

## OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 25, 2006

**“Dear children! In this Lenten time of grace, I call you to open your hearts to the gifts that God desires to give you. Do not be closed, but with prayer and renunciation say ‘yes’ to God and He will give to you in abundance. As in springtime the earth opens to the seed and yields a hundredfold, so also your heavenly Father will give to you in abundance. I am with you and love you, little children, with a tender love. Thank you for having responded to my call.”**

### Open Your Hearts to Receive God's Gifts

#### **A. Meaning of the Words.**

1. **“Dear children!”** My children are humble, docile, full of good will; they are mine because they are just like me.
2. **“In this Lenten time”** “Lent” is from the Old English “lengten” which means a lengthening of daylight hours, more sun in our lives, God’s presence more manifest. Thus, Spring – a time when flowers are expected to grow and blossom.
3. **“Time of Grace”** St. Teresa of Avila: “There are certain times in our spiritual life when it rains (grace).” Grace (actual) is an invitation to enter the house of God and share more deeply His life (sanctifying grace).
4. **“I Call You”** Good children run to Mother and look into her eyes to receive the blessing of her love; their ears are full of attention and their hearts are eager to respond. They are listening with love.
5. **“Open Your Hearts”** Put aside what you are doing and embrace Me in love, because I am about to ask a favor of you. Offer your heart and willingness.
6. **“Do not Be Closed”** Please, no excuses; tear up your agenda; destroy your defenses and surrender to Me; close your ears to other suggestions; don’t run away from Me but give me your smile of acceptance and eagerness.
7. **“With Prayer and Renunciation”** This is My request: a prayerful reaching out to God with your heart and a rejection of a life of comfort and dissipation. Use every minute of this precious time responsibly; renounce your will.
8. **“Say ‘Yes’ to God”** Make a firm decision with a strong Faith and tell God that you are more than willing to cooperate with all the graces He sends you.
9. **“Your Heavenly Father will give in Abundance”** All will go well with you and your Loving Father will delight in blessing you beyond your dreams. Thank the Father in advance for His immense goodness and trust Him implicitly.
10. **“I Am With You”** I will be at your side every minute of Lent ready to help you. I know exactly what you need and I will be waiting for you to seek my advice. I will be speaking to you in prayer if you invite me and let me lead you.

#### **B. Say ‘Yes’ to God with PRAYER.**

Our Prayer and Renunciation will be the signs of our good will. We should be doing something new and different that will start us walking on a new path. Some suggestions are given below. We should pick something and stay with it. Our Blessed Mother advises us to be simple and not bite off too much at once. Quality first, not quantity. Don’t forget – encircle one thing to do.

1. Rearrange your daily timetable in favor of the spiritual life, so that the Lenten grace, coming in abundance, has a chance to operate.
2. Choose something that will uniquely improve the way you pray and examine your prayer each day in terms of this.
3. On the way to Holy Mass cultivate your desire to be with Jesus, which is the one thing He has said He wants most.
4. Pause for 15 seconds before the beginning of each Rosary and ask Our Lady to bring you to the love of Jesus hidden in each Mystery.
5. Find a good spiritual reading book and read it at least 15 minutes each day.
6. Resolve at the beginning of every prayer to pray from the heart, giving to God sentiments that you really mean in earnest.

7. Get a picture of the Suffering Face/Person of Jesus and look at it reflectively for one minute each day.
8. Make the Stations of the Cross at least on Friday and do so with full attention and special fervor.
9. At the beginning of the day ask the Heavenly Father for the Blessing of the Holy Spirit so that you may do each venture of the day out of love.
10. Remain an extra 5 minutes after Mass each day to entertain in a special way the sacramental presence of Jesus.
11. Spend a few minutes the night before to look over the Scripture readings and pick out some special word, phrase or message that you want to put in your heart.
12. At Holy Communion each day, ask Jesus for one special spiritual gift that you sense you need the most.
13. Meet Our Lady at the Church door each day 5 minutes before Holy Mass and ask her to help you prepare for what is coming.
14. Prepare for Good Friday and Mercy Sunday by reading one paragraph each day from the Diary of St. Faustina.
15. Find a friend to walk with you during Lent and spend a few minutes each day talking about the spiritual life, what you are doing, reading, etc.
16. Ask for the grace of making a good Lent and repeat this request at a specific time each day.
17. At the beginning of each day, offer your left hand to Jesus and your right hand to Mary and ask them for the grace of walking in their presence throughout the day.
18. Examine yourself for one minute at noon and before going to bed as to how you tried to do the Will of God during the day.
19. Put a picture of Jesus/Mary on your bed, your bathroom mirror, in your living room, your car and ask for the grace of living in her presence and in her heart.
20. At Holy Communion beg Jesus several times to stay with you, guide you, and bless you through the rest of the day.
21. Say your Consecration prayers to Jesus and Mary each day very, very slowly.
22. Ask Jesus to anoint your ears each day so that you can hear Him speaking to you.

**C. Say 'Yes' to God with RENUNCIATION.**

Prayer and Sacrifice are intimately connected: prayer makes us more generous in making sacrifices and renunciation validates the authenticity of our prayer. Jesus: hanging on the Cross was painful; every sacrifice should cause pain to body or spirit because it causes deprivation to our self-seeking. Encircle one thing.

1. Bring a little sacrifice to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each day.
2. Make it a point to do a favor/service for someone each day.
3. Visit a sick person at least once a week during Lent.
4. Volunteer to do something special in the parish during Lent.
5. Determine specifically how you are going to fast on Wednesday and Friday.
6. Decide firmly to give up something you like on Thursday to honor the Holy Eucharist.
7. Give up something that just might pinch you a little bit – salt, sugar, butter, cream.
8. Look at TV only at the time when the news comes on.
9. The Angel of Fatima: offer up everything you do as a sacrifice – of praise, thanks, etc.
10. Everyone has a certain amount of “free time” each day. Single out a specific time when you will do something special for Jesus and Mary.
11. Look over your life and look for something that needs correcting. Zero in on it and figure out how you can attack it anew each day.
12. Take 5 minutes out of each day when you can be alone with yourself and give this time to Jesus – to instruct you about the meaning of life in terms of eternity.
13. Make a special donation to the “poor box” each week.
14. Limit yourself to 0 or 2 cups of coffee each day.
15. Do something special for the Holy Souls in purgatory each day: prayer, sacrifice, etc.
16. Find out who needs help in your parish and determine what you can do for them.
17. Try to be a source of blessing and encouragement by smiling at everyone you meet.