

OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE'S MESSAGE OF AUGUST 25, 2006

“Dear children! Also today I call you to pray, pray, pray. Only in prayer will you be near to me and my Son and you will see how short this life is. In your heart a desire for Heaven will be born. Joy will begin to rule in your heart and prayer will begin to flow like a river. In your words there will only be thanksgiving to God for having created you and the desire for holiness will become a reality for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Seven Heavenly Fruits of Prayer

A. Pray, Pray, Pray.

1. The Primacy of Prayer. Our Blessed Mother uttered the words “Pray, Pray, Pray” 59 times as a means of insisting strongly that “prayer is the most important thing in your life.” (12-27-83) Each time she makes that three-fold emphasis, she gives a variety of reasons for the urgency, usefulness, and significance of prayer.
 - a. According to her, the world has drifted away from God and is on a path of self-destruction. She seems to view the world as a boat without a rudder moving downstream totally unconscious that a Niagara Falls awaits it. She is calling on us to help her steer the world back to God.
 - b. She told Mirjana once that when she gets to heaven, she will see and understand why she (Mary) is so anxious about our welfare and so pressed to have us pray. “Prayer is the only way to save the human race” (7-30-87) “and to save yourself.” (11-22-83) In that sense, Ivan says that there is really only one message: Prayer.
2. The Usefulness of Prayer. Prayer is our only hope, because it opens us up to God, the source of all our blessings. Our Lady wants us to pray until we are absolutely convinced that God controls everything on this earth. Then in prayer we can seek His help.
 - a. With prayer we have the grace “to avoid being deceived” (3-13-85), “to defeat Satan” (9-16-83), “to defeat evil” (2-25-94). In fact, with prayer we will be able to perceive the way out of every situation that has no exit” (3-25-05), “prayer works miracles” (10-25-01), “prayer stops wars and is the foundation of peace.” (6-25-97)
 - b. When Our Lady comes as Queen of Peace, she brings good things, but in many places she has said that she cannot achieve peace without our help. “I need your cooperation to fulfill my plans” (7-24-89). Prayer is the only way we can recognize her presence, her love for us, and to discover the role we are to play in God’s plan.
3. The Significance of Prayer. Prayer is the beginning and end of everything. Prayer is an exercise of Faith by which we are able to perceive the real world – God’s world. Prayer is needed “to comprehend all God is giving you through my coming.” (9-25-92) First, she wants us to accept her in our life: “open your hearts to me, come close.” (7-20-84) “Open your hearts, and allow me to enter. Pray, because in prayer I am always with you. Pray and allow me to lead you.” (3-18-93) With that she wants us to turn to God.
 - a. “God wants to draw you closer” (8-25-03) and “God gives you peace only if you convert and pray.” (5-25-93) So praying – “a dialogue with God” is the reaching out to God for help. “Open your heart to God’s love (in prayer)” (9-25-04) so that you will “pray with the heart” (12-25-03) and “comprehend God’s love for you.” (2-25-01)
 - b. But it doesn’t stop there: Pray to reinforce the desire to pray and to be in contact with God” (6-26-84). “Without unceasing prayer, you cannot experience the beauty and greatness of what God is offering you.” (2-25-89)

B. Seven Steps towards Heaven.

1. "Near Me and My Son." Faith has seven meanings and the first meaning is Presence. In prayer we leave this world and enter into the presence of Jesus and Mary. Jesus and Mary are always with us but in prayer we become conscious of their presence. Scripture says: "Eternal life is this: to know (experience) you, the one true God, and to know (experience) Jesus Christ whom you sent." (Jn 17:3) Our Lady has said: "Eternal life is my Son. Accept Him and you accept Love." (3-18-95) In prayer we come face to face with Jesus, Who is our Savior and our "Great Friend" Who will bring us to the Father. We are also with Mary, our Mother, who will lead us and guide us.
2. "Life is Short." Living in the presence of Jesus and Mary through prayer is a constant reminder that it is eternal life alone that really counts. The object of prayer is union with God, union with Jesus. It implies getting to know Jesus and to experience His love. Recall the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins in Matt. 25:1. The five foolish virgins knocked on the Bridegroom's door and said: "Sir, open the door to us." The Bridegroom responded: "In truth I tell you – I do not know you." This warns us that a relationship with Jesus cannot be borrowed and cannot be had at the last minute. In prayer, we build up our relationship with Jesus through Mary who brings us to Him.
3. "Desire for Heaven." Our Blessed Mother says: "God sends me to help you and to guide you to Paradise – your goal." (9-25-94) Prayer is the discovery of where we came from (God) and what our true goal is: life with God forever in Heaven. Our Lady uses the image of a flower: "Your life is like the passing of a flower – here today and gone tomorrow." (8-25-01) So also: "A flower is not able to grow normally without water – seek God's blessing (in prayer)." (4-10-86) Or Again: "Open the door of your hearts to Jesus as a flower opens to the sun. Jesus desires to fill your hearts with peace and joy." (4-25-98),
4. "Joy will Rule Your Heart." St. Teresa of Avila said that it is impossible for Jesus to come to us in prayer without bringing the whole of heaven with Him. Love, joy, peace, and happiness exist in heaven. Our Lady says: "Reflect and pray. God will be born in your hearts and your hearts will be joyous." (8-25-96) Prayer is the progressing discovery of the Goodness, Love, and Mercy of God. That is why Our Lady asks us to pray without ceasing: "Pray without ceasing until prayer becomes a joy for you." (3-25-00) Unless we find joy in being with Jesus in prayer, Our Lady said she is unable to help us.
5. "Prayer will Flow like a river." When two friends are together the chatter is continuous. The reason is that their two hearts have become one. St. Augustine defined friendship as a spirit that is poured into two vessels. Our Lady said: "Pray with your whole heart and peace will begin to flow throughout the world." (10-25-04) In Jeremiah 29:12 we read: "When you seek Me with your whole heart you will find Me." Prayer is a union of hearts.
6. "Thanksgiving to God." As prayer grows, we come to appreciate more and more the gift of life and the fact that God picked us out of billions of possibilities. Our Lady said once that each day she will take us by the hand and walk with us through the day celebrating with us the joy of living. As our indebtedness to God increases, we will want to thank Him for every little thing in our lives.
7. "Desire for Holiness." Since we are destined to live with God who is all-holy, we see immediately the necessity of becoming holy ourselves. Our Lady: "I invite you to give thanks to God for all the gifts you have discovered in the course of your life...even the least gift – then you will grow continuously in the way of holiness." (9-25-89) Also: "By living Holy Mass each day, you will feel the need for holiness and you will grow in holiness." (1-25-98) She asks us: "Pray without ceasing that God reveals His love to you, because without love you cannot grow in holiness, nor good deeds." (11-25-95) God must first reveal His love so that touched by His love we can respond.