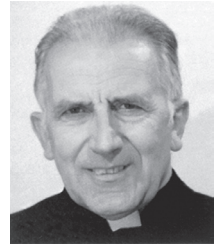




Echo of Medjugorje



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Fr. Angelo Mutti
founder Echo of Medjugorje

25 June 1981 - 25 June 2015 *Thirty-four years with us! Thank you Queen of Peace!*

Message of 25 March 2015:

“Dear Children, Also today the Most High has permitted me to be with you and to lead you on the way of conversion. Many hearts have shut themselves to grace and do not want to hear my call. You, my children: pray and fight against temptation, and against all the evil plans which Satan offers you through modernism!

Be strong in prayer, and with the cross in your hands pray that evil may not use you and may not conquer in you. I am with you and pray for you. Thank you for responding to my call.”

The Cross in Our Hands!

Mary opens this message by praising the Most High for allowing her to be our guide. This itself is a lesson for us, because we, too, ought to learn to praise our God for everything. It probably doesn't come natural to us to acknowledge God's work in our lives, and we easily forget how vital the connection with God is.

“Many hearts have shut themselves to grace and do not want to hear my call,” Mary informs us, which should make us think that we, too, could be among those with closed hearts. Perhaps our hearts are closed and we do not want to admit it; perhaps our hearts are hooked on the latest fads, and submerged by the desire to clutter our lives with possessions. Perhaps this is part of the modernism which lends itself so well to Satan who wants to draw us into his senseless fight against God. “You, my children: pray and fight against temptation, and against all the evil plans which Satan offers you through modernism!” Mary's words are a warning, for though Satan is destined to fail in the end, grave personal damage can be done to those who allow themselves to be used.

“Be strong in prayer, and with the cross in your hands pray that evil may not use you and may not conquer in you,” says Mary who wants us to know that it is faith and prayer that will allow us to defeat the enemy. Not only, but Mary is with us; and where she is there is also Jesus. With them in our hearts, the cross in our hands will be a spade that pierces the old serpent.

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! §



Message to Mirjana,
2 April 2015:

“Dear Children, I have chosen you, my apostles, because all of you carry something beautiful within you. You can help me to make the love for which my Son died and then resurrected, may win anew.

Therefore, I am calling you, my apostles, to try to see something good in every creature of God, in all of my children, and to try to understand them.

My children, you are all brothers and sisters through the same Holy Spirit. You, filled with love for my Son, can speak of what you know to all those who have not known that love. You have known the love of my Son, you have comprehended His Resurrection, with joy you cast your gaze towards Him.

My motherly desire is for all of my children to be united in love for Jesus.

Therefore, I call you, my apostles, to live the Eucharist with joy, because in the Eucharist my Son always gives Himself to you anew, and with His example he shows the love and sacrifice towards neighbour. Thank you.”

(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)

Message, 25 April 2015:

“Dear Children, I am with you also today to lead you to salvation. Your soul is restless because your spirit is weak and tired from all the worldly things. You, my children: pray to the Holy Spirit that He may transform you and fill you with His strength of faith and hope, so that you may be resolute in this battle against evil. I am with you and I intercede for you before my Son Jesus. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Human Fragility Transformed

The message confirms Mary's work to contribute to our salvation, whilst diagnosing the world's problem: *Your soul is troubled because the spirit is weak and tired of all earthly things.* She says the restlessness of our soul is due to the intrinsic weakness of our spirit and the fatigue induced by all earthly things which the world offers, even imposes, upon us. The contrast between earth and heaven, between body and soul, is not a limit on the freedom of man, but a call to make a clear and conscious choice, which God asked of us in the Old Testament: *See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God, walk in his ways, and observe his commandments* (cf. Dt 30:15-16).

The choice between good and evil isn't something from fables about ogres and the like. Do not ogres exist today? Are not their crimes more heinous? Truly, our spirit is weak and tired of the reality that surrounds us, of the papier-mache idols who lord it over the world! We are tired of the hypocrisy!

We have seen idols come and go, and experienced glaring contradictions between professed faith and life lived. If this were to discourage us, we should remember that people of faith cannot allow themselves to be discouraged!

Precisely because of the state of things, Our Lady has come to encourage us with practical advice: *Pray to the Holy Spirit...!* Our Lady is with us and intercedes for us. She is on our side. And we are on her side when we respond to her call to prayer. So let us pray! that the Holy Spirit may fill us and to strengthen in us the faith and the hope.

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! §

Jubilee of Mercy

Many question in their hearts: why a Jubilee of Mercy today? Simply because the Church, in this time of great historical change, is called to offer more evident signs of God's presence and closeness. This is not the time to be distracted; on the contrary, we need to be vigilant and to reawaken in ourselves the capacity to see what is essential. This is a time for the Church to rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter: to be a sign and an instrument of the Father's mercy (cf. Jn 20:21-23).

For this reason, the Holy Year must keep alive the desire to know how to welcome the numerous signs of the tenderness which God offers to the whole world and, above all, to those who suffer, who are alone and abandoned, without hope of being pardoned or feeling the Father's love.

A Holy Year to experience strongly within ourselves the joy of having been found by Jesus, the Good Shepherd who has come in search of us because we were lost.

A Jubilee to receive the warmth of his love when he bears us upon his shoulders and brings us back to the Father's house.

A year in which to be touched by the Lord Jesus and to be transformed by his mercy, so that we may become witnesses to mercy.

Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favourable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.

May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ.

Peace be with you!

The greeting of the Risen Christ to his disciples on the evening of Easter, "Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:19), continues to resound in us all. Peace, especially during this Easter season, remains the desire of so many people who suffer unprecedented violence of discrimination and death simply because they bear the name "Christian". Our prayer is all the more intense and becomes a cry for help to

the Father, who is rich in mercy, that he may sustain the faith of our many brothers and sisters who are in pain. At the same time, we ask for the grace of the conversion of our own hearts so as to move from indifference to compassion.

Saint Paul reminds us that we have been saved through the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He is the Reconciler, who is alive in our midst offering the way to reconciliation with God and with each other. The Apostle recalls that, notwithstanding the difficulties and the sufferings of life, the hope of salvation which Christ has sown in our hearts nonetheless continues to grow. The mercy of God is poured out upon us, making us just and giving us peace.

[Homily, Saturday 11 April 2015]

The Pope's Tweets

Twitter is an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets". Unlike many celebrities or other people on Twitter, the Pope does not write about his daily routine, but sends short inspirational messages.

L'Osservatore Romano reports that more than ten million people follow the Pope's account @pontifex. "The presence of Pope Francis on the social network is attracting more and more people, especially youth who are the main users of the Internet," the Vatican's daily paper reported.

The Pope writes tweets in nine different languages. The biggest group of followers is the Spanish-language group; then English, Italian, Portuguese, French, German, Polish and Arabic (which has 68,000 followers) language groups.

Following are some examples of recent tweets by Pope Francis:

It is better to have a Church that is wounded but out in the streets than a Church that is



We must learn from Mary, and we must imitate her unconditional readiness to receive Christ in her life. [Tweet 18 May 2013]

sick because it is closed in on itself.

Why is it so difficult to tolerate the faults of others? Have we forgotten that Jesus bore our sins?

Let us learn to live with kindness, to love everyone, even when they do not love us.

When we cannot earn our own bread, we lose our dignity. This is a tragedy today, especially for the young.

It is good for us to spend time before the Tabernacle, to feel the gaze of Jesus upon us.

Amid so many problems, even grave, may we not lose our hope in the infinite mercy of God.

We Christians are called to go out of ourselves to bring the mercy and tenderness of God to all.

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, help us to understand God's will in moments of great suffering.

The Lord never tires of forgiving us. It is we who get tired of asking for pardon.

Lord, give us the gift of tears, the ability to cry for our sins and so receive your forgiveness.



Medjugorje and the Church

Prayer Groups in the Messages of Medjugorje

One of the most important things expressed in the messages of Medjugorje is **the request to form prayer groups**. And it isn't given as a piece of advice, because the life of prayer groups, as is outlined in the history of Medjugorje, contains some of the essential elements of the life of the Church, such as faith, the sacraments and fraternal communion.

The first call to form a prayer group was in the summer of 1982. It was for, in particular, the **young people** of the parish to whom Our Lady - through the visionaries - gave indications on how to conduct themselves and develop their spiritual life.

One year later, a second group was formed and was led by two young girls, **Jelena and Marjiana**, whose spiritual experience and formation came by inner locutions. This group was given a founding message on the 16 June 1983, which contained the conditions for those who wanted to join the group:

"Renounce all passions and inordinate desires. Avoid television, particularly negative programs. Definitely eliminate all anguish. Those who abandon themselves to God have no place in their hearts for anguish; there will be difficulties, but they will serve for spiritual growth and to glorify God. Love your enemies; banish from the heart hatred, bitterness, and prejudices. Pray for your enemies and invoke the divine blessing upon them. Pray with great meditation and do not watch the clock continuously, but let yourself be guided by the grace of God. Do not you worry about the things of this world, but entrust everything in prayer to the heavenly Father. When one is too concerned he cannot pray because he lacks inner serenity. God will help to bring success to earthly things when one strives to open up to His things. Fast on bread and water twice a week. Every day devote three hours to prayer, of which half an hour in the morning and half an hour in the evening..."

Our Lady also dictated some prayers to this group, including an **Act of Consecration to Her Immaculate Heart**. Our Lady also asked the members to dedicate themselves to the group for five years. This group had as its guide the Franciscan fathers of the parish, and **it became a model** for the many groups that were then formed all over the world, for people who dedicated themselves,

not to "talking about" Medjugorje, but to putting the messages into practice.

In 1986 Fr. Slavko Barbarić told an Italian prayer group meeting: "The messages are the starting point, not the point of arrival. If the messages were the point of arrival, then the journey, the conversion, would be over. What we are doing is putting Our Lady's messages into our brain as though in a drawer, and we leave them there. But we are not doing anything!" Fr. Slavko pointed out, instead: "A group can give only what it has lived. The messages are given for a journey. They are words for specific situations, meant to help the soul open up and be receptive to Jesus and to Mary."

Various times in successive years other messages were given of a more general nature to remind us of the program for prayer groups:

"Dear Children, renew prayer in your families and start up prayer groups. That way you will experience the joy of prayer and of communion. All those who pray and are members of prayer groups, are open in their hearts to God's will and they give joyful witness of God's will" (25.9.2000);

"Prayer groups are strong. Through them I can see how the Holy Spirit is at work in the world" (25.6.2004).

The importance of forming groups where spiritual gifts are cultivated and one's faith is able to grow, is typical of the Church structure which can be seen in the beginning of the Church when the disciples, "with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with Mary" (cf. Acts 1:14) and "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

It is also seen in the lives of saints who were particularly devoted to Our Lady. For example, St. Louis Grignion de Montfort desired the formation of (lay) fraternities dedicated to prayer and works of charity. St. Maximilian Kolbe developed the spirituality of the Consecration to the Immaculate by forming a lay movement called The Militia Immaculatae.

Therefore, the formation of prayer groups born of the spirituality of Medjugorje is part of a Marian tradition which has belonged to the life of the Catholic Church for centuries.

Marco Vignati,
Com. Casa di Maria Roma



A PIECE OF PARADISE ON EARTH

With the arrival of spring, Medjugorje has come alive again. It is visible not only in the nature, but in the presence of pilgrims which once again have come to Medjugorje. Typically, many, many pilgrims were here for the Easter celebrations.

Medjugorje has for many years been holding **international meetings**. Some of them have been held annually for many years, and some are more recent, such as the Seminar for Medical and Paramedical personnel [held from 13-16 May 2015]. Then there is the international pilgrimage for people with disabilities which this year (11-14 June 2015) is the fourth, and had the participation of Marie-Hélène Mathieu, co-founder of the **international movement Faith and Light**.

Pilgrim guides are well aware of the **difficulties when a pilgrim gets hurt**. We are thankful for the group called **Guardian Angels** who offer their assistance to pilgrims who hurt themselves on the hills, since there is not always a medical service available. Thank God especially for the **Knights of Malta** who operate an emergency medical service in Medjugorje from spring through to October.

On the first Sunday after Easter there was a **meeting for charismatic groups** from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, with a total of more than one thousand people attending. The main objective was to create a strengthened fraternal communion and better organization among the various groups (which number about 70). Salvatore Martinez, President of the Italian Charismatic movement, and Fr. Guido Pietrogrande, the spiritual guide of the movement, were guests at the meeting.

The biggest problem of the world - it was said - is that it does not acknowledge Jesus Christ, and this results in a world that does not want to be saved. And the **biggest problem in the Church** is that the Holy Spirit is not known enough, and consequently there is not enough live

Message given through Mirjana

2 MAY 2015

“Dear Children, open your hearts and try to feel how much I love you and how much I desire for you to love my Son. I desire for you to know Him better, because it is impossible to know Him and not love Him, for He is love. My children, I know you. I know your pain and suffering because I have lived them. I rejoice with you in your joy and I cry with you in your sorrow. I will never abandon you. I will always speak to you with motherly tenderness. And, as a mother, I need your hearts open so that with wisdom and simplicity you can spread the love of my Son. I need you to be open and sensitive to the good and mercy. I need you to be united with my Son, because I desire for you to be happy and to help me bring happiness to all of my children. My apostles, I need you, so you can show everyone the divine truth, so that my heart, which has suffered and also today suffers immensely, may triumph in love. Pray for the holiness of your pastors, so that in the Name of my Son they may work miracles, because holiness works miracles. Thank you.”

This is how Mary wants us: open and receptive to the good and to mercy. It is for this reason that she continues and without tiring, to visit us, console us, exhort us, beseech us, support us, and encourage us! Our Lady, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, watches over us as she watched over her Son. She suffered then and she suffers now, till her Heart can triumph in love. Hers is not a mere motherly desire which is limited by time and space, but it is God's own plan of salvation!

“God the Holy Spirit, who does not produce any divine person, became fruitful through Mary whom he espoused. It was with her, in her and of her that he produced his masterpiece, God-made-man, and that he produces every day until the end of the world the members of the body of this adorable Head. For this reason the more he finds Mary his dear and inseparable spouse in a soul the more powerful and effective he becomes in producing Jesus Christ in that soul and that soul in Jesus Christ. (**Treatise on True Devotion to Mary, by Montfort, paragraph 20**)

Today's message, and the above statement by Montfort, talk to us of **real communion with Jesus, of the inhabitation of Jesus in our hearts**. But these remain sterile if our own “fiat” (They will be done) is lacking. It isn't always easy to accept God's will; and we have learnt from Medjugorje that our will needs

experience of the Risen Lord, there is not enough life to the full, because it is the Holy Spirit who gives life through the gift of love and communion.

The mission, therefore, of the **Charismatic Movement** (which today has more than 250,000 members in Italy) is to promote a greater knowledge of the Holy Spirit and of his manifestations to people who thirst for God and His Love. Pope John Paul II once said that 250,000 people were enough to make a city; the city of the Holy Spirit. Salvatore Martinez invited everyone to think of themselves as citizens of the city of the Holy Spirit: “Love,” he said, “cannot stand divisions. If we are brothers and sisters, then we must stay together. We are here to show that love is stronger than national and personal differences, and stronger than any geographic distance.”

This meeting at Medjugorje has also served as a preparation for the world meeting of charismatic groups with Pope Francis in Rome in 2017. The fact that it was held in Medjugorje is not entirely casual, because the Holy Spirit is not secondary or marginal to the spirituality of Medjugorje. Our Lady, in her messages, has often asked us to pray to the Holy Spirit to receive light from on high, so we can receive the heavenly blessing on our families and on the the parish, and so we might receive the Spirit of truth to better live the Holy Mass.

Our Lady has said to us that we invoke the Holy Spirit too infrequently. When you have the Holy Spirit,” she said, “you have everything!” What Our Lady and the grace of the her presence in Medjugorje can give to the charismatic movement is definitely humility and a sense of service. Joining the gifts of the Spirit with the virtues of Our Lady would indeed be an excellent recipe for the renewal of the individual, of the community and of the Church!

With Our Lady's presence in Medjugorje, we really can speak of a piece of paradise on the earth. But also the faithful, if they filled with the Holy Spirit and with Mary's virtue, they also become a piece of paradise on the earth.

Paula Tomić

strengthening with the sacraments, with prayer, abstinence and fasts; abstinence not only from food, but also from every form of abuse (see Mary's instructions for the prayer group in Vignati's article on p. 3).

We give thanks to you oh blessed Mother for this message so full of love and hope! *Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!* N.Q.

Echo fully relies on donations.

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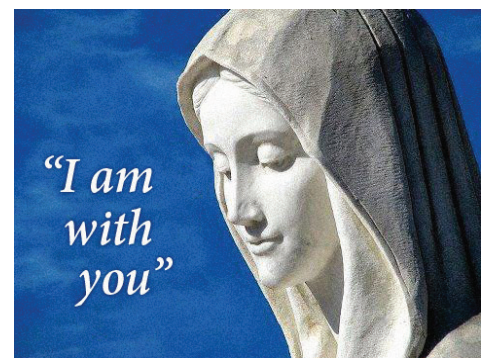
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***I desire for you to know
my Son better!***

***It is not possible to know
my Son and not also love
Him!***



I Am With You!

Dear friends of the Echo of Medjugorje,

These difficult times that we are living are firmly in the hands of the Queen of Peace who as Sovereign and Mother, comes to assure us. That phrase, “I am with you” ought to stir us out of any anguish and fear we might have. But, Our Lady sees our restlessness. Instead, we must give the Queen of Peace the honour and joy of believing in her words, but also in her love for us. Her love for us is a reflection of God's own love for us, for she comes in His Name!

With infinite love let us ask our blessed Mother for her mother blessing.

I also bless you and invoke upon you all the love and mercy of God!

Fr. Massimo Rastrelli, S.J.

Mantua, May 2015

Resp. Ing. Lanzani - Tip. DIPRO (Roncade TV)