



*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*

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*Our Lady's Message is -*

*Pray and fast.  
Frequent Mass.  
Monthly Confession.  
Daily Rosary.  
Love People.  
Use Blessed Objects.*

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### Message of January 25, 2009

*"Dear children! Also today I call you to prayer. May prayer be for you like the seed that you will put in my heart, which I will give over to my Son Jesus for you, for the salvation of your souls. I desire, little children, for each of you to fall in love with eternal life which is your future, and for all worldly things to be a help for you to draw you closer to God the Creator. I am with you for this long because you are on the wrong path. Only with my help, little children, you will open your eyes. There are many of those who, by living my messages, comprehend that they are on the way of holiness towards eternity. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

### Commentary on January 25, 2009 Message

*"Only with my help, little children, you will open your eyes". Well, there we have it! Herein lies the reason why, Our Lady says, many of us are still on the wrong path. How can this be when we think we are on the right path! Too often, we think we can do it on our own strength and with our own limited vision.*

*Those of us who have raised children can easily get a sense of what Our Lady means. When young people reach the teen-age years, many of them test their wings. They often become myopic, invincible, adventurous. They get caught up in the sub-culture. They believe they know more than their parents,*

*especially what is best for them. After all, parents come from a different generation and are considered "old-fashioned". Wonder of all wonders, they 'fall in love' – with life, the world and the opposite sex! Perspectives become distorted. They need the help of a greater wisdom than their own to re-focus and open their eyes.*

*Our Lady makes three important points in this January message. The first, "may prayer be for you like the SEED that you will put in my heart". Prayer is not an end unto itself. Prayer is the means to an end – communion with God. Prayer is the seed that we plant in the heart of Our Lady. She tends it for us. She waters it with her grace. She prunes and shapes it into the perfect prayer that will grow into a perfect flower. She, then, offers those flowers to her Son on our behalf. We should entrust our prayer to her and ask for her help to pray in the most effective way. We should rely on her wisdom and not our own. For Mary is wrapped in the wisdom of God, we, in the wisdom of the world. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength". 1 Cor 1:25*

*The second point Our Lady makes in this message comes as a desire for each of us. "I desire, little children, for each of you to fall in love with eternal life"... Consider the first letter of St. John. "Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone*

loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.....the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever". *1John 2:15,17* Our Lady's desire for us to fall in love with eternal life goes hand in hand with her desire for us NOT to fall in love with the things of this world which are passing away. However, she does not imply that the things of this world are evil or should be shunned. Rather, she does imply that everything we have is gift and should be catalysts to help us draw closer to God. We can do this by being stewards of God's gifts. Our time, treasure and talent should be offered generously for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The third and most sobering of Our Lady's points: "I am with you for this long because you are on the wrong path". Just like our children who eventually test their wings, we get out of focus. We need a wisdom beyond our own to help us. Is prayer the most important part of our days or the 'stuff' that occupies our life? "So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma"....*Ephesians 5:1,2*

Our Lady ended by acknowledging those who, by living her messages, have comprehended that they are on the way of holiness towards eternity. I hope those reading this reflection are counted among their number.

*"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,  
And what has not entered the human heart,  
What God has prepared for those who love him,"  
This God has revealed to us through the Spirit.*

*1 Cor.2:9-10*

It is my hope that we continue to "fall in love with eternal life" day by day. This is our future! There is no other.

## **Message of February 25, 2009**

*"Dear children! In this time of renunciation, prayer and penance, I call you anew: go and confess your sins so that grace may open your hearts, and permit it to change you. Convert little children, open yourselves to God and to His plan for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

## **Commentary on February 25, 2009 Message**

Our Lady's February message - coming to us in the midst of the holy season of Lent - got me thinking about 'last times'. There will be a 'last time' for everything that we do. One day, each of us, in the appointed time, will celebrate the important events of our lives for the last time. I wondered if this Lent, for example, was the last opportunity I would have to make the best Lent possible what would I do differ-

ently? Would I think differently about renunciation, prayer and penance?

First, I would look upon the Lenten disciplines of renunciation, prayer and penance, not so much as difficult sacrifices that I give to God; but as great gifts of grace that God gives to me. Within that mindset, every renunciation, every prayer, every penance would be a golden opportunity for me to make a return to God, in humble thanksgiving for the love with which God has showered me. All is gift. If this be my last Lent, I pray that I might be given the strength and commitment to seize the moment.

Our Lady says, ".....*Go and confess your sins....*"

Our mother knows what it takes to open our hearts in order for us to allow God to change them. So she tells us, purposefully, "Go and confess your sins". God does not require us to vocalize our sinfulness before we are forgiven. God knows what we will do and say before we even sin. God forgives us before we forgive ourselves! Mary knows what our psychological needs are before we can get rid of guilt.

First, we have an innate need to 'get it all out' to another human being. "As long as I would not speak, my bones wasted away with my groaning all the day, for day and night your hand was heavy upon me, my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, 'I confess my faults to the Lord,' and you took away the guilt of my sin" (Ps. 32) The psalmist expresses an interior need that we all have- to open his or her soul to another. We need another person to understand what we are feeling, to have compassion. Then we can face up to the decision we already know we must make.

St. Teresa said that she preferred a wise to a holy confessor! We all need a confessor who will help us look for causes rather than symptoms. Our confession needs to go deeper than the conventional laundry lists. In our examination of conscience, we need to explore our motivations and fears, and the underlying causes of our sinfulness.

Secondly, we have a need to 'come back'. The Prodigal Son not only left his father's table literally; he had left behind what he was taught there. He had abandoned the spirit of his father's home. In the agony of guilt, he felt he didn't deserve to come back. But his father insisted on bringing him back to the table, equal, loved, forgiven. We are in the same boat as the younger son. The guilt we suffer after having 'left the father's table' for a sinful life or act or attitude would prevent us from waltzing back with no apology. The purpose, then, of the sacramental action of confession is a sign of God's welcoming embrace to those who have strayed from home.

Third, we have a need to awaken to the real destructive power of sin oppressing the world. There is a diminished sense of sin in today's society. We abuse our free will. We must come to a point of confrontation with the truth: To quote the cartoon character Pogo, "I have met the guilty one and it is me". We must come to see that the final sinfulness (way of life) is to deny our sinfulness. The "sin against the Holy Spirit" is the sin against truth, reality, facts. It is the blindness that Jesus identifies in the Pharisees. "Seeing, you do not see, and hearing, you do not understand." If we do not recognize our sickness and need for healing, we are in effect rejecting Jesus' forgiveness.

Our fourth need is to see and hear forgiveness. Jesus spoke words to the adulteress: "Your sins are forgiven." He looked at people. Sometimes he embraced them. He assured the converted tax collector Zacchaeus. "Today salvation has come to your house." These people went away with Jesus' words in their ears, his image of compassion in their minds, his touch on their shoulders. We, too, have a need to externalize or ritualize or visibly celebrate God's victory over sin. We, too, need "body language".

Our Lady knows, in her great Godly wisdom, that we need to confess our sins not only to heal our own souls, but to help liberate the world from its sinful patterns. There is a connection between our sinful hearts and a sinful system "out there". The Sacrament of Reconciliation heals and transforms not only the penitent but all of society. It is our moment of truth, a significant step in our ongoing conversion process. It is facing God with honesty, healthy fear and childlike confidence as sinful human beings and placing our broken lives before God's healing love.

During this Season of Love, let us listen to our Mother who leads us to the choicest fruit of our Salvation - "Go and confess your sins....."

## **GIANT SALE**

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<b>Limited quantities -- first come, first served --</b>		
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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 April 15 - Rev. James Jaeger; for May 20 - Rev. Wm. Coffas

**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.

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