



*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](http://www.queenofpeaceapostolate.com)*

*SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Fr. Paul Bonacci*

*EDITOR: Lena Shipley*

*September - October 2009 No. 130*

*Our Lady's Message is -*

*Pray and fast.*

*Frequent Mass.*

*Monthly Confession.*

*Daily Rosary.*

*Love People.*

*Use Blessed Objects.*

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## September 25, 2009 Message and Commentary

*"Dear children, with joy, persistently work on your conversion. Offer all your joys and sorrows to my Immaculate Heart that I may lead you all to my most beloved Son, so that you may find joy in His Heart. I am with you to lead you towards eternity. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

Our Lady invites us to reflect more deeply about what on-going conversion means in our lives. It may seem like an oxymoron to use the word 'joy' with 'persistent work'. The word 'persistently' may be intimidating to some of us. When we dedicate ourselves to persistent work, we are single-heartedly devoted to the task. We run the risk of growing weary before we complete the task or reach our goal.

First of all, joy is not always a warm and fuzzy feeling. Rather, joy is inner peace "*peace that passes all understanding.*" (Phil.4:7) So, Our Lady is offering us this 'heavenly peace' as we persistently work on conversion. It is not contradictory, then, to work the fields of our heart and be joyful about it; whether joy is experienced as peace or sweet consolation. We can possess both when we turn our whole heart and soul to God.

Easy for me to say! I write this reflection while on a silent eight day retreat. All week long, my attention

has been focused on 'persistent work' in the area of my conversion. Taking myself out of the routine of schedules, phone calls, people and detailed tasks, I have been able to be single-hearted and totally focused on my relationship with God.

Another truth that Our Lady wants us to pick up in this message is that working on our on-going conversion can seem both difficult and easy – another oxymoron. It is both. Our lives can seem like a constant struggle when we try to live Gospel values. Daily, we struggle to die to our passions. We attempt to discipline ourselves and live temperately. We try as we might to ward off negativity and judgment. We try, we fall, and we pick ourselves up again. Hard work!

Conversion becomes easy when we 'let go and let God'. This week at Eastern Point, life in Christ has been easy and sweet consolation. I relaxed my effort and fell into the waiting arms of Jesus and Mary. I have felt like a sailboat allowing the wind of the spirit to move me moment by moment – rather than a rowboat where I seem to paddle away with my own strength and make very little progress. Persistent work on our conversion is easy (and joyful) when we let Jesus steer our ship.

Our Lady continually invites us to prayer of the heart as a means to join all of our joys and sorrows to Her Immaculate Heart. She desires that we be as closely united to her in our common mission as

possible. She offers Her Immaculate Heart as our refuge. When we are that closely united to her, only then are we able to sense her constant guidance. She reminds us again and again that it is she who has been given by God the distinct privilege of leading us toward eternity. It is only for us to take her extended hand and allow her to lead us into the 'Paradise of the Heart' where Her Son, Jesus, is always waiting for us.

## October 25, 2009 Message and Commentary

*"Dear Children! Also today I bring you my blessing, I bless you all and I call you to grow on this way, which God has begun through me for your salvation. Pray, fast and joyfully witness your faith, little children, and may your heart always be filled with prayer. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

Our Lady's message this month is joyful. She reminds us that she always brings us "blessings". Therefore, we can be filled with joy and hope...because she 'blesses' us. We know that Our Lady 'does whatever Her Son tells her'. She acts for God. What she brings us each month comes directly from God because She overflows with grace. She is filled with God!

Have we ever stopped to wonder what it means to be blessed? Does it mean financial prosperity, emotional stability, and physical well-being? Well, those may be external manifestations of God's blessing, but we all know people who are financially prosperous, emotionally stable, and seem to be in good physical health who do not have a relationship with God. So, there is a deeper meaning to "being blessed".

The angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she had found favor with God. "Hail, favored (full of grace...blessed) one! The Lord is with you." God had blessed her...and now, she blesses us with all that she has and all that she is! Mary's very being proclaims the greatness of God. She passes all that she has on to us, her children. In the Old Testament, the idea of blessing was also closely related to the question of inheritance, passing blessing from father to son. Jacob blessed Joseph in Gen. 48:15 and Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Blessed also means 'happy'. Our Lady wants everything for us. She wants us to be happy. Blessed is a relational word. The focus is on a relationship with the almighty living God rather than the physical manifestations of being blessed. Being blessed involves blessings, but the true blessing is the "life-giving" relationship with Jesus. It is not so much God's gifts; but His love for us that Our Lady comes to offer us.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians begins with blessings.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him." Ephesians 1:3*

Paul's letter is not only addressed to the Church of Ephesus, but the worldwide church, the head of which is Christ. The purpose of which is to be the instrument for making God's plan of salvation known throughout the universe.

Our Lady comes each month as the herald of the same blessings St. Paul conferred upon the church of Ephesus. Our Lady desires our growth on the path of salvation, just as St. Paul desired it for the Ephesians. God has chosen Mary to set us on this path and guide us to eternal life. She holds up once again the 'neon' signposts of prayer and fasting as the means to that end. When our hearts are filled with prayer, our faith will spill over into the world. Truly, we will be joyful witnesses of the great gift of our faith.

*Blessed are those who walk hand in hand with goodness,*

*who stand beside virtue,*

*who sit in the seat of truth;*

*For their delight is in the Spirit of Love,*

*and in Love's heart they dwell day and night.*

*(Psalm 1)*

This is what it means to be blessed by Our Mother: blessed are we who walk hand in hand with goodness, who stand beside virtue.....Mary, Our Mother!

**The following is Our Lady of Medjugorje's November 2, 2009 Message on the day for non-believers through Mirjana:**

*"Dear children; Also today I am among you to point you to the way that will help you to come to know God's love, the love of God Who permitted you to call Him Father and to perceive Him as Father. I ask of you to sincerely look into your hearts and to see how much you love Him. Is He the last to be loved? Surrounded by material goods, how many times have you betrayed, denied and forgotten Him? My children, do not deceive yourselves with worldly goods. Think of your soul because it is more important than the body, cleanse it. Invoke the Father, He is waiting for you. Come back to Him. I am with you because He, in His mercy, sends me. Thank you."*

## Why a Year for Priests?

Where would we be without priests? In his retreat for priests that Pope John Paul II preached in Ars, France, in 1986, the Holy Father gave an answer to this question, quoting the saintly Cure of Ars: "Without the priest, the death and passion of our Lord would be of no use. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption on earth."

The Vatican Decree announcing the Year for Priests states that the Year is an occasion for priests to "renew their faithfulness to Christ and their bonds of fraternity." Through this special gift, Pope Benedict XVI wants to give all the Church something new. The Holy Father expressed his desire that this Year would be for priests "a favorable opportunity to grow in intimacy with Jesus, who counts on us, his ministers, to spread and to consolidate his Kingdom, to radiate his love, his truth." He called the faithful to appreciate more fully the great gift of grace which the priesthood is: for priests themselves, for the Church, and for our world." He encouraged us to "ask the Lord to set the heart of every priest on fire with 'pastoral charity', so that he may be able to imitate Jesus in the most complete self-giving".

### A Prayer to the Mother of God for Priests

*O Holy Mother of God, pray for the priests your Son has chosen to serve the Church. Help them, by your intercession, to be holy, zealous, and chaste. Make them models of virtue in the service of God's people. Help them be pious in meditation, efficacious in preaching, and zealous in the daily offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Help them administer the Sacraments with love and joy. Amen.*

## "Upcoming Dates of Interest"

**Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – World Day of Prayer for the Sick**

**Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

**Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – End of the Year of the Priest**

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### Advent Prayer

**Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.**

**We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.**

**We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.**

**We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.**

**We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.**

**We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"**

*(Father Henri Nouwen)*

### St. Theresa's Prayer for Priests

'O Holy Father, may the torrents of love flowing from the sacred wounds of Thy Divine Son bring forth priests like unto the beloved disciple John who stood at the foot of the Cross; priests: who as a pledge of Thine own most tender love will lovingly give Thy Divine Son to the souls of men.

May Thy priests be faithful guardians of Thy Church, as John was of Mary, whom he received into his house. Taught by this loving Mother who suffered so much on Calvary, may they display a mother's care and thoughtfulness towards Thy children. May they teach souls to enter into close union with Thee through Mary who, as the Gate of Heaven, is specially the guardian of the treasures of Thy Divine Heart.

Give us priests who are on fire, and who are true children of Mary, priests who will give Jesus to souls with the same tenderness and care with which Mary carried the Little Child of Bethlehem.

Mother of sorrows and of love, out of compassion for Thy beloved Son, open in our hearts deep wells of love, so that we may console Him and give Him a generation of priests formed in thy school and having all the tender thoughtfulness of thine own spotless love.'

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. Celebrant for Nov. - Fr. Roy Kiggins; Dec. - Fr. Tom Celso; Jan. - Fr. Tom Mull

**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:** 1st Fridays after 10:00 am Communion Service. The Prayer Leader is Virginia Beal 585-924-2890. 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 on-line newsletter, giving the monthly messages of Our Lady from Medjugorje.

**Associate Membership: We invite you to become an Associate Member of the Queen of Peace Apostolate. Members share in Masses and works of the Apostolate. Your contribution will also help us to continue our website ministry.**

**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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