

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF JULY 25, 2008

“Dear children! At this time when you are thinking of physical rest, I call you to conversion. Pray and work so that your heart yearns for God the Creator who is the true rest of your soul and your body. May He reveal His face to you and may He give you His peace. I am with you and intercede before God for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

God – True Rest for Body and Soul

A. I Call You to Conversion.

1. **Conversion.** To convert means to make a decision to change one's mind and heart about what is really and truly important in life, and then to change one's life accordingly.
 - a. God created us from nothingness out of love, so we belong completely to Him. He supports us in existence, so we depend absolutely on Him. God, as a loving Father, provides for all our needs of body and soul. To appreciate this Our Lady wants us to read carefully Matthew 6:24-34.
 - b. God has drawn us close to Himself through our Baptism to be part of a people specially devoted to Him. God created us to perform a special mission in life and now has called us to be an important part of His Plan for the salvation of the world in these last days.
2. **To God.** Of all ways to convert, conversion to God is the primary and supreme one. In view of the above, Our Lady has asked us to:
 - a. Choose God Our Creator as the source of all our blessings, to put Him first;
 - b. Surrender completely to Him all that we are and all that we have;
 - c. To turn to Him daily in love as a flower opens to the sun each morning;
 - d. To seek His Will for us each day by asking for the Gift of the Holy Spirit;
 - e. To walk in His presence during the day so as to receive His blessings;
 - f. To find time to talk to Him by setting aside a special time of silence in order to open our hearts to Him.
3. **Through Prayer.**
 - a. With prayer we are moving from the head to the heart. As our Blessed Mother says: “without love prayer becomes impossible,” (11-25-92) or as St. Teresa puts it: “when love stops, prayer stops.” God's blessings are a manifestation of His love for us and so we respond in loving gratitude.
 - b. Our need of God is continual and so we are called to pray unceasingly. The simplest form among many is to walk in the presence of God, Jesus, and Mary. They are always at our side and it is basic politeness to acknowledge them and be hospitable by walking with them. Besides, Jesus said once that when we leave God's presence we are instantly apart from God and under the domain of Satan, prince of this world.

B. Yearn for God in Prayer and Work.

1. **St. Augustine** reminds us of the fundamental law of the human heart: “O God, our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.” When we are united to God, everything goes right. Perhaps that is what motivated St. Therese at the beginning of each day to say to Jesus: “Draw me.” – draw me into your Heart so that we can walk together through the day.
2. **Psalm 63.** This is my favorite “yearning prayer” and I have found no better: “O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, etc.” It is truly worth memorizing.
3. **Jesus.** “Where your treasure is, there is your heart.” (Mt 6:21) No matter what we are doing, we should always tell Jesus we prefer to be with Him.

C. May God Reveal His Face to You.

1. **God’s Favor.** For God to reveal His Face is a sign of favor and approval, and His smile. And so we pray in Psalm 4:6: “O Lord, show us the light of Your Face.” This is a sign that God is happy with us and what we are doing.
2. **God’s Blessing.** “God said to Moses: This is how you shall bless the people: “May the Lord bless you and keep you, May He let His Face shine upon you and be gracious to you, May He look kindly on you and give you His Peace.” (NB 6:24)
3. **God’s Son.** Scripture commentators say that the Face of God is Jesus, because in Jesus we see what God looks like and how He acts. Besides, Jesus alone gazed on the Father (Jn 6:46). Thus, for God to reveal His Face to us is to send us anew the gift of His Son.

-Rev. Robert Hughes, S.M.