

## OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF JUNE 25, 2005

**“Dear children! Today I thank you for every sacrifice that you have offered for my intentions. I call you, little children, to be my apostles of peace and love in your families and in the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit may enlighten and lead you on the way of holiness. I am with you and bless you all with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”**

### Be My Apostles of Peace and Love

#### A. First – Thank You for Every Sacrifice.

1. Graduation Awards. June is graduation month, and, as Ivan so often says, Our Lady is conducting a School of Love which began on June 25, 1981. So, before starting class for the next school year, Our Lady wants to acknowledge the achievements of the past year. And she singles out for special commendation and above all gratitude “every sacrifice...offered for my intentions.” As Mother Teresa insisted years ago at a well-known Harvard graduation ceremony, “authentic love is about sacrifice.”
2. Three Meanings of Sacrifice.
  - a. The Will of God. Our Lord told St. Faustina on one occasion: “There is no mortification or sacrifice that you could possibly give me that is greater than doing the Will of God.” God has entrusted the realization of Peace to Our Blessed Mother and so she guides us on the path of Peace through her monthly calls or messages in which she expresses her will and the Will of God. So what Our Lady is thanking us for are the efforts we have put into living her messages of this past year. She thanks us then for:
    - 1) Living her five main messages in humility (May);
    - 2) Renewing prayer in the family (April);
    - 3) Loving each other with God’s Love (March);
    - 4) Putting God in the first place in our lives (February);
    - 5) Praying for the unity of all Christians (January);
    - 6) Being courageous witnesses of the Good News (December);
    - 7) Praying in a special way for her intentions (November);
    - 8) Renewing again prayer in the family (October);
    - 9) Responding with love where there is hatred (September);
    - 10) Striving for a true conversion of heart (August);
    - 11) Being totally open to her messages (July);
    - 12) Believing deeply in the power of prayer groups (June).
  - b. Offering Up Everything. In the drama of Fatima, Our Lady’s apparitions were preceded by three appearances of the Guardian Angel of Portugal. In the second appearance, the Angel said immediately: “What are you doing? Pray, Pray!...In everything you do, offer a sacrifice to the Lord in reparation for sins....” Every project of the day can be a prayer and a sacrifice if offered up properly to God. Prayer and sacrifice were the keynotes of the messages of Our Lady of Fatima perduring to our day, and echoed by Our Lady at Medjugorje.
  - c. Duties of State. In an appearance of Our Lord to Sr. Lucy of Fatima in the 1920’s, there was a discussion about the meaning of penance and sacrifice that was requested by Our Lady. Our Lord responded that what is asked for is the faithful fulfillment of our duties of state. That includes accepting joyfully whatever God decides to send us in the course of each day.
3. Making Amends. We may feel a bit inadequate at not having done the above very well over the past year, but we now have the opportunity of hurrying to brush up on all this so as to make ourselves worthy of Our Lady’s thanks.

## **B. I Am with You and I Bless You with My Motherly Blessing.**

1. Mary as Guide. I have often thought it impossible to understand any of Our Lady's messages properly or to discern its specific application to my life or to try to live a message without relying on Our Blessed Mother every step of the way. She is the source of the message and can lead me quickly to the interior mysteries, the intentions she had in mind in giving it, and the various implications that she sees far better than myself. And each one of these steps is a grace – a grace that comes through her. And since she more often than not ends her messages with some reminder of her presence, I usually start with any message at the end and then work upwards. She knows me through and through, better than I know myself, and she knows perfectly my specific needs and is able to make very valuable suggestions in prayer.
2. Mary, Queen of Peace. Our Lady asks us to be “apostles of peace and love” and it makes perfect sense to refer to her who is an expert on peace and love – she who has the task from God of bringing peace to the world. She has asked us to beg for peace through prayer, because “prayer is the only path to peace.” And if we always pray in union with her and with complete confidence in her power of intercession, she promises that we will obtain peace. In this way we can obtain from Our Lord the great grace of changing hearts. So that people open themselves to sentiments of goodness, love and mercy which in turn will spread into their families, villages, and to all the nations of the world.
3. Mary as Mother. Pope John Paul II said that every person has an obligation to consecrate themselves to Mary, because every child has an obligation to get to know and love its mother. When we consecrate ourselves to Mary, she welcomes us with joy and embraces us in love. She said once that a mother never takes her eyes off her child to protect it from possible danger and to foresee and provide for all the needs of the child, so she takes up her place at our side and is with us whenever we pray and work, walk and rest, rejoice and suffer – always eagerly awaiting for us to ask her to be a part of all our activities.
4. Mary Forms Us. We consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, because the heart represents all that the person is and stands for, especially one's interior or spiritual life. Our Lady wants us to live our consecration by placing ourselves in her heart and staying there; i.e., always united to her, her presence, and her love.
  - a. If we stay with her, we will come to know her and to experience her love. If we come to love her heart, she promises that we will become clothed with her motherly love and her great mercy. In the depths of her heart, a great wonder takes place: she transforms our soul into an image of her own soul.
  - b. As we continually surrender ourselves to her, she communicates her spirit to us so that we can grow into her life and become an expression of her motherly presence.
  - c. Her formation continues as she helps us purify our mind and heart so that we can take on her light – her humility, her gentleness, her compassion, her faith. Above all, she communicates to us her capacity to love, so that our hearts will open up as a refuge of salvation for all who have strayed.

## **C. Be My Apostles of Peace and Love.**

Our Lady is called Spouse of the Holy Spirit. United to her in prayer, the Holy Spirit comes, because, as St. Grignon De Montfort says, the Holy Spirit goes quickly to wherever Mary is. Formed as images of Mary, and enkindled with the presence and fire of the Holy Spirit, we will indeed become the apostles of peace and love that Our Lady and Our Mother desires.