose yourselves in astonishment. Such wonders I am doing in your days, that if a man told you the story you would not believe him."

Dear brothers, I want us to be able at least to understand how to go towards today's Feast Day. All Israel knew the Scriptures and the Law; the priests and Pharisees, in particular, really knew the Scriptures, but when Jesus Christ came their eyes were closed to Him. Why? If you want to know why, read Our Lady's last message again, when Our Lady called us to give Her our hearts so She can change them to be like her Heart. If we want to go on, we can see that the Apostles followed Jesus Christ for three years, and during that time they saw many signs, miracles, healings and even resurrections, but they still did not believe completely in Jesus. Let us go further along the story of salvation; for forty days the Apostles met the Risen Christ, they touched Him and they ate with Him. They saw Him but they did not believe in Him completely. Today's Feast is the day when God's Word is accepted from the very depth. You see, all the signs of salvations were not sufficient for the people; but opening our heart to the Holy Spirit leads us to deep understanding.

What do I want to tell you today? You, too, be converted. I, too, must be converted today, this very day. If you have already been here and think you are converted, you are making a mistake; you are closed to God. Today we recall how the Apostles, locked in the upper room, waited for Jesus because they felt their own weakness; they were waiting for what Jesus had promised them, they were waiting for the Holy Spirit.

All the signs which happened here in Medjugorje are not sufficient to convert you, and I have seen that they are not even enough to convert the visionaries; they are not

sufficient to convert people who have seen many signs in the sky, and have not been sufficient even for those who have been going to Mass each evening during the past five years.

They are only sufficient for those who have opened their hearts. The Apostles spent nine days in prayer while they were waiting for the Holy Spirit. Do you know which is the most profound message Our Lady has given us? *'Pray, pray, pray'*. Through prayer you will understand the significance of Our Lady's presence. If you understand Our Lady's presence, you will understand the Divine plan given to humanity through Her. If we are not whole-heartedly converted, if we do not listen to God's Word, and if we do not start to pray we cannot understand Jesus. I will share with you my experience. When I remain in prayer for hours I am able to say, "God, I understand". When I do not pray enough then I am disturbed, worried and see problems, but as soon as I live the reality of the Gospel again with an open heart I am able to say, "God, I understand, thank you. Give me strength, because now I understand." I do not want to repeat everything Our Lady had said in these five years, but I want to say that these five years here in Medjugorje are years in the school of prayer, nothing else. The school for learning to pray and to start to pray. Our Lady has called us to frequent Mass, to Communion, monthly confession, to pray the whole Rosary each day, and to read the Scriptures. You have already heard all this just as I have, but when I got up earlier this morning to contemplate the Word of God and to open myself to the Holy Spirit I said to myself, "Up to now I have not understood. Just this morning I understand better." By praying more I understand more of what God means.

This evening I want to explain to you the attitude of peace and joy. While I was praying to the Holy Spirit this morning, the Lord made me remember that I must stay in silence, not asking for anything but must remain in silence waiting for God; not thinking of anything, but remaining before God as Elijah did in the cave on Horeb. Our Lady made me remember this, 'Do not pray today, today you must praise God'. But inside myself I said, "Mother, how is it possible not to pray when you have given me many Rosaries to pray each day?" Again I received an admonition; that is, Our Lady made me remember what She had said in a message to the group, *'I have taught you that your prayer must be a continuous melody'*. So this morning I understood that prayer must become a melody, it must become music. When our prayer becomes melody, music, then prayer becomes easy; we can pray continuously and prayer is transformed into life which is a melody. Two women came to my parish last week. One of them had already come two weeks earlier; she had been upset because she couldn't sleep and had fainting fits. I talked to her and then introduced her to silent prayer before God, to desire truly what Our Lady told us to read each Thursday, that is the passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew 6,24-34. I taught this woman not to worry but to entrust her life and the lives of her husband and children to God. The following week the woman returned, quite changed, bringing with her another family, another

woman with her husband and three children, all as disturbed as she had been.

When I began to pray and to speak with them I realised the only problem that exists in that family is the fact that the woman worries about everything. I tried to bring her to an attitude of abandonment to God but she resisted, defending herself with, "But I must do this, I must do that." She was not able to listen to God, and I do not know how it will end up. I saw the consequences of her worrying on her children and husband. Now, brethren, if you have come here to listen to Our Lady and God, please listen to them; do not be worried. Brethren, you cannot accept what God is offering you if you are worried, because you are looking for something egoistic or material, you are worried about this earthly life, and you are not able to accept Him. If you want to open yourselves to the Holy Spirit during this Feast of Pentecost, accept this message, begin to pray and follow the path of prayer, so that, little by little, you will be able to understand Jesus and reach an inner silence in which to listen to Him. If you are in silence to listen, you will be able to accept. If you are not in silence, you will not be able to understand what God is offering you. I implore those of you who have come to Medjugorje many times to follow silent prayer, prayer of peace, and there you will find God and God will make everything clear to you and will offer you all you need. Silence before God is a sign of trust and our abandonment to Him. If you are able to offer all things to God and to wait for God without all your worries, you will soon make progress in spiritual life.

This morning I felt within me the need to praise God today. A long time ago I read a book by an Anglican priest who wrote that he had had a vision of many people going up towards Heaven but when they reached a cloud they fell down to earth again. The author said that he too felt he wanted to go up but when he reached the cloud he felt faint; however, a power held him, raised him up, and made him pass above the cloud. Then he asked God this question, "Lord, why does everyone fall down and not go beyond the cloud?" The Lord answered, 'Because they do not praise God in their difficulties.' People did not go beyond the cloud because they did not praise God in their difficulties. Brethren, recently while hearing confessions, I perceived that many go home with empty hands because they do not know how to recognise God as the Lord of their difficulties. They close up, wanting what they want, and when they see difficulties they begin to complain and go no further. If you want to overcome your difficulties start praising God in the midst of them. You must recognise that God is Lord and Master of your difficulties. If your heart praises God then say, 'Thank you, Lord, You are master of these problems. You can change them. I know that You will deal with them better than I can. I praise You and I thank You. I trust You completely because You are love, You came on earth to save us'. If your heart is able to give praise in your difficulties, you will be an express train to Heaven and no difficulty, not even death, not even a sword, as St. Paul says, will be able to separate you from God.

Today, during the Feast of Pentecost, I invite you to put this into practice; pray so that you may reach silence in your heart, not to listen to yourself and your problems, but to listen to what the Gospel tells us and what God suggests in our hearts. Above all, pray that you may understand the messages of peace, trust and total abandonment in order to reach complete openness to God. Start praising God in your difficulties and recognise him as Master of them; He who is guiding everything. Then you will soon grow in spiritual life.

A week ago, at the start of the Novena of Pentecost, Our Lady told us in the group, "*You will be happy if you do not judge yourselves according to your faults, but if you understand that in your faults even graces are offered to you.*" So you see, not only difficulties but also our mistakes offer us the means of progress, to understand and deepen our love of God and our neighbour. If we are able to reach this state of inner peace, of silence, of continuous joy, and of recognising God as the Lord of our difficulties, soon we will blossom like flowers.

Our Lady did not come by chance to give us the gift of peace. In today's Gospel Jesus continually tells the Apostles, 'Peace be with you.' The Gospel tells us repeatedly, 'Do not worry, have faith.' You have not come here mainly for external signs but, above all, you have come here to change your hearts. The signs Our Lady gives us here are only invitations to open our hearts. If you are able to open yourselves to the Holy Spirit, He will teach you everything. As Jesus said, 'I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now.'

This evening God is before us, He will come in our midst and practically says, 'I want to offer you much.' I ask you, 'Are you ready to accept it?' You will only be ready if your hearts are open, if you have made a very good confession, if you are open towards God, if you have not come here only for healing or for the solution to some problem, but to find Jesus Christ, to recognise eternal life and to understand that we will live eternally. If you open yourselves in this way to God, then you can receive the other gifts too. 'I still have many things to say to you' said Our Lord, 'but they would be too much for you now.'

During the five years that Our Lady has been present in Medjugorje there has been a continuous invitation, "*Pray, pray, pray, be converted.*" It means being more open to receive more.

Dear pilgrims who are here for the first time, place yourselves before God in all seriousness, and before these happenings and Our Lady who is appearing every day. Take this seriously so that these happenings can urge you each day to pray, to contemplate, and to live prayer in deep silence where you will receive a new strength from the Holy Spirit. Start out seriously and accept that God is the God of your tragedies and the tragedies of the world. He will put everything in order. Praise God, praise Him continuously. If at this moment it were possible for me, I

would take each one of you and put you in front of God, in silence, for hours and hours so that each one of you could remain in silence, open out, and enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit.

On Christmas evening, you know how you celebrate Christmas and how open everyone is, Our Lady said to Jelena a little critically, *"Not one of you has remembered to stay alone a while in silence to experience God's presence."*

You see, everybody was celebrating, but Our Lady chastises, *"Not one of you has stayed alone in silence to experience God's presence."* I invite you this evening, especially during this time when you are in Medjugorje, to seek moments of silence, also in your hotel rooms, to listen to God rather than the priest, and to listen to Him in your heart. The Holy Spirit will remind you of everything that you have heard, even years ago, and it will become clear to you; you will understand it, and these happenings will not remain closed to your eyes.

(Fr. Tomoslav Vlasic - 18th May 1986)