

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF MARCH 25, 2006

“Courage, little children! I decided to lead you on the way of holiness. Renounce sin and set out on the way of salvation, the way which my Son has chosen. Through each of your tribulations and sufferings God will find the way of joy for you. Therefore, little children, pray. We are close to you with our love. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

The Way of The Cross

A. Understanding The Message.

During these last three weeks of Lent Our Lady wants us to join Our Lord on the way of the Cross and actually experience in some fashion or form His suffering.

1. **“Courage, little children!”** “Dear Children” is Our Lady’s ordinary peaceful classroom greeting as she teaches us a lesson in the School of Love and Prayer. “Courage” places us on the road of life suggesting difficulties in the offing.
2. **“I have decided to lead you.”** March 25 is her (and Pope J.P. II’s) traditional date for renewing our consecration to her when we unite our unconditional “yes” with her unconditional “Yes” at the Annunciation. Thus, we entrust ourselves to her with great confidence, total abandonment and dependence, and assure her of our complete availability, allowing her to act. We are in her hands, she possesses us and so has every right to say: “I have decided” – I am going to lead and guide you (in prayer) and you are going to follow me closely.
3. **“On the Way of Holiness”** which is the way of love and union with God and the seeking of the accomplishment of His Will in our lives at this time. Doesn’t this remind you of the Transfiguration scene, where Jesus, in prayer, lovingly embraced the Father’s Will? God’s Will for Jesus is His Will for us.
4. **“Renounce sin.”** Leave completely anything that is not of God and particularly your own world of idle and selfish thoughts and rebellious will.
5. **“Set out on the Way of Salvation.”** i.e., the Way of the Cross. Jesus saved us by shedding His Blood in the Agony, at the Scourging, the Crowning of Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, the Dying on the Cross. We share in the Way of the Cross by dying daily to our egoism, selfishness, comfort, and worldliness.
6. **“Your tribulations and sufferings.”** Tribulations are severe trials, grievous troubles, enormous difficulties; the word comes from the Latin suggesting a threshing floor where the wheat is separated from the chaff. Sufferings includes every pain involved in renouncement.
7. **“God will find the way of joy for you,”** which is the joy Jesus said He had when He saw all the people who would be saved. He said that as He was suffering the Scourging, Crowning, etc. He was repeating each of our names one by one!
8. **“Therefore, Pray!”** Prayer causes a rain of grace to fall upon us and to give us the courage to try, to get up after failure, and to keep on trying and trying.
9. **“We are close to you.”** Through a special grace, Our Lady was in tune with all the sufferings of Jesus. Now both Jesus and Mary are walking with us “closely” these days leading and advising, encouraging and cheering us on.
10. **“With our Love.”** A love of deep gratitude and appreciation for every little scrap of effort and walking on our part.

From Padre Pio: “You say you are anxious about the future, but don’t you know that the Lord is with you always and that our enemy has no power over one who has resolved to belong entirely to Jesus? Isn’t God good and faithful to the point of not permitting you to be tempted beyond your strength? If we were left to ourselves we should always be falling and never remain on our feet. Humble yourself then at the delightful thought that you are in the divine arms of Jesus, the best of fathers like a little infant in its mother’s arms, and sleep peacefully with the certainty that you are being guided towards the destination that will be to your greatest advantage.”

B. Interior Renunciation Places us on the Way of the Cross.

1. On March 2 Our Lady appeared to Mirjana and was sad. Yet she kept repeating: “God is love. God is love. God is love.” (Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical.)
2. On March 18, Mirjana’s birthday, Our Lady appeared and gave this message:
“Dear Children! In this Lenten time, I call you to interior renunciation. The way to this (interior renunciation) leads you through 1) love, 2) fasting, 3) prayer, and 4) good works. Only with total interior renunciation will you recognize: 1) God’s love, and 2) the signs of the time in which you live. You will be witnesses of these signs and you will begin to speak about them. I desire to bring you to this. Thank you for having responded to me.”
 - a. Interior renunciation is one of mind, heart, and will: i.e.
 - 1) erasing everything from our mind, our projects, plans and rambling thoughts, and humbly reflecting on the Passion of Christ;
 - 2) purification of heart, a grace given especially in the Sacrament of Penance, so that our favorite indulgences and pastimes are put aside and our heart is able to reach out to Jesus;
 - 3) we choose with a firm will to accompany Jesus on the Way of the Cross.
 - b. Thus we will be able to appreciate God’s love for us revealed in the Passion and Death of Jesus and we will come to realize that the Church and ourselves are passing through the same sacred mysteries.

C. Walking on the Way through Three Simple Practices.

1. One Minute each day looking at the crucifix, a picture of the Holy Shroud, or of the Holy Face of Jesus.
 - a. Mother Teresa told her Sisters that the first half of their prayer is speaking to Jesus and the second half should be spent in listening to Him. So the first half minute spend in praying actively and the second half passively by listening to Jesus.
 - b. Our Lord to Sister Pierina: “I firmly wish that my Face reflecting the intimate pains of my soul, the suffering and love of my Heart, be more honored! Whoever gazes upon me, already consoles me.”
 - c. In his program of holiness entrusted to the Church at the beginning of the new millennium, the late Pope John Paul II asked us to contemplate the Face of Jesus in the school of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
2. The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary each day prayed carefully under the guidance of Mary, Anna Catherine Emmerich and others help us here.
 - a. The Agony in the Garden where Jesus was given three heart-rending visions:
 - 1) a scene of all the suffering He was about to endure; 2) a view of all the sins committed from the beginning to the end of time; 3) a view of His own people in the Church turning away from Him. Finally, the angels consoling Him with those who would respond lovingly for all He suffered.
 - b. The Scourging where three different pairs of torturers scourged Him with three different types of instruments until each pair was exhausted.
 - c. The Crowning with Thorns where He confessed that those closest to Him were wounding Him the most in various ways.
 - d. The Carrying of the Cross, falling three times for different stages of sin, but was consoled by His Mother, Longinus, Veronica, Simon and the Women.
 - e. Dying on the Cross when everyone abandoned Him, yet He opened His Heart hoping that people would enter to become His friends.
3. Holy Mass, the celebration of the Sacrifice of Calvary, where we join the sacrifice of our lives in all its aspects to the Sacrifice of Jesus at the Offering of the Gifts and at Holy Communion to make it a special point to tell Jesus how much we appreciate all that He suffered for us in order to befriend us.