

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

“Dear children! Also today, I call you to live my messages even more strongly in humility and love so that the Holy Spirit may fill you with His grace and strength. Only in this way will you be witnesses of peace and forgiveness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Be Witnesses of Peace and Forgiveness

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, comes to bring peace to this world, and she wants us to help realize this peace. This unpeaceful world is torn by strife, civil wars, violence, oppression, and terrorism. And yet, peace is necessary, as she says, for people to be able to work out their salvation. She calls us to be carriers of peace and forgiveness and thereby to lessen tension in the world and to unleash a spiritual force in the world. But to do this she needs us to put aside our own miserable interests and to offer her our strong determination and complete dedication to living the messages, which are the seeds of holiness, the seeds of peace.

A. Strong in Humility. At the Last Supper (John 13:1-20) Our Lord gives us a very meaningful example of our mission of service in the Washing of the Feet of the Apostles. In the going down to their feet, He is symbolizing His own death and our own dying to self. In the washing of the feet, the lowest part of the body, He is calling us to humble service of the poorest of the poor, who may be the enemies of peace in the world. This requires great humility and the putting aside of our feelings.

1. Purification of Heart. By humility we empty ourselves of selfishness and all that is purely human within us and open ourselves to God's Will and the service of our neighbor.
 - a. What humility is not. In a very revealing passage of Our Lord to Sister Mary of the Holy Trinity, P.C., He says:

“Humility is not in words, actions, or attitudes.”

 - 1) Not in Words like merely repeating such words as: ‘O Lord, I am not worthy...’;
 - 2) Not in Actions like bowing down and kissing the ground or walking up the aisle in Church on one's knees;
 - 3) Not in Attitudes like folding one's arms on the chest and bowing one's head in a demure fashion.
 - b. What humility is. Our Lord goes on to say:

“Humility is the courage to discover the hidden intentions of selfishness in the heart and to call Me to purify them.”

Through such a process of purification, we stop serving ourselves and our own selfish interests and offer our heart to serving the interests of Jesus and Mary, which is the salvation of every person on this earth. As the adage goes: We save ourselves by working for the salvation of others.
 - c. Our Lady's Heel. We know (Gen. 3:15) that Our Lady is destined to crush the head of the serpent and evil by her heel. She began this through her own humility and lowliness and the profound humility of her Son, Jesus. We are often referred to as “the heel of the Woman” because through our own humility and lowliness we are invited to second the efforts of Jesus and Mary.
2. Three Forms of Humility. Once our hearts are purified, we become eminently open to God and available. Our Lord is quick to point out the fruits of this purification process by describing the way in which we will consequently comport ourselves:

“Humility will then take on three forms:

 - 1) a sense of one's nothingness;
 - 2) a sense of one's unworthiness;
 - 3) a habit of self-forgetfulness.”

- a. One's Nothingness. St. Paul asks the question: Why do you glory in your good qualities, when everything you have, you have received from above? As the saints have so often attested: everything is a grace, beginning with our very existence. At the end of her life, St. Therese summarized her life by drawing the Coat of Arms of Jesus and Therese. In that depiction she drew a harp by which, she said, she wants to sing the mercies of the Lord for all eternity in thanksgiving for all that she received from Him.
- b. One's Unworthiness. What comes to mind are the words of Our Blessed Mother: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, because He has looked upon the lowliness of His servant." (Luke 1:46) And what about us? Our Lady has said: "You are not able to comprehend how great your role is in God's design." (1-25-87) We have been specially chosen by God, but it is all to His glory and not ours. We should imitate Our Blessed Mother, who, although she was the very highest human being in heaven, always considered herself the very least.
- c. Self-forgetfulness. Convinced of our nothingness and unworthiness in a spirit of selflessness, our eyes and our heart become totally oriented to the needs of others. As Our Blessed Mother reminds us, when we make our Act of Consecration to her Immaculate Heart, we become her complete possession. She will want then to see through our eyes those who need her love, our hands to reach out to them, our feet to walk with them.

B. Strong in Love and the Holy Spirit.

1. Love is a Gift. In her advice on how to prepare for prayer, Our Lady asks us: 1) to give all our sins to Jesus; 2) to give all our problems and concerns to her with confidence that she will take care of them; 3) to purify our hearts of all selfishness; 4) to offer our hearts to God for Him to fill with His love and the Holy Spirit; 5) and, in the embrace of the Holy Spirit, to pray. It is God alone who fills us with His kind of love, and Our Lady reminds us that this love is a gift for which we are to pray every day.
2. Love is The Sign. Just as the world will recognize us by this sign – 'if you have love for one another' – so also by the same sign does Jesus recognize us as His own. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in this love....This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15: 9-13) Jesus befriended His enemies, so must we.
3. Love is the Holy Spirit. Our Lady is using this April message as a remote preparation for the Feast of Pentecost, or so it seems. Our Holy Father the Pope has reminded us that union with Our Lady in the Upper Room should be the permanent icon from the year 2000 on. With purified hearts through humility, we empty ourselves and give place for the Holy Spirit. By daily asking God the Father to fill our hearts with His love, we will make the Holy Spirit feel perfectly at home. By uniting ourselves with Our Blessed Mother in our prayer and daily activities, we will attract the Holy Spirit.

- C. Live My Messages Even More Strongly. By Faith we open up to God and place Him and His Will first. Prayer then becomes the top priority in our life. By conversion, we place Jesus at the center of our life. Through our penance, fasting and sacrifice, we try to live the Mass. Thus, peace will be ours and we shall be peace..