

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF JULY 25, 2005

“Dear children! Also today, I call you to fill your day with short and ardent prayers. When you pray, your heart is open and God loves you with a special love and gives you special graces. Therefore, make good use of this time of grace and devote it to God more than ever up to now. Do novenas of fasting and renunciation so that Satan be far from you and grace be around you. I am near you and intercede before God for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Part I: Do Novenas of Short Prayers and Little Penances

A. “Make Good Use of This Time of Grace and devote it to God MORE THAN EVER UP TO NOW.”

1. Our Lady gives us this wise advice, because she knows things that we do not. She is asking us to step out in Faith and trust the wisdom of her timely counsel. “More than ever up to now” highlights the importance and urgency of dropping all of our “stupid interests” and responding in full obedience. There may be a cascade of graces and blessings God has planned for us at this time; on the other hand, the “time of grace” may soon be over.
2. Our Lady is asking us to intensify our prayer by little “ardent” prayers – ones where we throw ourselves into the prayer – little prayers aflame with love coming from the heart. She is also asking us very cleverly to adopt a method of “praying always” (I Thess. 6) by filling the little moments of the day with “short” prayers, i.e., fill our life with God.

B. “Do novenas of fasting and renunciation so that Satan be far from you.”

1. Our Lady has already said that a life of sacrifices paralyzes Satan’s activity and actually drives him from our lives. Satan is always trying to have us compromise our ideals by indulging in a life of comfort, ease and waste so that we will not attain the high place in heaven God has reserved for us.
2. On the other hand, the time of Satan is growing shorter and shorter. He knows it and so he will be more active than ever as an attempt to do as much damage to us as he can. Little sacrifices indicate that we are renouncing this world and latching on to heaven as the prime object of all our desires.

C. A Plan.

1. There are three big events coming up and each is about nine days apart (novena):
 - 1) The actual Birthday of Our Lady on August 5;
 - 2) The Feast of the Assumption on August 15;
 - 3) The Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin on August 22.
2. Choose 1) a “short and ardent prayer,” and 2) some little sacrifice of “fasting and renunciation” for more or less nine days in preparation for each special event of Our Lady and you will be living this monthly message in a concrete way.
3. Some examples of Little Sacrifices (fasting and renunciation) and Short Prayers:
 - a. Fasting from TV, dessert, sugar, salt, coffee, soda, alcohol, tobacco, meat, eating between meals, second helpings, reduced servings
Renunciation of unkindness, retaliation, judgmental attitude, criticism, fears, worries, worry about the past, concern about the future, attachments especially to one’s thoughts, preferences, wasting time
Substitution of positive activities: 15 minute visit to Jesus in Church, read a paragraph of Sacred Scripture, reflect on the message with Mary for 5 minutes, say the Chaplet/Rosary carefully
 - b. Short Prayers: “Lord, that I may see”, “Lord, increase my faith”, “Hail Mary”, “Hail Holy Queen, My Life, My Sweetness, My Hope”, “Jesus, I adore you, Lay my life before you, how I love you”

Part II: A Program of Short Prayers and Little Penances

A. Novena in Preparation for the 2021st Birthday of Mary: August 5, 2005 (July 23-August 5)

1. Novena of Little Prayers: “Jesus, I Trust in You!”

a. To Jesus: “Jesus, I Trust in You!”

In this Age of Mercy, there is no prayer more fitting or more pleasing to Jesus. Since the Age of Mercy is the Plan of God for our time, it is in perfect conformity to the Divine Will. We should remember the words of Our Lord to Sr. Mary of the Holy Trinity, P.C. in Jerusalem: “For the person who has trust in Me, I will do marvelous things. For the person who has great trust in Me, I will do great things. For the person who has complete trust in Me, I will do everything for him.”

b. To Mary: “Mother I am Yours!

Keep me and guard me as your property and possession.”

This is a prayer of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is the plan “the Father wills” and Jesus wants” for our time as revealed at Fatima. And the promise made to Sister Lucy by Our Blessed Mother also counts for us: “My Immaculate Heart will be your Refuge and the Path that will lead you to God.”

2. Novena of a Little Sacrifice: Choose from the list in Part I.

B. Novena in Preparation for the Feast of the Assumption: August 15, 2005 (Aug. 6-14)

1. Novena of a Little Prayer.

a. To Jesus: “Jesus, I NEED You, I WANT You, I LOVE You!”

There is a certain logic of progression intended in the choice of the prayers: 1) In the first novena, it is attachment to Jesus and Mary that is sought; 2) in the second novena, it is remaining in the Heart of Jesus and Mary; 3) in the third novena, it is service as an apostle of Jesus and Mary. Our need, desire, and love for Jesus should be permanent and constant.

b. To Mary: “Remain in My Heart, and I will always be a Mother to you.”

This is not in the form of a prayer, but it is one of the most beautiful and inspiring promises Our Lady made in Medjugorje. It is a reminder to stay in the presence of Our Blessed Mother, to remain in her Heart and in her love, and then she promises to pour out her maternal love, care and protection on us each moment of the day.

2. Novena of a Little Sacrifice: Choose from the list in Part I.

C. Novena in Preparation for the Feast of the Queenship of Mary: August 22, 2005 (Aug. 15-22)

1. Novena of a Little Prayer.

a. To Jesus: “Here I am, Lord!”

This Old Testament prayer of the Prophet Samuel expresses the sentiment of always being ready to serve Jesus and His interests. It implies walking in His presence, residing in His Heart, listening to His words, and a readiness to do His Will at each moment.

b. To Mary: “Behold the handmaid (servant) of the Lord; be it done unto me according to your will.”

This prayer of Mary is a summation of her entire spirituality, and what is characteristic of the Mother should also be characteristic of her children. Our Mother Mary always knows the Will of God for us and what is best for us. This prayer will always remind us to place ourselves in her arms as children so that we can hear her voice and carry out her wishes.

2. Novena of a Little Sacrifice: Choose from the list in Part I.