

News from Medjugorje

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December 2009

29th Year of apparitions

2nd edition, No 7



Message from Our Lady - 25th December

Dear children! On this joyful day, I bring all of you before my Son, the King of Peace, that he may give you his peace and blessing.

Little children, in love share that peace and blessing with others.

Thank you for having responded to my call

Notes

1. Many many thanks for the many cards, kindnesses and good wishes you have sent me this Christmas: I am so glad that these little Notes are of use to so many.

2. I am writing to remind/inform you that the **Medjugorje Apostolate Annual Retreat** will take place from **6.30pm on Friday evening 12 February 2010 to 4pm on Sunday afternoon 14 February 2010** at the

Emmaus Retreat Centre, West Wickham, near London. The retreat will be conducted by **Fr Danko Perutina OFM**, who works in the parish of St James in Medjugorje and who led the retreat last year.

The cost per person for full board with a frugal meal on Friday evening is £119 for a single room and £109 for a shared room. The cost includes a contribution to the cost of bringing Fr Danko and his interpreter from Medjugorje and gratuities. The increased cost reflects the increased charge made by the retreat centre compared with the cost of the last retreat. If you would like to book please let me

have a non-returnable deposit of £60 by cheque or postal order payable to the Medjugorje Apostolate. The balance is payable by 30 January 2010. Please let me know of any special dietary or other requirements.

I will be happy to let you have any further information you may require.

The retreat is open to anyone who may be interested. Please pray for the success of the retreat and feel free to advertise the event among people you know.

Yours in Jesus and Mary

Paul Spencer

Apostolate Treasurer (Email : pilgrimsof mary AT hotmail.com - putting @ in place of AT)

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Thoughts on the Message

The two messages - to Marija and Jacov - both talk about the peace and salvation.

(to Marija) - On this joyful day, I bring all of you before my Son, the King of Peace, that He may give you His peace and blessing

What a beautiful start to this Christmas message ! We come to the new infant king, the King of Peace, that he may give something to us ! Christmas is so special : the visionaries were told early on that the greatest number of souls released from Purgatory to Heaven take place on Christmas Day, not Easter. There are a lot more saints now in Heaven to pray for us than before Christmas - isn't that marvellous !. But we are asked to use that gift of peace from the infant king, to bring it to others.

Little children, in love share that peace and blessing with others.

How many are looking for peace, are in need of God's blessing, and in so many cases it can only come from us, showing the peace and love that this little child brings to us. Do not think that Christmas finishes on December 26th: it is so sad to see how quickly our world forgets about this great feast, moves on to something else. Christmas, even in the Church, continues until the feast of the Ehipany, 6th January, and for us the gifts from it go on for as long as we want them to - Our God became man, he came because He loves us, he wants to give us peace and everlasting life, and all we have to do is to respond, as shown in part of the message given to Jacov : -

... I desire to lead you on the way that leads to Jesus and to your salvation. My little children, you can find salvation only in God and therefore, especially on this day of grace with little Jesus in my arms, I call you to permit Jesus to be born in your hearts.

Our Mother is always trying to lead all of her children, all of us, to her Son, and at this special time she repeats the invitation. Our peace and our salvation depends on us.

Christmas is such a special time for a child. My third grandchild, a little boy, was born only three months ago, and this little person puts such an extra perspective on the reality of a little child. He is still so small, so dependant, in need of so much care, and yet this little person will live for ever - it is quite a humbling thought - how special a new life is, and how vulnerable the Child Jesus was in his bed when the shepherds first came to marvel at his birth.

It would have been so easy for God to come to earth in another way - in a palace, suddenly being in our world. But it would also have been easy to say as a result of this 'He did not know what my life was really like, without poverty, without homelessness, without persecution'. No, he became man in a stable, unwanted because nobody had any room for him, he had to be taken into a foreign land as soon as possible to escape being murdered, and was always living if not in poverty then certainly not in any form of luxury. Nobody could say he did not experience life in a most difficult form.

And yet there was love, there was trust in God, and these enabled Mary and Joseph to care for this special child, and to look after him as he grew up.

Lord, on this day when we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, bless all our families, so that we too can learn to leave our lives in your care, learn to trust, learn to love, and to keep you close in our hearts.

APPARITION TO JAKOV ON DECEMBER 25TH 2009

At the last daily apparition to Jakov Colo on September 12th, 1998, Our Lady told him that henceforth he would have one apparition a year, every December 25th, on Christmas Day. This is also how it was this year. The apparition began at 14:35 am and lasted 12 minutes. Our Lady gave the following message

Dear children! All of this time in which God in a special way permits me to be with you, I desire to lead you on the way that leads to Jesus and to your salvation. My little children, you can find salvation only in God and therefore, especially on this day of grace with little Jesus in my arms, I call you to permit Jesus to be born in your hearts. Only with Jesus in your heart can you set out on the way of salvation and eternal life. Thank you for having responded to my call.