

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

“Dear children! Open your heart to God’s mercy in this Lenten time. The Heavenly Father desires to deliver each of you from the slavery of sin. Therefore, little children, make good use of this time and through meeting with God in confession, leave sin and decide for holiness. Do this out of love for Jesus, who redeemed you all with His blood, that you may be happy and in peace. Do not forget, little children: your freedom is your weakness, therefore follow my messages with seriousness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Open Your Heart to God’s Mercy

Lent is a very special time when God pours many graces upon us, and we have to be there to catch them. Our Lady knows us through and through, and in her great wisdom has discerned what we need most at this time so she gives us this beautiful message. All she needs from us is our good will and openness. When Marija asked Our Lady what “openness” meant, Our Lady answered: The call is an offering of grace, to respond in some way to that call is to manifest one’s openness – a cooperation with grace.

A. How Do We Open Our Hearts?

1. Prayer. Prayer is a stepping out in faith, a reaching out to seek God’s help because we know that we need Him. St. Teresa of Avila says that Christians pray differently than other people, because they believe three things:
 - a. Jesus is always present. No matter what, He never leaves us for a moment. He is always standing by our side and He follows us wherever we go. We simply cannot get rid of Him.
 - b. Jesus is always watching us very carefully. His eyes are fixed intently on us watching our every move. He inspects every little thought we have and reads every movement of our heart.
 - c. Jesus is always burning with love for us, eager to bless us. His love for us is intense and constant. His Heart beats for us, reaching out for our attention, trying to draw us to Himself. He is very eager to be a part of our life. St. Teresa goes on to say that the person who does not realize that Jesus wants to bless us with every blessing will never receive any blessing from Him. Or, as she says, to put it positively: He is more anxious to give than we are to ask. Why? Because He is our very Best Friend.
2. Humility. St. Teresa says that humility is the principal virtue which must be practiced by those who pray. She defines humility this way:

“True humility consists in being ready for what the Lord desires to do with you, in being happy that He should do it, and in always considering yourselves unworthy to be called His servants.”

 - a. St. Teresa made her point very effectively once while giving a commentary on the Book of Wisdom. She was speaking to her novices.
 - 1) Question: You have just come from the world and so now you have to ask yourself:
How are you going to play the game of Life?
Answer: You are going to play chess.
 - 2) Start: The first thing you have to do is to put all the chessmen on the board. And that is prayer. Open yourself completely to God.
 - 3) Object: The object of this game is to check-mate the King.
How? And just how are you going to do that? You are going to do that with the Queen.
And the Queen is Humility.
 - b. St. Teresa insisted that humility be there throughout a person’s entire life. And she added:
“After revealing to Jesus all your miseries, remind Him that you are His child and that He has to take care of you.”
 - c. Pope Benedict XVI, in one of his addresses in early January, questioned whether the man of today felt any need of God. Man appears to be secure and in control: he goes to the moon, he investigates Mars, he has great knowledge of the universe, he is impressed with his

technology, etc. So for him to pray would be equivalent to a Copernican revolution. It would mean he is not self-sufficient but needy and dependent (“give us this day our daily bread”), he is a sinner (“forgive us our trespasses”), he is insecure (“deliver us from evil”).

3. **Confidence.** There is nothing that opens the heart more than the knowledge that there is someone who truly loves us just the way we are, who pardons our many failings, and who is eager to bless us when we don’t deserve it. This is particularly true in an hour of great need.
 - a. In her message of November 2, 2006 to Mirjana, Our Lady warned us:

“My coming to you is God’s love.
God is sending me to warn you....
Do not shut your eyes to the truth....
Your time is short....”
 - b. Our Lord Who gave us this Age of Mercy urges us to respond:
 - 1) “Let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice.” (Faustina #848)
 - 2) “My Mercy is the sign of the last days of the world. He who does not want to pass through the gates of My Mercy will be forced to pass through My Judgment.”
 - 3) “I am Love and Mercy itself. The soul that will trust in My Mercy is most fortunate, because I myself take care of it.” (#1273)
 - 4) “The greater the misery of a soul, the greater right to My Mercy.” (#1182)
 - 5) “From the fount of Mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust.”
 - 6) “I will do everything for the soul that has complete trust in Me.”
 - c. St. Teresa of Avila was so touched by the revelation of the Lord’s Prayer that she sent her novices to chapel to pray for an hour using only the first two words of the prayer: “Our Father.”

B. How to Make a Good Confession. In several places in St. Faustina’s Diary, Our Lord made comments and suggestions on how to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

1. “The Tribunal of Mercy – there the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated. To avail oneself of this miracle, it suffices to come with FAITH to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one’s misery and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated. Were a soul like a decaying corpse, the miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full.” (#1448)
2. “Ask for the Holy Spirit” and “prepare in My presence.” (#1725)
3. “When you go to confession, to this fountain of My Mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul and ennobles it. Every time you go to confession, immerse yourself entirely in My Mercy with GREAT TRUST, so that I may pour the bounty of My grace upon your soul.” (#1602)
4. “When you approach the confessional, know this: that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of Mercy. If their trust is great, there is no limit to my generosity. The torrents of grace inundate humble souls.” (#1602)
5. Once Our Lord complained about people who frequent the Sacraments “Out of habit, with no Faith, no Love. It is better that they do not come!”

C. Your Freedom is Your Weakness. Through the use of our freedom, we are able to choose to function in a world without God. St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, on the occasion of her First Holy Communion, expressed great fear of her “freedom” and asked Our Lord to please take it from her. From then on, as she expressed later, she felt that Jesus had replaced her freedom with His very self: in every action she performed, she sensed that Jesus was with her in a special way inspiring all her actions.