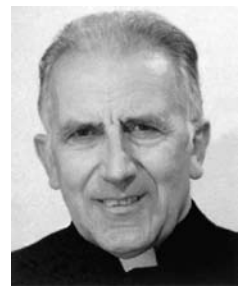




Echo of Medjugorje

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Fr. Angelo Mutti
founder Echo of Medjugorje

Message of 25 November 2014:

“Dear Children, In a special way, today I call you to prayer. Pray, my children, so that you may comprehend who you are and where you need to go. Be bearers of the Good News and be people of hope. Be love for all those who are without love.

My children, you will be everything, and you will achieve everything only if you pray and are open to the will of God; God who desires leading you towards eternal life. I am with you, and from day to day I intercede for you before my Son Jesus. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Who am I?

While mankind suffers the devastation caused by division and war Our Blessed Mother **indicates the Way of Prayer and Love**. It is a difficult Way to accept for the powerful of the world; but it is gentle and consoling for those whose hope is in the Lord. We are Children of God, made in His image, so why sell off this intrinsic nature of ours for a plate of lentils? Called to guard and govern the Creation, why do we destroy it?

There is no peace among men because there is no peace in man's heart. Man is ever more divided over Good and evil. This division is more evident today than in the past. There is division amongst Christians and people in general, within the society and the family. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against his father, the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother (Lk 12:53).

Is this a sign of unrestrainable decay and thus of an imminent end to the history of mankind? One might think so if one were so immersed by the darkness of this world as to have lost sight of God's light that is always there to be found in each of us. We know that God will have the last word, and that God is Love.

This message is a **canticle of Love and of Hope**. Let us lift our gaze and open our heart to Heaven! Christ died on the cross to save us; He has already saved us. So why doubt. At Medjugorje the **Heavens are still open** after an amazing 33 years. So what are we waiting for?

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! §



Message to Mirjana,
2 December 2014:

“Dear Children, Keep in mind – for I tell you so – that love will triumph! I know that many of you are losing hope because around you, you see suffering, sorrow, jealousy, envy; but I am your mother. I am in the Kingdom, but I am also here with you.

My Son sends me anew to help you. Therefore, do not lose hope; instead, follow me – because the victory of my heart is in the name of God. My beloved Son thinks of you as he always has. Believe him and live him. He is the life of the world.

My children, to live my Son means to live the Gospel. This is not easy. It takes love, forgiveness and sacrifice. This purifies you and it opens the Kingdom. Sincere prayer, which is not only words but is a prayer which the heart speaks, will help you. Fasting, too, will help you, because it requires yet more love, forgiveness and sacrifice. Therefore, do not lose hope, but follow me.

I implore you anew to pray for your shepherds so that they may always look up to my Son who was the first Shepherd of the world and whose family was the entire world. Thank you.”

(Comments to messages by Nuccio Quattrocchi)

Message, 25 December 2014:

“Dear Children, Also today I come with my Son Jesus in my arms to bring Him to you, and I ask Him for peace, for you individually, and for peace among you.

Pray to, and adore my Son, that His peace and joy may enter into your hearts. I pray for you that you might be all the more open to prayer. Thank you for responding to my call.”

Peace to You!

Words that are simple and true are more easily received by the hearts of men. This message is for all; no one is excluded from its benefits. Yet, like always, it is offered, not forced on us. It is an invitation by the Queen of Peace who is an expert on peace. She offers us peace, the one true peace which is that of her Son and which can be found in Him alone.

This peace, however, isn't a medicine that can be taken when needed. Instead, it is a way of living, by day and by night, when sick and when well, in joy and in sorrow... whatever our place in the world, whatever our political options, our position in society, whether we dress the religious habit or civilian clothes.

This Peace is a gift of the Risen One, fruit of His Passion and Death, and it is in Him that we can find it. Any other peace is but a pale surrogate, mere appearance, and even deception that sooner or later will be revealed with all its inconsistency and even perversion.

For peace among men to be real and long-lasting, it must be sought in Jesus. Any other source is illusory; at the most it can give the absence of war, and though this is certainly not deserving of contempt, it is not enough! Our heart yearns after the Peace of God which is not the peace the world can give (Jn 14:27-31), because it is an essential and vital need of man and of the world.

The Psalmist's query: *What is mankind that you are mindful of us, human beings that you care for us?* (cf. Sal 8:5) is a constant reminder to us of how great God's love is. The response isn't found in human sciences; because it is given to us by God when we pray and when we adore our Lord Jesus, and then in our hearts we receive that peace and true joy!

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! §

World Needs Tenderness!

“Dear brothers and sisters, happy Christmas! Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, is born for us! It is the humble people, those who are full of hope in God’s goodness, who are able to welcome and recognise Jesus.”

Arrogant and proud people are unable to welcome the Lord - said the Pope - but in his homily Pope Francis spoke especially of the **tenderness, the humility and the patience of God** for us members of the human race. “Jesus is the child-sun who, arising from on high, illuminates the horizon; but to see him we need to open our heart... Despite violence, wars, hatred and oppression, **the Lord continues to be patient with us**. Over the course of history, the light that shatters the darkness reveals to us that God is Father and that **His patient fidelity is stronger than the darkness and corruption...** God does not know outbursts of anger or impatience. He is always there like the father in the parable of the prodigal son.”

But God is also humble, and this can be seen by the love with which he assumed our frailty, our suffering, our anxieties, our desires and our limitations. The message that everyone was searching for in the depths of their souls, was none other than the **tenderness of God**: God who looks upon us with eyes full of love, who accepts our poverty, **God in love with our smallness**.

And how can we welcome God’s tenderness? Do I allow Him to reach out to me, to caress me? Or do I impede Him from drawing close to me? **The most important thing is to allow Him to seek me, find me and caress me with tenderness**. Do I let God love me? More so, do we have the courage to welcome with tenderness the difficulties and problems of those who are near to us, or do we prefer impersonal solutions, perhaps effective but devoid of the warmth of the Gospel? **How much the world needs tenderness today!**

Life must be met with goodness, with meekness. Our prayer to the Lord has to be: Help me to be like you, give me the grace of tenderness in the most difficult circumstances of life, the grace of closeness in the face of every need, meekness in every conflict,” said Pope Francis.” [25 Dec. 2014]

Humility the Only Path

“Humility in a person is pleasing to God, while pride is not! The key is in the heart.

The heart of a humble person is open, it knows how to repent, it accepts correction and it trusts God.

The heart of a proud person is the opposite: arrogant, closed, it doesn’t feel shame, it is impermeable to God’s voice.

The prophet Zephaniah describes a rebel city, yet within that city there is a



group of people who repent of their sins. These - says the Pope - are the **“people of God”**, and he identified **“their three characteristics”**: **humility, poverty and trust** in the Lord. But in that city there are also those who did not accept correction, who did not trust in the Lord. They will be sentenced. “These cannot receive salvation. They are closed to salvation.

The same happens today: “When we see the holy People of God, who are humble, whose treasure is faith and trust in the Lord; the humble, poor people who confide in the Lord”, here we meet “the saved ones”, for “this is the path” that the Church must take.”

But our heart must be repentant! “If you have not listened to the Lord, haven’t accepted correction, haven’t trusted in Him”, then yours is not a contrite heart. The Lord doesn’t want these “hypocrites who were scandalized” by what “Jesus said about the tax collectors and about the prostitutes, but then secretly went to them, whether to unleash their passions or to do business”. They considered themselves “pure”, but in reality, “the Lord doesn’t want them”.

Offering up one’s sins is reason for hope, as long as we have the courage to open our heart to God without reserve and give him the “list” of our sins; saying: Lord, these are MY sins. They are not the sins of this or that other person, but they are mine. Take them and I shall be saved.

When we are able to do this we will be that beautiful people who are humble and poor and who trust in the Lord. May God grant us this grace!”. [16 dic. 2014]

From the extraordinary homily on the FAMILY

(16-01-2015) Manila, Philippines: Scriptures speak very little of **St. Joseph** - said Pope Francis - and where they do, we find Joseph asleep; however, it is during Joseph’s rest that God’s will is revealed to him. **I urge you to consider three things**. *1st*: Resting in the Lord. *2nd*: Rising with Jesus and Mary. *3rd*: Being a prophetic voice.

1. Resting in the Lord. Rest is essential for the health of our minds and bodies... but also for our spiritual health, so

we can hear God’s voice and understand what he asks of us. Joseph was chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. As Christians, you too are called, like Joseph, to make a home for Jesus ... in your hearts, your families, your parishes, your communities.

To hear and accept God’s call, you must be able to rest in the Lord; by making time each day to rest in Him, time to pray. To pray is the rest in the Lord. But you may say to me: Holy Father, I know that; I want to pray, but there is so much work to do! I must care for my children; there are chores to do; I am too tired to even sleep well... I know. This may be true, **but if we do not pray, we will not know the most important thing of all**, which is God’s will for us! (...) Resting in prayer is especially important for families. It is in the family that we first learn how to pray. And don’t forget: the family that prays together, stays together. This is important... In the family we learn how to love, to forgive, to be generous and open... to move beyond our own needs ... That is why families are so important in God’s plan for the Church!

I would also like to tell you something personal. **I have a great love for Saint Joseph** because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of **Saint Joseph sleeping**. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!

2. Rising with Jesus and Mary. Perhaps we would like to prolong the precious moments of prayer, but as with Joseph, once we have heard God’s voice, we must rise from our sleep, get up and act as a family (cf. Rm 13,11). (...) The Angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph the dangers which threatened Jesus and Mary, forcing them to flee to Egypt and then to settle in Nazareth. So too, in our time, God calls upon us to recognize the dangers threatening our own families and to protect them from harm.

And let us be on guard against colonization by new ideologies. There are forms of ideological colonization which are out to destroy the family. They are not born of dreams, of prayers, of closeness to God or the mission which God gave us; they come from without, and for that reason I am saying that they are forms of colonization. Let’s not lose the freedom of the mission which God has given us. Just as our peoples, at a certain moment of their history, were mature enough to say “no” to all forms of political colonization, so too in our families we need to be very wise, very shrewd, very strong, in order to say “no” to all attempts at an ideological colonization of our families. We need to ask Saint Joseph, the friend of the angel, to send us the inspiration to know when

we can say "yes" and when we have to say "no".

3. Be prophetic voices within our communities. St. Joseph heeded the voice of the Angel and responded to God's call... and together with Mary he was a model for the child Jesus during his growing years. When families have children, and train them in the faith and sound values, and teach them to contribute to society, they become a blessing in our world. God's love becomes present and active by the way we love and by the good works we do. Thus we extend Christ's kingdom in this world.



Pope Francis' statuette of Dormant St Joseph

TEN THINGS

22 Dec. 2014 - To staff of the Holy See and their families, Pope Francis offered a list of ten things to do so as to create occasions for **healing wounds in others and in ourselves**. Besides "taking care of one's spiritual life, of our relations with others, of the way we speak, and to heal the wounds of the heart with the ointment of forgiveness," the Pope gave great importance to taking care of one's **FAMILY LIFE**, suggesting that: "There's so much to take care of... So think just this: Which is the most important thing I need to take care of? **Take it one day at a time, and think: Today I shall take care of this.** But **especially** take care of the family. The family is a **treasure**. Children are a treasure. Young parents can ask themselves this: *Do I have time to play with my children, or am I always busy and don't have time for them?* I leave you with this question. Play with your children. It is so nice. It means sewing for the future. [...]". www.vatican.va - www.news.va/

OUR LADY TO IVAN Pray more for the FAMILY

29 Dec. 2014 - Ivan says: Also today Our Lady came among us and was joyful and happy. She said: "**Dear Children, also today I desire telling you thank-you. Thank you, dear children, because you have made a choice; you have decided to live my messages. Today I call you anew - in this time, this time of grace - to pray more for the FAMILY, and to pray for the evangelization of the family. Pray especially for the youth. May God abide in the families and be given first place! I am with you; I pray with you. Thank you, dear children, because also today you have responded to my call.**" §

The messages and the Catholic Faith

Looking at the early messages, we see how on the 26th June the Queen of Peace responded that her reason for choosing Medjugorje was: "**because here I have found many believers.**" On the 27th June, Our Lady asked that the priests "**persevere in the faith and keep the faith of others.**" The day after, she asked that the villagers: "**pray and firmly believe.**"

With this we see how important it is to have the faith and to persevere in it! Down the years, other messages will confirm the same **importance of having and professing the faith**. The first element relative to faith is conversion, the change of life-style, and it is what the messages have been calling us to. "**Dear Children, [convert] turn away from sin, all of you who belong to this parish; that way you will be able to assist the conversion of all those who will come here**" (8-3-1984).

Conversion is "personal" (13-2-1986), "daily" (25-2-1993), "to be done with joy" (25-4-1996), a "journey" to decide for (25-10-2010), and a new way of thinking: "**I desire that as children of God you rise above the human way of thinking and that you seek God's way of thinking in everything**" (2-12-2013). This journey of conversion strengthens our faith and allows us to encounter God and "my Son."

The doctrine outlined in the messages is **faith in Jesus son of God born of Mary**: "**Today I invite you to pause before the Nativity scene and meditate on Jesus whom I bring to you also today**" (25-12-2008); "**I desire leading you all to my Son and your Saviour. You are not aware that without Him you cannot have joy or peace, and not even a future and eternal life**" (25-07-2010); "**In these restless times I call you again to journey behind my Son and follow Him... In Him you will find peace and salvation**" (02-06-2013).

Mary invites us to follow Christ on the way of humility because "**He, who could have done everything by force, chose love as an example for you**" (02-07-2008); "**He chose meekness, humility and love**" (02-07-2007). Contemplate His Mysteries, especially the Nativity (25-11-1993), His Passion, Death and Resurrection (25-03-2013). This is the core of Mary's teachings; everything else fits into this; and the purpose of it all is to give new impulse to the practice and experience of the truths of the faith. The message of Medjugorje is not limited to this or that other detail. Indeed, it touches the very roots of the faith: "**Now in particular I pray before God that He might grant you the gift of the faith**" (25-11-2005); "**My**

call today is a call to the truth and to life. My Son, who is the life, loves you and He knows you in the truth. To be able to know and love yourselves you must know my Son, and to be able to know and love others, you need to see my Son in them" (2-7-2010).

More than once we have been told in the messages that **faith grows when it is united to daily prayer** and the reading and meditation of the Word of God, and that it is particularly founded on a sacramental life, with Holy Mass, frequent confession and adoration: "**Spend as much time as possible in prayer and adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, so that He can change you and place in your hearts a living faith and the desire for eternal life**" (25-3-2008).

In particular, **frequent partaking of the Sacraments** is an indispensable condition for keeping the faith: "**May Holy Mass - which is your most sublime and most powerful prayer - be at the centre of your spiritual life**" (02-08-2008); "**When you confess your sins you renounce all that distances you from my Son and which makes your life empty and fruitless**" (2-5-2011).

Our Lady has frequently asked us to meditate on the eternal life: "**You are so blind and tied to earthly things, and think to much about earthly things. God has sent me to lead you towards the eternal life**" (25-10-2006), "**Do not forget that you will come before the Heavenly Father and you will speak to Him of yourselves. Be ready!**" (2-4-2013). Our Lady entrusted to Marija the task of **praying for souls in Purgatory**.

The Christian faith has a deep history. For this reason we fully understand the calls to **imitate the life of the saints** (25-10-2004), and to "**become living witnesses of the faith of the Fathers**" (25-09-1998). It is clearly pointed out how much worth there is in this fidelity, and how it is steeped in a missionary dimension: "**My children, I am leading you in this time of grace, that you may become conscious of your Christian vocation. The holy martyrs died witnessing: 'I am a Christian and I love God above all else'. Dear children, also today**

I call you to rejoice and to be joyful, responsible Christians who are aware that God has called you in a special way to be joyful extended hands towards those who do not believe, and that through the example of your life, they may receive faith and love for God" (25-11-97).

Marco Vignati,
Com. Casa di Maria Roma

Message given through Mirjana 2 JANUARY 2015

“Dear Children, I am here among you as your Mother, desirous of helping you to come to know the truth. While I lived your life on earth I had knowledge of the truth, and with this, a piece of Heaven on earth. That is why I desire the same for you, my children. The Heavenly Father desires pure hearts filled with knowledge of the truth. He desires for you to love all those whom you meet, because I, too, love my Son in all of you. This is the beginning of knowing the truth. Many false truths are offered you; you will overcome them with a heart cleansed by fasting, prayer, penance and by the Gospel. This is the only truth and it is the truth which my Son left you. You do not need to examine it much; what is asked of you is to love and to give, as I did. My children, if you love, your heart will be a home for my Son and for me, and the words of my Son will be the guiding light in your life. My children, I will make use of you, apostles of love, to help all of my children to come to know the truth. My children, I have always prayed for my Son's Church, and so I also ask the same of you. Pray that your shepherds might shine with the love of my Son. Thank you.”

The Triumph of Mary's Heart: We speak about the truth, we say we desire the truth and that we seek it, but recognizing it is not that easy. In this world of partial and conflicting truths, we are dazed and confused, making us easy prey for impostors and charlatans. Amid this confusion, we have from Medjugorje a call - loud and clear - to acknowledge and to seek the Truth! Mary, as a concerned and caring Mother, calls us to treasure her own experience of knowing Paradise on the earth, as she reminds us that our Heavenly Father desires that we love all those we meet, just as she, Our Mother, loves her Son in each of us.

This is the beginning of knowing the truth. And with this message we are also given to see how the truth is something which is gained and even conquered; and how it is important that we begin and stay on the right path so as not to get lost in the jungle of false truths which the world proposes and exalts. After having established that the only Truth is that left to us by her Son, Mary points out that rather than spending too much time examining it, it is far more preferable for us to live it by loving and by giving of ourselves, as she did.

Jesus is the Truth, and the best place to celebrate Jesus is in and with our lives; not in the University halls. Our heavenly Father desires pure hearts! A pure heart is the place where we can be filled to overflowing with the Truth!

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary! NQ

NEWS from Medjugorje

It was late January, and as I walked down the streets of Medjugorje, I thought how odd the sight of Medjugorje so empty of pilgrims. Streets, parking lots, souvenir shops: all empty and enrobed only in the grey and cold of the winter winds. This is an ideal time to experience a more profound and intense spirituality of the Medjugorje prayer itinerary.

Christmas, too, was also relatively quiet since there were very few foreign pilgrims. There was a large participation at the dawn Mass (6 am), with a great number of local parishioners whose joyful presence also marked the days of Advent even as they formed long lines before the confessionals. In front of the Church there was a beautiful "live" Nativity Scene animated by the members of the Cenacolo Community. The Christmas period was also made lively with various concerts and social events. As a matter of fact, the parish itself has become more active in its work with children and youth, also thanks to the very active Franciscan Youth group. The solemn Christmas Concert was held on the 27th December and included many famous Croatian musicians alongside local musicians.

Despite the intense cold, pilgrims came here to spend New Year's Eve in an atmosphere of prayer and praise. The Holy Mass of Thanksgiving for the year 2014 was celebrated by Fr. Ivan Landeka and concelebrated by 60 priests. Thanks was given to God for all the good received, also through the intercession of the Queen of Peace. The vigil for the new year began with prayer that began at 10 pm and was celebrated by Fr. Stanko Ćosić; and this was followed by Holy Mass which was celebrated by the Parish Priest of Medjugorje, Fr. Marinko Šakota, to thank God for the year that was ending and the year about to begin.

New Year's Eve night was the coldest we had had, at minus 10 degrees, but the church of St. James, the spaces outside and the large Hall were full of faithful who joyfully prayed and praised God. The first days of January saw a series of meetings (including the apparition to Mirjana on the 2nd of the month, and a concert by Jakov), and the friars were busy blessing the families and their homes.

Various anniversaries were also celebrated in January. These included the 13 years since the death of Fr. Leonard Oreč who had been Parish Priest of Medjugorje and the founder of the religious-humanitarian association "Medjugorje Mir". There was also the 46th anniversary of the dedication of the parish church of Medjugorje (1892), and the parish choir celebrated its 25th year.

After the busy Christmas and New Year period, Medjugorje once again became an oasis of peace, giving the parishioners much-needed time to rest and renew their energies before the new influx of pilgrims to this place of grace.

Paula Tomić

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Peace, joy and exultation!

My dear friends of the Echo of Medjugorje, I wish you all the very best in this year of grace, 2015. At the same time, as I think of this world in turmoil, I lift my eyes to the Queen of Peace who knows we are concerned and fearful. And so that we do not get lost in the ebb and flow of these events, our Merciful God sent us the most wonderful Mother, who is armed with God's own omnipotence. Indeed, the Queen of Peace tells us: "I see you in danger of losing hope. Do not fear: I am here with you!"

If God is postponing the execution of the secrets because he sees our faith and hears our prayer, we must believe this and see it as part of that history of biblical liberation and trust in Him our Saviour who "has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of His servant David." That is, in the house of those who believe and thus belong to his people.

Keep these words in mind: peace, joy and exultation!

As I invoke these gifts, I bless you all in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Fr. Massimo Rastrelli, S.J.

Mantua, January 2015

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