

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 25, 2007

“Dear children! God sent me among you out of love that I may lead you towards the way of salvation. Many of you opened your hearts and accepted my messages, but many have become lost on this way and have never come to know the God of love with the fullness of heart. Therefore, I call you to be love and light where there is darkness and sin. I am with you and bless you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Come Closer to Mary and Be Closer to God

A. Mary – Gift of God's Love.

1. God's Love. Our Blessed Mother wants us to recognize immediately that she does not come among us on her own, but that she comes as a great gift from the Goodness of God and as an extraordinary manifestation of His Love. God as our Father always has His eyes fixed on us and is full of concern when we drift far from Him. As the best of fathers, He always is very magnanimous and does the best thing for us: He sends us His own Mother.
2. God's Mercy. Our Lady wants us to recognize the extremity of the Father's love, a gesture of His Mercy. He sent us His Son and we crucified Him; He sent us His Holy Spirit and we shut Him out of our lives so as to engage in our own pursuits; and now His Mother comes. The very thought of a mother should melt people's hearts. She comes as Mother of Mercy to avert God's Justice; it is a last resort. Her role is to put us back on the path of salvation and holiness.
3. Our Response. To express our appreciation, love and gratitude to the Father's merciful love, Our Lady has asked us each evening during our night prayer to make a special point of thanking the Father for the gift of Medjugorje and thereby the gift of Mary. Our Lady has said that thanksgiving is a sign of appreciation and growth in appreciation means growth in love.

B. The Categorical Imperative: Accept Mary into Our Lives.

1. First Way: Consecration. When God offers us a gift, the best and only response is to accept it. We do this by inviting Our Blessed Mother into our lives each day through our consecrating and promising to surrender ourselves completely to her presence and guidance. She offers her very self, her Heart, her Love; we try to do the same by praying: “Impress true love in our hearts so that we have a continuous desire for You” – i.e., we want to be continually united with her throughout the day. When we do not renew our consecration each day in a personal and heart-felt way, we are very cruel. We are telling the Father that we do not want His gift, we are telling Mary that we do not want her to be a part of our everyday life.
2. Second Way: Prayer. Mary said that prayer is conversation. She has also said

that with our consecration, she gives us the gift of her continual presence. How odd to walk with our mother continually at our side and never talk to her. She has said: “I want to hear your voice.” She has also said: “I will take you by the hand and we will walk together discussing the beauty of life.”

- a. Holy Mass. When Our Lady told the visionaries “I will meet you at the door of the Church” she was wanting to lead them through the entire celebration of Mass.
 - b. Holy Rosary. She said that when we unite our prayer with hers during the rosary, it becomes efficacious – God accepts our prayer as coming from her.
3. Third Way: Monthly Message. Mary said: prayer is listening. The best way to listen daily is to make the message part of the Rosary. Mary: “When you pick up the Rosary, you are inviting me to a conversation with you.” Open up the treasures hidden in the Monthly Message by discussing it with Our Lady during the Rosary. Our Lady’s comment on the Monthly Message: “There you have the source of your graces.” This mutual reflection on the Monthly Message is the only way Our Mother can guide us and form us. Since she described her messages as a commentary on Holy Scripture, their link to the Word of God speaking to us and the Mysteries of Christ’s life is obvious.

C. Be Love and Light Where There Is Darkness and Sin.

1. Smile Often. Show that you are positively and genuinely interested in their welfare and that you want to gift them with your own joy. Mother Teresa smiled at everyone she met and was heralded as “The Smiling Sun.”
2. Be Positive. As Our Blessed Mother said: “Think positive thoughts, say positive things, do only positive things and you will taste peace.” You will be able to bring peace to others.
3. Pray for Others. Our Blessed Mother: “Love all because they are your own brothers and sisters.” Prayer is a great manifestation of love and besides “prayer changes hearts.”
4. Love with God’s Love. God loved us by deciding in advance to love us and then He brought us into being. He put our good before His own by suffering and dying for us. And His love persevered to the end, it was relentless. And it was always smothering us with blessings no matter how bad we were: “He lets His sun shine on the good and the bad.” (Matt.) He always seeks to bring out the best in us by heaping kindnesses upon us.
5. Turn Negatives into Positives. Follow Scripture: Never criticize, never argue, never judge, never complain, return good for evil.

-Rev. Robert Hughes, S.M.