

No Voice Medjugorje

Prayer Groups Newspaper

August 2008



Message of Our Lady, Queen of Peace June 25, 2008

“Dear children! At this time when you are thinking of physical rest, I call you to conversion. Pray and work so that your heart yearns for God the Creator who is the true rest of your soul and your body. May He reveal His face to you and may He give you His peace. I am with you and intercede before God for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

REFLECTIONS ON THE MESSAGES FOR PRAYER GROUPS

I call you to conversion

We, people, have one bad inclination and that is called forgetfulness. Therefore, we need to remind ourselves the words of Our Lady that has been telling us for the last few years and to put them into our hearts and accept into our lives.

In the message from February 25, 1993, she tells us: *“Dear children! ... You cannot say that you are converted, because your life must become a daily conversion.”*

“But if you do not pray, you cannot say that you are on the way to being converted.” (June 25, 1992)

“I am interceding for you before God that He gives you the gift of conversion of the heart. For years I am calling you and exhorting you to a deep spiritual life in simplicity, but you are so cold.” (December 25, 1989)

“God wants to make you holy. Therefore, through me He is inviting you to complete surrender.” (April 25, 1998)

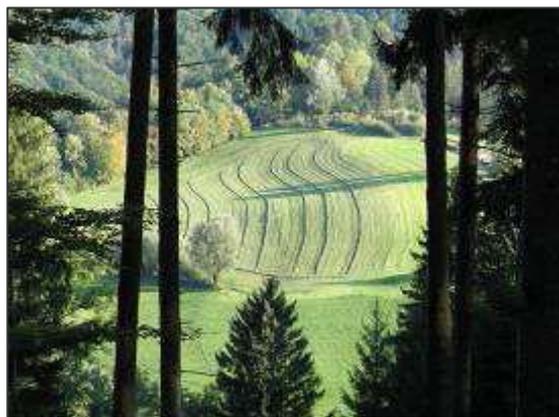
*“God wants to
make you holy.
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“In a special way, little children, I call you to pray for conversion of sinners, for those who pierce my heart and the heart of my Son Jesus with the sword of hatred and daily blasphemies. Let us pray, little children, for all those who do not desire to come to know the love of God, even though they are in the Church. Let us pray that they convert, so that the Church may resurrect in love. Only with love and prayer, little children, can you live this time which is given to you for conversion.” (March 25, 1999)

Blessed Virgin Mary wishes us during this summer time to set the eyes of our hearts on what is the most important and the most necessary in our lives. She knows well that we also need to have a physical rest. But what she also knows is that to rest physically is not enough. In our lives there are many things which are necessary but not the most important. Jesus said: “Your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.” (Lk 12, 30-31)

Conversion to which we are all called by Our Lady in her message is the condition to be allowed to enter the God’s kingdom and to encounter with Jesus Christ. Our Lady ceaselessly calls us to this encounter with Jesus. “Dear children! In the silence of the heart, remain with Jesus, so that He may change and transform you with His love.” (July 25, 1998). Her only desire is to bring us to Jesus because it is him who is our peace and our life. Everything else besides that can be necessary but it does not bring us to the meaning of our lives, our existence, to the reason of our being.

Blessed Virgin Mary begins her message with a call to conversion because the conversion is necessary and the most important in our lives. It is a matter of our life and our salvation. Our Lady does not want us to loose our way from God but she wishes us to encounter Jesus always in a new and special way. Only then, after encountering Jesus we will be able to be full of joy just like the man who found the treasure in the field, sold everything he had to get the treasure that is incomparable to anything else found in this world. And this treasure is Jesus, our savior and friend.



Let us pray: *Blessed Virgin Mary, we thank you for coming to us in this special time and for opening us the gates of heaven and the gates of our hearts. We ask you, our heavenly Mother, do not stoop to call us and to knock on the doors of our hearts until we listen to your voice that calls us to conversion and to new life in God. We thank you for being with us and that you pray with us and for us. We thank you that you do not go weary with us even many times we do not*

take your messages seriously and do not practice living them in our lives. We thank you for your love. Let our heart be open to the grace that is God giving us through you. We ask you to not to stop praying for us until we start to follow the path of holiness and conversion, to which you call us. To you, our Mother, we offer all people who are far away from God and God's love. May they discover/reveal the beauty of God's love and God's face in their lives. May be the beauty of God's face also present in our live so that we could testify the presence of God's kingdom in us and in our personal relationships. Amen.

Fr. Ljubo Kurtović

Our Prayer Group will meet on **Saturday, July 5th, 2008.**

In this time we pray for us all to hold on the path of our personal conversion and for those who or those who have not yet come to know the love of God.

Dear Friends of our Queen of Peace!

Thank you for responding to the call of Our Lady, for forming new prayer groups, for praying with us. In this time, there are many pilgrims who come to Medjugorje to spend their summer vacation, to rest a little in the presence of Mother Mary. It is much inspiring to hear your testimonies, in which you say: "...Medjugorje is the place of my conversion; it is here where I started my new life." Many times I hear you questioning, "...how to go further when we return home?". When we part, you feel sad and would rather stay here, in Medjugorje.

***"Let us prepare
in our homes a
place for prayer,
a special place
to meet the
Lord."***

When we accept Mary and her messages into our lives, then every our prayer group can become a little Medjugorje, the light of Mary, consolation for this world. Let us continue together, knowing that we are not alone in this world because we are joined spiritually with all those who have enrolled in the school of Mary.

Ivan, one of the visionaries, says: "During the apparition, Our Lady looks at and prays for every one with such love and tenderness as if there was no one else present, only *you*; she loves every one in a very unique way."

After returning home from Medjugorje Mary's love is not changed towards us. She wishes to individually lead every person in a very special way to her Son. Let us accept her hands, her advice and messages.

In the message from May 2, 2008 she says: *"I desire for you to open your hearts to me and to accept me as a mother. With my love I will teach you simplicity of life and richness of mercy and I will lead you to my Son."* Our Lady also this time promises and tells us: *"I am with you and intercede before God for each of you."*

Let us prepare in our homes a place for prayer, a special place where we will be meeting our Lord in prayer and searching his face. And after this prayer of submission we will come back into the world relaxed. It is Him who promised us: *"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Mt 11:28-30). Let us come to Him, to the spring of our lives, let us contemplate the words of life – the word of the Gospel. Let us often receive Him alive in the Holy Eucharist.

Anselm Grün says in one of his books: „If we are, after having a rest, still tired, it is a sign that we have not drunk from the spring, but from the cistern." If it is such, let us remember how Our Lady teaches us to solve this problem. Together with Her we can start listening to the "voice" of our conscience, to prepare ourselves for the act of reconciliation, to make a new resolution to renounce things to which we are bound, to forgive and anew our resolution to follow the path of love. Let us work daily on our personal conversion.



Let us start every day with a prayer of consecration to Her heart and to the Heart of her Son, Jesus. Let us tell Mother Mary by simple words: "My mother, mother with Immaculate Heart, I consecrate myself to you, I ask you to lead me during this day. Teach me the simplicity of life with the Lord in everything that I live and feel. Teach me how to contemplate His word, to yearn for Him in every moment of my day and life, to be able to see Him in every person. I know that being sheltered in your heart, my Mother, I am safe. To your heart I consecrate my family, every person whom God puts me into my way, the whole world. Together with you, Mother Mary, I wish to form a new world. Amen."

Terezia Gazioua

...Little children, when God is in the first place, then you will, in all that you do, seek the will of God. In this way your daily conversion will become easier. Little children, seek with humility that which is not in order in your hearts, and you shall understand what you have to do. Conversion will become a daily duty that you will do with joy. Little children, I am with you, I bless you all and I invite you to become my witnesses by prayer and personal conversion... (April 25, 1996)



...Today I invite you to decide every day for God. Little children, you speak much about God, but you witness little with your life. Therefore, little children, decide for conversion, that your life may be true before God, so that in the truth of your life you witness the beauty God gave you. Little children, I invite you again to decide for prayer because through prayer, you will be able to live the conversion... (July 25, 1996)

...I call you again to prayer with the heart. Let prayer, dear children, be your every day food in a special way when your work in the fields is so wearing you out that you cannot pray with the heart. Pray, and then you shall overcome even every weariness. Prayer will be your joy and your rest... (May 30, 1985)

...At this time, do not only think of rest for your body but, little children, seek time also for the soul. In silence may the Holy Spirit speak to you and permit Him to convert and change you. I am with you and before God I intercede for each of you...(July 25, 2006)

...Today I wish to tell you to begin to work in your hearts as you are working in the fields. Work and change your hearts so that a new spirit from God can take its place in your hearts... (April 25, 1985)

..Also today, I call you to prayer. Little children, prayer works miracles. When you are tired and sick and you do not know the meaning of your life, take the Rosary and pray; pray until prayer becomes for you a joyful meeting with your Savior... (April 25, 2001)

My path to priesthood

Dear friends! I would like to share with you my memories from my path to priesthood. I worked as a policeman for nine years, then as a member of the First aid squad for two years. In 1996 I decided to go to Holy Land. On one early morning I was on my walk with a friend. We were close to basilica of Nativity of our Lord in Bethlehem when we unexpectedly met one friar who opened the basilica for us and we could stay in there for whole hour, what was besides the hours of opening. I kneeled down on my knees and told Jesus my whole life story that was lived until then...I admitted that it was lived almost without him. Then I for the first time in my life I experienced the touch of God's love.

It was in 1997 when two elderly women invited me to Medjugorje and I said yes. In this period of my life I started to spend more time in prayer and was truly seeking God. I was deeply impressed by the messages of Our Lady and I started to pray rosary. During this pilgrimage we had a meeting with fra Jozo Zovko in Siroky Brijeg. I remember that he was talking about the prayer of holy rosary and about five stone - five main messages of Our Lady. This priest made a strong impression on me. When he was about to leave two of the women stopped and asked him to pray for me and to bless me. He seemed to be in a hurry but he agreed. I kneeled down; he placed his hands on my head and prayed for me. And I felt in my heart great joy and desire to belong only to God as a priest. When I returned from Medjugorje I made a whole-life confession. I also started to live sacramental life. In 1997 I started to study theology and in 2003 I was ordained a priest.



At the end I just want to mention that in 1995 I was guarding as a policeman the pope John Paul II. on his visit of Bratislava, in 2003 I was serving him as a deacon during the holy mass in Banska Bystica.

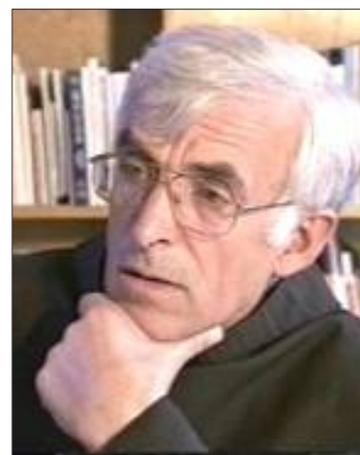
father Jaroslav, Slovakia

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

OUR LADY SPEAKS ABOUT THE DEVIL

(part one)

After the first sin God proclaimed the coming of a woman and her offspring, who will bruise crush the devil's head and he will strike her heel. (comp. Gn 3, 15). This is the first declaration of the coming of Mary, Virgin and Mother, whom sees Apostle John in the Book of Revelation as a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet standing on the moon, and a crown of twelve stars on her head defeating a Dragon. (Rev. 12,1).



Her Son, Jesus Christ, is the Lord over the Evil. He has the power to deliver people from evil, “so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil“. (Heb 2,14). Jesus overcomes the devil in the desert (comp. Lk 4, 1-13), sets people free from the reign of the devil, as a manifestation that the Kingdom of God has come. (comp. Mk 3,22).

The devil is very relentless enemy – he sows the weed - comes to steal, kill and destroy; truly he prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (comp. Mt 13,39; Mk 4,15; 1 Sol 2,18; 1 Pt 5,8 etc.).

The subject of the devil is seems to be a forbidden topic for some people at Church. There are also people who deny the existence of the devil and demons but on the other hand there are those who see him everywhere. In fact the cult of devil worship is spread around the world in so many forms like witchcraft, false religions, various sects, occult sciences – white and black magic, spiritism, divination, superstitions. There are many films made and books written about him, the temples are being dedicated to him, many satanic music bands are established and also some well-known bands sing to him.

Jesus gave apostles the power and authority over unclean spirits and the very same power is given to Church, to drive them out (comp. Mt 10,1 and Mk 3,15). There was always present at Church the service of exorcism - the service of delivering from demons. It could be done only by the specific permission of a bishop. At present we experience a great revival of this service worldwide. There are more and more people who are the subject of demonic possession. For this reason in many dioceses there are appointed exorcists.

When considering the existence of demon in a person, it is very necessary to give attention to many things because the symptoms of possession can be similar to symptoms of mental problem, and it can be the combination of both. The symptoms of demonic possession is the negative reaction to holy and

blessed objects and articles (fear, escape, hate towards holy and blessed articles, hatred and desire for destruction that are far beyond the normal reactions of a man, hatred towards God, depression, etc.)

Mary, Mother and Teacher, Woman, who with her Son defeated devil is called “the first exorcist”.

In 58 messages she speaks about devil.

She warns us not to allow devil to get control of our hearts. God has to take the first place in our lives because we are created according to His image; therefore she also warns us not to become the image of devil.

“Dear children! Today I call you all to pray that God's plans for us may be realized and also everything that God desires through you! Help others to be converted, especially those who are coming to Medjugorje. Dear children, do not allow Satan to get control of your hearts, so you would be an image of Satan and not of me. I call you to pray for how you might be witnesses of my presence. Without you, God cannot bring to reality that which He desires. God has given a free will to everyone, and it's in your control. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (January 30, 1986)

Our Lady warns us that devil is relentless, leads into temptations, destroys God's plans with us, tries to separate us from God in our daily tasks and put himself on the first place. There is no need to fear because God knows everything and defends us and Our Lady is also with us.



“Dear children! These days you have been experiencing how Satan is working. I am always with you, and don't you be afraid of temptations because God is always watching over us. Also I have given myself to you and I sympathize with you even in the smallest temptation. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (July 19, 1984)

“Dear children! Pray, because Satan wishes to complicate my plans still further. Pray with the heart and surrender yourselves to Jesus in prayer.” (August 11, 1984)

“Dear children! Today again I want to show you how much I love you, but I am sorry that I am not able to help each one to understand my love. Therefore, dear children, I am calling you to prayer and complete surrender to God, because Satan wants to sift you through everyday affairs and in your life he wants to snatch the first place. Therefore, dear children, pray without ceasing! Thank you for having responded to my call.” (October 16, 1986)

Prayer, especially the prayer of rosary, is the means by which can be stopped the devil's influence on an individual and on the whole Church as well.

(Our Lady gave this message in response to the question of Marija Pavlović – “Our Lady, what do you wish to recommend to priests?”)

“I invite you to call on everyone to pray the Rosary. With the rosary you shall overcome all the adversities which Satan is trying to inflict on the Catholic Church. All you priests, pray the Rosary! Dedicate your time to the Rosary!” (June 25, 1985)

Our Lady warns us that devil is strong and that only when we pray we can resist and stop his influence on us. She wishes us to pray for those who are under the devil’s influence, so that they could be also saved. She calls us to listen to her, not the devil.

“Dear children! Today again I am calling you to prayer to complete surrender to God. You know that I love you and am coming here out of love so I could show you the path to peace and salvation for your souls. I want you to obey me and not permit Satan to seduce you. Dear children, Satan is very strong and, therefore, I ask you to dedicate your prayers to me so that those who are under his influence can be saved. Give witness by your life. Sacrifice your lives for the salvation of the world. I am with you, and I am grateful to you, but in heaven you shall receive the Father’s reward which He has promised to you. Therefore, dear children, do not be afraid. If you pray, Satan cannot injure you even a little bit because you are God’s children and He is watching over you. Pray and let the rosary always be in your hand as a sign to Satan that you belong to me. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (February 25, 1988)

When are the plans of devil revealed, he is even more relentless. When are his plans hidden, till they are unknown to people, he has a better chance to be successful in his destructive work. Therefore it is very dangerous, if priests and the Church do not speak about the devil’s influence.

“Dear children! Today I call you especially now to advance against Satan by means of prayer. Satan wants to work still more now that you know he is at work. Dear children, put on the armor for battle and with the Rosary in your hand defeat him! Thank you for having responded to my call.” (August 8, 1985)

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, Lithuanian, Lithuanian and English 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, Pakistan, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

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, consecration 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 confess monthly**
- **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. We all pray for the intentions given in the newspaper, for the period of a whole month.

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