

## OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF JULY 25, 2004

**“Dear Children! I call you anew: be open to my messages. I desire, little children, to draw you all closer to my Son Jesus; therefore, you pray and fast. Especially I call you to pray for my intentions, so that I can present you to my Son Jesus, for Him to transform and open your hearts to love. When you will have love in the heart, peace will rule in you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”**

### Prayer: A Journey with Mary into the Heart of Jesus

#### **A. “I Call You Anew: Be Open to My Messages.”**

1. Mary Calls Us. “Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Our Life, Our Sweetness, Our Hope” – if only we would rest on those beautiful words and realize that God, in the extremity of His love, sends her to us as a last resort to bring us back to Him. When we turn to her and listen to her voice, the light of heaven touches our heart, and we are on the road to our salvation and happiness. When we are close to Our Blessed Mother, everything goes right in our life.
  - a. Turn to Her. We have to stop, give her our full attention, and realize who she is. She is our mother; we belong to her. “Pray for the knowledge that you are mine.” (5-25-88) This knowledge is an immense gift that will bind us to her forever, and we will never leave her. Then marvelous things will happen to us, and she will bless us at every turn.
  - b. She Will Come to Us. She will enter our lives and manifest her presence, making herself known to us. She will do little favors for us to let us know how much she loves us. She will start working for our happiness in a big way. She will try to become part of our life at every moment.
    - 1) “I want you to believe me – that I love you.” (11-25-87)
    - 2) “I am with you even if you are not conscious of it.”
    - 3) “I am protecting you with my motherly mantle.” (4-25-88)
    - 4) “I am watching over you unceasingly.” (2-25-89)
    - 5) “I am giving you special graces.” (3-25-87)
    - 6) “I intercede for you every day before God.”
  - c. But Only If We Hear Her Call. “I love you, so I am not even counting the times that I go on calling you.” (6-25-87)
2. “Be Open to My Messages.”
  - a. God is Speaking. “God is sending messages to you through me. He is giving you great graces...” (11-8-92) “When God calls...it is really a great thing.” (5-16-87) “Comprehend what God desires to tell you.” (11-25-91) In heaven, everyone freezes when God speaks so as to be ready to do His Will. We pray in the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
  - b. Be Open. Whenever Our Lady calls us to “be open” it usually means we are closed, not paying attention, shut off in our own world – because we have drifted away from God; i.e., we are not walking in His presence and are not talking to Him in a personal way on a regular basis. Therefore, “be open” is always a call to conversion.
    - 1) “Convert and believe more firmly in God...If you love God above all else it will be easy for you to be open to Him.” (5-25-99)
    - 2) “Be open to God’s love and leave egoism and sin.” (7-25-00)
    - 3) “God only wants your surrender. Surrender yourselves completely.” (1-2-86)
  - c. To My Messages. God knows exactly what we need at any given moment, what will dispose our difficulties and bring us happiness. If we accept His wisdom, great graces will flow to us. But Our Lady reminds us: “If you are not humble and obedient to the Messages, I cannot help you.” (4-25-94) So she has asked us to read her messages every day and to meditate on them. And when we thus pray the messages, she is able to help us in our prayer.

## B. “Pray and Fast.”

Our Lady is clearly thinking of our troubled and unpeaceful world. We all know that she said: “Prayer and fasting stops wars and suspends the laws of nature.” “Satan is strong and wants to destroy hope in your heart.” (8-25-94) “Satan wants war and hatred. Pray and fast that God may give you peace.” (9-25-01) “By prayer and fasting, witness that you are mine and that you live the messages.” (4-25-99) So Our Lady, Queen of Peace, would like to be a part of prayer, and, by helping us to pray better, place us permanently in the Heart of Jesus, Who is our peace.

1. “Pray.” Prayer brings us close to God and personal prayer brings us even closer to God (7-25-01), because in personal or conversational prayer we are necessarily led to pray from the heart giving God all our “joys, sorrows, and illnesses.” (3-25-02) But Our Lady said once: You do not have peace, because you do not know how to pray. When you pray properly, you always get what you need. How should we pray?
  - a. Pray with Feeling. “Put more feeling in your prayer. Pray in earnest. Cry out to God. Yearn for peace.” There is a striking story of Vicka trying to help people pray properly. She said: “Where do you think God is?” Everyone responded: “God is in heaven.” Vicka responded: “Heaven is right here. God is here right now. He is looking at you this close (her hand was a half inch from her eyes).” Then Vicka heard Our Lady speak:

“Fall on your knees in your imagination before Jesus, Our Father on the Cross. Call to Him: ‘Father, do you care about me? Father, do you love me?’ Continue to call to Him day and night until you have ears to hear Him in this world, eyes to see Him in this world, and a heart that beats for Him alone!”
  - b. Pray with Confidence. Our Lady says that at this time the Father wishes to give Himself to us in fullness. “Rejoice because God loves you.” (5-25-94) “Pray with the heart, dear children, and do not lose hope, because God loves His creatures. He desires to save you one by one.” (2-25-03) And we have the amazing words of Our Lord to St. Faustina: “I will do everything for the one who has complete confidence in Me.” And Our Lord said to Sr. Mary of the Holy Trinity (Poor Clare) in Jerusalem: “The one who has confidence in Me, loves Me. The one who has a lot of confidence in Me, loves Me very much. The one who has complete confidence in Me, loves Me totally.”
  - c. Pray with Perseverance. Prayer is talking with God. We begin by speaking first, and then we await God’s response. There are times when we think that God is not listening or hesitates to answer us. That of course is not true but Our Lord advises us in such a situation to keep on asking and we will receive, continue to seek and we will find, knock repeatedly and the door will be opened. By persistent prayer we bolster confidence in God’s goodness.
2. “Pray for My Intentions.” Our Lady sees what we do not see and knows what we do not know, so she in her wisdom is able to formulate perfect intentions. She said she needs us, because according to God’s plan she wants to save the world from destruction through us. Therefore, her intentions are for us: “Pray for my intentions (and she gives them here): I desire to renew prayer with you and to call you to fast, which I desire to offer to my Son, Jesus, for the coming of a new time – a time of Spring.” (11-25-00)
3. “Fast.” Fasting detaches us from the things of this world, thereby purifying our heart, and helps us to open our heart entirely to receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love. Our Lady wants to bring us to Jesus and place us in His Heart through growth in prayer (i.e., growth in love) and the progressive purification of our heart, because what is tainted or unholy cannot reside in the Heart of Jesus. She asks us to choose some form of fasting on Wednesday and Friday, and give up something we like on Thursday...and to hold to it.