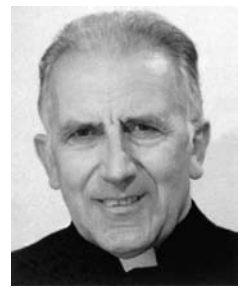




# Echo of Medjugorje

November-December 2014 - Edited by: Eco di Maria, Via Cremona, 28 - 46100 Mantova (Italia) - Year 30, no. 6  
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Fr. Angelo Mutti  
founder Echo of Medjugorje

Message of 25 September 2014:

**“Dear Children, Today too I call you, that also you may be like the stars which by their splendour give light and beauty to others so they may rejoice.**

**My children: may you too be the radiance, beauty, joy and peace and especially prayer for all those who are far from my love and from the love of my Son Jesus.**

**My children, witness your faith and your prayer with joy; with the joy of the faith that is in your hearts; and pray for peace which is a precious gift from God. Thank you for responding to my call.”**

## ***Be Splendour and Beauty!***

We, children of God and of Mary, are called to shine with the divine light. We are called to be beauty, i.e. mirrors of God's Beauty. We are called to be joy and peace, i.e. mirrors of God's consolation. We are called especially to be prayer, i.e. bearers of communication and communion with God.

In short, our blessed Mother calls us to be saints. Is that asking too much? Not at all. It is God's will, as St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:3-5).

Consoled by and grateful for Mary's lovely message, and encouraged by the Apostle's words, let us say with our blessed Mother: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to Thy word" (Lk 1:38); and with our Lord Jesus: "Father, I have come to do your will" (Heb 10:7-9).

If we try to put these words into practice in our daily lives we will bring joy and peace to others. So let us **pray**, with the **daily Rosary** and with **prayer of the heart**, for that **peace** promised to us by Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (Jn 14:27).

*Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!* §



*1st November Solemnity of All Saints*

Message to Mirjana, 2 October 2014:

**“Dear Children, with motherly love I beseech you: love one another! May your hearts have love for your Heavenly Father and then for you neighbour, above all earthly things, as my Son original desired! My dear children, can you not recognise the signs of the times? Can you not recognise how all that is around you, and all that is happening, is because there is no love? Comprehend that salvation is found within true values. Accept the might of the Heavenly Father, love Him and respect Him! Walk in the footsteps of my Son.**

**My children, my dear apostles, you always come to me because you are thirsty. You thirst for peace, for love and for happiness. Drink from my hands! My hands offer you my Son Who is the Wellspring of clear water. He will bring your faith back to life and purify your hearts, because my Son loves with a pure heart, and pure hearts love my Son. Only pure hearts are humble and have firm faith. I ask for such hearts of you, my children.**

**My Son told me that I am the mother of the entire world; I ask those of you who accept me as such, to help me with your life, your prayer and your sacrifice, that all my children may accept me as Mother, so I may lead them to the Wellspring of clear water. Thank you.**

**My dear children, when your Pastors offer you the Body of my Son with their blessed hands, always give thanks in your hearts to my Son for His sacrifice and for the Pastors which He continually gives you.”**

*(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)*

Message, 25 October 2014:

**“Dear Children, Pray in this time of grace and seek the intercession of all the saints who are already in the light. From day to day may they be an example and encouragement for you on the way of your conversion. My children, be aware that your life is short and passing. Therefore, yearn for eternity and prepare your hearts in prayer. I am with you and I intercede before my Son for each of you, especially for those who have consecrated themselves to me and to my Son. Thank you for responding to my call.”**

## ***Prepare Your Hearts!***

We know, or we think we know what prayer is. However, the definition in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is: "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God, or the petition of good things from him in accord with his will. It is always the gift of God who comes to encounter man. Christian prayer is the personal and living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is infinitely good, with his Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells in their hearts." (534)

We see how prayer is communion between creature and Creator. It is a font of grace through which God's Life nourishes our human life. Prayer is a gift of God that we must desire, seek, receive, practise and safeguard. Prayer cannot be reduced to an activity, because prayer transcends activity.

There are many beautiful prayers, first of all the prayer taught to us by Jesus Christ himself (**Our Father**), and many others. But if the heart is not connected to our lips when we pray; if prayer is merely lip service, then it risks becoming arid formulae.

**Our Lady points out the need for prayer** as a way to prepare the heart for Eternity. And as she assures us of her presence, she also encourages us to seek the help of the Saints.

We recall that Our Lady gave Jelena two prayers with which we can entrust ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart and to the Lord's Sacred Heart (dated 28 November 1983).

*Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!* §

## Never Forget Abandoned Souls!

*"Dear brothers and sisters, good day!*

Yesterday we celebrated the Solemnity of **All Saints**. [...] It is a time when many visit the cemetery which is a "place of repose" while waiting for the final awakening. **It is lovely to think that it will be Jesus Himself who will awaken us.** It was Jesus who revealed that the death of the body is similar to being asleep from which He will awaken us. With this faith we pause - even spiritually - at the graves of all those who have loved us and done good to us. Today, however, we are called to remember [with prayer] everyone; also **those whom no one remembers.**

Let us remember the victims of war and violence; the many "little" ones throughout the world who are oppressed by hunger and poverty; let us remember the anonymous whose mortal remains are laid to rest in communal ossuaries. Let us remember our brethren, killed because they were Christians; and all those who sacrificed their lives to serve others.

**Church Tradition has always urged prayer for the deceased**, in particular by offering the **Eucharistic Celebration** for them: it is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to those who are the most forsaken.

Remembering the dead, caring for their graves and prayers of suffrage, are the testimony of confident hope, rooted in the **certainty that death does not have the last word** on human existence, for man is destined to a life without limits, which has its roots and its fulfilment in God."

Sunday, 2 Nov. 2014

## Holiness in Little Things

*On the subject of the call to be saints, Pope Francis offers this extremely practical advice:*

"First of all, we must bear clearly in mind that sanctity is not something we can procure for ourselves. Sanctity is a gift, it is a gift granted to us by the Lord Jesus. Sanctity is a gift offered to all, no one excluded. We are all called to be saints!

Many times we are **tempted to think** that sainthood is reserved only to those who have the opportunity to break away from daily affairs in order to dedicate themselves exclusively to prayer. **But it is not so!** Sanctity is something greater, deeper [than what we can imagine]. Each in the conditions and the state of his or her life:

**Are you consecrated?** — Be a saint by living out your donation and your ministry with joy.

**Are you married?** — Be a saint by loving and taking care of your husband or your wife, as Christ did for the Church.



**Are you an unmarried baptized person?** — Be a saint by carrying out your work with honesty and competence and by offering time in the service of your brothers and sisters.

**"But, father, I work in a factory;** I work as an accountant, only with numbers; you can't be a saint there..."

**"Yes, yes you can!** There, where you work, you can become a saint. God gives you the grace to become holy. God communicates himself to you". Always, in every place, one can become a saint, that is, one can open oneself up to this grace, which works inside us and leads us to holiness.

**Are you a parent or a grandparent?** — Be a saint by passionately teaching your children or grandchildren to know and to follow Jesus. And it takes so much patience to do this: to be a good parent, a good grandfather, a good mother, a good grandmother; it takes so much patience and with this patience comes holiness: by exercising patience.

**Are you a catechist, an educator or a volunteer?** Be a saint by becoming a visible sign of God's love and of his presence alongside us.

**This is it: every state of life leads to holiness, always!** In your home, on the street, at work, at church, in that moment and in your state of life, the path to sainthood has been opened.

**Don't be discouraged** to pursue this path. It is God alone who gives us the grace. The Lord asks only this: that we be in communion with Him and at the service of our brothers and sisters."

Wed. 19 Nov. 2014 -

www.vatican.va

## AWAITING CHRISTMAS WITH MARY

*Paul VI Apost. Exhort. "Marialis cultus" (I, A 4- 5)*

"By living in the liturgy the spirit of **Advent** by thinking about the inexpressible love with which the Virgin Mother awaited her Son, the faithful are invited to take her as a model and to prepare themselves to meet the Saviour who is to come" ... with prayer and joyful praise.

The Christmas season is a prolonged commemoration of the divine, virginal and salvific motherhood of her whose "inviolable virginity brought the Saviour into the world." In fact, **on the Solemnity of the Birth of Christ the Church both adores the Saviour and venerates His glorious Mother.** On the Epiphany, when she celebrates the universal call to salvation, the Church contemplates the Blessed Virgin, the true Seat of Wisdom and true Mother of the King, who presents to the Wise Men, for their adoration, the Redeemer of all peoples (cf. Mt. 2:11). On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph, the Church meditates with profound reverence on the holy life led in the house at Nazareth by Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, Mary His Mother, and Joseph the just man (cf. Mt. 1:19).

... [I]t seems to us that the attention of all should be directed towards the restored Solemnity of Mary the holy Mother of God. This celebration, placed on 1st January in conformity with the ancient indication of the liturgy of the City of Rome, is meant **to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation.** It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the 'holy Mother... through whom we were found worthy to receive the Author of life.' It is likewise a fitting occasion for **renewing adoration** of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (cf. Lk. 2:14), **and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace.**

It is for this reason that, in the happy concurrence of the Octave of Christmas and the first day of the year, we have instituted the World Day of Peace, an occasion that is gaining increasing support and already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many."

*Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us; namely the memory of God who became a Child.*

Benedict XVI



*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mary enters the Temple) 21 November*

## Ecclesial Dimensions of the Message

The apparitions of Medjugorje have been going on for years by now, and the message connected to them is becoming clearer as time passes. One of the most significant elements of the message is its ecclesial dimension which assumes different tones according to the liturgical season and local traditions tied to the faith. It is clear that Marian apparitions do not form the Church, but they do help her growth, and strengthen [the faith] of those in the place where they occur, and help to irradiate a special light that transcends time and place.

After Lourdes and Fatima, it is seen that also Medjugorje assumed this same 'structural' characteristic after the start of messages to the parish (01.03.1984). In the early months Our Lady asked for many to come in that the Parish which she chose, and **to pray together and journey together** on the way of conversion. And this greatly resembles the first Christian communities who were "all constantly devoting themselves to prayer together with Mary the mother of Jesus" (Acts 1:14).

**So to all those who make up God's People**, the Virgin Mary asks that they pray to "love the Church" (25.02.1998), and to "work in the Church, not with words or thoughts, but by one's example" (25.02.1993). This community was called to take a step forward which would strengthen them in the faith, in fraternal and reciprocal love, beginning with the family; a step which would assume a missionary dimension (06.06.1985).

Our Lady at Medjugorje has always given particular priority to **prayer in the family**. One of the visionaries (Ivanka) was asked to pray precisely for the families. **Communion and unity** are at the core of the messages. In various ways Our Lady has spoken of "unity of the family of God" (02.02.2011), calling them to "**become one people**" while pointing out that "**as individuals we cannot stop evil**" (02.08.2011; 02.11.2013).

In this Church, which is called to gather together as a single people (ekklesia) there are various gifts, charisms and ministries (1 Cor 12,7), and beginning from the 1980s one can see that within the message there are references to these.

So we see how Medjugorje, rather than promoting *personalisms*, illustrates **personal responsibilities** for all: i.e. visionaries, prayer groups, parishioners, pilgrims from around the world, the Franciscans of the Parish, consecrated persons, the clergy...

**In particular to Priests, Our Lady** has dedicated beautiful words, especially at the end of the messages given on the **2nd of the month** through Mirjana. To the visionary, Ivan, Our Lady has given the special intention of praying for priests.

Among the Pastors of the Church, there are special references to the **Holy Father** - to his person and to his magisterium - but also by means of a particular harmony between the contents of the messages and the teachings of the Popes to the Church.

In the light of the messages one can see **a Church which is attentive** and "responds to the call" which comes from on high; a Church that responds as a people united to its pastors who in turn pray, guide, and work with - for and in - the Love of God. Above all, this Love (Charity) is extended to "all those with material and spiritual need" (25.02.1997) thereby assuming her missionary dimension.

In this Church, "all those who have said yes" (25.01.2011) take upon themselves a task which is primarily of faith, love and prayer of the heart, and by doing so they contribute to the "great plan of God's which He is leading through Medjugorje" (25.06.2007) and these experience the fullness of the Church; they belong to a Body, to a family, as they taste the fruits which are typical of the tree of Medjugorje.

**Says Pope Francis:** "Faith becomes operative in the Christian on the basis of the gift received, the love which attracts our hearts to Christ ... For those who have been transformed in this way, a new way of seeing opens up, faith becomes light for their eyes. (Enciclica *Lumen Fidei*, 22).

Marco Vignati,  
Com. Casa di Maria Roma

## Know and Fight the Devil

*Pope Francis recently described the devil as one who is "envious and astute; who hates you, embroils you, tempts you and then justifies himself," whilst also warning: "Christians must not be naive; they have to know him and fight him!"*

Following is an excerpt of an interview of **Fr. Livio Fanzaga of Radio Maria**, who has written several books on the matter.

LF: "Pope Francis has spoken of the devil since the beginning of his Pontificate because he knows that the devil is the worst danger for the flock. When the Pope celebrates Mass at Santa Marta, he does not exempt himself from commenting those passages where the Lord Jesus unmasks and fights the Evil one."

Q. *We live in a society that no longer speaks of the devil, that considers him as something abstract, or old hat. Pope Francis said instead, that "the fight against evil is a reality in the day-to-day life of a Christian, within the heart, one's life, family,*



*people and churches...*

LF: "Satan is the sworn enemy of God and of man, from whom Jesus delivered us by His coming in our midst and with the proclamation of His Kingdom and with His redeeming Passion. Satan is present in the life of people whom he tempts, wanting them to sin by presenting evil as though it were good, or as St. Catherine of Siena put it: *Satan dons the colours of good.*

His deadly weapon is **temptation**, with which the infernal serpent tries to destroy us. Today he tries to deceive people with atheism and materialism. Through these, the rebel angel wants to put himself in the place of God."

Q. *Today, people are afraid of sickness, of old age, of poverty... but they are not afraid of the devil. Why is this?*

LF: "Satan doesn't frighten because he **camouflages** himself and he has thus managed to convince many, even Christians, that he doesn't exist. He has also managed to **erase the fear of sin**, which today is presented as good, but instead it is a deadly poison. This happens because the faith is weakening."

Q. *Your reported that Our Lady at Medjugorje spoke about this being the time in which the devil is acting with all his strength and might.*

LF: "Our Lady said that since Satan is freed of his chains, **we must consecrate ourselves to her Immaculate Heart** and to the **Sacred Heart of her Son**. The crisis of faith, the apostasy, the dissolution of the family and the spread of violence are clear signs that the Prince of this world is unleashing an epic battle."

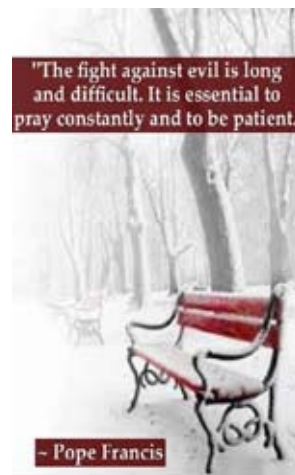
Q. *In 1972 Paul VI delivered a startling sermon in which he spoke of the smoke of Satan entering the Church through some fissures. Today, after forty years, has that smoke been dissipated, or has it penetrated into other rooms?*

LF: "The crisis of the faith of many Christians, which has increased since then, is the sign of advancing darkness. **We should not be fearful**, but we must face the trials with decisiveness and firm faith."

Q. *Is there a message of Our Lady in which she offers a way for us to be protected from him?*

LF: "**Our Lady said: 'Face and defeat Satan with the Rosary in your hands.'**"

www.lanuovabq.it (2.10.2014)



*"Dear Children, I am with you with the blessing of my Son; with those of you who love me and who strive to follow me. I desire being Mother also to those of you who do not accept me. To all of you I open my heart full of love, and I bless you with my motherly hands.*

*I am a mother who understands you. I lived your life and experienced your sufferings and joys. You who know sorrow understand my sorrow and suffering because of my children who do not permit the light of my Son to illuminate them, my children who live in darkness.*

*This is why I need you, you who have been illuminated by the light and have comprehended the truth. I call you to adore my Son so that your soul may grow and reach true spirituality.*

*My apostles, it is then that you will be able to help me! To help me means to pray for those who have not come to know the love of my Son. In praying for them you show my Son that you love Him and follow Him.*

*My Son has promised me that evil will never win, because you, the souls of the just, are here; you who strive to say your prayers with the heart; you who offer your sorrow and suffering to my Son; you who comprehend that life is only the bat of an eyelid; you who yearn for the Kingdom of Heaven. All this makes you my apostles and leads you towards the triumph of my heart.*

*Therefore, my children, purify your hearts and adore my Son. Thank you."*

### The Triumph of Mary's Heart

Our Blessed Mother brings us the blessing of her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. This blessing is for each of us: those who await and accept it, and those who do not accept it. *"To all of you I open my heart full of love, and I bless you with my motherly hands."* Our Lady's words can be counted on. What she says, she does. And if we receive them with an open heart, the way of conversion will surely open.

The way of conversion is never smooth; and the initial enthusiasm is not enough to ensure we reach the end. It takes perseverance, hope and faith. Is this not the reason that the events of Medjugorje are still current? The extraordinary duration of this Marian event has an explanation. It is because our times are decisive times for the salvation of individuals and of the world. So take courage! The triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart is closer to today than it was yesterday, and Our Lady seems to express the same thing when she says: "All this makes you my apostles and leads you towards the triumph of my heart."

*Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! NQ*

Exactly thirty years ago, on 21st November 1984, after his first pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Fr. Angelo Mutti reported on the news and messages of Medjugorje to his Parish in the parish bulletin. This became the first "issue" of the original Italian "ECO di Medjugorje." From there it quickly spread throughout Italy as more and more people requested copies of his bulletin; and from there to the world.

The first lines of that first ECO were:

#### "MEDJUGORJE

*21.11.1984 (1) "It is by Mary that the salvation of the world has begun, and it is by Mary that it must be consummated" (Monfort's Treatise, no. 49).*

*Dear brothers and sisters, It is Grace which calls us to share the mission of our blessed Mother. I know you desire hearing about our recent pilgrimage to Medjugorje, the place where Our Lady has come to show her children the way that leads to her Son."*

No one at the time could have imagined how that first parish bulletin was just the start of an extraordinary missionary journey of grace, and all because Fr. Angelo and his parishioners generously responded to the Queen of Peace with their own yes.

The Echo always has been a very **humble bulletin**: a few pages in black and white. In its early years it was produced with makeshift means, entirely free of charge in the rooms of a very small and poor Parish in the remote countryside of Mantua. Yet, in just a few years 800,000 copies of just the five major languages were being printed and distributed to countries in all five continents - still free of charge, thanks to the many volunteers from the Parish. [Donations received necessarily covered costs of printing and mailing.] Echo was also being produced locally in other countries, and thus being translated into a total of 16 languages. So, through this very humble instrument, the grace of Medjugorje was reaching out to the world.

Today, after the many consolations there have been also great trials; but it is **the Board's wish to continue the original mission** of the Echo with its garb of simplicity, and trust in Providence.

Being aware of our inadequacy only makes us more open to seeing the hand of **Providence** and the grace which Mary works as she opens up new ways. Since we are deeply convinced that the work of Echo includes and depends also on our dear readers who have been touched by this particular call of Mary's, we make an **APPEAL** for your support and prayer, that the mission of Echo may continue and be responsive to the Heart of the Queen of Peace.

*Giuseppe Ferraro*

Echo fully relies on donations.

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*Wishing you all Christmas blessings!*

Eco di Maria, Italy

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Webpage: [www.ecodimaria.net](http://www.ecodimaria.net)

### Our Lady communicates not only news, but especially Love and Affection

Dear friends of the Queen of Peace who read me here in these pages of the Echo of Medjugorje which we appreciate so much. Remember this: Our Lady speaks to us. She really does speak to us, on a monthly basis, and even several times a month.

The Queen of Peace brings us "news"; but more than this She brings to us love and affection. We perceive the pulsating of her inflamed heart as she tells us how much she loves not only us but everyone, and how she wishes everyone had an open heart so as to receive her Love and her revelations. Our Lady also insists on saying how we are important to her. And indeed, she call us her Apostles.

This should make us feel very honoured and grateful, and it should spurn us on to respond to the call.

With my priestly blessing joined to the blessing of the Son of God.

*Fr. Massimo Rastrelli, S.J.*