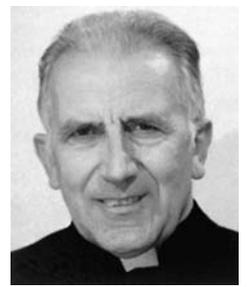




# Echo of Medjugorje

May - June 2012 - Edited by: Eco di Maria, Via Cremona, 28 - 46100 Mantova (Italia) - Year 28, nr. 5-6  
Poste Italiane s.p.a. - Sped. in A. P. - D.L. 353/2003 (conv. in L. 27/02/2004 n° 46) art. 1, comma 2, DCB Mantova

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Fr. Angelo Mutti  
founder Echo of Medjugorje

Message of 25 March 2012:

**"Dear Children, Also today, with joy, I desire giving you my motherly blessing and calling you to prayer. May prayer become a need for you, that you may grow more in holiness every day. Work more on your conversion because you are far away, my children. Thank you for responding to my call."**

## Prayer and Conversion

*The senseless man does not know, a fool would not understand,* warns a verse of Psalm 92 (91), and thus is the man who lives without God, the man who suffices for himself. Science and technology have attained unimaginable successes; medicine has made incredible progress; and if human knowledge has expanded, man's wisdom doesn't seem to have followed suit. We have seen Marxism fall, only to be replaced by another ideology that has spread even more, and it is called consumerism! With consumerism everything is thought of in the order of producing and consuming, and all is subject to these deity, complementary and universal, as is wanted by the religion of globalization. **Where is the man made in the image of God;** the Christian who bears the Name of Jesus to be in Him the child of the Father?

**May prayer become a need for you, that you may grow more in holiness every day.** Our consumeristic society induces many needs in us, but never does it call us to holiness; yet it alone can really change our life and that of the others on this earth and for eternity. **Man's real need, his daily need, is prayer.** Each man is called to fulfil the image he bears within himself, which is to be holy. This, in short, is conversion. Holiness isn't alienation, for it can't be separated from man or his human nature, which is rather enhanced by it to the point of man's divinization as revealed and made possible by the Lord.

**Prayer and conversion go hand in hand.** Far from being activities that one performs once and for all, they require our renewed consent and acceptance. They are rules of life that are nourished by the Sacraments and the Word of God: *Repent and believe the Gospel* (Mk 1:15). **Conversion is embodied in our interpersonal relationships;** it inspires our daily choices and decisions, it illuminates our expectations and hopes; it comforts our suffering and heals our wounds. **Conversion is knowing Christ better,** and making room in our heart for His growing presence in us.

We need to wake from our sleep, from the torpor of death that lurks beneath a showy and apparent efficiency. 'Tis Easter. Let us rise again in Christ! §



*The Lord is enthroned as King for ever!  
Icon Cenacolo Community Medjugorje*

Message, 2 April 2012 (Mirjana):

**"Dear Children, As the Queen of Peace, I desire giving peace to you, my children, true peace which comes through the heart of my Divine Son. As a mother I pray that wisdom, humility and goodness may come to reign in your hearts; that peace may reign; that my Son may reign. When my Son will be the King in your hearts, you will be able to help others come to know him. When heavenly peace comes to rule over you, those who are seeking it in the wrong places, thus causing pain to my motherly heart, will recognise it. My children, great will be my joy when I see that you are accepting my words and that you desire following me. Do not be afraid, you are not alone. Give me your hands and I will lead you. Do not forget your pastors. Pray that in their thoughts they may always be with my Son who called them to witness him. Thank you."**

*When my Son will be King in your heart*

Mary's goal is conversion; that the heart might have as its King Christ Jesus! We cannot bring others to know Jesus by speaking about Him, or even worse, by speaking in His Name! If He does not live in us, if His Light does not shine in us, if our hearts do not beat with His own heartbeats, then what could we be witnesses to?

If the Gospel is not leaven for our lives; if peace for us is mere absence of war; if love is not a synonym for self-denial and sacrifice; if hypocrisy prevails over truth... then how can we call ourselves Christian? If all of us who believe in Mary's presence at Medjugorje had truly followed her calls, our lives and the lives of those near to us would have radically changed. Have mercy on us, Mother, and stay with us! §

Message of 25 April 2012:

**"Dear Children, Also today I call you to prayer, and to open up your heart to God; open your heart, my Children, as a flower does to the sun's warmth. I am with you and I intercede for you all. Thank you for responding to my call."**

## Words of Old for a New Life

In a world always on the look-out for news, where yesterday's news is long forgotten, why do Mary's messages attract us, if they are repetitive and seem so similar? Even though many tire and move away, there are others, even more numerous, who come to Medjugorje. In fact, the number of pilgrims present at Medjugorje continues to grow. Why would this be?

We do not know if a single reply could be truly satisfactory, and much could be said on the subject. However, in our opinion, it is because **Mary's Work at Medjugorje is much more than a public manifestation;** and that is why her call so attracts us. It is the encounter of a Mother with her children; even more so: with each one of us, singularly. Mary comes to Medjugorje to speak to you and to me, to meet you and me... and to draw us into her Son (cf. Jn 19:27).

What Our Lady says might always be the same; but her words must be the same for each child, and for each generation. Nothing else could be said, and it is up to each of us to put her call, her suggestions, into practice. **What Our Lady says is fundamental for our life;** and fundamentals are always few and precise. They cannot change according to circumstances or times since they do not depend on these; they reside in the relationship between man and God, between creature and Creator. This relationship is absolutely necessary for our life of faith, which can be realized in a thousand different ways, but is **always founded on a few, clear principles valid for all.**

Our Blessed Mother calls us **to listen to the Word, to a sacramental life, to prayer, to fasting, to communion** with God and with our brethren. She calls us to conversion and to surrender ourselves to God, and to do it all with the heart. It is up to us to respond, to try out her suggestions, to **rediscover the importance of the sacraments...** So, the fundamental words are the same, but each of us embodies them in an original way. No one's life coincides with that of another. Just as *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and always* (Heb 13:8), so must that which draws us into Him be the same yesterday, today and always; and be the same for me and for each other person in the world. There is one treatment for holiness (and how many times has Our Mother called us to be holy!), but the response is always personal: we can accept or refuse, respect or neglect the treatment.

Today, **Our Mother renews her call to prayer and to open up the heart to God, as a flower does to the sun's warmth.** This is not just poetry. Instead it clearly indicates how we cannot blossom without Him. §

*(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)*

## Feast of the Annunciation

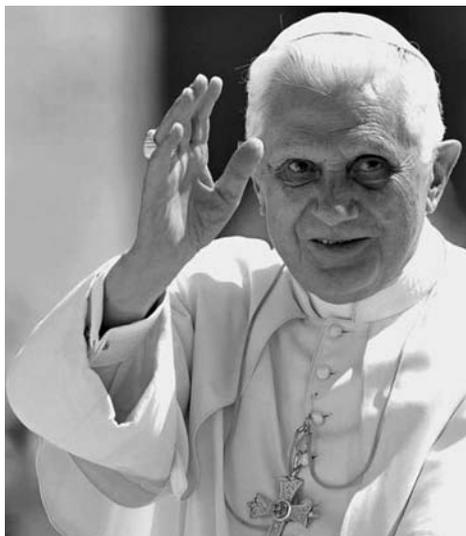
Monday 26 March 2012

From the homily at Mass, in Cuba

The Incarnation of the Son of God is the central mystery of the Christian faith, and in it Mary occupies a central place. But, we ask, what is the meaning of this mystery? And, what importance does it have for our concrete lives?

First, let us see what the Incarnation means. In the Gospel of St Luke we heard the angel's words to Mary: *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God* (Lk 1:35). In Mary, the Son of God is made man, fulfilling in this way the prophecy of Isaiah: *Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, which means 'God-with-us'* (Is 7:14). Jesus, the Word made flesh, is truly God-with-us, come to live in our midst and share our human condition.

Saint John expresses it in the following way: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (Jn 1:14). The expression, *became flesh* points to our human reality in most concrete and tangible way. **In Christ, God has truly come into the world**, he has entered into our history, set his dwelling among us, thus fulfilling man's deepest desire that the world may truly become a home worthy of humanity. On the other hand, **when God is put aside, the world becomes an inhospitable place for man**, and frustrates creation's true vocation to be a **space for the covenant**, for the "Yes" to the love between God and humanity who responds to him. Mary did so as the first



fruit of believers with her unreserved "Yes" to the Lord.

For this reason, contemplating the mystery of the Incarnation, **we cannot fail to turn our eyes to her** so as to be filled with wonder, gratitude and love at **seeing how our God, coming into the world, wished to depend upon the free consent** of one of his creatures. Only from the moment when the Virgin responded to the angel, *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word* (Lk 1:38), did the eternal Word of the Father begin his human existence in time. **It is touching to see how God not only respects human freedom: he almost seems to require it.** And we see also how the beginning of the earthly life of the Son of God was marked by a double "Yes" to the saving plan of the Father - that of

Christ and that of Mary. **This obedience to God is what opens the doors of the world to the truth, to salvation.** God has created us as the fruit of his infinite love; hence, to live in accordance with his will is the way to encounter our genuine identity, the truth of our being, while apart from God we are alienated from ourselves and are hurled into the void.

**The obedience of faith is true liberty**, authentic redemption, which allows us to unite ourselves to the love of Jesus in his determination to conform himself to the will of the Father. Redemption is always this process of the lifting up of the human will to full communion with the divine will (cf. *Lectio Divina* with parish priests, Rome, 18-02-10). (...) **The Church**, the living body of Christ, **has the mission of prolonging on earth the salvific presence of God**, of opening the world to something greater than itself, to the love and the light of God.

**It is worth the effort**, dear brothers and sisters, to devote your entire life to Christ, to grow in his friendship each day and to feel called to proclaim the beauty and the goodness of his life to every person, to all our brothers and sisters. I encourage you in this task of **sowing the word of God in the world** and offering to everyone the true nourishment of the body of Christ. (...) May we **accept with patience and faith** whatever opposition or affliction may come, with the conviction that, in his Resurrection, he has crushed the power of evil which darkens everything, and has brought the dawn of a new world, the world of God, of light, of truth and happiness. The Lord will not fail to bless with abundant fruits the generosity of your commitment. [www.vatican.va/](http://www.vatican.va/)



### DIVINE MERCY in the Heart of the Church. John Paul II in Krakow...

"Here I have come to this shrine as a pilgrim to take part in the unending hymn in honour of Divine Mercy. ... **There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy** -

that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God. In this place we become particularly aware of this. From here, in fact, went out the Message of Divine Mercy that Christ himself chose to pass on to our generation through Blessed Faustina. ... Anyone can come here, look at this picture of the Merciful Jesus, his Heart radiating grace, and hear in the depths of his own soul what Blessed Faustina heard: **Fear nothing. I am with you always** (Diary, q. II). And if this person responds with a sincere heart: **Jesus, I trust in you!**, he will find comfort in all his anxieties and fears.

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear* (1 Jn 4:18). The Church re-reads the Message of Mercy in order to bring with greater effectiveness to this generation at the end of the Millennium and to future generations **the light of hope**. Unceasingly the Church implores from God mercy for everyone. "At no time and in no historical period — especially at a moment as critical as our own — can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it... The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word 'mercy',

moves away from God and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy 'with loud cries.'" (Dives in Misericordia, 15)... I come here to commend the concerns of the Church and of humanity to the merciful Christ.

**Jesus, I trust in You!** The Message of Divine Mercy has always been near and dear to me. It is as if history had inscribed it in the tragic experience of WWII. In those difficult years it was a particular support and an inexhaustible source of hope, not only for the people of Krakow but for the entire nation. This was also my personal experience, which I took with me to the See of Peter and which in a sense forms the image of this Pontificate. I give thanks to Divine Providence that I have been enabled to contribute personally to the fulfilment of Christ's will, through the institution of the Feast of Divine Mercy. ... I pray unceasingly that **God will have mercy on us and the whole world.**"

Homily by John Paul II, 7 June 1997

### ... and Benedict XVI in Rome:

At the *Regina Caeli* prayer (15-04-12) **Benedict XVI** recalled a message proclaimed by John Paul II: "I cordially greet all ... those who are taking part in the liturgical celebrations of Divine Mercy Sunday at the Shrine of Łagiewniki. It was there that 10 years ago Bl. John Paul II said: *'This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world. In the mercy of God the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness! I entrust this task... to all the devotees of Divine Mercy.'* Faithful to this exhortation, let us proclaim to the world the Message of the merciful Jesus, let us be his witnesses." §

### Blessed John Paul II on Medjugorje:

*"If I weren't Pope, I'd already be in Medjugorje"*

John Paul II was beatified on May 1st a year ago. For the occasion we offer an excerpt from a book ("Perché è Santo") by the postulator for his cause, Msgr. Sławomir Oder, which reports many examples of JP's privately expressed convictions on the reality of Medjugorje:

"To Msgr. Sebastian Krieger, archbishop of Florianopolis in Brazil, John Paul II said: *Medjugorje is the spiritual centre of the world!* In 1987, during a brief talk, he confided to the visionary, Mirjana Dragicevic: *If I weren't Pope, I would already be in Medjugorje confessing. Even more eloquent...* are the words written by the bishop of San Angelo (Texas), Msgr. M. D. Pfeifer, in the pastoral letter to the Diocese of 5 August 1988: 'During my ad limina visit, in a private conversation with the Holy Father, I asked him what he thought of Medjugorje. The Pope spoke very favourably, and said: **To say that at Medjugorje nothing significant happens is to deny the living and prayerful testimony of thousands of persons who've been there.**

Archbishop Pavel Hnilica from Slovakia (one of his closest friends) recalls that on 26 March 1984 he had gone to lunch with John Paul II to report on his secret mission to Moscow, which was to secretly celebrate a Mass within the walls of the Kremlin. The Pope asked: *Pavel, did you pass through Medjugorje on your way back?* to which Mons. Hnilica replied negatively. The Pope then said: *Then go incognito, and come to tell me what you see.* And the Pope took him into his private library and showed him a book by Fr. René Laurentin which reported some of the messages by the Queen of Peace, commenting: **Medjugorje is the continuation of Fatima, the realization of Fatima.**" §

## Easter in Medjugorje

*On Easter Sunday, at the Italian Mass in Medjugorje, the homily was delivered by Father Hernan Portillo González. We have transcribed it, and we offer you an excerpt.*

"(...) The Lord has done a marvellous exchange with us. With his life he saved us from death, and with his death, he restored us to life. Here I am talking to you today... and I am not just a priest from Venezuela, for I am also a risen man. **I was a street child in Venezuela.** I know what it means to experience hunger, to live amidst gunfire, prostitution and drugs; but the Lord has given me new life.

I found a priest - rather, he found me, and he likes to say that he found me in the mud and transplanted me into a garden. This priest distinguishes between poverty and misery. He says that misery is a little shack with lots of confusion within; while poverty is a person with the same shack who lives with dignity and cleanliness. A priest came to my little shack - without flooring and made entirely of aluminium, it was like an oven - and he found a mother who had taught me to pray, and who prayed the Rosary with me.

A priest came to that extremely poor part of Venezuela and he placed me in an institute which he had founded for street children. It was there that I discovered the priestly vocation, for I would ask myself why this priest would give his life for me if there wasn't any bond of blood between us. I gradually realized that the bond is not just of blood, but also of spirit, because we are not citizens of this world. Simply put, we are all on pilgrimage for the true Homeland, which is Heaven.

I wasn't only a street child, for I am also a dead man walking. This is the seventh time I come here to Medjugorje. I came to thank Our Lady for saving me from three serious road accidents. I'll tell you only about one. We were in the mountains of Venezuela at 3200 metres a.s.l. In a curve the car's brakes failed and we found ourselves over a void. I could feel my stomach in my throat. Then, it was as though time had stopped, and I could see wonderful lights and colours, and I could smell perfumes I had never before smelt, and my life passed before me as though in a film, stopping whenever I needed to ask forgiveness of the Lord for my sins, my misery, my weaknesses.

I must have had a wee lack of faith because I said: *Lord, if this is my day I am sorry for my mother who will not understand, and you know how much we have suffered. Grant me the chance to go back.* And then time came back; we were falling, but a strong wind picked up the car and pushed it into the side of the mountain. They pulled us out with chains; they had to break open the doors of the car. My legs were shaking, but I wanted to open my eyes because I could feel something on my face, and I imagined it to be blood. But I was surprised; and it made me laugh when I realized it was the eggs from the back of the car that had fallen onto us as the car was falling. I didn't even have a single drop of blood on me. (...)

Let us bless the Lord because today he

restores life to us; he forgives us; he consoles us! And we can say: Lord, you make me walk above the mountains and the storms of life.

Dear friends, let's seek the things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth, because *everything passes*. The only thing that no one can rip from your heart is your opportunity to love, to be loved, and to bring love to those in need of consolation, of a word of comfort. (...)

May our prayer of resurrection be: ***Mother, as a babe in your arms I would like to sleep, and listen to your Heart that beats for me. I love you immensely because you forgive me and forget the day I was a traitor. Amen.***

## MARIJA IN LEBANON

On the 10th and 11th March, at Beirut and Karantina, Marija prayed and spoke before 60,000 people from the various religions present in Lebanon. Of itself it is **an exceptional event** in a land that has been so stained by the blood of divisions between Christians and Muslims.

On both days, during the Rosary, Marija received Our Lady's apparition in front of the crowds. Marija presented the entire Lebanese population to Our Lady, asking her to bless them and their dear ones. On Sunday, Marija asked Our Lady if there was anything she wanted to say to the people of Lebanon, and Our Lady said, ***Do not forget that I am your mother, and that I love you!*** A beautiful return to the essential!

*Les Enfants de Medjugorje 03/2012 www.edm.eu.com*

### A Lesson by Eleven-year-old Girl

Chiara has cancer. She arrived in January from the States, together with her family. During the meeting we had with her, her joy and serenity were more than evident. She joked and assured all present with her positive spirit. Then she said to me with great simplicity: ***Jesus will decide for me, and I know he will make the right decision. On my part, I trust Him, for I am happy whether I am healed or not.***

Chiara met Vicka, and Vicka prayed for her. Chiara told her: "I am not afraid to die. Whether I live or I die, I still win." Vicka replied, "You are right; there is no need to be afraid." Her father said to us: "I realize that Chiara didn't need to come to Medjugorje, for her heart was already at peace. We, her family, needed to come here! Here, we have found peace."

*Les Enfants de Medjugorje 02/2012 www.edm.eu.com*

## ON PILGRIMAGE ...

*Alexandra of Mantua, Italy, was recently in Medjugorje. Following is her testimony:*

After my pilgrimage to Medjugorje I began seeing things differently, including my relationship with others. My ability to love broadened, and I've become more patient, more readily understanding of others,



especially with what I previously saw as weaknesses and differences of opinion or ways of living that I had difficulty accepting. Now I see everything under a new light.

**For a while I've been feeling very happy,** and I have an inner serenity that makes me feel in harmony with everything around me. And I manage to keep this with me wherever I go, especially where I work. This has helped me adjust some relationships with certain co-workers that weren't the best. Now I have a different vision, and I am able to accept them despite certain choices and behaviour of theirs that I had previously judged to be incorrect.

**Now that I feel 'protected' and serene,** I've lost the fear of negative impact that some of their behaviour could have had on me. Everything has become more harmonious, and this allows me to live the very beautiful experience of sharing what I have received.

**I had brought back with me** some small souvenirs from Medjugorje for some of my colleagues, and I noticed with pleasure that this made them happy; perhaps it was the act of love, moreso than the souvenirs themselves, that gave them joy. In any case, I also noticed that other colleagues, whom I had not thought of, also would have desired receiving the same gift. So I photocopied some of Our Lady's messages, and offered these, together with other small souvenirs that I had bought on previous pilgrimages, to the other colleagues. In my heart I seemed to perceive the approval of Our Lady and Lord who desire reaching out to everyone. There were even some who are far from the faith, who I wouldn't have expected would care to receive my little gift, but who showed to appreciate it quite a bit; and this made me see the good that is in them. **This experience is still bearing fruit.** It has allowed me to come closer to colleagues with whom I wasn't particularly close. These, however, have asked me to pray for them, and this has made me see how people are very much in need of the Lord's unreserved love.

**The whole experience** has been very positive for me, relieving me, as it were, of both mental and physical fatigue that usually accompany our daily living. All is back to normal now, and I remain in good relations with my colleagues. I'm sure this will bear new fruits. *Alessandra Zampieri*

## Fruits of Medjugorje

*"Permit me, my children, to lead you. Open your hearts to the Holy Spirit so that all the good that is in you may blossom and bear fruit onehundredfold."* 25th July 2011

**CRAIG LODGE, Scotland:** The effects of my family's encounter with Medjugorje continue to echo through our lives. **My brothers and I first visited in 1983** as part of a group of teenagers curious to find out more about the apparitions to six people of our own age, in our own times. The hospitality and faithfulness, of the people we met and their sincere accounts of all that had been happening in their village touched our hearts deeply. We accepted Our Lady was calling us to a deeper love. We returned home full of an evangelical zeal! Our parents, Calum and Mary Anne MacFarlane-Barrow were the

first to feel the full force of this. We urged them to go to Medjugorje as soon as possible as we were anxious Our Lady would stop coming and they would miss out. They too came home changed by their Medjugorje experience. Their response to Our Lady's call has been – and still is – a constant witness to me, a real example of what it means to give your heart to Our Blessed Mother. Because so few people from the UK had been to Medjugorje at that time, we found ourselves initially busy, writing articles, giving talks and answering hundreds of letters from people wanting to know more.

My parents ran **Craig Lodge**, our family home, as a guest house. They began inviting groups to come and stay for **weekends of prayer and reflection on Our Lady's messages**. As these retreats attracted increasing numbers of people, my parents felt God was asking more from them. They decided to turn their guest house over to Him completely and open it as a retreat centre.

Their decision caused great concern among well-meaning friends and family who thought they had taken leave of their senses to risk their home and livelihood in this way. They were not deterred and trusted God would provide what was needed to keep going. He has done just that. As I write this we are in the midst of preparing for an Under 15s Youth Retreat weekend here at Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer, the first in a whole programme of retreats and events that will take us up to Advent. Some are designed for families, and young people and others cover topics such as: **healing, the Eucharist, Scripture and the new evangelisation**.

Soon after they had taken the step to run Craig Lodge as a retreat centre, my parents invited a group of young people to come and **form a community** based on living out the messages of Medjugorje through prayer, service and evangelisation. Twelve years on that little group has grown into **Craig Lodge Community**, a thriving mix of families and single people who have chosen to live near to Craig Lodge and join in the way of life, my own family among them.

We still **welcome young people** who come and live here for a year in order to deepen a newly-discovered faith or to discern a vocation and we have had the joy of seeing former members going on to enter religious life. Together we look after the guests who come here on retreat. Community life is a school that teaches us so much.

Despite our differences in personality and backgrounds we are united by a common desire to answer Our Lady's call and to help each other live her messages as a means of growing in holiness. **Our daily life includes the Eucharist, Adoration, Scripture, Divine Office and the Rosary**. We live out Community in honour of Our Lady Queen of Peace and we look forward to see where she will lead us next!

[www.craiglodge.org](http://www.craiglodge.org)

**Craig Lodge** is also home to the charity, **Mary's Meals**. In 1992 Yugoslavia was engulfed in war. Two of my brothers, Fergus and Magnus decided that they had to do something to help. We started appealing for food and blankets and before long they were on their way to Medjugorje as part of an aid convoy. They delivered the aid to the refugees and flew home expecting to resume their jobs as fish farmers.

However during the two weeks they had been away, the donations had continued to pour in. The sheds around Craig Lodge were stacked full and the Community spent every spare moment packing and sorting. Faced with this astonishing generosity, Magnus decided to take a year out to drive the aid to Bosnia for as long as people continued giving. People kept on giving. Today the charity is known as **Mary's Meals** in honour of Our Lady and through the school feeding movement over 600,000 of the world's poorest children can rely on a daily meal in school.

[www.marysmeals.org](http://www.marysmeals.org) - Ruth Black, febbraio 2012

## Meeting for Guides

*The XIX international meeting for leaders of pilgrimages, Peace Centres, prayer groups and charity centres was recently held in Medjugorje (4 - 8 March 2012).*



The 300 participants of the Seminar came from 16 different countries. **Fr. Danko Perutina** coordinated the seminar, the theme of which was **"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!"** (Mk 9:14-29).

**Fr. Marinko** spoke about the faith that emerges from the works by Fr. Slavko Barbaric. **Fr. Dario** explored the meaning of the faith in the daily life. **Fr. Ante** reflected on the Gospel text of the theme and discussed what interpersonal relations mean for those who work with pilgrims, and the need to invite Jesus into our relations for them to be healed and sanctified. He then reflected on verse 21 of the parallel text (Mt 17:14-21) to bring to light the **close bond between the Lord's words and Mary's insistent call to prayer and fasting**, which are two of the pillars of the Medjugorje "school". In fact, many agree that it is **Medjugorje that has revived the sense of prayer and fasting** amongst the faithful and the Church.

Every leader and organizer needs to be aware of the **deep bond between the Gospel, the Church and Medjugorje**; and they need to encourage pilgrims to seek answers to their questions or doubts in the encounter with the Living God, with His Word and with the Sacraments. And furthermore, they need to be encouraged to strengthen their faith through prayer and fasting.

*Paula Tomiäc*

### PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

The Curé of Ars, St. John Vianney, encouraged the faithful to pray thus:

"I pray to you, Blessed Mother of God: for the immeasurable suffering that the passion and death of your Divine Son caused you, and for the bitter tears you shed, offer up to the Father on our behalf the Holy Body, wounded and bleeding, of our Divine Redeemer, united to your own tears and sorrow, for the salvation of souls and for the grace that I now implore (...)."

Add the following prayer, repeating it three times: "Jesus and Mary, I love you, save priestly souls, save souls."

### Echo fully relies on Readers' donations.

Our prayers and heartfelt thanks to all who are instruments of providence for Echo, enabling us to continue to help Mary reach her children.

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### Medjugorje: the position of the Holy See

The Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, in reference to Medjugorje, declared: "The declarations made by the Bishop of Mostar are personal opinions; they are not the definitive and official judgement of the Church." This declaration silences all those who use the Bishop of Mostar's statements to attack Medjugorje in the name of the Church. Furthermore, this position of the Holy See was recently ratified in a summary by Cardinal Bertone in his book entitled, "L'Ultima Veggente di Fatima"; a book which the Pope, His Holiness Benedict XVI, wanted to validate by personally writing a preface for it. (Source: [www.radiomaria.it](http://www.radiomaria.it))

It is said that the Commission, led by Card. Ruini, recently received the visionaries in private encounters. The archbishop of Sarajevo, Msgr. Puljic, has privately expressed that the Commission is likely to issue a declaration by the end of the year.

MESSAGE TO MIRJANA, 2 May 2012:

"Dear Children, with motherly love I beg you: **give me your hands, let me lead you. As your Mother, I want to save you from worry, despair and eternal exile. My Son, by His death on the cross, showed how he loves you; he sacrificed himself for you and for your sins. Do not reject his sacrifice and do not renew his suffering with your sins. Do not close to yourself the door of Paradise.**

My children, do not waste time. Nothing is more important than unity in my Son. I will help you, because the Heavenly Father sends me so that together we can show the path of grace and salvation to all those who do not know Him. Do not be hard of heart. Trust me, and adore my Son. My children, you cannot go on without pastors. May they be in your prayers every day. Thank you."

*May Mary, Queen of Peace, who asks for peace and offers peace, be with you all who generously respond to her call. To you dear readers, and in particular to all those who with joy and enthusiasm support this little paper of Mary's, I invoke the blessing of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Mantua, May 2012

*J. Remo*

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