

MEDJUGORJE NOTES

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Message from Our Lady - 25th March

Dear children! I call you to work on your personal conversion. You are still far from meeting with God in your heart.

Therefore, spend all the more time in prayer and Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, for Him to change you and to put into your hearts a living faith and a desire for eternal life.

Everything is passing, little children, only God is not passing.

I am with you and I encourage you with love.

Thank you for having responded to my call

Notes

I. Between these Notes and the next on March 31st is the moved feastday of the **Annunciation**.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje - 2008

There are still places available for anyone who wishes to go to Medjugorje in April (23rd - 30th) from Exeter. If you want more information, please contact Medjugorje Peace Tours (01372 745550).

Thoughts on the message

Dear children! I call you to work on your personal conversion. You are still far from meeting with God in your heart.

This first message after Lent, after Easter, after all or any of the special things which we have done, seems a bit of a surprise: have we really made so little progress during this time ?

Of course there is more than this simplistic thought to the beginning of the message: Our Mother, conscious of our difficulties in our everyday lives, is here calling us again to

keep going. We cannot see how we are progressing, and the fact that we are still 'far from meeting God' in our hearts is not meant to deter us - we will always have more progress to make, for conversion lasts all of our lives. The important thing about conversion is that we are still working on it, still trying to meet God in our hearts.

Then we are invited to prayer, in front of the Blessed Sacrament, in adoration of the Resurrected Jesus, and by this means allow Him to change us.

Therefore, spend all the more time in prayer and Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, for Him to change you and to put into your hearts a living faith and a desire for eternal life.

How special this gift of the Real Presence is, and how easy it is to take it as something ordinary ! Do we really acknowledge - here is my Lord, who only wants to be with me, to listen to me, to bless me, to encourage me.

What was it Our Lady said in one of Her early messages ?

15/3/84 - This evening, dear children, in a special way I am grateful to you for being here. Adore continually the Most Holy Sacrament. I am always present when the faithful are in adoration. Special graces are then being received.

One of the most beautiful services in Medjugorje is the regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is impossible to explain all the reasons for this, but those of you who have been present at one of these services know what I mean. It is a touch of Heaven, with everyone from many parts of the world in adoration. The music is so right, simple and repetitive, and the hour of the service goes all too quickly.

I have been so fortunate, that together with my parish priest, we have been able to copy much of the Adoration service for use here in England (although it is only in one language, English, rather than the many languages in Medjugorje), and I am able to offer to come to other parishes in the UK to help with this service if you wish it - it really is such a privilege to be part of this, and it would be wrong to limit this special service - do contact me if you are interested.

Being before Jesus in this way does bring us closer to Him, and He will guide us all the more.

Everything is passing, little children, only God is not passing.

We have to remember that it is not a good idea to put any decision off - our time to change, convert is as long as God decides, not us. But God is constant, always there, always with us if we choose to be with Him.

I am with you and I encourage you with love.

How much Our Mother still wants to encourage us, taking us by the hand to help us (see Mirjana's message - 18/3/08 - part of which is here - *Dear children, today I extend my hands towards you. Do not be afraid to accept them. They desire to give you love and peace and to help you in salvation. Therefore, my children, receive them. Fill my heart with joy and I will lead you towards holiness.*) and She will always be with us if we want it.

(From the Yellow Book - I beseech you, listen to my messages and live them) (P. 61 -)

"Do not prevent Jesus from loving you"

You are going home from Medjugorje and I believe that your task is to be witnesses of Easter and the Resurrection. On this occasion I want to tell you that you must be aware that the Christian is the only person capable of bringing hope to the world. By now we all know that the whole world analyses its problems and complains about them, but cannot find the way out of them. By his Resurrection Jesus has shown us the way and has given us the strength to find the way out.

If you have followed the Sunday passages from the Gospel this year, you will be able to see that Jesus has a way out for everyone; for a public sinner, for the prostitute, for the poor, for the prodigal son, for the thief who was on the cross next to Him, for everyone. He has shown us the way out, but at the same time has given us the strength to find it and this is the guarantee for our hope.

And He has also given us another means; He has sent Our Lady who has come to meet us along the road to make it clear to us how to go towards Our Father, and to help us.

This is the heart of the matter, so that we can live in hope and bring hope to our brothers. What I want to say to you is that you must be witnesses of the Resurrection, and when I say this I mean that you must carry the peace of the Risen Lord within you, the joy, the hope, the certainty, a new life. With this new life in you, you will bring the Resurrection to your brothers. This is what Our Lady has come for, to bring us to the Resurrection and to that Easter which we will celebrate in Heaven. In order to live this hope along the way, I want to stress prayer once again, from various points of view.

When we consider what Our Lady has done during this period of the apparitions at Medjugorje, we can say that we have been at a school of prayer. If we want to be her disciples then we must enter the school of prayer and live prayer.

On this occasion, I want to talk to you about three aspects of prayer, so that you will be able to become witnesses of hope. The first aspect is that your prayer must meet the Risen Christ, just as the Apostles did during this Easter time when each meeting with Jesus was the resurrection for them. For us, too, each prayer must be the moment of resurrection and the moment of a meeting with God.

In her last but one message, Our Lady said that we must be active in our prayer. She stressed the fact that I personally must be active in prayer; I must meet Jesus personally with all my inner needs. This is the personal meeting; so, if I meet God who loves me, who comes to meet me, who wants to save me, then I have to meet the Risen Jesus and all within me is resurrected. This is why I am inviting you to live personal prayer. When I say personal prayer I am thinking of the Rosary because in those mysteries I have expressed myself with my whole personality.

Try to live prayer as a personal meeting with Jesus and then you yourselves will arise in each prayer and the strength of the Risen Jesus will be more and more present within you.

There are two other means you should consider in order to reach the depth of prayer.

One of these means was pointed out to us in the prayer group by Jesus, half way through Lent, when He urged us to turn to Our Lady to ask for the gift of silence. You are able to learn continuous prayer with the gift of silence.

I invite each one of you, to ask for this gift of silence from the Virgin and to live it so that all of you may live continuous prayer. What does it mean to live continuous prayer? It means meeting Jesus personally, with all my needs; when I can rest in God in my prayer; when I can smile with God; when I can gain strength in God; when the whole of my personality receives new energy.

In silence I am able to practice this prayer. If you begin to reflect and to experience what peace is and what silence is, you will discover everything there by means of prayer.

Prayer must advance within us and it can be deepened only to the extent that there is the peace and silence of the Risen Jesus in us, because the silence and peace of the Risen Jesus guarantee a continuity for us. Our inner strength is not wasted, but increases more and more. You can compare people who enjoy themselves in a pagan way; that joy wears and has its end, whereas the joy that springs forth from a deep and continuous silence is eternal.

This is why Jesus invited us to live prayer from this inner silence which leads us to continuous prayer.

There is not a great deal to say about this aspect because you yourselves well know how the endless rush of everyday life keeps you from prayer. On the other hand, if you enter silence every day and into Divine peace, then your daily rush will lessen because you will rely more on God and it will not be you trying to do everything, but you will allow God to sort things out and you will find time to rest, because God is acting for you.

This is marvellous; when you give everything to God and when you abandon yourself to God, it is God who abandons Himself to you.

The third means by which to achieve prayer is to reach the Cross of the Risen Jesus. I recently read a poem about suffering: Two shells met, one large and powerful, the other which sighed, 'There is suffering inside me, I feel a great pain.' Then an animal passed by who replied, 'Do not complain because you have conceived a pearl inside you. You will become mother-of-pearl.'

If we discover that every suffering inside us is a pearl, that through every pain we can become mother-of-pearl, we will be able to discover the strength derived from the Resurrection. If we do not discover the possibility that our sufferings can become mother-of-pearl, then we have not allowed God to reach us by means of his Resurrection and we have kept many areas within us from the strength of the Resurrection.

Jesus came especially for the weak, He came for sinners, He came for the suffering; He came to save. If we do not offer our crosses and our suffering to the Risen Jesus then we have not offered anything and have not opened ourselves. So the depth of our prayer will be the depth of our acceptance of the Cross. If we accept our crosses in

the light of Jesus Christ, then there will be a total transformation within us.

On 22nd March, at the end of the meeting of the prayer group, before the blessing, Our Lady told us, "*Dear children, you will be able to accept Divine love only to the extent in which you understand that in your crosses God is offering you his immense love.*"

The wise old saints used to tell us, 'Those who are chastised by God are loved by Him in a special way.' When God offers suffering, He also offers great love.

At this point I would like to tell you not to prevent Jesus from loving you. If you want to run away from your crosses then you are not allowing God to love you. Accept all your crosses. I say this to you from a personal point of view so that each one of you may be able to accept God's cross with joy.

Our Lady said something wonderful to us during Lent. In a message, She said, "*Carry your crosses with joy, carry your crosses immediately. Do not complain. Your hearts must flower with your crosses.*"

This is the strength of the Resurrection, and it is the strength of hope.

(Fr. Tomoslav Vlasic - 8th February 1986)

