

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

“Dear children! I desire to thank you from my heart for your Lenten renunciations. I desire to inspire you to continue to live fasting with an open heart. By fasting and renunciation, little children, you will be stronger in faith. In God you will find true peace through daily prayer. I am with you and I am not tired. I desire to take you all with me to Heaven, therefore, decide daily for holiness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

March 25 – A Very Special Day

A. Why is the 25th So Special?

1. Our Lady first appeared and spoke on June 25, 1981, and began giving messages in such a way that, as she says, from the beginning of the world up to the present day there has been nothing else like it.
 - a. On the 25th of each month Our Lady gives a special message to the whole world. Actually, all these messages are only about the one basic message which is prayer – and, of course, the love that should inspire our prayer. So we can say that her main message is “prayer of the heart,” true prayer.
 - b. That is why the visionaries say that Our Blessed Mother at Medjugorje is conducting a “School of Prayer” or a “School of Love.” Through this School, she is inviting all mankind to live in her Immaculate Heart and in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and living there, we are able to listen with love carefully attentive to every word they say and to respond obediently to each of their wishes.
2. The numeral “2”, as Our Lady explained elsewhere, represents the union of love and suffering that the two hearts of Jesus and Mary have for us – just as they are depicted on the Miraculous Medal and elsewhere.
 - a. The Heart of Jesus is wearing a Crown of Thorns and atop it is a vibrant flame that is trying to convey the infinite and intense love that Jesus has for each and every one of us. The proof is the Crown of Thorns that is a symbol of all that He suffered in ignominy in our place.
 - b. The Heart of Mary is right next to the Heart of Jesus, meaning that her heart was intimately joined to Jesus in thought and affection at every moment of her life right up to the time she stood by the Cross of Jesus. The sword piercing her heart recalls Simeon’s prophecy and expresses the extreme wrenching and anguish her heart underwent at the suffering and death of her Son, and the pain of giving birth spiritually to each one of us. Her heart is also crowned with a flame, indicating that she has an endless and intense love for each one of us.
3. The numeral “5” refers to the 5 wounds of Jesus, which is an invitation, especially during Lent, to be closely united with Jesus in His suffering so as to appreciate all He did for us, and to unite our sufferings with His. In the prayer – “Anima Christi” – we pray in part: “Passion of Christ strengthen me. O Good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me and never let me be separated from Thee. From the malignant enemy, defend me.”
 - a. St. Gertrude and St. Teresa of Avila were particularly devoted to the five wounds of Jesus, venerated them often, and so entered the Heart of Jesus.
 - b. St. Bernard commented on this devotion:
 - 1) When we venerate the wounds in Jesus’ feet, we are manifesting that we want to leave this world and desire to be united with Jesus;
 - 2) When we venerate the wounds in the hands of Jesus, we show that we are purified of all our earthly attachments;
 - 3) When we venerate the wound in the side of Jesus, we desire always to remain resting in the Heart of Jesus to experience His love and to listen always to the secrets He wants to whisper to us.

B. Why is March 25 So Special?

1. The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on that day, when Our Blessed Mother said “Yes” to God’s plan of salvation of the world and accepted Jesus eagerly and lovingly into her heart.
 - a. Mary realized fully that she was a creature – someone created by God – and therefore belonged completely to God. She understood her nothingness, that of herself she was nothing and everything she had came from God. Therefore, she agreed within herself that whatever the all-wise and all-good God wanted of her, she would do.
 - b. And she did this with a pure heart, i.e., she put aside completely all her own desires, plans and preferences, and completely embraced the Will of God. The only thing in her heart was the desire to please God. So, in a spirit of prayer, she said “Yes” with 1) profound humility, 2) immense Faith and confidence in God who could do anything, even the impossible, and 3) with consummate generosity and love, thinking only of the Will of God and the good of her neighbor.
 - c. The saints say that if you want to participate in a revealed Mystery, look for Mary’s part in it and enter there.
2. For Pope John Paul II This Feast is a Feast of Consecration.
 - a. When Pope John Paul II went to Fatima in 1982 to consecrate the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, he said that his consecration would only be meaningful if every Bishop in every diocese, every pastor in every parish, and every family and individual of that parish were to back up his consecration with their own consecration.
 - b. He also said that everyone’s consecration should be renewed on March 25 in a special way and that we should join our little “yes” with Mary’s big “Yes” and to do so in the same spirit that Mary said “Yes.”

C. And So Why Does Mary Ask for Prayer, Fasting and Renunciation this March 25?

1. Prayer. Mary reveals the Will of God for us. Lent is a special time of prayer.
 - a. Our consecration pledges us to respond to God the way Mary did. St. Augustine said that Mary first conceived the Word of God in her heart through Faith, and then only did she conceive the Word of God in her womb, her flesh.
 - b. This reality occurs every time we go to Holy Mass. First, we listen to the Word of God in Faith, placing it in our heart as a treasure; then only do we receive Holy Communion. The same thing occurs every time we say the Rosary or pray with our heart: Jesus is born in our hearts anew according to our Faith and Love. The Angelus records the same message.
 - c. All our graces come through prayer, and especially our Faith is strengthened and our Love inflamed and we receive the power for fasting and renunciation.
2. Fasting. Fasting is a sign of our detachment from this world and the opening of our heart to the world of God. Fasting thus purifies our heart and makes room for God’s gifts. As Our Lady says, it strengthens us in Faith.
 - a. Our Lady also says: “I ask you to conquer Satan. The arms to conquer him are fasting and prayers.” (6-25-92) “I ask you to fast out of gratitude because God has allowed me to stay this long.” (9-20-84)
 - b. More significantly: “Especially live the fast, because by fasting you will achieve and cause me the joy of the whole plan being fulfilled that God is planning here in Medjugorje.” (9-26-85)
3. Renunciation. Fasting leads to interior renunciation: 1) our emotions and attachments; 2) our mind and personal ideas; 3) our self-will and preferences.
 - a. “Dear children! In this Lenten time, I call you to interior renunciation. The way to this leads you through love, fasting, prayer, and good works. Only with total interior renunciation will you recognize God’s love and the Signs of the Times in which you live. You will witness to these signs and begin to speak about them. I desire to bring you to this.” (3-18-06)
 - b. Meditation on the Passion is a great help here.