

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF DECEMBER 25, 2008

“Dear children! You are running, working, gathering – but without blessing. You are not praying! Today I call you to stop in front of the manger and to meditate on Jesus, Whom I give to you today also, to bless you and to help you to comprehend that, without Him, you have no future. Therefore, little children, surrender your lives into the hands of Jesus, for Him to lead you and protect you from every evil. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Stop in Front of the Manger

A. You Are Not Praying!

1. **The Harvest.** Harvesting grapes in Medjugorje is always a critical time. The grapes have to be gathered quickly, there is an enormous amount of work to be done and time is of the essence. Seemingly there is little time to pray. But Our Lady was watching all this and insisted that the workers pray first and all would turn out well.
2. **A Farmer's Witness.** In 1988, I remember speaking with a farmer in Medjugorje during the grape harvest. He said that during the early years of the apparitions while they were trying to harvest their grapes, Our Lady complained that they were not praying. So, he said, we prayed before going out to work in the fields. What amazed us, he said, was that we finished our work around 4 p.m. when it would ordinarily take us till 9 or 10 in the evening. “We don't know how it happened – it was like a miracle. Our Lady must have sent her angels to help us!”
3. **God's Blessing.** Our Lady told them on July 5, 1984: “Dear children, today I wish to tell you, always pray before your work and end your work with prayer. If you do that, God will bless you and your work. These days you have been praying too little and working a lot; therefore, pray. In prayer you will find rest.” A promise fulfilled!

B. I Give You Jesus Today to Bless You and Help You.

1. **Prayer Blessing.** Jelena, the locutionist, tells us that Our Blessed Mother, in teaching her prayer group the principles of prayer, modeled all her teaching on the Holy Mass. At the end of Holy Mass, there is the Final Blessing. So Our Blessed Mother told them that, at the end of their meditative prayer sessions, they should always turn to Jesus and ask Him to bless their resolutions.
2. **Mass Blessing.** In a remarkable teaching to Theresa Neumann, the mystic of Konnersreuth, Jesus explained the power of grace contained in the Final Blessing at Holy Mass. He asked her to be very attentive at this part of the Mass and to receive eagerly the manifold graces and blessings that accompanied the Final Blessing. Then He said, among other things, that the Final Blessing brings with it: 1) protection from all dangers; 2) a raising of all one's actions to the supernatural order; 3) all the graces needed in one's endeavors and success to all one's projects, etc.
3. **Manger Blessing.** Our Lady asks us to stop and “meditate on Jesus” in front of the manger so that He might bless us. The Birth of Jesus is an extraordinary Mystery of great magnitude. Our Lady has revealed to us that on Christmas more souls are released from purgatory than at any other time of the year. Jesus brings us great blessings and His special blessing is that of Peace (Shalom) which means that everything will go well with us in our life.

C. Surrender Your Lives into the Hands of Jesus...so that He may lead you and protect you from every evil.

1. **Protection.** Our Lady has warned us so many times that satan is always at work “underhandedly” in our lives, trying to lead us astray. We are no match for his

wiles and need absolutely this protection of Jesus.

2. **Surrender.** Our Lady has told us: “God only wants your surrender.” By turning over our lives and all we have to Jesus, He then possesses us and can lead us according to God’s Will and Plan.
3. **Mary, Queen of Peace.** To make our surrender permanent and effective, we surrender our lives to our Mother and beg her to bring us to Jesus...to His manger, to His open arms, to His Heart. Jesus has asked us to find our reserved seat in His Heart and stay there...speaking and listening.

-Rev. Robert Hughes, S.M.