

## OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 25, 2004

**“Dear Children! This is a time of grace for the family and, therefore, I call you to renew prayer. May Jesus be in the heart of your family. In prayer, learn to love everything that is holy. Imitate the lives of saints so that they may be an incentive and teachers on the way of holiness. May every family become a witness of love in this world without prayer and peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”**

### The Call to Holiness through Family Prayer

#### **A. Renew Prayer in the Family.**

1. Family Rosary. Everyone has heard Fr. Peyton's statement: "The family that prays together, stays together." Fr. Peyton was motivated by Our Lady's strong and urgent request that we pray the Rosary. Sr. Lucy of Fatima attests that it was specially blessed by God with power. Our Lady says the Rosary alone can work miracles. Vicka said that the Rosary said well can take care of any problem and even war. The Rosary is the life of Christ commented on by Our Lady. There is an added power when the Rosary is said in the family or in a group (St. John Vianney).
2. Read Scripture. Our Lady says that every family should read the Bible daily. The Bible contains the Word of God, His guidance for our lives. The Holy Spirit becomes active when Holy Scripture is read with openness, attention, and devotion. Our Lady says that we should pick out the part that pertains to us and discuss its meaning in our daily life. This can be done in conjunction with the recitation of the Rosary.
3. Renew Consecration. Our Lady wants us to renew each day our Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to her Immaculate Heart. This dual devotion was one of the central requests at Fatima. Our Lady said: "Satan is trying to destroy families." (9-20-99) And on January 1, 2001 Our Lady said to Marija in an emphatic way: "Now when Satan is unchained, I desire you to be consecrated to My Heart and the Heart of My Son Jesus." She invites us to renew this informally during the day. Living the consecration guarantees the presence, protection, guidance and blessing of Our Blessed Mother.
4. Chaplet of Mercy. If the family members are able to gather together at 3:00 p.m. to say the chaplet, they will always remember to say it. Our Lord recommends that we say it for the holy souls in purgatory, because their suffering is great and this would be a great spiritual work of mercy. At that hour Our Lord promises to answer any request we have if it is within the holy Will of God.
5. Monthly Message. Our Lady wants us to read and pray and discuss her message each month. In a family setting we are sure to do so. She said we should respect the message very much because it comes from heaven and contains so many graces for us. She assures us that she will be with us to help us and she puts special emphasis on finding ways to actually live the message.
6. Confession. Our Lady strongly advises us to make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which, she says, is the first and most fundamental act of conversion on our part. She advises a minimum of once a month: Our Lord encourages us to go every week. If the family goes as a group, this is a great witness and a help to remember to do so.
7. Holy Mass. Our Lady recommends we attend Holy Mass as often as possible. Some families take a few minutes the night before to prepare for Holy Mass by looking over the readings together, discussing ways to participate in the Mass, especially the preparation, reception and thanksgiving of Communion.
8. Prayer at Meals. Prayer before and after meals is an essential custom in most Catholic families. God's blessing falls upon each one present. This is a simple way of encouraging that river of thanksgiving to flow continually from our hearts as Our Lady recommended.

## **B. Place Jesus in the Heart of the Family.**

1. Shrine. Our Lady asks that each family have a shrine or special place where Jesus is honored. It is customary to gather around the shrine for family prayer. Bishop Sheen had a small chapel off the main entrance of his home and he stopped there for a little prayer every time he passed by it.
2. Home Blessing. The Church encourages each family to have its home blessed and presents us with a beautiful prayer which can be said frequently:  
“Father, help us to live as the Holy Family of Nazareth, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home.” (Collect for the Feast of the Holy Family.)
3. Enthronement. The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home is a simple ceremony that places Jesus at the very center of family life and entrusts the family to the special care and protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus reigns in the family with His love and nurtures charity in the family.
4. Picture. One of the promises that Our Lord gave to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is this: “I will bless the homes in which the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honored.” Some families have a dual picture of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart in every room of the house. Others honor a picture of the Divine Mercy.
5. Bible. Our Lady asks that a Bible be placed in a central location and that it be open, which would invite family members to pick it up and read. She says that every family “must” read the Bible every day, and let the Word of God guide them and inspire them.
6. Crucifix. In most Catholic families a crucifix is hanging on the wall. Some have one in every room and quite often there is one on the bed resting on the pillow. Our Lady has suggested saying the Rosary, especially the Sorrowful Mysteries, in front of the crucifix.

## **C. In Prayer Learn to Love Everything that is Holy.**

1. Scapular. The scapular is a sign of a person’s consecration to Our Lady and it should not only be worn by family members but venerated from time to time. In the last apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, she was holding a scapular and a rosary. A scapular not only carries with it the protection of Our Blessed Mother, but it is also an invitation to be clothed with her virtues.
2. Miraculous Medal. The Miraculous Medal is a sacramental that brings with its veneration many graces in time of need. Mother Teresa had the habit of giving such a medal to everyone she met. St. Maximilian Kolbe was convinced he could convert the world if he could convince each person to wear this medal.
3. Crucifix. When individual family members wear a crucifix, they are showing they belong to Jesus and are willing to make sacrifices in union with the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. The crucifix wards off evil and draws a person into the Heart of Jesus.
4. Holy Water. Our Lady has recommended the frequent use of holy water as a means of grace and protection. She would have us go through our homes two or three times a week sprinkling every room.
5. Blessed Salt. Some people used blessed salt as an alternative to holy water, although it is used most often outdoors to bless one’s property.

## **D. Imitate the Lives of the Saints.**

1. Family Library. Collecting good lives of the saints little by little and placing them on the family bookshelf is a very worthwhile project. If the books are there, they will more than likely be picked up and read.
2. Patron Saints. Special attention should be given to the patron saints of each family member so that they can cultivate a devotion and relationship to the saints assigned to protect and help them.
3. Medals. Patron saint medals are a very appropriate gift at the reception of individual Sacraments and also on the occasion of special events like birthdays.
4. Saint of the Day. Good Catholic families follow the liturgical calendar very closely and acknowledge the saint of the day. Special attention should be given to modern saints like Padre Pio, St. Therese, St. Faustina and the like.