

# Voice Medjugorje

Prayer Groups Newspaper  
May 2008

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## ***Message of Our Lady, Queen of Peace on April 25, 2008***

*"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."*

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## **REFLECTIONS ON THE MESSAGES FOR PRAYER GROUPS**

### **Grow in God's love**

Our Lady wants us to grow spiritually, to grow in God's love. One of the characteristics of the spiritual life is the growth. And one thing that is necessary for the growth is time. We are not born as adults but as little babies. In spiritual world time is also needed along with certain conditions for growth. And the best condition for our growth is God's grace. He gives us the grace in many ways through various situations and different events of our life. Our Lady tells us through visionary Mirjana in the message from April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008: "My children, you are chosen because, in your time, the great grace of God descended on earth..." Through Our Lady comes to us great grace and love of

God. It is up to us to decide whether to accept it and whether to open daily our hearts to God.

Every message that Our Lady gives us is a call and encouragement to live with God and in God. In this message Our Lady uses the image of a flower in the nature to encourage our hearts to open to God's heart, to God's love. Also Jesus used many images (in Gospel) to describe indescribable, to speak about unspeakable and to highlight what is at first glance unseen. Jesus often used symbols of natural things as a seed, field, vineyard, and natural things so that we could better understand and accept the spiritual reality of God's love and God's life.

The flower itself is very gentle and fragile. It needs light and warmth to be able to grow into its fullness and beauty. We are created in God's image. There is no life in us without Him. Our human love cannot exist without God's love; it is then transformed into selfishness. Therefore we need God's grace and love, such as dry land needs rain to bring its fruits. Jesus clearly says: *"you can do nothing without me"*. But also Jesus cannot do anything, or he doesn't want to do anything without our permission and cooperation, without saying our *"yes"* to him.

In His great Love God is indefinitely giving himself to us. He never forces our hearts to surrender to him. What he needs is a person's permission. He revealed us the mysteries of His presence - sacraments in which we can encounter Him. He gives us Himself in Gospel though the Word. Also today God through the Mother of His Son calls and encourages us into prayer that is the powerful force that brings us closer to his Heart. That's why is Prayer called an ascent of soul to God. The ascent requires effort and hard work.

To ascent, to get to the "top" needs to be able to bring our effort and action. One could object that we won't be saved by our deeds and effort but by our faith that is the gift of God, and not by our merit. That is true but without person's cooperation God cannot give out His grace. We can say that a man's effort can be compared to the effort of a farmer. We know that to sow and plough is not enough. Harvest also depends on the sun, rain and warmth. There are years when the harvest is very poor despite all hard work and effort. I think that in many cases we can say: *"The more and the better is the field cultivated, the better will the harvest be."* We can also talk about a certain regular and normal principle of grace. Also here we can say: *"Man, help yourself and God will help you."* Saints had such wisdom to combine these two extremes. St. Ignatius used



these words to express that: "Work as if everything depends on you, and pray as if everything depends on the Lord." There is no contradiction in it as it might seem. What God offers us is life. The Spirit of God renews the whole human being, his heart, his soul, all his strength. After that God's love will be encountered with the active love of a man.

When we encounter God's love we are able to bring it to the others. That is what Our Lady wants from us not only in this message but also in all the time she has been appearing. Just as she was in her human's live, she is now bringing God to everyone who opens up his heart to Her

Let us pray:

*Our Heavenly Mother, you are coming to us with baby Jesus in your hand to lead us to him, grant us the grace so that we could open our hearts to God's love. Mother Mary, you are the One who knows God, because you were bearing him within you and in your heart. You completely surrendered to God and you desire that we would also completely surrender to Him. Let our hearts be, just as yours, all Gods'. Helps us to bring God and his Love to the others. May everything what we have and who we are is given to Lord through your hands. May by your intercession our hearts bloom and grow being touched by God's love that heals, liberates and gives life. May every heart recognize God the Savior who is our only peace and life.*

*Fr. Ljubo Kurtović*

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## Dear Friends of our Queen of Peace!

I am always looking forward to this month of May which is dedicated to Our Lady. She brings to us in this month many graces. When we are looking at the blooming nature we are filled with joy. Everything around us is in blossom. The nature is coming back to life and the new life is beginning.

For those who there is a new hearts and make a her even more. Let us all our hearts at the by these words: Let us keep repeating tuus" - the words of



are dedicated to Our Lady opportunity to renew our new decision to belong to say "yes" to Our Lady from very beginning of this moth "Virgin Mary, I love you!" to her every day "totus consecration to her Immaculate Heart. Let us contemplate more over mysteries of rosary.

Someone once said: "Guard your thoughts, because they will become your deeds. Guard your deeds; they will become your habits. Guard your habits; they

will become your personality. Guard your personality; it will become your destiny." This saying expresses how we could live this special month. As a first thing in the morning let us consecrate ourselves to Mary, let us offer every day for her intentions. May she form our thoughts, deeds, habits, our personality, all events that happen during the day. Let us ask her to change our hearts so that they become like Hers.

We can read and meditate about her life. Let us give this special month as a gift to our Heavenly Mother with intention that all her plans will be accomplished, as she often calls us to.

**Terezia Gazioua**

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***Our Prayer Group will meet on Saturday, May 3<sup>d</sup>, 2008. In this time we pray for Our Lady's plans to be accomplished.***

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### **Small interview with Josemaria Escriva:**

*I - Father, would you like to tell us something that would remain in our mind for ever? We all desire to hear that and will remember it.*

*JME - Have high respect for our Mother Mary.*

*I - What is the best way for Christians to grow in love to Mother Mary?*

*JME - Dear children, we have everything that is needed very close at hand. The daily prayer of holy rosary in a family. Do not ignore this prayer because it is the mighty weapon and great proof of our love to Mother Mary. Especially women like to receive attention, compliments, admiration, signs of love...*

*I - Yes, Father.*

*JME - Well, then our Heavenly Mother also likes such demonstration, because she is also a woman...! And the greatest One!*

*The most beautiful creation that has come out of the hand of the Creator! Perfect creation. He perfection is not lowered by the fact that she likes to receive compliments. As I have already said, let us give her compliments by praying the mysteries of holy rosary. It is a natural thing it is for us to say such beautiful words that are present in holy rosary to Mother of God and also our Mother.*



“With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace.” (John Paul II.)

“The Rosary is my favorite prayer. A marvelous prayer! Marvelous in its simplicity and its depth.” (John Paul II.)

“To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ.” (John Paul II.)

“Blessed Bartolo Longo had a special charism. His path to holiness rested on an inspiration heard in the depths of his heart: “Whoever spreads the Rosary is saved!” (John Paul II.)

“In the spiritual journey of the Rosary, based on the constant contemplation – in Mary's company – of the face of Christ, this demanding ideal of being conformed to him is pursued through an association which could be described in terms of friendship. We are thereby enabled to enter naturally as it were to Christ's life and share his deepest feelings. In this regard Blessed Bartolo Longo has written: “Just as two friends, frequently in each other's company, tend to develop similar habits, so too, by holding familiar converse with Jesus and the Blessed Virgin, by meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary and by living the same life in Holy Communion, we can become, to the extent of our lowliness, similar to them and can learn from these supreme models a life of humility, poverty, hiddenness, patience and perfection”. (John Paul II.)



“The Rosary is both meditation and supplication. Insistent prayer to the Mother of God is based on confidence that her maternal intercession can obtain all things from the heart of her Son.”(John Paul II.)

“Finally month dedicated to our Mother has come...Our beloved Mother has given me so much of her motherly and generous care, especially in this month. The demonstrations of her love are so immense that they move my feelings... How did I deserve so much of her tenderness and care? Does not my whole being refuse it? I do not consider myself anymore to be a son but a Christian.” (Padre Pio)

“Oh, how this month of May makes me happy! It's the most beautiful month of the year! Oh, how perfectly this month reflects the sweetness and the beauty of Mary! Just a plain thought of countless gifts that were given to me by the best Mother intercession makes me feel ashamed. I cannot take my loving glance of her heart and hand she offered me in her goodness. On the other hand I feel immense bitterness and pain when I see my insults that I give her in return for her caring love.” (Padre Pio)

## For the first time I felt God's love somewhere in the depths of my heart..

My name is Vasil Blasin, I am 42 and I come from Ukraine. I experienced my personal conversion at the time when I was already having my own family. God invited me into priesthood through my brother. I accepted His invitation with great zeal. As early as in 1992 I was ordained a Greek Catholic priest. At present I serve as a priest in Uzhgorod. I am married and I have five children. Our eldest son is eighteen, the youngest daughter two.



Our youngest son, who is five, is a miracle of Medjugorje. It was in my tenth year of priesthood, in 2002, when my wife and I learned that we are expecting another child. But a doctor warned her that a pregnancy would be risky, and that both she and the baby could be endangered and any of them might die. The doctor advised her to go for abortion. I very clearly remember that time. My wife spent at least a month in great inner anxiety, but somehow I felt peace inside. At this time I got an invitation to go to Medjugorje. It was my first time here; there was a spiritual retreat with fra Jozo Zovko. I told the whole group about our problem and all people prayed for us. It looked as if whole Medjugorje was praying for us and through Medjugorje the whole world. When I returned, my wife and I surrendered into the hands of our Heavenly Father and our Lady. We decided to wait for an arrival of our baby. There were no special problems with giving birth. My wife and the child were ok. We called the baby Nazar, what means "one sanctified to God". This name was chosen on purpose because he was dedicated to serve the Lord. We are bringing him up knowing that he belongs to God. I am very thankful to Our Lady for this miracle which is always before our eyes.

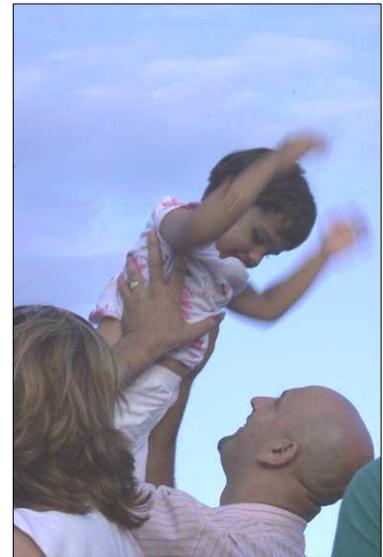
When I was for the first time in Medjugorje, it felt as if I were born again. During this time I completely opened myself to God and for the first time I felt God's love somewhere in the depths of my heart. For the first time I felt that our Heavenly Father is also my Father and that Our Lady is also my Mother. Before I believed in all that but I had never had an experience that I am so loved. I came back home as a new person. My service became for me more greatly important and people around me also recognized that. Since then I have been to Medjugorje seven times.

I am so absorbed by Medjugorje that I try to live our Lady's messages in my everyday life and also spread them to others. I started to organize pilgrimages to Medjugorje and spread the messages among other priests. I was often (encountered with their objections, because many of them were having troubles of accepting it. I felt misunderstood and oppressed because of Medjugorje. Nowadays, many of them changed their attitude towards Medjugorje and they started to accept it with greater understanding. Especially since we witnessed so many signs, miracles, and conversions, physical and spiritual healings.

Every Sunday I remember Our Lady and Medjugorje in my homily. I am convinced that the easiest way to come to Jesus is through His Mother. It is the

shortest way that exists. I try to live Medjugorje message and pass it to my parishioners. I help them in organizing the pilgrimages because my words are not so powerful as their personal experience in Medjugorje.

More than two years ago I started in my parish of St. Michael the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Veneration of the Holy Cross. Every Friday we have the Adoration after the Holy mass, and in Lenten time the Veneration of the Holy Cross. There are always at least 70-80 people present, sometimes even 100. If I would try to bring all those people into church at the same time, they would not fit in it, there would not be enough place for all of them. The adoration is accompanied by music - we have one guitarist with a beautiful voice, two violinists and an accordionist. Their play is so light, tender and passionate. I called this time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the "asylum for hearts". It is such a new experience for the Eastern Church because it is not usual to hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Sometimes there is time during the adoration when it's not necessary to say anything but people are changed right before our eyes just by worshipping God, singing, praying. After the adoration I usually stay in the church, often until midnight, because there are many people who want to come to confession. These are often very profound confessions. Also in my own family I try to live the messages Our Lady. They are simply written in our hearts. We pray together as a family and we also have our special place for a prayer.



I can also say that the first pilgrimage of my eldest son to Medjugorje was another miracle because his heart was healed. I was very strict to him as a father, because at the time he was born I was young and inexperienced. When he did something wrong he received punishment. It was harsh and with lack of love. We grew more and more apart. We behaved like strangers and the only way of communication was through my wife. But from Medjugorje he returned as a new person. The wall that was dividing us was broken and I can say now that there is a true friendship that connects us. Such a real and nice relationship we have. This year we would like to come to Medjugorje as a family, to give thanks to Our Lady for everything she has done in our family. We clearly see that God acts in our lives and see His mercy toward us.

Both my family and parish are changed. I have "fallen in love with" Medjugorje - it became my life. I am very fond of this place. I wish the apparitions would last so long that I could invite even more parishioners and priests to Medjugorje because I know that what happens in Medjugorje is true, that it is the reality to which I come to believe. It changed me as a person and also as a priest and everything is new and alive inside of me. All I wish is to give it to the others, to spread Our Lady's messages. I can testify in front of whole world that Medjugorje is God's work.

Praised be the Lord and His Holy name!

*father Vasil, Ukraine*

**Fr. Slavko Barbarić OFM**  
**„PRAY TOGETHER WITH A JOYFUL HEART “**

**A Positive Experience of God's Creation II.**

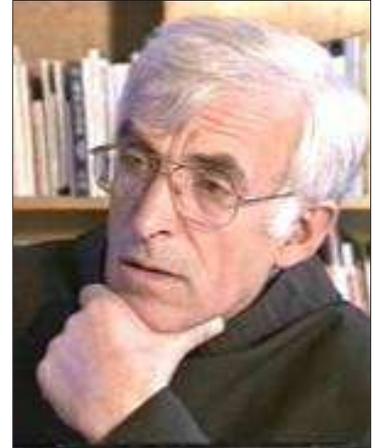
*Mary does not ask us to be blind to evil or to close our eyes to reality. She increases our awareness of the existence of good and calls us to recognize it. This is the nurturing of our faith, hope and love so that we may more easily decide for the good. Then we can more easily preserve the meaning of life, recognize the good that is present and cooperate with it.*

*This is a condition for a new life in the family, in the community, in the Church and in the world. Only a person, who resolves to see good in others and in himself and acknowledges that good, will be able to forgive, to love, to be patient, to be generous and not to judge others.*

*A great danger exists in every person which threatens his personal good and the good found in others. It is our problem of accepting the good of others and of rejoicing in their good. This is the case even though there is no such thing as 'someone else's good'. Everything that is good is, in a way, also our own personal good. If someone who is with us is good, it is better for us. As children we came across this problem. If someone received a better grade, we were in danger of being sad because of it, of trying to deny or destroy the good of others, or to explain it in such a way as to diminish it. How many times did we end our day, sad, without peace and agitated only because we failed to see our good and the good of others? Instead we only remembered what was not good or refused to accept the good of others.*

*A person who meets Jesus in prayer will overcome all these dangers. He will always be able to live in joy, in peace and in abandonment. He will be able to overcome evil with good.*

*It is a great grace for a person who prays to receive the gift of a positive outlook in his heart through his meeting with Jesus, with the Word of God through Whom all was created. It is wonderful to live with such a person because he will never permit himself to first notice what is not in order. Such a person will always emphasize the good and rejoice in it because every good comes from the one 'Good'.*



The newspaper "*Voice Medjugorje*" is a call, invitation for everyone who wishes to pray for intentions of Queen of Peace and for realization of Her plans. By witnessing in our lives we long to become Mary's Light to this world, to spread peace all around. On June 25, 2004 our Lady said: *"Dear children! Today also, joy is in my heart. I wish to thank you for making my plan possible to become reality. Each of you is important therefore, little children, pray and rejoice with me over every heart that has converted and become an instrument of peace in the world. Prayer groups are powerful, and through them I can see, little children, that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

Our small newspaper is published monthly since December, 2004. The new issue is sent via email a few days after the Virgin Mary gives Her message on each 25th day of the month. Voice Medjugorje is published in Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian, Lithuanian and Lithuanian language. Through our newspaper we unite in prayer with our brothers and sisters from prayer groups mostly from the eastern countries - Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldavia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Slovakia and Czech Republics.

Prayer groups meet according to the agreement made among the members, usually once a week, at their houses or at churches. Prayer meetings are conducted in modest and humble way and consist of praying rosary, meditation upon the text of the Bible and our Lady's message, sharing after the meditation, praying for the prayer intentions of the Queen of Peace, praying for the needs of neighbors, dedication to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In our lives we attempt to follow the messages of Our Lady, which means:

- *to pray three rosaries a day*
- *to fast every Wednesday and Friday*
- *to attend Holy Masses, often receive Holy Communion and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament*
- *to pray for the priests and Church*
- *to meet in prayer groups at least once a week, according to agreement of the members*

We usually meet in prayer on the first Saturday of each month. If possible, the prayer meetings are held on this day. At meetings, we pray three rosaries, attend Holy Mass, Adoration and read reflections from the newspaper Voice Medjugorje. We all pray for the intentions given in the newspaper, for the period of a whole month.

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