

Voice Medjugorje

Prayer Groups Newspaper
January 2008



Message of Our Lady, Queen of Peace on December 25th, 2007

Dear children! With great joy I bring you the King of Peace for Him to bless you with His blessing. Adore Him and give time to the Creator for whom your heart yearns. Do not forget that you are passers-by on this earth and that things can give you small joys, while through my Son, eternal life is given to you. That is why I am with you, to lead you towards what your heart yearns for. Thank you for having responded to my call.

Annual Apparition of Our Lady to Jakov December 25th, 2007

"Dear children!

Today, in a special way I call you to become open to God and for each of your hearts today to become a place of Jesus' birth. Little children, through all this time that God permits me to be with you, I desire to lead you to the joy of your life. Little children, the only true joy of your life is God. Therefore, dear children, do not seek joy in things of this earth but open your hearts and accept God. Little children, everything passes, only God remains in your heart. Thank you for having responded to my call."



Reflections on the message for Prayer Groups in JANUARY

With great joy I bring you the King of Peace

It is always good and helpful to remember the messages of Our Lady that has been giving us since the beginning of the apparitions. Her messages are always accurate because they come from eternity, from Her motherly heart that loves us. In many of them, especially at Christmas, she says: "Dear children. I bring you small newborn Jesus, the King of Peace, my Son." Mary dedicated all her life to Jesus. She lived, sacrificed and dedicated all herself to Him. Therefore she can now tell us: "With great joy I bring you the King of Peace." She is the One full of Jesus, full of His grace. She comes among us with great joy and desire - to give us Jesus.

There is a joy in the heart of Mother Mary. And all Her joy is in the Lord. She is happy because God touches the hearts of many people also today; those who have opened up their hearts to Him. God's pursuance happening in Medjugorje by Our Lady, Queen of Peace, is a miracle. It makes all heaven and earth wonder. Mary said: "The Mighty One has done great things for me." Mother Mary longs also us to cry out from joy, as she did, to shout to the Lord.



If we want, finding ourselves in the middle of problems and sacrifices, to find the way that leads to joy, we need to keep our eyes open to see what is God doing nowadays. Thanks to the apparitions of Our Lady is God writing, through His grace that is given us, beautiful history of sanctity into many souls. Work of a man will extinct, but God's never. In the end, at harvest time, the wheat will be gathered into a barn and the weeds will be burned.

Without Jesus, the King of Peace, there is no true joy, nor peace. Our Lady has many times spoken about it in Her messages. Only joy coming out from Him is absolute and definite. Not even the suffering will demolish true joy in Christ. Only one who experiences cross and suffering with Jesus understands the meaning and the strength of joy in Christ. Being on the cross, one makes a jump from human to divine. Suffering faces us in front of the greatest "influence" in history, which is the cross of Christ. In suffering, according to St. Francis of Assisi, is the "true joy" being examined. And this is truly the gospel joy. Coming from this joy and leading us into it, Our Lady invites us.

"Adore Him and give time to the Creator for whom your heart yearns." - again says Jesus' and our Mother. To Adore the Creator means to believe and give Him all life. Submitting one's life and having faith does not happen in one day nor within a short while. It is an everyday's decision for Him. It is impossible to accomplish it without prayer and time given to the Creator. All our life should be a continual prayer, as St. Paul says: "Pray without ceasing." Living our lives, we need to have time especially devoted to God. In these moments, being alone in front of God, can take place and surely does a personal rebirth. It is the blessed times spending in front of our Creator; time when our eyes open and we realize that only God Himself can fulfill our desires and

longings of the hearts. No one but God put the desire for Him into our hearts. The heart infallibly gets to know his Creator. Therefore "dead, lifeless" things of this world cannot bring us joy. Things can give you small joys, but we are created for eternity. The goal of our life is not to live on this earth twenty or one hundred years. We are created for eternity, for life in fullness.

This is the desire of Our Lady. Let it become also ours. Only then we will be able, like Our Lady, bring peace and joy to our neighbors, families and into this world that yearns for God.

fra Ljubo Kurtović

Dear Friends of our Queen of Peace!

At the beginning of the New Year, we would like to thank to all of you.

Thank you for joining us in prayer, for loving our Mother Mary, for everything you have done in the previous year to make Her plans accomplish. I am in a special way very happy to hear that many of you started to pray together in their families, started also to join with us, to work in the parish.

Now we are in the beginning of New Year. It is for us a new chance to do more than we have done in the previous year, to give everything. Let us form new prayer groups, groups of friends, who will help each other and bear in their hearts the plans of Our Lady. I encourage you to be more diligent, to pray for one another, to help each other; let us be Her extended hands in this world.

In the last Christmas message she says that with great joy she brings us the King of Peace. If we belong to Our Lady, we can also, as She, bring Jesus to this world. Therefore, we need to be very close to Him. We are called to find every day time to adore Him, to think about Him, His life. If we have a desire to be the givers of Jesus, first we need to have an experience of Him, we need to "receive" Him. Our Lady teaches us in her messages to stay "calm in the heart with Jesus, and then He can transform and change you by His love...when you have Jesus, you have everything"... Only in silent prayer on our knees we will understand that without Jesus we have nothing to give to others. When we adore the Creator, we learn to be humble; we more give thanks than beg.

Dear friends, be thankful to Our Lady that she has chosen us, have gratitude for knowing the way which leads to joy of eternal life. There are many, even from our families, who do not know the meaning of life, who lost the "direction", are far away from God, lost in materialism. Our Mother counts on us; she has no one else to send, only us, poor and little... Let us renew our consecration to Her Heart, pray often rosary. We know that in these is our hope.

Wherever we are, at any occasions, let us bring Her message of Love and Peace. On January 2nd, 2008 Our Lady told us in the message given to Mirjane: „ As a mother fights for her children, I pray for you and fight for you. I ask you not to be afraid to open yourselves, so as to be able to love with the heart and give yourselves to others... May everyone recognize you through the love of my Son and through me..."



Dear friends, let us remain the children of our Lady, who with joy answer her call. Give everything that you can.

Terézia Gažiová

Our Prayer Group will meet on Saturday, January 5th, 2008. This month we pray for those who live in spiritual darkness, blindness. May Jesus, the Light illuminating all nations, bring His peace and light into their hearts.

O, Lord, You are the only true Joy! (St. Augustin)

**Find your delight in the LORD who will give you your heart's desire.
(Ps 37,4)**

Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength. (Neh 8,10)

There is nothing more beautiful and joyful as keeping our eyes focused on the One, who loves us so amazingly and from whom all good comes. (St. Theresa of Avila)

Joy becomes a manifestation of love if we share it with others. (John Paul II.)

My Lord and my God... only in You may your servant rejoice, not in himself, nor in anyone else; for You only are the true joy, You are my delight and my glory. (Thomas a Kempis)

**My soul, you cannot find the absolute joy nor comprehension anywhere besides God, who encourages the poor and protects the humble.
(Thomas a Kempis)**



Jesus comes into our hearts again and again when we receive Him in Eucharist. He desires to give away the same peace and joy. (Mother Theresa)

Prayer is a unique preventer against sorrow because it raises our souls up to God, who Himself is the only live joy and delectation. (St. Francis de Sales)

I have experienced very clearly that joy is not found in things that surround us. It dwells in the depth of soul... (St. Theresa from Lisieux)

Medjugorje is huge grace and responsibility as well...

Fist time I made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in summer 2000 with a small group from Lithuania. We arrived to Medjugorje in the evening. At that time there was one of the prayer groups having its prayer with an apparition at Podbrdo. We all came there and fell on our knees praying. Suddenly I heard an inner voice telling me: „Pray for your family, pray for your husband...” After the apparition we all learned that Mother Mary was praying in a special way for families...

This was my first experience with Medjugorje. When I came home I knew I that cannot live my life without this place which is full of grace. The other time I came to Medjugorje for Prayer, fasting and silence seminar lead by fra Slavko Barbarič. I am not able to describe in words what happened there. It was a new beginning, my new nativity, the rebirth of my soul, the discovery of the true life - life with God and Mother Mary. It showed me a new way of Christianity through taking an active part at mass, prayer, fasting, act of reconciliation and reading Bible.

Several times I had an opportunity to visit some pilgrim places, but there is nowhere such a program prepared for pilgrims as it is in Medjugorje. As if a man could here easily feel that Father God is worried about the children who have left Him. For our salvation allows God Mother Mary for 26 years to come to us, to tell us the simple truth that God exists and that thanks to Her He calls us to reconcile with God and with one another. It is always something different when I go to a confession and pray at home. But in Medjugorje comes during the evening program an indescribable joy into a man. Many hearts are being healed. It is really such, all goodness, tenderness, grace and holiness surrounds every person and if his heart is being open, it begins to feel God's immeasurable love. Despite all sins, failings and weaknesses can everyone receive a very deep experience of being loved by God and Mother Mary. As if Mother Mary would take everyone under Her protection, covering him with Her motherly coat and leading by the hand with rosary to Her Son Jesus.

Coming more often to this place I started to understand that being in Medjugorje is not only an enormous grace but a huge responsibility as well. Many times I meet people who after returning from Medjugorje say that it is not easy to live the messages of Our Lady. Therefore we started to meet on prayers and formed few prayer groups. At our prayers we always start with rosary. After some time we started to receive newspaper Voice Medjugorje and so we meet on the first Saturday of each month in our church dedicated to Ostrobramsk Mother Mary of Mercy. On that day we are having the same evening program as in Medjugorje - we pray rosary, have a holy Mass and adoration afterwards. Then we all share one with another. We are all very glad that the prayer groups are spreading out and besides our prayer group there are in Vilnius three more.

We thank to you all, brothers and sisters, for keeping also us in your prayers. It is an immense gift that we can all pray together. I wish you all good luck in your walk with God, in our way to heaven. We all are joined together by loving God, heavenly Mother. Let's start as their children building a better world.



Ardent Longing for God

O God, you are my God-- for you I long! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, Like a land parched, lifeless, and without water.

So I look to you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory.

For your love is better than life; my lips offer you worship!

I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands, calling on your name.

My soul shall savor the rich banquet of praise, with joyous lips my mouth shall honor you!

When I think of you upon my bed, through the night watches I will recall

That you indeed are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.



My soul clings fast to you; your right hand upholds me.

But those who seek my life will come to ruin; they shall go down to the depths of the earth!

They shall be handed over to the sword and become the prey of jackals!

But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by the Lord shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be shut!

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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