



Aim of the

Queen of Peace Apostolate

*To make known the Message of
Our Lady At Medjugorje.
Our focus is on living the
message, which is in harmony
with the Church's Magisterium.*

VIA AD PACEM

(The Way To Peace)

LIVE THE MESSAGES

given at

MEDJUGORJE

Sponsored by The Queen of Peace Apostolate

P.O. Box 6, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Visit us on the web: www.queenofpeaceapostolate.com

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March - April 2007 No. 115

Our Lady's Message is -

Pray and fast.

Frequent Mass.

Monthly Confession.

Daily Rosary.

Love People.

Use Blessed Objects.

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Medjugorje Message/Commentary March 2007

Dear children! I desire to thank you from my heart for your Lenten renunciations. I desire to inspire you to continue to live fasting with an open heart. By fasting and renunciation, little children, you will be stronger in faith. In God you will find true peace through daily prayer. I am with you and I am not tired. I desire to take you all with me to Heaven, therefore, decide daily for holiness. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Our Lady teaches us about the value of Lenten renunciation in this message. She thanks us for our Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. She sees that her children, possibly with some struggle, have tried to remain faithful to their Lenten observances. Holy Thursday evening, the culmination of Lent, is fast approaching when all will be back to 'normal'. The chocolate, ice cream, cigarettes, etc. can come out of the cupboards again! All the extra effort we have put into good deeds and longer prayer time can be slackened - for Lent is almost over. Maybe some of us were in that mindset back on March 25th when Mary spoke these words. Yet, She asks us to continue with our fasts and renunciations! She tells us "to live fasting with an open heart". As if to say, 'you cannot fully understand the value of your renunciations now - a value of infinite worth. So trust me. What I

ask of you will have eternal ramifications'. She tells us that through sacrifice "you will be stronger in faith". In these times, we need to stay strong. Otherwise, the winds of adversity will knock us down and weaken our resolve. None of us can afford to be weakened in our desire for God. We must persevere! How can we do that without adhering to Our Lady's recommendations? That is, to take a deeper look at fasting and renunciation.

Fasting and renunciation literally rain down God's mercy, not only upon us, but upon a fallen world. Blessed Mother Teresa said: "We need to be emptied before God can fill us". Saint Augustine taught, "God created us without our aid; but he did not choose to save us without our aid." Through renunciation, we die to sin. Fasting with the heart turns all of our inner being toward God. Through prayer, we acknowledge that everything else depends on God. It is our answer to God's love.

Our Lady teaches us about gratitude in this message. Gratitude spills out from a heart full of love and thanksgiving. Our Mother has such a full heart. She thanks us for our Lenten sacrifices, even though we can do nothing in and of ourselves. It is God's Spirit within us that enables us to pray and offer sacrifice. Our response to the Spirit's promptings is due to God's amazing grace. It is gift! - Our Gift from God! Yet, Our Lady thanks us! The Giver, God, is grateful

that we, the recipients, have accepted the gift! Actually - it is gift given to us by God (Grace) and gift given back to God (our sacrifices). We should be thanking God for the grace of our Lenten renunciations! We should be thanking God for this time of our visitation by Our Lady. She is keeping us focused and is determined that we, all of us, should succeed in winning the race and receiving the crown of righteousness that awaits those who persevere. Our Blessed Mother is filled with joy when we do that which will bring us life!

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest." (Mt.11:28) I have always found this passage to be so comforting. In the days before the Easter Triduum, I found myself growing tired and weary with the many preparations for these most solemn, holy days. After I read the March message, I reflected on Jesus' words. Jesus sent his mother and ours into the world to help us 'find rest for our souls'. She leads us to "true peace through daily prayer". She leads us to "strong faith" through renunciation. She leads us to Heaven by way of her outstretched arms. "I desire to take you all with me to Heaven". I don't know about you, but I sure needed to hear those words at a time when I was tired and weary. Let us all recommit ourselves to holiness each day of our lives and thank Our Lady from the bottom of our hearts for not growing tired and weary of us.

April 25, 2007

Medjugorje Message/Commentary

"Dear children! Also today, I again call you to conversion. Open your hearts. This is a time of grace while I am with you, make good use of it. Say, 'This is the time for my soul'. I am with you and love you with immeasurable love. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Conversion! Each day of our lives offers fresh opportunities to turn toward God's love. Our Lady always reminds us that conversion is not a 'done deal' for any of us. Conversion is a 'process'. The only prerequisite on our part is to have an 'open heart'. Without open hearts, we will miss opportunities to grow. After I read this message, I reflected on ways that could prevent us from keeping our hearts open. These are just a few reasons why hearts remain closed:

- Fear - of change. We are creatures of habit. Often, at first glance, changing the way we do things seems threatening, even wrong. It is wise to remember that God's ways are not our ways. God sees the whole picture. We see only a tiny speck of the whole. Life is always evolving, ever changing. We are called to trust.

- Fear - of letting go. Sometimes we can get so territorial. We want to be in control. We forget that everything is temporary - our families, our possessions, our jobs, our health. It is often very difficult to hold lightly in our hands all these things that we claim as our own. Our own opinion. Sometimes we can be so opinionated. We forget that we are part of a whole. We are a team - in our families, in our workplaces, communities. We like to talk about our plans. But how well do we really listen? We need to become better listeners.

- Being judgmental - We often judge on appearances. We forget that we can never judge someone to be morally evil. No matter what we see on the outside, only God sees the human heart.

- "This is a time of grace while I am with you". This time of grace also coincides with a time of blindness, a time of judgment.

- Time of grace: God has given us all that we need to overcome. "My grace is sufficient for you". We have all that we need within the sacramental life of the Church to remain connected. Prayer is our lifeline. Every day provides us with an opportunity to be Christ's hands and feet in our world. Our Lady is here to keep us focused.

- Time of blindness: Humanity is meant to climb upward toward God. Instead it descends toward matter (materialism, consumerism, hedonism, etc) We often fail to see God's autograph everywhere - in creation and in our suffering brothers and sisters. Priorities are all mixed up. What should be the center of life has been pushed to the sides. What should be on the fringes has moved to front and center.

Time of judgment: We are reaping what has been sown. We see the results godless living all around us.

"This is the time for my soul". Soul-time is silence-time! We need to 'go off into the desert' of our heart and take stock. Within the silence of our soul we will receive every answer to life's basic questions. Jesus is the answer. Eternal life is the goal. God help us if we fail to "make good use of this time"!

The Queen of Peace Apostolate is now on the web!

We invite you to visit our new website: www.queenofpeaceapostolate.com. You will find all our Blessed Mother's messages from 1984 to the present. You will also find a short history of the events that have taken place in Medjugorje, information about the visionaries, the commentaries written by Fr. Paul Bonacci & Lena Shipley from 2004 - present, and books available from the Queen of Peace Apostolate. More will be added soon!

Please visit the site and let us know what you think. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our Lady Queen of Peace



"I am the Blessed Virgin Mary, I have come to tell the world that God exists..."

The 26th Anniversary of the
Apparitions of
Our Lady at Medjugorje
will be celebrated

Monday - June 25, 2007

at

St. Mary's Church
25 Center St. - Waterloo, NY

6:00 p.m. *The Most Holy Rosary (all twenty mysteries)*

Confessions will be heard during the Rosary

7:00 p.m. *Benediction*

7:15 p.m. *Mass - Celebrant: Rev. Paul Bonacci*

A healing service will follow the Mass

On June 25, 1981, in the tiny village of Medjugorje, located in Bosnia-Herzegovina, six Croatian children reported seeing an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Twenty-six years later, Our Lady is still reportedly appearing, bringing a message of hope and peace to a troubled world. More than 20 million people from all over the world have now visited Medjugorje. Pope John Paul II and the Roman Catholic Church have acknowledged that this has become the greatest religious event of our time.

Our Lady's Message is:

- Pray and Fast
- Monthly Confession
- Love People
- Frequent Mass
- Daily Rosary
- Use Blessed Objects

Sponsored by The Queen of Peace Apostolate

Books and Chaplet Available from the Queen of Peace Apostolate

NEW! We now offer a new chaplet. Chaplets are a great way of praying. They are shorter than a rosary, can be said in less time, are easy to carry in the hand while walking, riding, etc. and provide at the same time, a great source for meditation. One of the chaplets we offer is: the Chaplet of the Precious Blood. This devotion consists of seven mysteries in which you meditate on the seven principal sheddings of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. Along with the chaplet are instructions for praying it. \$2.00

For the Soul of the Family — Petrisko. In one of the most amazing and uplifting stories you will ever read, For the Soul of the Family, the saga of the Ruiz family in Arizona, is a book you won't want to put down. The apparitions of the Blessed Mother to Estela Ruiz are only part of the story, as this rags to riches account of the resurrection of the Ruiz family will have you laughing, crying and consumed in wonder from the first page to the last. In many ways it is not just the story of the Ruiz family, but may be the story of America itself. \$9.95

Fr. Peyton's Rosary Prayer Book a beautiful book with short meditations for each mystery of the rosary which give answers to many questions; and the book is a tremendous inspiration and favorite of our readers, sure to draw anyone closer to Our Lady and make it easier to stay focused on this beautiful prayer. A very inspiring book, read by many. \$6.00

Contemplative Way of Prayer — Faricy and Rooney. Contemplating Jesus simply means looking at Him with love, sitting at His feet, listening to Him, receiving love and strength from Him. Contemplation offers a way of knowing God more profoundly, of loving Him more deeply and of committing our lives to Him wholeheartedly. For all who hunger, it brings the bread of life. \$5.95

To order, send check or money order (plus shipping and handling to Queen of Peace Apostolate, P.O. Box 6, Canandaigua, New York 14424. S&H: Up to \$3.00 = \$1.50; \$3.01 to \$5.00 = \$2.00; \$5.01 to \$10 = \$2.75; \$10.01 to \$15 = \$3.75; \$15.01 to \$25 = \$4.75; \$25.01 and above = \$5.00.

Please pray for vocations.

Vocation Prayer

Divine Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant our young men and women true generosity in following your call, and bestow on them the grace of your Holy Spirit to persevere in overcoming all obstacles to their vocations. In this time of need, give the Church in this diocese and throughout the world many holy priests and fervent religious.

Join A Local Prayer Cenacle

Queen of Peace Night: Third Wednesday of every month. All are invited. St. Dominic's Church, 6 Canandaigua St.

Shortsville, NY. 7:00 pm Rosary, 8:00 pm Mass followed by healing prayer. *There will not be a Queen of Peace night in May.* The celebrant for June is Rev. John Gagnier.

Medjugorje Night: Third Wednesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. Most Holy Rosary Church, **Syracuse, NY.**

Marian Cenacle: Every Wednesday Evening. St. Mary's Church, **Waterloo, NY.** All are welcome. 7:00 pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet, complete Rosary, Litany. Contact Darlene Duprey 315-539-9010.

Marian Cenacle: Every Saturday Morning, 11:00 am, St. Michael's Church (Chapel) **Newark, NY.**

Marian Cenacle: Every Thursday 1:00 pm, 394 Hickory Grove Road, **Horseheads, NY.** Contact Margaret Mary Colwell 607-739-8838.

Marian Cenacle: Every Saturday 9:15 am and every Sunday 8:30 am. Canandaigua VA Catholic Chapel, Bldg. 3, **Canandaigua, NY.** Contact Linda Johnson 315-536-3304.

Marian Cenacle: Second Wednesday of every month after the 9 am Mass. St. Patrick's Church, Maple Avenue, **Victor.** Rosary, Litany of Loretto, Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Marian Cenacle: Every Friday 11:15 am before the noon mass. St. Joseph's Church, **Weedsport, NY.**

Marian Cenacle: First Saturday of the month at 11:00 am. St. Michael's Church, Penn Yan. Rosary Litany of BMV. Contact Nancy Richardson 315-531-3339.

First Saturday Prayer Group: St. Mary's Church, **Canandaigua, NY.** First Saturday of each month after 8:00 am Mass. Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Litany. Contact Lynn Butler 585-289-3522.

Prayer Group: St. Mary's Church, **Canandaigua, NY.** Every Saturday morning after 8:00 am Mass. Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Litany.

Prayer Group: Every Tuesday 7:30 pm. 22 Valencia Drive, **Rochester, NY.** Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany of Loretto. Contact Antionette & Pierre Patamia 585-426-6970.

Prayer Group: Every Sunday afternoon, 3:00 pm, (home group) 1266 Pine Hill Lane, Farmington, NY. Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Litany. Contact Yolanda Merkel 585-742-3206.

Prayer Group every Monday 7:00 pm, St. Michael's Chapel, 210 Keuka Street, Penn Yan, NY.

Prayer Group Every Sunday Evening 4:00 pm., St. Cecilia's Church, Culver Rd., Rochester. Rosary Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Contact Dorothy Florack 585-865-2594.

Subscriptions:

Via Ad Pacem is a bi-monthly newsletter, giving the monthly messages of Our Lady from Medjugorje. To subscribe, send name, address and \$7.50 donation to Mrs. Anne Erdle, P.O. Box 6, Canandaigua, New York 14424.

Associate Membership: We invite you to become an Associate Member of the Queen of Peace Apostolate. Members receive *Via Ad Pacem* and share in Masses and works of the Apostolate. Send name, address and donation of \$10.00 a year to Mrs. Anne Erdle, P.O. Box 6, Canandaigua, New York 14424.

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