

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 25, 2005

“Little children, believe, pray and love, and God will be near you. He will give you the gift of all the graces you seek from Him. I am a gift to you, because, from day to day, God permits me to be with you and to love each of you with immeasurable love. Therefore, little children, in prayer and humility, open your hearts and be witnesses of my presence. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Open Your Hearts

A. “Little Children”

1. Our Lady begins her message this month with a simple yet profound greeting: “little children.” She is not speaking to those who are curious and want to know what her message might be this time. She is not speaking to those who will read the message once and then put it aside. She is not speaking to those who are sitting down to listen to this message in a comfortable and complacent manner. She is not speaking to anyone who enjoys being entertained by sweet words from heaven.
2. Our Lady is speaking to “little children” – those who are humble because they know how totally insignificant they are, how utterly helpless they are by themselves, how terribly vulnerable they are, how surely doomed to failure they are as they walk alone, how they are absolutely nothing. Therefore, Our Lady is speaking to “little children” – those who have discovered the depths of their poverty and who have a profound sense of their need of God.
3. St. Therese of Lisieux says that “little children” are eminently open to God and they act like a magnet drawing down the immediate response, attention, care, and mercy of God. St. Teresa of Avila says that “little children” engage in genuine prayer of which there are three signs:
1) Humility – one’s absolute and desperate need of God; 2) Joy – the sign of a loving heart conversing familiarly with one’s Best Friend; and 3) Obedience – the constant desire to find ways to please one’s Friend because of endearing love.

B. Our Lady Speaks About God.

1. God is So Good.
 - a. “God the Creator has created you so wonderfully.” (8-25-88)
 - b. “God loves you with such a great love.” (3-25-88)
 - c. “You are God’s children and He is watching over you every minute.” (2-25-88)
 - d. “Without God there is no future, no joy, no salvation.” (4-25-97)
 - e. “So love God above all else – put Him in the first place.” (3-25-96)
2. But Something Big is Happening: “This is a Time of Great Grace.”
 - a. “God is revealing Himself to you in a special way.” (1-25-89)
 - b. “God is offering Himself to you in His fullness.” (10-25-87)
 - c. “God is giving Himself to you and He wants your answer.” (11-25-88)
 - d. “The Father is calling you through me and you need to answer.” (10-25-87)
3. There are Benefits.
 - a. Safety. “Help me present you to God and to save you.” (6-25-87)
 - b. Protection. “Pray that God’s blessing may protect you from all the evil that is threatening you.” (4-25-87)
 - c. Joy. “Surrender completely to God – all you possess into the hands of God. Only then will you have joy in your heart.” (4-25-89)
 - d. Peace. “With God there is only peace.” (2-25-91)
4. My Only Request is This:
“Become in simplicity like a child open to the love of the Father.” (7-25-96)

C. The Father Speaks for Himself.

1. "Peace and salvation to the whole world:
May My power, My love, and My Holy Spirit touch men's hearts, so that all mankind may turn to salvation and come to its Father, Who seeks mankind, to love and to save mankind!"
2. "My joy lies in being known and loved by My children.
 - a. As their Father I watch over them and I love each one of My children.
 - b. I feel the greatest happiness in being with them and talking with them as a Father talks to His children.
 - c. I come to talk to them and to make them aware of My love."
3. "I want only one thing:
To love them and give them My graces – I supply everything."
4. "Call Me by the sweet name 'Father' and you will begin to live in the love and trust that will make you happy for all eternity.
 - a. Confide in Me your smallest need, your thoughts, your desires, with total trust and you will feel Me very close to you.
 - b. And then how could I ever refuse you anything?"
–To Blessed Eugenia Ravasco (1845-1900) Beatified July 5, 2002.

D. How to Respond: Believe, Pray and Love.

1. Believe. Belief is a profession of Faith. Faith in the Father is our response to His Truth and Goodness, the one source of all our blessings.
 - a. To believe is to accept the Father's word and to place all our trust in His goodness, love, and mercy.
 - 1) The Goodness of the Father is manifested in a thousand ways – in creating us, caring for us, blessing us, foreseeing and providing for all our needs.
 - 2) The Love of the Father is shown by sending His Son to come among us, to teach us God's ways, to die for us, to call us to live with Him forever.
 - 3) The Mercy of the Father is revealed in His treating us so condescendingly, leniently, and gently in spite of all our failings.
 - b. To believe is to surrender to the Father completely and to put Him first in our lives, because He loves us more than we love ourselves and always chooses what is best for us.
 - c. To believe is to rely on the Father in total dependence for all our needs.
2. Pray. Prayer is an act of submission to the Father as our greatest good. To pray is to open our hearts to the Father in humility and love, to listen to Him as a child and to obey His Will.
 - a. Our Blessed Mother said that real prayer must come from the heart and it is the nature of prayer of the heart to give one's all to God out of love.
 - b. Pope John Paul II: "Prayer is:
 - 1) putting yourself in touch with God,
 - 2) opening yourself to the Will of God regarding yourself and others,
 - 3) and finding yourself in radical poverty, without illusions, before the infinite richness of God."
3. Love. Our Blessed Mother has asked us to do everything with love, to make love the principle of all our actions, and to realize that it is only love that makes our life and actions meaningful.
 - a. But Our Lady wants us to love with God's love; i.e., to put the good of God and others before ourselves, to forget ourselves and reach out.
 - b. Mother Teresa reminds us that true love always entails sacrifice.

E. I Am a Gift To You. And what a gift! In her humility, she waits until the end to remind us that God is sending her to us as Queen of Peace to bring to perfection His marvelous Plan.

1. She is there as our Mother to assist us each step of the way and to pour out upon us her "immeasurable love" filling us with all the help we need.
2. She wants to be an intimate part of our life and our prayer so that at each moment she can place within us the inspiration and grace that her maternal insight discerns what we need most at the moment.
3. God seems always to reserve His best wine for the last.