

OUR LADY OF MEDUJORGE'S MESSAGE OF MARCH 25, 2004

“Dear children! Also today, I call you to open yourselves to prayer. Especially now, in this time of grace, open your hearts, little children, and express your love to the Crucified. Only in this way, will you discover peace, and prayer will begin to flow from your heart into the world. Be an example, little children, and an incentive for the good. I am close to you and I love you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Three Steps to the Resurrection

A. Step I: “Be Mine with All Your Heart” (2-25-04)

1. The Key to Lent this year was announced by Our Lady on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25): “Be Mine” i.e., let me lead you through this special time of grace and you will be greatly rewarded – “you will see that your God is great, because He will give you an abundance of blessings and peace.” Is not this an echo of the Third Apparition at Fatima (July 13, 1917): “God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you do this, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.”
 - a. Consecration implies two basic things: 1) a complete surrender of our lives into the care and guidance of Our Lady just as a child does who is lovingly attached to its mother; and 2) an eager docility to carry out all the wishes of the mother in detail through attentive listening and readiness of response, which, of course, takes place in prayer.
 - b. “Open your hearts to my messages”, then, should not be a surprise to us, because to be “open” means to obey, and “open your hearts” means to obey with love. Our Lady communicates her “messages” to us in prayer, and this requires, of course, that we begin our prayer at Mass, the Rosary, etc. by inviting her to lead us in our prayer as we “follow” through our sensitivity to her voice and inspiration.
2. “Be Mine” means that when we recite our daily act of consecration, we are striving to be united with Our Blessed Mother in mind, heart, soul, and spirit. The immediate consequence of this is that we no longer belong to ourselves but have become the sole possession of Our Lady, who will do all the arranging of our lives and make all the significant decisions for us through her guidance. If we comply, then people observing us should see that we act like Our Blessed Mother much the same as children can be spotted as belonging to a certain family because they have the characteristic red hair or dimples of the Murphy family.
 - a. Certain characteristics are highlighted by Our Lady as signs we are hers:
 - 1) Joy and Enthusiasm: “I call you to be mine with all your heart.” (2-25-04) There is a certain energy released when we do something with all our hearts and we enjoy it. We are also very proud to belong to Our Lady – the very Mother of God: “Know (realize) that you are mine...Remain with me always and I will always be your Mother.” (2-25-85)
 - 2) Try to be Perfect: Through her Immaculate Conception and great virtue, Our Lady was an excellent reflection of the divine holiness. And so she says: “Be mine by deciding with me for holiness.” (11-25-98)
 - 3) Love: We know that “God is Love” (I Jn) and that Our Lady once said she was beautiful because she was a loving person. So she wants her children to be instruments of her tenderness: “By loving, people will recognize that you are mine.” (3-25-98) Also: “By love, turn everything into good; only that way will you be completely mine.” (7-86)
 - 4) Prayer: Communication is the first basis for a healthy family and that involves speaking and listening. “Without prayer, you cannot say that you are mine.” (6-25-94)
 - 5) Seek Her Counsel: The mother runs the family. “You who have said you are mine – seek my help.” (12-25-91)
3. The Importance of this Union with Our Mother, Our Lady has highlighted in two expressions: “Also today, as never up to now” and “From the bottom of my heart.”

B. Step II: “Place My Son In the First Place” (3-18-04)

1. Pre-requisite: “A Cleaned Heart.” These phrases come from the annual apparition to Mirjana on her birthday, March 18. And Our Lady is right in tune with the Church’s liturgy, because the readings at Mass each day for the first three weeks of Lent have to do with conversion of heart; the last three weeks are a walk with Jesus to Calvary. The readings (Gospel) at Mass are all taken from the Gospel of John. And this is quite appropriate, because one holy person summed up the entire plan of God this way:

“God gave His Only Son (John 3:15)
That the world might witness (reflect)
His Perfect Love. (I John)

- a. From Conversion to Love is the movement of Lent. Our Blessed Mother has mentioned several times that the grace of conversion comes in a special way through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and she noted that we in the West have particular need of hearing this message. But it is also true that through fasting, prayer and works of charity, we disengage our hearts from a preoccupation of self-interests and material things and re-orient them to God and His desire that we come to the help of our neighbor. All of this suggests a number of different types of conversion.
 - b. Through a Desire to See Jesus, we will become his companion on the journey. Our Blessed Mother says: “permit me to lead you to this in a motherly way.” How beautifully put! St. Grignon de Montfort attests that Mary is the shortest, the surest and the quickest way to Jesus. Our Lady leads us always with gentleness and love and she is reminding us of step #1 – we must be united with her and let her lead and guide us in prayer.
2. John Paul II does a marvellous job in advising us about journeying through this Lent.
 - a. Humility and childlike simplicity was his emphasis at the beginning of Lent if we are to be led by the Spirit during this holy season. That is the way he invites us to be open to grace and to God.
 - b. Say “Our Father”. The Pope suggested we spend our Lent in saying the Lord’s Prayer at the beginning of the day, and to go through each day just saying the two words “Our Father” slowly, and we will begin to see a change in ourselves: we will grow in trust in God’s mercy, we will better realize that we are His children, and we will come to understand that all on this earth are our brothers and sisters and we will treat them accordingly. We will see Jesus in our neighbor, and Jesus will be in the first place.

C. Step III. ”Express Your Love to the Crucified”

1. In the Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that Our Lady dictated to Jelena and which we are to recite each morning, we read the words:

“O Good Jesus, make us open our hearts to You
at least in the moment we remember Your
Passion suffered for us.”
2. Our Lady repeatedly asks us to pray before the Crucifix the various Mysteries of the Rosary during Lent to express our gratitude to Jesus for all the graces that have come to us from the Cross, from His Love for us, for the gift of His Mother given specially to us, etc.
3. The devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus that the Pope is promoting fits right in with this request of Our Lady.