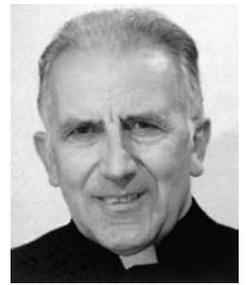




Echo of Medjugorje

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Fr. Angelo Mutti
founder Echo of Medjugorje

Message of 25 May 2014:

“Dear Children, Pray and be aware that without God you are dust. Therefore, turn your thoughts and hearts to God and to prayer. Trust in His love. In God’s Spirit, my children, all of you are called to be witnesses. You are precious, and I call you, my children, to holiness, to eternal life. Therefore, be aware that this life is passing. I love you and call you to a new life of conversion. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Lift up your hearts!

We are in the world, but not of the world: This statement has accompanied man’s journey all throughout history. It is something intrinsic, primordial, yet current. For a Christian, it is also a truth of the faith, witnessed by the Bible, and concretely verifiable. ***Pray and be aware that without God you are dust,*** says Our Lady today; but in truth, she has been telling us this for the past 33 years!

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away (cf. Ps 90:10). So: ***turn your thoughts and your hearts to God and to prayer. Trust in His love.*** And as Mary pleads with us, she also offers us the means to lift ourselves up - not to avoid reality - rather to see it in its proper light and to accept it. *Every human being bears within himself the breath of life that turns dust into living beings* (cf Gen 2:7).

Without this breath of life, we are dust that is dispersed. ***In God’s Spirit, my children, all of you are called to be witnesses,*** says Our Lady. It is His Spirit that enables us to be so. It is His Presence that makes us witnesses. Unless we have God’s Spirit in us, we cannot bear the weight of the Lord’s teachings. It is when He comes with his Spirit of truth that our witness is veritable (cf Jn 16:12-14).

Most of us have **received God’s Spirit** at least twice (with Baptism and Confirmation). Our Lady wants us to be aware that God’s Spirit is real, that we depend on it to have life, and to be a witness to His love. And that in having His Spirit in our hearts, we need not - indeed cannot! - go chasing after His Presence elsewhere. *If some tell you that he is there or here, do not believe!* (cf. Mt 24:23).

The growing attention given to Medjugorje forces Satan to discredit Mary’s work, to create confusion and division. Yet, his power to divide is limited; Satan’s work is vexing, but he cannot prevent us from living the holiness to which Mary calls us. §



Message to Mirjana, 2 JUNE 2014:

“Dear Children, I call all of you and I accept you as my children. I pray that you may accept me and love me as a mother. I have united all of you in my heart; I have descended among you and I bless you. I know that you desire from me consolation and hope, because I love you and intercede for you. I ask you to be in union with me in my Son, and to be my apostles. So that you can do this, I again call you to love. Love without prayer does not exist; prayer without forgiveness does not exist; because love is prayer, forgiveness is love.

My children, God created you to love, and you love so as to forgive. Every prayer which comes from love unites you with my Son and the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit illuminates you and makes you my apostles - apostles who will do everything they do in the name of the Lord, and who will pray with their works and not just with words, because they love my Son and comprehend the way of truth which leads to eternal life.

Pray for your shepherds that they may always lead you with a pure heart on the way of truth and love; the way of my Son. Thank you.”

MARY, as MOTHER, speaks to all of us and each of us. She is our mother and she prays for us so that our filial love might grow stronger. Mary remains with us and she blesses us! As mother her role is to lead us to her Son, so that each of us - as God’s children - might fulfil the plan God has for each of us. Prayer, love and forgiveness are means of grace that open the way to communion with the Father. The Holy Spirit will descend on us to guide us so that what we do, we do in the name of the Lord and so our path is that of the Truth and the Love of God. §

Message, 25 June 2014

(33rd anniversary):

“Dear Children, The Most High has given me the grace to be with you still, and to lead you in prayer towards the way of peace. Your heart and soul thirst for peace and love, for God and his joy. Therefore, my children, pray, pray, pray, and in prayer you will discover the wisdom of living. I bless you and intercede for each of you before my Son Jesus. Thank you for responding to my call.”

In Prayer is Wisdom of Living

The great discoveries of Science and Medicine have considerably contributed to improving the quality of life, but they have not, and cannot resolve the basic problems of life, because human life cannot be reduced to fit into scientific treatises. **Every human life is a mystery of God’s Love,** and as such, it has within itself something that is imperceptible and unspeakable. It transcends the individual and is assimilated in God the Creator and Father.

This spark of divine fire, this trace of God’s Spirit, makes each of us an original and unrepeatable icon. And here we see the absolute importance of every human person. In a world where everything is adulterated and even cloned, the human person is treated ever more as an object. Human life is tampered with, and in doing so the unique images of God are suppressed.

Our thirst for peace and love, for God and joy, are planted in our hearts and are the basis for human life from the biological to the eternal aspects of it. And today Our Lady points out the benefits: ***“Therefore: pray, pray, pray, and in prayer you will discover the wisdom of living”.***

The wisdom of living is fruit of prayer! of that connection, not occasional, but habitual connection with God. Nothing can impede us from experiencing this intimate communion with God; not sickness nor suffering. Indeed, strength and consolation are drawn from this experience of love, even during sickness and suffering, and especially when these are offered up. Prayer connects us to God and Him with us. And through this union, we can draw “life” for ourselves and for those who are near us. §

(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)

Never Stop Praying for Peace!

Pope Francis has asked that we continue to *"pray insistently for peace in the Holy Land."* Speaking about the meeting with Patriarch Bartholomew, President Peres and President Abbas on the 8th June 2014, the Holy Father said: "Some may think that our meeting [in which we invoked the gift of peace, and called for a stop to the spiral of hatred and violence] may have been in vain. **It was not**; for prayer helps us not to let ourselves be overcome by evil, nor to accept that violence and hatred cannot be defeated by dialogue and reconciliation."

Therefore, "I urge all parties concerned; all those with political responsibilities ... to keep on praying, and to make every effort to **bring a halt to the hostility** to attain the desired peace for the good of all. **And I invite everyone** to be united in this prayer." (13-07-14)

Violence is defeated by Peace!

Once again the Pope prayed and appealed for peace after learning "with concern" of the news of the Christian communities in Mosul, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East "where they have lived from the beginning of Christianity with their fellow citizens, offering a meaningful contribution to the good of society. Today they are persecuted [and] forced to leave their homes. They are not allowed to take anything with them. To these families and to these people I would like to express my closeness and my steadfast prayer. **Dearest brothers and sisters so persecuted**, I know how much you suffer, I know that you are deprived of everything. I am with you in your faith in Him who conquered evil! And to you, here in the Square and to the many who are watching us on television, I ask you to remember these Christian communities in your prayers.

Violence is not conquered with violence. Violence is conquered with peace!"

Our God is a Patient Father!

In the Pope's Angelus prayer he spoke about the parable of the 'good grain and the darnell weeds' which speaks to us of the problem of evil in the world, while highlighting the patience of God. "In Hebrew, the word for darnell weed and the word for Satan have the same root. We all know that Satan is a "sower of weed", one who always seeks to sow division between individuals, families, nations and peoples.

"The parable tells that the evil in the world doesn't come from God, but from his enemy, the evil one. **It is curious that the evil one goes at night to sow weed,**

in the dark, in confusion. This enemy is astute: he sows evil in the middle of good, thus it is impossible for us men to distinctly separate them.

But God, in the end, will be able to do so."

And here we see God's patience! "God knows how to wait. With patience and mercy he gazes into the "field" of life of every person; he sees much better than we do the filth and the evil, but he also sees the seeds of good and

waits with trust for them to grow. God is patient, **he knows how to wait.** This is so beautiful: our God is a patient father...

It is thanks to this patient hope of God that the same weed, which is the malicious heart with so many sins, in the end can become good grain.

But beware! Evangelical patience is not indifference to evil; one must not confuse good and evil! In facing weeds in the world the Lord's disciple is called to imitate the patience of God, to nourish hope." (20 July 2014)

Young people: be courageous!

"Enthusiasm is contagious. But do you know where the word "enthusiasm" comes from? It comes from the Greek, and it means 'to have something of God inside', or 'to be in God'. When enthusiasm is sound it is a sign that we have something of God inside, and we express it joyously. Be open - with this enthusiasm - to hope, and yearn for fullness! **Yearn to give meaning to your future, to your whole life!"**

"Contemporary society and its prevailing cultural models (e.g. the "culture of the temporary") are unable to promote the cultivation of stable life choices with strong bonds, [which are] built on the rock of love and responsibility rather than on the sand of temporary emotion. The aspiration for individual autonomy is pushed to the point of always questioning everything... and this fosters superficiality in the assumption of responsibilities... *Today I choose this, tomorrow I shall choose the other thing...* But by doing so, one "roams through" life as in a maze.

But life is not a maze! When you catch yourselves roaming aimlessly: **stop!** Search for the thread leading out of the maze! Do not let your lives be burnt out by roaming around aimlessly!

Dear young people, the heart of the human being aspires to great things, lofty values, deep friendships... Our deepest aspiration is to love and be loved; and definitively. **The culture of the temporary does not honour our freedom**, but deprives us of our true destiny, of our



"Miracles happen. But it takes prayer! Prayer that is courageous, that strives and is persevering; not prayer that is mere formality." Pope Francis 24-05-2013

truest and most authentic goals. Do not allow yourselves to be robbed of the will to build great and lasting things in your life!

Aspire to happiness, have the courage to go outside of yourselves and bet on the fullness of your future together with Jesus. We cannot do it alone. Only together with Jesus, praying to him and following him do we find clarity of vision and strength to go forward. He loves us definitively, he has chosen us definitively...

One word I like to repeat, because we often forget it: God never tires of forgiving. And this is true! So great is his love. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness, but **He always forgives**, every time we ask him to. He forgives definitively, he wipes out and forgets our sin if we turn to him with **humility and trust.**" (6 July 2014)

www.vatican.va

INVOCATION FOR PEACE

*Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers... How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood shed; how many lives shattered; how many hopes buried... But our efforts have been in vain.*

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts; give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" ...

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; and to see all who cross our path as our brother or sister...

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, that with patience and perseverance we opt for dialogue and reconciliation, that peace triumph at last, and the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of all ...

Renew our hearts and minds... may our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

by Pope Francis - 8 June 2014 (excerpt)

Medjugorje

Message to Mirjana 2 JULY 2014:

"Dear Children, as mother of all of you gathered here and of the entire world, I bless you with my motherly blessing, and I invite you to set out on the way of humility. That way [of humility] leads to knowledge of the love of my Son. My Son is almighty, He is in everything. If you, my children, do not comprehend this, then in your soul will reign darkness, blindness. Only humility can heal you. My children, I always lived humbly, courageously and in hope. I knew, I had understood, that God is in us and we in God. I ask the same of you. I want all of you with me in eternity, because you are a part of me. I will help you on your way. My love will envelop you like a mantle and make of you apostles of my light - of God's light. With the love that comes forth from humility you will bear light there where darkness and blindness reign. You will bear my Son who is the light of the world. I am always alongside your shepherds and I pray that they may always be an example of humility for you. Thank you."

God in Us and We in Him

Our Lady's words are clear, simple and biblical. Both the Old and the New Testaments describe what she has said; not to say that both the Magisterium and Church Tradition teach it.

We all know the parable of the merciful father (the prodigal son: Lk 15:11-32), but knowing of it isn't enough. We need to have an open heart. Here **Our Lady has explained** what it means to have an open heart. Quite simply it is **to be humble**, to seek to be humble.

Saying "Lord, Lord!" isn't enough to enter God's Kingdom. Nor is having driven out demons, or worked miracles in His Name. We risk being driven away ourselves (Mt 7:21-23). What counts, instead, is "being" rather than "doing". In the message, Our Lady says of herself: **"I knew, I had understood, that God is in us and we in God. I ask the same of you."**

We are being asked to be bearers of God, and at the same time to be immersed in God. This might seem impossible for man, but it is not for God (Mt 19:16-26).

So, dear friends, let us not tie ourselves down with self-pride from thinking we are worth more or know more than others; nor lose ourselves in useless or passing things. Communion with God which St. John urges us to seek, is today underlined by Our Lady. It is the key to personal and universal salvation. It is a gift of our God who sacrificed himself in the Son Jesus. It is the fulfilment of God's will. It is what we ask for in the Lord's Prayer (Our Father). So if God is in us, what more could we desire? N.Q.



Pilgrims from Nazareth

Excerpt from the interview by Radio Mir with two pilgrims from Israel: Mrs. Daoud e Fr. Souhail Houry.

Fr. Souhail said he came to Medjugorje twelve years ago for the first time. "I work in the region of Galilee and apart from the regular activities in my pastoral work, ever since my first trip to Medjugorje, we began to meet in the prayer communities called Mary's family. We gather once a month ... There were 50 of us in the beginning and now there are hundreds of us and we meet in all Christian churches in Galilee.

We have adopted the prayer programme of Medjugorje: Rosary and music, Holy Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

I would like to say this: If there was no Nazareth, we would not have Medjugorje. Medjugorje is so dear to us, we feel deep faith here. I can witness that all pilgrims return from here being different and they all witness to others about what they received here and how faith changed them."

Mrs. Therese Daoud made a vow to come to Medjugorje after she was cured. She was diagnosed with cancer in her leg and doctors were suggesting that she have it amputated. "After the check up in the hospital, I prayed all the time. I found consolation in prayer and I only prayed to come close to God and His will, for Him to bless me and my family so we would be able to accept the illness and its consequences. The surgery kept being rescheduling and I took that as a sign not to proceed with it. I continued to pray even more and the others prayed with me, encouraging me to feel better. When Vicka visited Nazareth, I was in the church and I prayed with the whole prayer community there.

Afterwards, I returned to the hospital for more tests and after ten days I received news that the cancer was no longer there. Additional tests were done, and they all confirmed that I was healthy.

I made a vow to come to Medjugorje, to visit Krizevac and Podbrdo, and to climb the hills on my own. I feel happy, content and full of faith now. I came here with my whole family", said Mrs. Daoud.

She added that her doctor encouraged her to witness about this to others as much as possible.

DO AS OUR LADY SAYS! ³

"For the 33rd anniversary of the apparitions, we were expecting a powerful message from the Virgin Mary," said Sr. Emmanuel. "These are the words that have stayed in our minds: ***"The Most High is giving me the grace that I can still be with you..."*** What does she mean by "still"? According to Vicka, we are far from having accomplished what she planned to do through her apparitions here.

From the very beginning she explained her plan clearly: *"I have come to convert the whole world and reconcile it with God."* She also said, *"I have come to bring the world closer to the Heart of God."* But just a few years ago she said this: *"The world is going further away from the Heart of God every day."* This remark hurts! But as Mother of Hope she has no doubt obtained from God the ability to continue to come so that this plan may be fulfilled, and so Satan may not succeed in diminishing and destroying the impact that her coming has upon us."

It is up to us to pay heed!

"How and when have we disappointed her, to the point of preventing her from accomplishing all the good that she was expecting to do through Medjugorje? We have started to pick and choose what we want from her messages; we have allowed our consciences to be lulled to sleep by the materialism that surrounds us. We haven't seriously put God first place in our lives. We have preferred earthly well-being (that we lose anyway when we don't live under his blessing).

"To encourage us to change our course, here is a simple testimony that dates from the 90's. **We know that Jakov lost his mother** about a year after the apparitions began. ... The very evening of the day she died, during the apparition, Mary said to him: *"Do not weep, Jakov, your mother is with me in Heaven!"*

"When I heard this, I went to see Jakov to ask him what his mother had done in her life that was so beautiful that God should take her so quickly. He was evasive and said, "I can't think of anything special to tell you, Sr Emmanuel. There was nothing extraordinary about my mother." I urged him to think about it some more. He said, "No, I assure you, there was nothing special about my mother, she was just like everyone else, she did everything the Gospa told us!"

And that was the answer! She did everything Our Lady asked!

"If today, despite our tepidity, our wanderings and our lack of humility, the Virgin Mary continues to come, let us not disappoint her! This is the time of grace, so let us grasp it! and not allow the enemy to rejoice at finding in us a door which is opened by our compromise with sin. She gives us a second chance. If we desire peace rather than disaster, there is still time to "do everything that she tells us!

[Sr. Emmanuel's news 16 July 2014]

DIARY OF A PILGRIM

Our Lady said in one of her messages at the end of 2013: *"Dear children, with motherly love and motherly patience I look at your ceaseless wandering and [see] how you are lost."*

And we must thank Our Lady for this, because we must acknowledge that she knows us well, and that she knows us well because she follows us with anxious love, and as she has put it: she follows us closely and always: *"at our every step"*.

In the abovementioned message, the Queen of Peace said these words, which are not that easy for us to comprehend: *"I desire helping you to first find and come to know yourselves, so that then you are able to understand and acknowledge all that does not permit you to know the Heavenly Father's love honestly and wholeheartedly. My children, the Father is known through the cross. Therefore, do not reject the cross. With my help strive to comprehend and accept it. When you are able to accept the cross you will also understand the love of the Heavenly Father."*

Our most affectionate Mother has opened our eyes on an abyss that is present within us. There is an abyss in our hearts because they are void of God and incapable of understanding and accepting the cross. Our hearts are void of God because we have become unable to love. And being unable to love, we are consequently unable to comprehend the Father's love, for He is essentially Love.

Therefore, having lost love, we have also lost the joy for and the meaning of life. The Queen of Peace has spoken about this too; and she has said: *"I am here to help you."* Our blessed Mother says we shouldn't be discouraged; that feeling discouraged leads to nothing; or rather, it leads to the risk of us losing life which is a gift of God.

But there are reasons for feeling discouraged: we see the effects of the human heart when it is void of God; we see the crosses which seem to get heavier, yet we have to appreciate them, understand their worth, accept them and even love them.

Our Lady doesn't say that we who believe in the events of Medjugorje have hearts void of God. She says that there are many people whose hearts are void of God. But the fact that there are many people who do not have God in their lives and hearts, has to concern us; it is something we have to care about, because those empty hearts are cause of sorrow for God.

I am struck by the fact that in this present state of wide-spread relativism and secularization, and with the excuse of respecting the freedom of others, we have become very "private"; and feeling that we must respect others' freedom, we do not admonish sinners who find themselves left alone, and when they abandon themselves, they turn to their own inner darkness without realising that they themselves have produced it.

It is a terrible demonic deception, and

they are the victims. **Our own dear ones are the victims.** And we, who say that we love them: do we not care? But we must concern ourselves over this.

Our Lady at Medjugorje has said that he who desires being saved is saved by God, and that if someone damns himself, he does it out of his own free will. **But God asks us to help him** save sinners. Also the Queen of Peace tells us. Not only, but she has said how we can help God! **We can help by praying for sinners, and by praying also for the deceased.**

We really ought to **understand that Our Lady is acting as our guide**, that she wants us to take charge of things that are weighty and serious, given that she is the Mother of Jesus who is God, and that He became man so as to bring each person to the state of living with God in the heart, and to call us to take up our cross every day; to see it as something from God which we should embrace as our own.

Excerpt: "Diario del Pellegrino" by Fr. MASSIMO RASTRELLI, S.J.



Fr. Slavko to the right of the photo, looking up at the young seers in the early days of the apparitions

FR. SLAVKO Barbaric, b. 11 March 1946, was assigned to the parish of Medjugorje in 1983. He was always very close to the sees, and he worked tirelessly to aid the pilgrims and to promote the **movement of peace** which was born in Medjugorje. Fr. Slavko died atop Krizevac on the 24th November 2000 at 3.30 pm, after having completed the *Way of the Cross* with pilgrims and parishioners.

From his homilies:

"A look at the messages tells us that we need **PEACE**. Our Lady did not appear to fight for her recognition by the Church. She already has this. When she said her name, she did not say: 'I am Our Lady who seeks recognition'. She said, 'I am the Queen of Peace,' and, 'Be reconciled!'.

With regards to the **FAITH**, the first prayer Our Lady asked for was the **CREED**. Creed comes from the word which means to 'believe'. It

means to 'give one's heart over to God', to surrender one's life to Him.

Without a doubt, in my experience, I see that our faith is very superficial. [...] If it were deeper, and if for us it meant to surrender to the Lord, then we would not experience the difficulty to forgive, nor to share, nor to love.

Our Lady has asked that we pray the Creed, seven Our Fathers, the complete Rosary every day.

Be it clear that she does not ask for the formula of the apostolic Creed, but that we [pray the Creed with faith, so that it is equivalent to] making a decision for the Lord Jesus Christ! She desires our firm decision!" §

*The Lord bless you and keep you!
May He show His face to you and have
mercy. May He turn His countenance
to you and give you peace.*

Mantua, July 2014

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



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

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