

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

“Dear children! Today, when you celebrate Christ, the King of all that is created, I desire for Him to be the King of your lives. Only through giving, little children, can you comprehend the gift of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross for each of you. Little children, give time to God that He may transform you and fill you with His grace, so that you may be a grace for others. For you, little children, I am a gift of grace and love, which comes from God for this peaceless world. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

How To Live This Advent

We come once again to that momentous time of the year, when our loving and merciful Father offers us the gift of His Peace in the person of His Son wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Traditionally the November Message has always been Our Lady’s advice on how, during these short days of Advent, we should approach the great Feast of Christmas. As always she takes her cue from the Sacred Liturgy. This year the November Message comes to us on the Feast of Christ the King, and so Our Lady takes off from there: Christ comes as the King of Peace.

A. Let Christ Rule Our Heart. “I desire Him to be the King of your lives.”

1. Jesus Comes As A Shepherd-King. After the Israelite Kings failed so miserably in their care of the Chosen People for five long centuries (1020 BC – 587 BC), God said He was going to take the job back.
 - a. God was not going to rule His people like earthly kings, because He is a God of Love who really cares about every individual, especially for the poor, the weak, the defenseless. God said He would send His Anointed One, Who would indeed be a King, but who would rule as a Shepherd.
 - b. God revealed Himself as the King of Hearts through the prophet Ezekiel: “I Myself will care for My sheep and watch over them...and pasture them...I will tend My sheep lovingly and give them rest. I will go out and search for the lost and lead back the strays...I will bind up the wounds of the injured and strengthen the weak...(Because) you are My sheep and the flock of My pasture, and I am your God.” Ezek. c.34. (1st Reading – Feast of Christ the King, Cycle A)
2. Seeking A Relationship With His Sheep. Jesus fulfilled the mission of the Shepherd-King perfectly by winning over the hearts of His disciples (cf. the marvelous c. 10 of John’s Gospel on the Good (True) Shepherd).
 - a. The striking feature of a shepherd and his flock is that they are bound tightly together in a very intimate relationship that is nurtured by continual mutual knowledge and constant personal communion. They live side by side 24 hours a day. The dominant characteristic of the shepherd is his “loving care” even to the point of giving his life for his sheep. The outstanding trait of the sheep is

- their “total confidence in and dependence on” the shepherd.
- b. We would totally misread the intent of the coming of our Shepherd-King at Christmas if we thought He comes only to gift us with the peace of reconciliation with the Father. Certainly that, but He comes to scoop us up into a deep and lasting relationship with Himself so that He can introduce us to the same loving relationship He has with the Father.
3. Who Are Strayed. So the work of Advent is cut out for us. During this short time, we have to work on building up a renewed relationship with the Child Jesus, Who is our Savior, Shepherd, and Best Friend: which includes:
 - a. Our desperate need of Him;
 - b. Our wish in wanting Him to come;
 - c. Our heart-felt desire to love Him.

B. Let Mary Bring Us To Jesus. “I am a gift of grace and love from God.”

1. Advent Takes Place Inside Mary. Advent celebrates the Coming of Jesus and Jesus is coming to us through the womb and Heart of Mary. Why has Mary come to us? “I am Mother – that is why I have come.” As she formed Jesus in her womb, so does she want to form us into the image and likeness of Jesus. Our Blessed Mother loves us with the same intensity that she loves Jesus. And so with St Paul she can say that she is in anguish until Christ is formed in us. Truly, a person does not arrive at maturity in the spiritual life until Mary is for that person all that she was for Jesus.
 - a. By Our Act Of Consecration, carefully renewed each day of Advent, we place ourselves in the Heart of Mary right next to Jesus. And we do this with the same confidence, love and total surrender that Jesus did Who found in Mary’s Heart a new Paradise of Love and Devotion similar to what He enjoyed in heaven.
 - b. There In Silence And Recollection, we share in the loving exchanges that go on between Mother and Son. There we experience Jesus’ great desire to be united with His people, with us personally. There we receive the desire to be one with Jesus and with our real Mother. 2000 years ago Jesus cried because “there was no room in the inn.” Each year He comes knocking at the door of our heart to see if we welcome Him.
2. In Her Heart, Mary Teaches Us To Yearn for Jesus.
 - a. By Helping Us Discover Our Poverty And Need Of Him. Our Lady said once: “Understand that it is your poverty alone that draws down my Son Jesus. Your poverty makes you always such a little child and that means your total poverty of goods, attachments, ideas and affections. To be poor means precisely to possess this nothingness. It is this nothingness that attracts God’s good pleasure and makes you capable of receiving it.” This is the first grace to ask for.
 - b. By Helping Us To Want The Blessings Jesus Brings. Jesus told St. Faustina

that He brings many and great blessings at the time of Holy Communion but He is chagrined that so few people really want them. But the greatest gift Jesus brings is His love and love is the only thing He seeks from us. St. Therese of Lisieux put it this way: “Because I was small and weak, Jesus stooped down to me and in secret taught me the marvels of His love.”

- c. By Helping Us Grow In The Friendship Of Jesus. We cannot respond to Jesus’ overtures of love unless we receive the grace of being touched by how much He loves us. And so Our Blessed Mother has asked us: “Each day beg Jesus to manifest His love for you.”

C. How To Live This Message.

1. Give Jesus Time. It is in constant giving that we take on the divine way of loving. Daily we have to renew the gift of our total surrender. St. Teresa of Avila: “Jesus will not manifest Himself to us unless we give our all to Him.”
2. Each Day Tell Jesus You Want Him To Come. Sit down each day and write a new reason in one sentence why you 1) need Him, 2) want Him, 3) love Him.
3. Be A Source Of Light And Love To Everyone You Meet. Raise people out of the darkness of life by a good word, a smiling face, a helping hand. Or as Mother Teresa put it: sit before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, get a good look at Him so that you are able to recognize Him hidden in the poor of this world.

-Rev. Robert Hughes, S.M.