



Voice Medjugorje

Prayer Groups Newspaper

APRIL 2010

PRAYER
REQUEST FOR
THIS MONTH:

we pray for

*International
Commission that
will be investigat-
ing phenomenon
of Medjugorje.*

IN THIS EDITION
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sion investigating phe-
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MESSAGE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE

March 25, 2010

"Dear children!

Also today I desire to call you all to be strong in prayer and in the moments when trials attack you. Live your Christian vocation in joy and humility and witness to everyone. I am with you and I carry you all before my Son Jesus, and He will be your strength and support.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

MESSAGE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE

The annual apparition of Our Lady to Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo -

March 18, 2010

"Dear children!

Today I call you to love with all your heart and with all your soul. Pray for the gift of love, because when the soul loves it calls my Son to itself. My Son does not refuse those who call Him and who desire to live according to Him. Pray for those who do not comprehend love, who do not understand what it means to love. Pray that God may be their Father and not their Judge. My children, you be my apostles, be my river of love. I need you. Thank you."



REFLECTIONS FOR PRAYER GROUPS

*...prayer
provides
nourishment
for the soul
and body...*



When do we regard time spent in prayer as wasted and when is it effectively used? When is time spent in prayer regarded as wasted and when as effectively used? What is a recipe for success in our personal and spiritual prayer life?

There are so many different answers to this question and this could be one of them: "In order to pray I need to be in a good mood, in a good frame of mind, surrounded by pleasant environment and motivated. What will

happen if all these conditions are not met? I don't want to waste my time and pray because prayer under these circumstances will not glorify the Lord nor help others and won't be satisfactory for me. This is the moment when we lose the battle with the devil who fights to the last breath to discourage us from a real meeting with God in prayer. All difficulties we have to face throughout the day, like noise and chaos around us, fruitless conversations with other people try to disturb us and keep

us from prayer.

Let's take a look at Jesus when he was praying. He often prayed alone in solitary places far from the crowd, sometimes at night when he couldn't be disturbed by anyone or anything. But He prayed at all times, even in those moments when it was very hard to pray in times of trials, temptations, pain and suffering.

In the Gospel there are so many examples of how and when Jesus prayed. We can draw inspiration from the lives of the saints. Padre Pio prayed almost continually. He prayed in spite of numerous visitors he had to receive every day and in spite of all his commitments and responsibilities. When John Paul II. was surrounded by people he was still able to concentrate on his conversation with God.

Prayer provides nourishment for the soul and body. Through prayer we receive grace that enables us to love, to serve and to bear witness to others.

Let us pray: Mother Mary, grant us strength to resist the temptation of seeking comfort in prayer and teach us to pray sincerely and to devote our time to God.

o. Henryk Jaworski

***Blessed and Holy Easter Season and
a Truly Joyous Easter!***

***May your hearts are filled by peace, joy and love of the
Risen Lord!***

Light of Mary

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE QUEEN OF PEACE!

Step by step we are getting closer to the celebration of one of the greatest mysteries of our faith. I am always amazed when I think how wisely the Lord planned the celebration of Easter in the midst of the awakening nature. The most precious image of Medjugorje these days is the crowd of pilgrims waiting for confession from all around the world. We are full of joy when we see great things that our Lord does at this place of mercy. How many are the testimonies of conversion and confessions after long years of living in sin. The Lord rises again in the hearts of prodigal sons and daughters who are coming back to the arms of their Father. The Lord heals the broken hearts.

In the message of this month Our Lady tells us: *"Be strong in prayer and in the moments when trials attack you."*

In the book of testimonies from lives of hermits we read how a hermit - father Joannikij, is asked by another hermit: "Father Joannikij, I would like to know who taught you to pray with such intensity?" Father Joannikij looked at the hermit and said: "I will give you a straight answer because I think you will understand. Temptations taught me to pray without ceasing." Then he continued: "When I was attacked by fear, when I felt powerless, I was calling on the Lord all night: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me!' In this invocation I always found help and relief. This battle was going on for days and nights, nights and days, until the peace finally came."

Daily reading of the Scriptures is along with prayer from heart, fasting, Holy Communion and Holy Confession one of the most important messages of Our Lady. How great is the strength of God's Word. When we meditate upon His Word, it descends into the depths of our hearts and creates everything new. God's Word has power to heal and to deliver us from fear and temptations. When we recite Bible verses with faith, we can be renewed and become a new creation.

David praises the Lord after being set

free from the hands of Saul. *"I love you, o Lord, my strength."* In the book of Psalms we can find many intimate prayers and invocations and cries for help and protection: *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* (Ps 46) *"Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress."* (Ps 71) *"He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."* (Ps 91) *"O Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer, who shields my head in the day of battle."* (Ps 140)

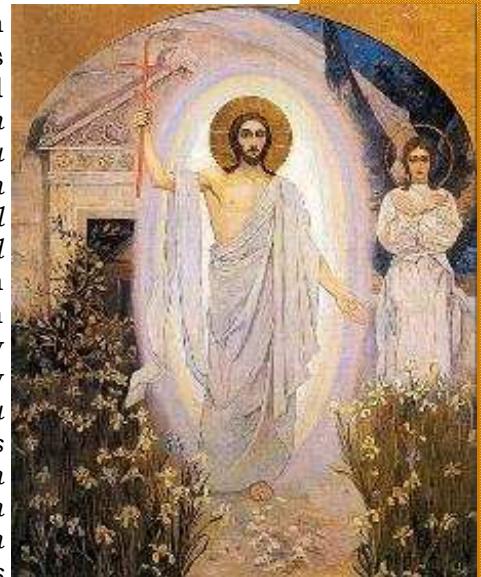
When we read the lives of the Saints we can realize that our Christian vocation is in fact a call to become a warrior who fights for the Kingdom of God and for the triumph of good over evil in our hearts. Our Lady leads us to make Jesus the Only sovereign Lord of our hearts. Also today we can dis-

cover Our Lady in Her own words as our Helper and Mother: *"I am with you and I carry you all before my Son Jesus, and He will be your strength and support."* Recently in the message given through visionary Mirjana Our Lady said: *"I will help you to triumph over errors and temptations with my grace. I will teach you love, love which wipes away all sins and makes you perfect, love which gives you the peace of my Son now and forever."* (March 2, 2010)

With Jesus we will triumph! The cross is not only a symbol of hatred of mankind towards God, but above all it is a symbol of God's victory, of the triumph of love that overcomes all temptations, suffering and even death. Our Lady teaches us at Her school: *"By prayer and love you are able to do even that which you think is impossible."*

"Lord, you are my strong deliverer, who shielded my head...."

(Ps 140)



Terezia Gaziova

Our Prayer Groups will meet on

Saturday, April 3, 2010.

In this month we pray for **INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION THAT WILL BE INVESTIGATING PHENOMENON OF MEDJUGORJE.**

HOLY SEE ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE PRENOMENON OF MEDJUGORJE

Press office of Holy See reported on Wednesday, March 17th that Holy See, as a part of Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, established International Commission that will be investigating phenomenon of Medjugorje.

Camillo Ruini is the Chairman of Commission that was made of cardinals, bishops and experts. During the press conference in Vatican, Fr. Federico Lombardi, Director of Holy See Press Office, explained that mentioned Commission will be operating with full discretion, and that all results that will follow after long term operation, will be delivered to Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Archbishop Allessandro D'Errico, Apostolic Nuncio to Bosnia and Herzegovina, gave this information to bishops of Bishop's Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as instructed by Cardinal Secretary of State, Tarcisio Bertone. Nuncio D'Errico also shared this information with all faithful at the end of Eucharistic celebration in Mostar Cathedral of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Dr.Fr. Ivan Sesar, Provincial of Franciscan Province of Herzegovina, said the following in his statement for Vecernji list, Croatian newspaper: *"This is not surprise for us. We are excited about the whole matter and completely open for any kind of cooperation. Everything that happens in Medjugorje is not a secret, everything is available to public. Everybody who has good intentions and who is interested for phenomenon of Medjugorje, can personally come and see what is happening. When it comes to Franciscan Province of Herzegovina, and to this parish entrusted to Province, we are absolutely open to any kind of cooperation, and we are prepared to help them in their work by providing them every information they might need."*

(from medjugorje.hr)



...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... 25.2.1988

... Today I invite you to comprehend your Christian vocation. Little children, I led and am leading you through this time of grace, that you may become conscious of your Christian vocation. Holy martyrs died witnessing: I am a Christian and love God over everything. Little children, today also I invite you to rejoice and be joyful Christians, responsible and conscious that God called you in a special way to be joyfully extended hands toward those who do not believe, and that through the example of your life, they may receive faith and love for God. Therefore, pray, pray, pray that your heart may open and be sensitive for the Word of God...

25.11.1997

... God gave you the grace, the gift of holiness. Pray that you may, more and more, comprehend it, and in that way, you will be able, by your life, to bear witness for God. Dear children, I am blessing you and I intercede to God for you so that your way and your witness may be a complete one and a joy for God...

25.9.1988



...Little children, be joyful carriers of peace and love in this peaceless world. By fasting and prayer, witness that you are mine and that you live my messages. Pray and seek! I am praying and interceding for you before God that you convert; that your life and behavior always be Christian... 25.4.1999

... I am inviting you to a complete surrender to God. Pray, little children, that Satan may not carry you about like the branches in the wind. Be strong in God. I desire that through you the whole world may get to know the God of joy. By your life bear witness for God's joy. Do not be anxious nor worried!... Never cease praying so that Satan cannot take advantage of you. Pray for the knowledge that you are mine...

25.5.1988

Fr. Slavko Barbarić OFM

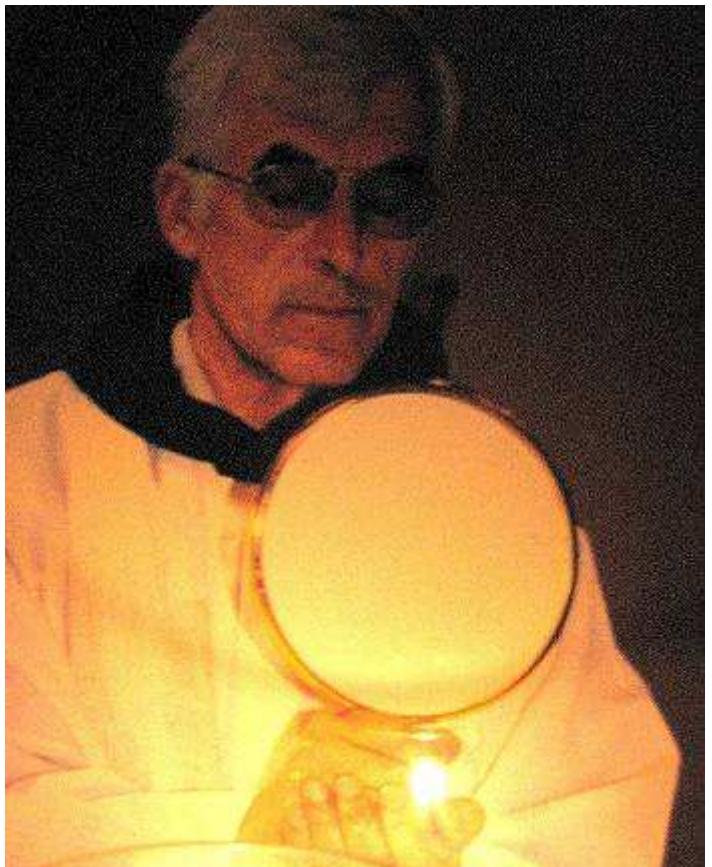
„IN THE SCHOOL OF LOVE“

Accept and Love

„Dear children! During these days people from all nations will be coming into the parish. And now I am calling you to love: love first of all your own household members, and then you will be able to accept and love all who are coming. Thank you for having responded to my call.“ (June 6, 1985)

The parish of St. James is chosen. The visionaries are chosen. People are chosen. Choosing is a proof of love. And love, given as a gift, deserves a response because love is the most beautiful Word of God and about God. When God's love, as His Word, creates a new word in a human being, then it causes love towards ourselves, towards our own, towards all people and towards all creatures. This new Word, pronounced by words and deeds, becomes a witness. Many will come to this parish. All who come are called and chosen. They come to the Mother who speaks and who testifies through those who first experienced being chosen (the visionaries), who heard the Word and became a new word for all the chosen ones. Those who have heard the Word and have responded. They wish to accept and to answer. Parishioners are called, then, to testify with love. This testimony begins in the home with their own, with their dear ones and those they live with and come I contact with daily. Often there are not enough words of love from them and the power of testimony diminishes. From there, the power of words will begin to transmit and encompass all who must go forth as lighted lamps, spreading a new voice of God to the world from which they come. So, the success of God's talk and Mary's word depends upon the response of parishioners and the whole parish. What a joy that God talks to us in this way through Mary! And what a responsibility we have before God and before Mary for others!

To accept Our Lady's messages, to accept others and love them the way Mary accepts and loves them, means to partake in the role of a



mother in giving birth to a new word. There is no other way, or could there be another way. The experience of pilgrims and parishioners is indeed new experience of togetherness. All who come to this parish community, come to experience it as their own. They experience being members of a greater community, the Church, to which Mary is Mother and each person is a loved child.

There is, however, a constant danger that Mary's words become ordinary, everyday talk, which do not move and do not create new witnesses. There is also the danger of the witnesses becoming tired, because they are hearing so many words from the world and so many tempting melodies that they become deaf to the Divine Word. By praying and fasting and by constant cleansing, this danger can be overcome. When we discover brothers and sisters in our neighbours, the dear children of the same Mother, and we love and accept them, then we witness in a joyful way. We all become joyfully responsible for God's love and the increase of love in the world.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Col 3: 12, 14)

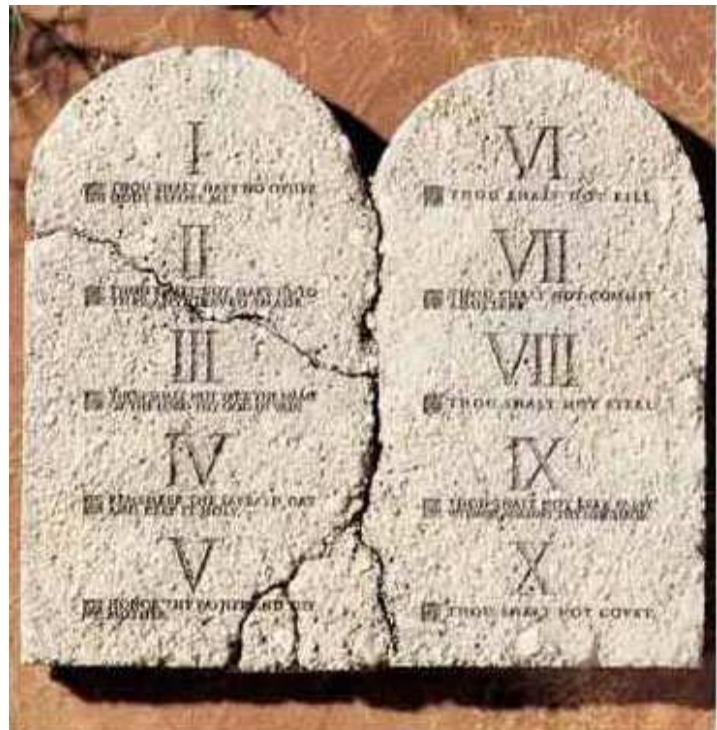
GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS – III.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

In the third commandment the Lord gives us one special day in the week that has to be lived in a different way from the others: it is the day for the Lord, which we are to dedicate in a special way to our Creator. In the Old Testament, this day was celebrated on Saturday, just as God rested on the seventh day from all his work which He did. By celebrating Saturday, the Jewish people remembered the creation of the world that the Lord finished it on the sixth day and rested on the seventh day. In the same way, a man who works six days a week ought to rest on the seventh day and should let others rest as well. As we can read in the Catechism of Catholic Church: „It is a day of protest against the servitude of work and the worship of money.“ (#2172) This day should be dedicated to God, which means to celebrate and worship the Lord.

After Christ's Resurrection, His followers started to celebrate Sunday as a special day of the week. Every Sunday reminds us that through Jesus' resurrection we also rise to a new life. (Sunday is primarily the day to worship the Lord, the cult of God.) The celebration of Sunday stands at the center of the life of the Church. Believers are to participate in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. In order to live this day in the deepest unity with the Creator, the faithful is to refrain from engaging in work or activities that violate the sanctity of Sunday for him or others. Therefore big shopping or performing noisy works in the house and such are to be avoided. We should always bear in our minds that Sunday is meant to bring us closer to the Lord. This day should also inspire us to attain the right attitude towards work and ourselves. We should take advantage of Sunday for rest, to get new strength for the upcoming week; it also gives us the space for building relationships, mostly in our families and communities. Besides that, it should lead us to deepen our spiritual life, and to foster healthy cultural, social and religious relationships.

Let us be thankful to our Creator for the gift of Sunday, which is a trul great gift . How wisely the Lord provides for a healthy lifestyle. He knows well



our needs. He knows that we need to make a pause in our lives at least once in a week, to dedicate time to Him, from whom all blessings flow. He knows the needs of our body and that we need to rest. He also knows that our relationships as well, especially family and community relationships in which we are living need time that we should spend more intensively with one another. Let us be thankful for this great gift! May we make good use of each Sunday for us and for our neighbours.

Jana Kutnikova

Sources:

- CCC 2168 – 2195
- Deut 5: 12-15
- Exo 20: 8-11
- Mk 2: 23-28
- Ps 118: 24
- Acts 2: 42-47

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. *Read together as a family or a community the passage from Deut 5, 12-15.*
2. *Talk about the way you live the Sunday in your families, communities in which you are living.*
3. *Think together on how you can improve living the Sunday in your families and communities. For example, you could read the Bible together, adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, go on a family trip to a pilgrimage place, pray the Way of the Cross in the nature, and so on ...*

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

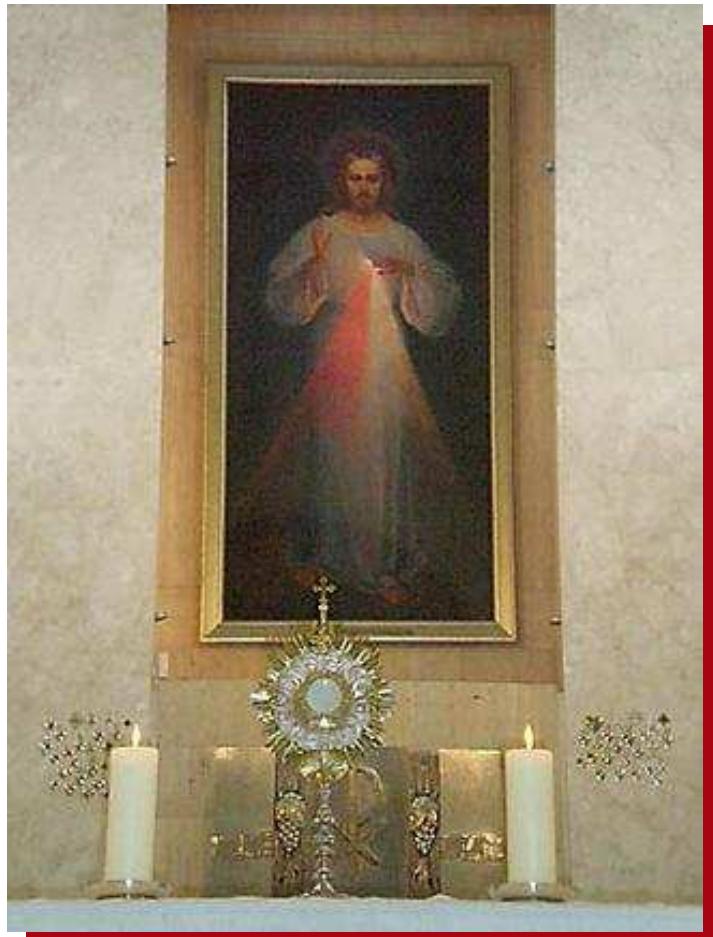
April 11

„Be Apostles of The Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.“

Pope John Paul II, in a Papal Blessing on Oct. 5, 2001

Pope John Paul II established the Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. On that day, Pope John Paul II declared:

"This is the happiest day of my life."



„Ask of my faithful servant [Father Sopocko] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment.

Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.“

(Diary 300)

„This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of My tender mercies. Every soul believing and trusting in My mercy will obtain it.“ (Diary 420)

„At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion....“

(Diary 1320)

„My daughter, look into the abyss of My mercy and give praise and glory to this mercy of Mine. Do it in this way: Gather all sinners from the entire world and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. I want to give Myself to souls; I yearn for souls, My daughter. On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will go through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them.“ (Diary 206)

„At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same.“ (Diary 811)

Novena to the Divine Mercy which begins on

Good Friday, April 2

(the anniversary of the death of John Paul II.).

You can find Novena at

<http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>

“CHRIST’S FIDELITY, THE PRIEST’S FIDELITY”

A YEAR FOR PRIESTS JUNE 19, 2009 – JUNE 19, 2010

In the Year for Priests

let us pray for priests so they would become the gift of Jesus' Heart. **We invite you to participate in unceasing prayers for priests by forming prayer groups consisting of 7 members**, each prayer group will pray for a particular priest. Each member of the prayer group will choose one day in a week, in which he will bring prayers and sacrifices for this intention; in this way prayer will continue.

INDULGENCE IN THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS: on the first Thursday of the month

The Plenary Indulgence is granted to all the faithful who are truly repentant who, in church or in chapel, devoutly attend the divine Sacrifice of Mass and offer prayers to Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, for the priests of the Church, and any other good work which they have done on that day, so that he may sanctify them and form them in accordance with His Heart, as long as they have made expiation for their sins through sacramental confession and prayed in accordance with the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.



The newspaper “Voice Medjugorje” is a call, an 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.



“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 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, but also Pakistan, India, Slovakia, Czech Republic, USA, Germany.

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
- to help and serve our neighbour in a specific way

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.

If you want to join us in prayer or our newspaper, please send an email to: gospa3@gmail.com

Light of Mary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to invite you to participate in the following events:

- **15th International Priests Seminar**, June 28 - July 3, 2010
- **21th Youth Festival**, August 1 - 6, 2010 (<http://www.medjugorje.hr/en/medjugorje-phenomenon/international-meetings/youth-festival/>)
- **11th International Meeting for Married Couples**, September 29 - October 2, 2010 (<http://www.medjugorje.hr/en/medjugorje-phenomenon/international-meetings/married-couples/>)

MEDJUGORJE on Internet:

- IN CHROATIAN, ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH, SPANISH: www.medjugorje.hr, www.medjugorje.ws
- IN ENGLISH: www.medjugorje.net
- IN SLOVAK: www.gospa.sk
- IN RUSSIAN: www.medjugorje.ru
- IN UKRAINIAN: www.medjugorje.com.ua
- IN LATVIAN: <http://katolis.eks.lv/>

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