

OUR LADY OF MEDUJORGE'S MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

“Dear children! Also today I call you to come closer to my heart. Only in this way, will you comprehend the gift of my presence here among you. I desire, little children, to lead you to the heart of my Son Jesus; but you resist and do not desire to open your hearts to prayer. Again, little children, I call you not to be deaf but to comprehend my call, which is salvation for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

COME CLOSER TO MY HEART

A. FAITHFUL MOTHER.

1. HER LOVE.

Our Lady has always reminded us of the immense love she has for us and she has reassured so many times that she cares dearly by treasuring lovingly every heart given to her and by guarding every step we take. She wants to bring our heart to the Heart of her Son, Jesus, until our hearts are one in love, because “Jesus is the Way of Love.” Hers is also the way of love because she is one with her Son.

- a. How many times she has meekly said: “Don’t forget I am here to help you.” And how many times have we just gone on our own merry way as if she said nothing. She respects our freedom and she will not force herself upon us, because she is too humble for that.
- b. But when we come to an extreme and difficult place, we turn to her in desperation and cry out: “Help me!” No one likes to be used, and especially used as a stopgap, and then be placed aside and ignored. Yet, she, who has all the answers to our happiness and all the power to bless us endlessly, waits for us patiently to wake up and realize who she really is.

2. HER CARE.

Now it seems we are so far away from her that in this message she puts aside her kid gloves and has to stoop to the level of fear by warning us that this time her call is about our ultimate safety – “salvation for you.”

- a. This may be a distant echo of her words at Fatima when she said: “God is about to punish the world for its crimes by means of: 1) war, 2) famine, and 3) persecutions of the Church and the Holy Father.” And subsequently she added even “the annihilation of several nations.”
- b. “To save you” and “to prevent this,” “God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.” Later, she spelled this out in terms of Consecration to her Immaculate Heart – a dedication to be lived out by remaining in her Heart. Apart from this constant union with her, she assures us, we will not survive.

3. HER CALL.

But what is happening? Is Our Loving Mother running out of patience? Not really, but time is certainly running out and she does not think we are in a very good place so far away from her. She has been calling, calling, calling. Now she thinks perhaps we are “deaf.”

- a. She once suggested that sometimes we have “stony hearts” and thus we should turn our hearts into “flesh” – i.e., warm, feeling and responsive ones. To affect this, she advises us to call upon the Holy Spirit for help.
- b. At other times she counsels us to be careful about the way we pray – i.e., stop just using our lips and rather descend into the depths of our heart and then pray from our whole heart. We come closer to her by really praying.

B. HER RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Her First Recommendation she formulates this way: “Come closer to my Heart.” She has used several ways to jar us loose from our lethargy and complacency:
 - a. God. “God sent me to help you.” When God speaks, it is no joke, she says – i.e., Don’t you realize that I am God’s Ambassador coming to you from heaven with a sense of urgency? One day we will wake up says Padre Pio, but he adds: “then it will be too late.” Thus, she tries to command our respect.
 - b. Mother. But most often she appeals to our heart: “I am your Mother and I desire you to be saved. With me you are secure.” If she is Our Loving Mother, she would like us to be her devoted children – who never take their eyes off her, who surrender completely to her, who depend on her for everything, who run to her in every need, and, above all, who speak to her in a simple, childlike (not childish) manner.
 - “Open your heart and offer it to me,” i.e., tell me you love me and need me and that you are so happy to be my child.
 - How would you respond to this statement of hers: “I love you and out of love I long for you”?
 - Sometimes she gets exasperated and says thing like this: “I pray the Lord to help you understand the love I am showing you.” What a mother we have! But why do we sometimes leave her so forlorn?
2. Her Second Recommendation is “to open your hearts to prayer.” There are many reasons for such a statement, not the least of which is this: “I want you to pray, so that through prayer you would allow me to help you.” What a humble statement and yet it is only in prayer that we can feel her love and hear her voice. As soon as we turn our attention to her, we are in prayer.
 - a. Holy Mass. This is the greatest prayer. She told the visionaries once: “I will be waiting for you at the church door.” – which means she wants to guide us through Mass perhaps by 1) drawing our attention to a word in the Gospel, 2) helping us renew our total consecration at the Offertory, 3) focusing our attention on Calvary at the Consecration, and ultimately 4) presenting us with the gift of her Son at Holy Communion.
 - b. Holy Rosary. Our Lady says: “When you pray, pray with me.” Since we say 3-4 rosaries a day, the Rosary is a golden opportunity to deepen our union with Mary. She speaks to us through the illumination of the Mysteries, our good intentions and the desires of our heart and particularly in the personal impressions we receive. Following Pope John Paul II, she will help in each Mystery: 1) to “read” Jesus, 2) to discover and apply His message, and 3) to listen to His “secrets.”

- c. Holy Moments. There are those sacred moments during the day when we remember her constant presence and then speak with her. “The one who has true confidence in me, will always find a way to be with me.” Such confidence comes about through our growing appreciation and love for her. And she wants so much to be a part of our activities and the human experiences of our daily life.

C. WAYS AND PRACTICES TO LIVE THIS MESSAGE.

1. Always come to Our Lady with love and speak to her with fervor.
2. On the way to Holy Mass, look forward to meeting her at the church door.
3. Ask yourself what Our Lady would find particularly attractive in the readings and ask her to help you remember this during the day and to treasure the Word of God as she did.
4. Receive Holy Communion from the hands of Mary, assuring her that you will take good care of Jesus through the rest of the day.
5. Make a one-minute pause before saying a Rosary, uniting yourself in mind, heart and will with her and asking her to lead you through the Mysteries.
6. Place pictures of Mary around your room, house or work place to remind you of her presence.
7. Say a Hail Mary each hour of the day for the grace of living in union with Mary.
8. Always invoke her under two or three titles that touch your heart the most: e.g., My Loving Mother, Queen of Peace, Mother of Mercy.
9. Decide on a specific time of the day – e.g., 12 Noon – when you will speak to/with her in a personal, conversational way.
10. Read a book about Mary to nurture and provoke reflection about her.

Rev. Robert E. Hughes, S.M.