

# Echo of Mary Queen of Peace

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Message of May 25, 2010 :

“Dear children! God gave you the grace to live and to defend all the good that is in you and around you, and to inspire others to be better and holier; but Satan, too, does not sleep and through modernism diverts you and leads you to his way. Therefore, little children, in the love for my Immaculate Heart, love God above everything and live His commandments. In this way, your life will have meaning and peace will rule on earth. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Message of June 25, 2010 :

“Dear children! With joy, I call you all to live my messages with joy; only in this way, little children, will you be able to be closer to my Son. I desire to lead you all only to Him, and in Him you will find true peace and the joy of your heart. I bless you all and love you with immeasurable love. Thank you for having responded to my call”.

## The meaning of life and closeness to Jesus

A world that tends to forget its past more and more, and that unhealthily tends towards the new, is easy prey for those who wish to destroy everything that has to do with eternity and truth in the heart and soul of man. It is Satan's deceit that leads us to seek, love and worship a fictitious, apparent, vain reality, in the place of the real one, created by God and proposed and offered to us not for a short time, but for eternity. It is the age-old struggle between Truth and lies, it is the battle for life, the earthly battle and that after death, because it is here, in this earthly existence, that the experience of a heavenly or hellish life begins; what is beyond focuses on what we have chosen, loved and experienced here on earth for all Eternity!

We all know the Word of God: it is sufficient to listen to it and welcome it to enable salvation to bloom in us, that it might produce blessings (cfr Lk 11, 27-28; Jn 12, 46-48). Once again today, and so it will be until the end of time, there are two pathways; one is the way that leads to life and goodness, the other to death and evil (cfr Dt 30, 15-20). The principle remains the same: the choice between God and Satan is always the same, it is the attempt to distance us from God with the flattery of new, with the trick of presenting for new and modern, for enticing that which is terribly old, as old as the snake that tries to pass it off for new! The true novelty lies in God and not in Satan. In fact, God is the Creator and what he creates is always new, never repetitive, always absolutely original; Satan on the other hand creates clones, all he does is repeat himself in his blind and vain attempt to destroy Creation.

Mary says to us that we have received from God **the grace to live and protect all the goodness that lies within us and around us and**



“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”  
(2 Pt 1, 19)

**to exhort others to be better and holier.** We can validly counteract Satan and his followers; the age-old seduction will be powerless over us and if we retreat into the Immaculate Heart of Mary and draw from it that purity that is untouchable by evil and that will enable us to **love God above all else and experience His commandments:** this is what gives meaning and truth to our lives, this is what assures peace on earth; the rest is mere trickery and fatuity.

The Message of June points out a pathway to us through which to **love God above all things and live his commandments.** It is the pathway that passes through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, paved by the messages that she has been giving to us for the past 29 years and it is thus more feasible to us! **Live Her messages joyfully to be closer to Her Son.** Warning: **to live** and not only read or listen to or speak of **Her messages,** and actually live them **joyfully,** we must not fearfully suffer them or experience them with a sense of passive resignation. **We must experience them joyfully because only in this way** can we be nearer to Him, citizens of His Kingdom. “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven* (Mt 7, 21) Jesus says; and the Will of the Father is that which is experienced, day after day, by Jesus. Let us welcome Jesus into our souls, let us protect His Life within ourselves and **we will find true peace and true joy.** That peace and that joy that come only from Him (Jn 14,27; 15,11), that the world cannot give us because it does not know them, but that we can know and experience if He lives in us. That peace and that joy that not even the evil one can tear away from us because they are in Christ and not in the world, they are **true** and not transitory and therefore inaccessible to him. Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary!

Nuccio Quattrocchi

Message of July 25, 2010 :

“Dear children! Anew I call you to follow me with joy. I desire to lead all of you to my Son, your Savior. You are not aware that without Him you do not have joy and peace, nor a future or eternal life. Therefore, little children, make good use of this time of joyful prayer and surrender. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Message of August 25, 2010 :

“Dear children! With great joy, also today, I desire to call you anew: pray, pray, pray. May this time be a time of personal prayer for you. During the day, find a place where you will pray joyfully in a recollected way. I love you and bless you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

## Joyfully follow Mary

During these last times God wants to reveal and manifest Mary, the masterpiece of His hands, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort says to us in his *Treatise on true devotion to Mary*. The “last times” commenced with the coming of Jesus into the world. Humanity has been living its last day since the *Dayspring from on high has visited* (Lk 1, 78b); it is His coming that inaugurates the new day, the day that does not set, that does not give in to the shadows!

We are experiencing this day, *the day of the Lord* but we do not realise it; attracted as we are by the appearance, the Essence escapes us; ready as we are to run after idols, we ignore the Being; accustomed as we are to buying and selling, the value of what has no price escapes us, and so we do not know and we do not cultivate peace, nor Joy, nor Love!

**I want to guide you all to my Son and your Saviour. You are unaware of the fact that without him you have no joy and peace or no future and eternal life,** Mary says to us. It is a strong invitation, it is a call that cannot be postponed, because “today” and not tomorrow I can decide, I can change my route. Tomorrow is too late. Time flees so much, it is so limited, it has a value of eternity in Christ. Redeemed in Him, experienced in Him and with Him, the moment is no longer fleeting but it invests in and fertilizes the future, it dresses itself in eternity. Whatever our human condition is, our health, or terrestrial identity, let us try to live every breath of ours in Christ's breath and our life will not be without a future, it will not be without hope, it will not be without consolation, but it will live on God and on His peace, His joy, His eternity and our day will not be like any other day of waiting but, the eternal Day of communion with Jesus Christ in the Father and in the Holy Spirit. How?

Here is Mary's answer: **pray, pray,**

**pray. May this time be a time of personal prayer for you.** Prayer is a suitable channel through which to communicate with God and, if protected from interferences and disturbances, it is the ideal channel through which to obtain communion with Him: **during the day, find a place where you can pray joyfully in recollection.** You can reach things that Internet will never be able to do: you can communicate with God, you can do so personally; all you need to do is find a place that is suitable for recollection and pray with joy.

It is not difficult to find this place (all we need do is seek it within ourselves); it is much more difficult to **joyfully pray** because this condition excludes all prayer that does not involve the heart; yet it is *prayer with the heart* that moves and touches God, as Jesus teaches us in the Gospel and as Mary has been teaching us for many years in Medjugorje. Praying with the heart is synonymous with harmonising the beats of your own heart with those of Jesus' Heart until such time as you can no longer distinguish them from His, until such time as you present yourself to the Father in a single Son. Praying with the heart is losing ourselves in the Love that is Jesus, it is experiencing eternal life; it is collaborating in the building of God's Kingdom. The prayer towards which Mary invites us is the *pearl of great value* for which we must know how to give everything with joy (cfr Mt 13, 45-46); it is not therefore an evasion or an escape from reality, but concrete life in Christ that alone assures true Life on this earth. Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary.

N.Q.



## The Chain of Love

From a remote corner of Zimbabwe (Africa) a nun sent *Aiuto alla Chiesa che Soffre*, a sincere message of gratitude

for having sent **hundreds of rosary beads destined for poor people who feel that prayer is their only hope.**

Sister Clara explained that the rosary beads were distributed throughout her "Fatima Mission" as part of a pastoral programme that invites parishioners to consecrate their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "We are truly happy about the rosary beads. Since we started to distribute them, we have been surprised by people's response", writes Sister Clara. "People were truly full of great joy about what was happening and they were singing and dancing, they were moved and gave thanks to God who was visiting them in this way.

Being in contact with Africans, you perceive that they have a great sense of God and a great desire to come to know him through the Scriptures. What they are truly answering are the opportunities to pray together as a community and the initiative of the rosary is a marvellous way to do this".

Certain reports suggest that people throughout western Zimbabwe find themselves in a condition of poverty due to the government policy of investment and development that favours other regions that are more in harmony with the regime.

(From: *Aiuto alla Chiesa che Soffre*)

## Christ's priesthood is the fruit of Passion

The numerous and rich reflections on the priesthood during the course of the year dedicated to it (which concluded on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, the solemnity of the Sacred Heart), certainly widened our perception of the great gift that Jesus gave to his Church and that can only be understood in the light of Christ's same priesthood, the Eternal Priest. But what are the elements that made up Jesus' priesthood?

In a beautiful homily, during the Feast of the Corpus Domini, **Pope Benedict XVI** invited us to "meditate on the relationship between the Eucharist and Christ's Priesthood", in the light of the biblical texts. Below are some very interesting passages from it.

**"The first thing that we need is to always remember that Jesus was not a priest according to the Judaic tradition. (...) He was not one of the descendants of Aaron, but rather that of Judah, and therefore legally the pathway of the priesthood was closed off to him. The person and the activity of Jesus of Nazareth are not positioned in the wake of the ancient priests, but rather in that of the prophets.**

**In this line, Jesus distanced himself from a ritual conception of religion**, criticising the formulation that gave value to human precepts associated with ritual purity rather than the observance of God's commandments, that is, to love for God and for our neighbours, which, as the Lord says, "is worth more than all the holocausts and sacrifices". (...) Therefore, Jesus is not recognised as a priestly Messiah, but rather, as prophetic and regal.

**Therefore, in what sense is Jesus a priest?** Christ's passion is presented as a prayer and an offering. Jesus deals with his "time", that leads him to death on the cross, immersed in deep prayer, which consists of union of his will with

that of the Father. This two-fold and unique will is a will of love.

Experienced in this prayer, **the tragic proof that Jesus deals with is transformed into an offering, into a living sacrifice.** Given that he obeyed to the extent of dying on the cross, he became a "cause for salvation" for all those who obey Him. He therefore became the high Priest given that He took all the sins of the world onto himself, like the "Lamb of God".

**It is the Father who gives him this priesthood** the very moment that Jesus crosses the threshold of his death and resurrection. It is not the priesthood according to the order of the Mosaic law, but "according to the order of Melchisedek", according to a prophetic order, that depends only on its individual relationship with God.

**Christ's priesthood leads to suffering.** Jesus truly suffered and he suffered for us. He was the Son and he did not need to learn obedience, but we did, we needed it and we still need it. And so the Son took on our humanity and for us he allowed himself to be "educated" in the crucible of suffering, he allowed himself to be transformed by it, like the grain that must die in the earth in order to bear fruit. Through this process Jesus was "rendered perfect". (...)

**For Jesus, the passion was therefore like a priestly consecration.** In the Eucharist He anticipated his Sacrifice, a non-ritual but personal Sacrifice. During the Last Supper, he acted moved by that "eternal spirit" with which he will then offer himself on the Cross. (...) It is this divine strength that transforms extreme violence and extreme injustice into a supreme act of love and justice.

This is the work of Christ's priesthood, that the Church inherited and prolonged in history, in the two-fold form of the common priesthood of the baptised and in the ordained priesthood of the ministers, to transform the world with God's love". □



"We must know how to recognise that losing something, actually, losing ourselves for the true God, the God of love and life, actually means gaining something, finding ourselves once again in a fuller manner.

Those who place their trust in Jesus already experience peace and joy in their hearts in this life, that the world cannot give, and that it cannot take away once God has given them to us. It is therefore worthwhile allowing ourselves to be touched by the fire of the Holy Spirit! The pain that it causes us is necessary for our transformation".

**Benedict XVI**

**"I thank you Lord,**  
because you come on the little donkey and not on cherubs,  
you come in humility and not in greatness.  
You come in swaddling clothes and not in the armour of a warrior,  
you come into a manger and not in the clouds of heaven,  
in the arms of your Mother not on the throne of your majesty.  
You come on a little donkey and not on cherubs,  
you come towards us and not against us,  
you come to save and not to judge,  
to visit us in peace and not to condemn in fury.  
If you come in this way, Lord Jesus,  
rather than running away from you,  
we will run towards you"

*Pietro di Celle*



## On men's faces

by *Francesco Cavagna*

There are people who have God's love sculpted on their faces. In all of their actions, these people reveal His presence, His infinite goodness. We meet them on the streets that we walk down every day. We usually don't even notice them, concentrated as we are on what's on our mind. But sometimes, when a difficult situation or some prayer has dug out a precious and necessary emptiness in us, it happens all of a sudden... We must be awake, have the breath of His Spirit in us, that opens the eyes of our soul. And then we do notice them, or rather, we recognise God on those people's faces.

The Lord uses them to do good, he uses them as his instruments, he uses their most ordinary actions to show Himself to the world, to get to all of His children. This is His greatest wish. He wants everyone to know Him, He wants those who are far away to remember Him. And they do not do anything extraordinary. They live and they love: their love is extraordinary.

Do we still know how to be amazed at the silent miracles that come about every day? People like us have our faces filled with hope, clear eyes, a clear smile although we are living in this world of ours, which is so suffering and so full of contradictions. They house God's life within themselves...

I was at the station in Mestre speaking to a man of my age that God let me meet. He said that he was a non-believer but he continued to ask me questions on what was happening, on why so many young, peaceful and normal people chose to spend their time with the poor of that inhospitable station. When people find out that I study theology, they usually fire a whole series of philosophical questions at me... I manage to deal with them discretely, but I know well that it is certainly not theory that will satisfy the deep need that I feel is concealed within their hearts. I simply asked him: "Do you recognise God on certain people's faces?". He answered no, but immediately he looked



around and asked me to point those people out to him. He started observing the peaceful faces of those who were standing around us with a different look on his face, almost seeking out, almost trying to "look beyond" as I was doing.

Jesus Himself said it to us.

"In as much as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me".

It is not always easy for us, we are concentrated on what people must give us, we expect something for ourselves and so our interests take the first and only place in our relationship with others. We are no longer capable of contemplating the mystery that every person conceals within himself. We no longer know how to be amazed at the silent miracles that come about every day.

But the Lord never ceases to pursue us, and sometimes he uses these people to suddenly open up our gaze, to tell us that He is there, to lead us back to Him. From here commences the journey to seek Him out always, to force ourselves to find him in everyone.

Because these people are like burning flames, and we too will certainly have to strive to become like them, but the great revelation that is God lies within each of us. God chose

to incarnate himself, to don a human face, and he confirmed the dignity of every life for all eternity.

Yes indeed, when we learn to recognise him in those faces marked by sadness and suffering, in low and afflicted gazes, in the scars of the victims of today's indifference, then we will truly be able to say that we have begun to love.

We will know and feel that God is in everyone, that God is everywhere, that God is God. And we will stop behaving like the masters of our lives. And all things will reacquire the right dimension. And we will be free, free to love. □

## INDIA

### "The spirit of the first Church!"

Monsignor John Kattrukudiyil, Bishop of the diocese of Itanagar in India, speaks to us about his young and living Church, that is capable of performing miracles!

"After the Resurrection of Jesus, the apostles are quite troubled. Some of them return to do the work that they had been doing previously; in fact they were unsure about what to do. After Pentecost however, from shy fishermen, they become evangelisers because they have peace in their hearts and strength that they received from the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit does great work in my Dioceses also; the presence of the Catechists in my Communities is in fact a miracle for me. There is a Church that is alive, that evangelises because there are many lay people who have been working for many years. Their faith astounds me!

In our country there are many animists (37%) and it was not easy to establish Christianity here, but many young people have realised that sacrifices are not necessary in order to get close to God, it is not necessary to kill animals... One young man told me that he followed the teachings of a catechist for some time and that this transformed his life, because he led him to know a great God: along with other young men he began to pray. Many Parishes are established in Arunashal because there are great signs of God's work. Theology often does not touch men's hearts, it remains in their head, in their thoughts. The Word of God, on the other hand, goes directly into the soul and transforms it on the inside.

Here we experience a Catechism that starts from the beginnings, like in the first Christian communities. There is a great deal of freshness in believers and Baptism is given joyfully to those who wish to receive it. On occasion we participate in experiences that are similar to what Paul of Damascus experienced; there are in fact people who experience a wonderful conversion after having persecuted Christians for a long time. Many people pray for conversion of the heart to come about in others also, many prayers are also said for healing. The Holy Spirit gives his gifts that are also seen in those who do not know how to read or write, but who have a deep faith.

There is a young Church that will grow more and more in terms of numbers and in terms of faith every year. For all of this, we give thanks to God the Father and the action of the Holy Spirit. The existence of the castes in Hindu society creates some divisions, but Christians are able to bring some news, even if with some efforts...".

(Lidio)

## Being with

"Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him" (Mk 3, 14) Jesus does not choose heroes, prophets, healers, exorcists, preachers, messengers. He chooses the twelve so that they might be *with* him. Then they will be sent. But first and foremost he chooses life companions, not people who might do things for him, but with whom to "set up home".

**Jesus' primary objective is not conversion, but the company of men, communion.** And perhaps the Kingdom starts out by making life more affectionate.

We all experience the splendour of this *being with*: with the person we love, our friend, our companion. Being with the person we love is an experience that is sufficient to make up for days of bitterness; embarking on a journey with a friend is sufficient to make up for many missed steps.

*Being with* is an experience that is sufficient to make up for certain days that are empty or filled with worry.

*Being with* the people we love is life's first form of healing, the basic therapy of existence.

*Being with* is coming out of the sentence of an enemy-like solitude. The isolated soul becomes sick; the sick and isolated man dies. To love and to be loved in return is sufficient to fill our life, actually, many lives.

*Being with* the person we love or our friend or spouse means coming out of the kingdom of having to do something and of competition and entering into the kingdom of gratuitousness.

Jesus chose twelve of them to "set up home" with them, so that they might enjoy a life experience with him. The healing of life is synonymous with freeing it from the illness of solitude, the tyranny of doing, the charm of quantity and re-proposing the charm of communion.

**The main objective of sacred history is the creation of communion.** It is the watershed, the blade that separates the two sides of history.

On one side the builders of communion, who do what God does, creating proximity and alliance. And they are called friends of God, friends of the human race, custodians of history. **On the other side the builders of separations, hostility and mistrust, fear and walls.** And they are the ones who do what the devil does, whose name (from *diabàallo*, I separate, I contrast) means "the separator", he who distances man from man, who separates him from himself.

*Being with*, and later the ability to act will certainly come, and to do so with the style of the person with whom you have set up home.

Mary is the creator of relations in the Gospel. Even in her home with Joseph, the centre of life is not *me* or *you*. The core is in the relationship, in seeking each other out and finding each other, through distance, for an *us*, the knot that ties lives together.

Our generosity occasionally leads us to skip out on certain stages, to force expiries. When we've met Christ we've felt the urgency to do something for someone. And this is very beautiful yet at the same time premature. Perhaps we've skipped over the first part of the apprenticeship: being with him. Perhaps because we find an hour of prayer less gratifying than an hour of service? For the fullness of existence, it is necessary to build, to set up a home...".

(Taken from: **Le case di Maria** - E. Ronchi)

## Hearing God's voice

by Father Kreso Busic

There is a continuous succession of voices that multiply and echo from one part of the planet to the other; voices that are summed up with others, voices that oppose each other and often generate only noise... "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" says Jesus in the Gospel (John 10, 27).

Those who wish to follow the Lord and be guided by the only voice that expresses "the whole truth", must know how to recognise it among others. But how can we recognise it distinctly? How and where can we listen to Jesus' voice?

Often, when saying that we need to listen to Jesus' voice, we think of something supernatural, interior locutions, asking some visionary for a word for me. But this behaviour is immature, because we must all develop the ability to listen anew, to hear God's voice and be sure in his guidance.

**The fundamental thing is to purify and heal the deformed image of God within us,** and we can do this only by experiencing the living Jesus, who is real in our lives. How? We must ensure that our *yes* to God matures within us, a *yes* that is constantly freer and simpler. We may experience the peace that is the touch of the Holy Spirit, in the measure in which it will grow in us, a deeper *yes* to God's will.

**On several occasions on the pages of the Echo there has been talk of the offering of life** as the right road towards an ever-deeper knowledge of God. The offering is merely another expression of that interior *yes*, and it remains the only passageway from the shadows to the light, from the old to the new. Because "without the offering to God we will never come into immediate contact with God, but only with a reflection, with a work of God or with an idea of God. I want to do something for God, but in reality I am afraid to welcome him. And so the contact with divine life becomes weak, more and more suffocating". And the Christian, who after many years of walking, rather than

elevating himself, becoming more and more the new creature, begins an inverse process of decadence, tiredness, he closes himself off once again in religious formulae, in *boxes*, where the spirit of interior passiveness gives up when faced with the trials of life.

**The offer is the soul's ability to listen to the sound of God,** his harmony, and to know the voice of He who speaks to me, forms me, moulds me; that true voice of the Good Shepherd that makes us stronger and freer.

We all know that animals follow the voice and smells: these two faculties allow them to recognise the person who stands before them and to feel secure. How much we should develop the abilities and the powers that our soul possesses! The main ability is to listen, to trustingly abandon ourselves to God.

**Interior opening comes from recognising and listening to God's voice,** from the ability to donate, from the spirit of sacrifice; inner peace comes from this and it also remains during the difficulties of life and it heals trust and faith in God. And so for me, as a believer, it is important to know He in whom I have put my trust, and to come to a better understanding of what He has revealed. The more I listen to God's voice, the more I develop faith that urges me to come to a deeper knowledge of the person that I trust; and the more I come to know this person, that is, Jesus Christ, the more I love him. Because in knowing him I come to discover the true value of his sacrifice, his forgiveness, in layman's terms, I discover how much Jesus Christ truly loves me.

**Only in this way will the fog created by fear, by mistrust and by impatience disappear.** And only in this way will the old man within me begin to die with all of his ways of looking at life, of judging the world: leaving my selfishness behind and allowing God's love to form a new creature in me, that sees reality with a renewed and free gaze. I will begin to think in a new manner, to look at people differently; I will learn to pray in an original manner and relate with creation, recognising it as a gift of the Lord's infinite goodness. □

### **"Charity will lead us to be "all things to all men"**

"Charity will lead us to be "all things to all men" (1 Cor 9, 22) to adapt ourselves not only to the needs of our brothers, but also to the mentality, the character, the tastes and the personality of each of them. Loving our neighbour for God, recognising the image, the creature, the son of the celestial father in all men does not mean disembodiment charity, reducing it to a form of cold, stereotyped love that embraces everybody at once without taking individuals into consideration. There is no doubt that Jesus loved all men with a divine love; nevertheless, through the pages of the Gospel we can gather that His love took on different shades and manners according to the people He was addressing. His love was not standardised nor was it indifferent to the particular needs of each person. For example, think of His different behaviour towards each disciple, or towards his friends from Bethany: He did not treat Peter like John, or Martha like Mary.

Charity makes us attentive to treat every brother according to the concrete nature of his individual situation – temperament, sensitivity, quality, limits – to make him feel the warmth of an affection that does all it can to adapt to his person and to alleviate his burdens. "Now may the God of patience and comfort – Saint Paul writes - grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus... therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God (Rm 15,5-7).

Anonymous

## Taking things on

"Let it happen to me rather than to one of my children...to me one hundred times over!" A phrase like this has a strong meaning, yet many times I have heard it; and I have immediately said to myself: "This is not normal, because men instinctively tend to shun evil, they tend to "save their own skin" at all costs! What then urges a parent to utter affirmations such as this?

There is no reason, because this readiness to sacrifice for another is not the fruit of the mind, of a clear calculation, it originates from an immense, pure love, that forgets itself completely and tends towards the other, the generated son or daughter...

**It is with this sort of love that Mary loves us and invites us to love our brothers in Medjugorje.** A love that is capable of taking on the pains that may occur to our neighbour in order to save him, putting up with the possible consequences and burning them in a love that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor 13, 7).

Wanting good things for others (this is what we mean when we say to someone: "I love you!") is not a wish, but an act that actively involves us: by pushing away the evil that threatens him, we procure good for our neighbour. And the best way to do this is to make a shield for him with our own life, like a mother does with her child.

It is not always easy, or convenient. On occasion the bite of pain becomes particularly acute in our flesh when we offer our lives to God to the advantage of others. We feel the burden of this, we experience negative thoughts that have no reason to exist, we feel almost overwhelmed by evil... It is a price that we must pay if we want to be effective in our saving action. But the poison will not penetrate into our depths, because the Spirit himself will make it harmless and if we offer ourselves to God with a sincere and generous heart: "The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den..." the prophet Isaiah assures us (11, 8).

**Then our life will become priest-like,** capable of undertaking the consequences of evil, so as to consume it in the brazier of love, so as to cause it to rise up into heaven "like a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God" (Phil 4, 18).

We will be priests, and fathers and mothers, capable of generating others to life, preserving them from death. But we too will benefit from it: healing in love, which becomes holy and immaculate in the measure in which it forgets itself and gives itself to the other... "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal 6, 2).



Stefania Consoli



# Reflections of light from Mary's land

by Stefania Consoli

## We don't need anything else

It's all so simple. Entirely natural and more normal than you might think. A mother's love is almost obvious, it is immediate. In a certain way it is instinctive, although it requires will, that the mother might find time and space for her creature.

A mother's love does not need to be studied or analysed in order to be understood. It is learnt from birth. It is received abundantly during childhood until such time as it takes on indelible traces within us of manners, growth, education... It accompanies us always, even in the memory that becomes nostalgia when it endures distance or definitive absence.

"This is your mother" said Jesus to his faithful disciple at the foot of the cross as he was about to die. "These are your children..." the Lord continues to repeat to Mary, present every day in Medjugorje with an incomparable love, full of grace.

**The thirtieth year of the apparitions has commenced** and more and more pilgrims are constantly flocking there. To do what? What urges them to set out on that journey? Everyone has their own reasons. There are different methods and approaches. Yet they all find the same thing: a mother who welcomes them with immense love. A love that generates, heals, comforts. A love that directs our steps towards God, eternal goodness.

We don't need anything else. It's so simple... Why should we try our hardest to attempt to interpret the Mystery only to then put it into a cage amidst sterile human categories? Like children, let us allow his love to reach us and penetrate us. Then everything will become clear, comprehensible. We will know exactly what to do in the time that awaits us, we will be capable of answering fully and with a sense of conviction: "Here I am Lord, let it be done onto me according to Your will". As she did.

## A land of wisdom

"There's the groom! Let's go and meet him!" shouted a voice at midnight and in the darkness the women got up to go to him. To make some light they took some lamps with them, along with some oil so as not to risk remaining in darkness.

This is a scene that we are familiar with. Jesus speaks of it in a parable in the Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 25, 1-13). A scene of joy, because the women had wisely obtained some oil to illuminate their loving waiting: the oil of hope, in the unwavering faith that the groom would come. Others however, who were less attentive, perhaps lazy or distracted, but certainly superficial, had not stocked up, perhaps taking it for granted that their friends would also have thought of them.

Drop after drop, for almost thirty years, **Mary has been giving us the oil of grace, of faith in Medjugorje:** "Dear Children! Today I call you, together with me, to begin to build the Kingdom of Heaven in your hearts; that you may forget that what is personal and - led by the example of my Son - think of what is of God. What does He desire of you? Do not permit

*Satan to open the paths of earthly happiness, the paths without my Son. My children, they are false and last a short while. My Son exists. I offer you eternal happiness and peace and unity with my Son, with God; I offer you the Kingdom of God!"*, said Our Lady to Mirjana on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August last.

Years of waiting, with Mary, for the Kingdom that will come. Years in which it is necessary to stock up a good reserve of grace through faithful and wise vigilance: "...Pray for peace so that as soon as possible a time of peace, which my heart waits impatiently for, may reign..." (25.6.95). "I desire to renew prayer with you and to call you to fast which I desire to offer to my Son Jesus for the coming of a new time - a time of spring". (25.10.00), the mother had said in the past.

**Where are we today?** All we need do is look around and read the newspapers... It is the night of waiting. The groom will come, let there be no doubt. But in the meantime, as we wait, let us pour a fervent prayer into our inner lamps, that might know how to illuminate the darkness that oppresses the world and causes it to be full of shadows. Let us make a provision of the grace that Mary communicates to us with her example, with her words, with her living and life-giving presence. We will have within ourselves the light to go and meet Jesus, who comes to **bring all things to himself**.

**One of the secrets revealed to the visionaries** speaks of a visible and indestructible sign that will appear in Medjugorje and remain forever. But "it will be too late" for those who have failed to welcome the invitation to convert, Mary warns us. They will not be able to participate in the celebratory banquet. A little like the foolish virgins of the parable who remained without the oil of faith: while some wait for everything "to be under control" before deciding to deliver themselves to Mary and to her plans for salvation, time is slipping by and the door risks closing. "Lord, Lord, open it", the women cry. But he answered them saying: "In truth I say to you: I do not know you!".

**To walk in faith it takes commitment,** creativity and often also the pain of not being able to change your heart. It takes effort, sincerity and an amount of good will. We are not always willing to become completely involved and so we postpone our "yes", or we expect others to make the effort. "Keep watch therefore, because you know not the day nor the hour", Jesus concludes in the parable.

But there is another invitation for those who on the other hand, for years, have been experiencing Mary's messages lovingly, keeping their inner lamps burning brightly. Before they walk through the door and it closes behind them, they can open their arms in the form of a cross and prop up the doors so that the

passage might remain open for the latecomers who want to enter despite everything.

To accept to remain upright on our cross with a sense of generosity and courage, to the advantage of others, is a great form of charity. If it is experienced in communion with others then, people become firmer and stronger; and so the doors of the kingdom will remain wide open so that the whole of humanity might cross the threshold and be saved.

## Time of glory, time of cross

In the heart of the month of September **the feast that emphasises Christ's Cross** stands out (the 14th to be exact). This is a very important celebration in Herzegovina - as we have written on other occasions - and every year the summit of Mount Krizevac is full of people, who climb up to pay homage to the great white cross, the memory of the cross that housed Jesus on Golgotha.

It is certainly an occasion to celebrate, given that through the Cross, the Lord earned salvation for each and every one of us. But it is also easy to celebrate when the cross does not touch us in our flesh, when it remains outside of us... On the other hand it becomes a little difficult, when, in times of trial, we see those *dreams of glory* in which we had hoped as we followed Jesus "towards Jerusalem" fade to nothing.

Let's try to be a little more concrete. In general on the road towards God we identify somebody as a good guide. We trust them and we place our trust in them, despite the fact that the itineraries proposed are difficult and the passageways narrow and risky. Despite feeling tired, we continue to look towards our guide with a sense of esteem and respect, we identify our steps and his, running the risk of idealising the man and expecting him to correspond to our vision of things...

**Nevertheless, the moment comes when the ideal is put to the test** and it no longer promises consent but rather, on occasion it sometimes even causes public dissent. "Lord, even if I have to die with you I will not deny you", said Peter to Jesus. But He answered: "Peter, assuredly I say to you this night: before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times" (22, 31-34)

**The escape routes when we find ourselves in danger are always open** and they attract our weakness, insecurity, fear. Sometimes it would be sufficient to recognise our fear and humbly place our trust in those who can help us, to remain coherent with what we had believed and sustained. And so remain in peace, leaving events that do not depend on us to unwind in their own way, even if it is not always foreseeable and clear in our eyes.

**Difficulty removes our mask,** and it examines the purity of our intentions: "Am I with him because it is convenient for me, because sooner or later I will obtain something



in return? Or because I freely share a journey that may even penalise me, but that it is worth experiencing to the fullest?". We should sincerely ask ourselves this.

**The threat of defeat is always just around the corner.** We don't like it. Nobody likes the risk of appearing like losers, failures. It is not nice being unpopular, nor being accused or picked on. But this is the price to pay to bear fruit, especially in the name of Jesus who chose this and only this pathway: "Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you". (Mt 5,10-12).

**Jesus explains it clearly: "If the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you..."** If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15, 18, 20). And so, if we call ourselves Christians, why then do we flee from beneath the cross? Why do we abandon our place after having walked for so long, even if it is an ignoble place like that on Calvary?

These are deep and personal questions, which each of us can answer if we wish in the secret of our own heart. But celebrating the Cross and its praise at least presupposes the desire to be with Christ, poor and crucified, who chooses it so that it might be his throne of glory and not the cause of betrayal and escape. □

## From the Diary of Sr. Faustina

*"Jesus says to her: "My daughter, with patient submission to my will you give me the greatest glory and assure merits for yourself that are so great that you could never attain them with fasting or mortification of any kind. Know my daughter that if you submit your will to mine, you attract my predilection to yourself. Your sacrifice is pleasing to me and is full of sweetness. I find my pleasure in it, it is powerful!"*

*"Oh victim that is pleasing to my Father! Know this, my daughter, that the whole Blessed Trinity has a special predilection for the fact that you live solely according to God's will. No sacrifice is comparable to this...I unite myself to you in a wholly special way, so that you might love my will more than graces".*

"In His eternity, God welcomes what now, in our life, made of suffering and love, of hope, of joy and of sadness, grows and becomes. All man, all of his life is taken by God and in Him, purified, he receives eternity..."

Christianity not only announces some salvation of the soul in an unspecified afterlife, in which everything that was precious and dear to us in this world would be cancelled out, but it promises eternal life, "the life of the world to come": nothing of that which is precious and dear to us will go to ruins, it will find fullness in God".

*Benedict XVI*

(Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary)

## Now it's my turn!

There are moments in each of our lives when we perceive a very special calling that we feel is addressed only to us. Intuition and listening progress in the soul and spirit and reawaken the heart and mind. Like a flash of light in the night, we are struck by a message, by a voice, by a sound that immediately interrogates us and awaits an answer. At that moment, our whole person, in its fullness, is called to answer: why is God asking me and not the other person who stands beside me? The temptation to look around to see if that finger is pointing at someone else behind us causes us to turn around but strengthens the message that has been given to us. There is no more doubt, now it is my turn and He wants me to be His instrument.

I alone can do *this thing*, certainly not because I am the most capable nor the one with the most expertise, actually, God only knows how many people will have some criticism to make! Nevertheless, the Lord needs me to fulfil what he has asked of me. Perhaps the Lord needs my lack of experience the most, all he needs is my yes.

This is how the living encounter with God comes about. The calling and the grace are making themselves heard now and for me alone, why should I ignore them? In our freedom we can say yes and be joyful, we can say no and leave with sadness in our hearts.

## The peace that I was looking for

I found myself, a young person among many, once again in Medjugorje for the Festival, at the beginning of August. This time there were really lots of us there! Tens of thousands, someone said... But it is not the numbers that make the quality of that event (that has been repeated for over twenty years), but rather the quality of a meeting, that with Mary, who like always, knows how to find the way to meet all of us, one by one, in the secret of our heart.

I had lost my sense of peace for some time. Various situations in my daily life seemed to be going in the opposite direction. All I wanted seemed to have its doors firmly locked... I was running around, growing tired, but it seemed to me that I was only grasping butterflies!

In the world we fight within ourselves against the temptation to feel discouraged, and therefore to feel depressed and to rebel, and so to seek those distractions that occupy the mind in a superficial way to chase away the problem more easily... But then, when you close your eyes in the evening before falling asleep, worries return like ghosts and take away the good that you need the most: peace! This is why I accepted Mary's invitation on this occasion also, she who made herself the Queen of peace!

I arrived in Medjugorje with some friends; they too in search of answers for

What am I actually worried about? To fulfil what the Lord has asked me or am I afraid of other men's opinion? How many times do we advise God what he can ask us: "God, ask me anything but not this!..." But if I offer God everything, I also offer my arms, my hands, my voice... certain that at that moment I am not communicating myself but God's action.

We often bury our talents and live in the fog so as not to provoke anyone and so that nobody can judge us, but now is the time of grace in which the Lord needs me. The Lord is asking me for something original, it seems as though that voice hits us where we are most sensitive, like a warm wind that brings scents of the sea and reawakens new sensations. Now it is up to me to come out into the open, to stand like a *light on top of a bushel* so that everyone can see me in my truth and be an instrument. How many people laughed at Saint Francis, believing him to be mad, and he allowed himself to be seen naked and miserable because this is what the true Father needed...

We were called to life from eternity and the call to life is repeated every time and in a different manner, it will have colours and sounds that are forever new but it will have only one name: Jesus. Now it is my turn to incarnate Christ's love in my life, to be a holy temple of his presence.

*Alessandro Macinai*

their lives. Together we participated in what the programme proposed. The testimonies were interesting, the musical moments were enjoyable, but most of all it was the evening adorations before the Eucharist that gave the young people what they really needed: The living Jesus Christ, who conveys his tenderness and his love to you; who suggests that you undertake roads that you would never have imagined in your life; who consoles you and comforts you, encouraging you to experience pain as an occasion to grow and mature...



The darkness of the night favours intimacy, a heart to heart talk. The music, the brief words of the songs, help to create an atmosphere of peace. Yes, of peace. What I had really come to seek in Medjugorje. I found it in the silence of the Adoration, not in the racket... I found it in my heart, ready to re-emerge from the worries that were crowding it out even before my departure. I found it in Jesus, who was there waiting for me...

I never again left it: I brought it home together with Christ, who will continue to give it to me every day if I allow Him to remain alive, present in my heart.

It is my duty to keep it safe, because soon the aggressions of the world will attempt to subtract it from me once again. But if I can succeed in creating a place within me where I can live the adoration constantly "in spirit and in truth" nobody and nothing can take it away from me. And then I will truly be a daughter who is attentive to and responsible for the gift of the Queen of Peace!

*Elisabetta Parente*



## Waiting for a drop of water

Having accepted an invitation from a friend, I found myself experiencing a few days on the island of **Fuerteventura** in the Canaries. Some time ago I offered my life to the Lord and I know that everything that happens to me is in his hands and is *summed up* in Him.

I was quite struck by the reality of this island and its exterior characteristics led me to contemplate its spiritual dimension. I saw some contradictory signs: bare nature like I'd never seen before: like a desert, and alongside that, man-made buildings that were all too imposing (luckily not a lot of them) surrounded by lush palm trees and brightly coloured flowers...I was surrounded by the ocean, the boiling hot sun and yet the air seemed as light as that in the mountains.

Given that there was no mass celebrated on weekdays and the church remained closed, I climbed up the mountain to pray, in order to come to some understanding of what the Lord wanted to say to me after having led me to that place...The mountain was made of volcanic rock, the soil was brown and dusty. Not one plant, not an insect, not a bird...Scattered here and there were some low bushes, almost completely dry, and they attracted my attention. They were withered but not completely dead. They were hanging on to life by a thread. They were there, at the edge of survival, waiting for a drop of water...

They immediately brought me back to the condition of men...Of the "half dead" man who features in the parable of the *Good Samaritan*: wounded by the evil encountered during his life and awaiting a drop of love so as to be able to recover and bloom in his originality. Today's man, whom the Lord through his grace – drop after drop – maintains in existence, but whose spirit is almost dead; yet God, in his immense wisdom and patience "a bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench", but he waits, he offers himself, he loves...

The souls of purgatory who need our attention to be helped to welcome Jesus' offering, so as to then get back up and enter into the fullness of life...

And so a spontaneous prayer of blessing and intercession rose up within me, for the living and the dead of the island: a prayer of supplication to the Father so that the strong wind that was blowing might bring the Holy Spirit to needy souls; that he might give them strength and give them an opportunity to convert and come to a fuller life... The biblical passage of the dried out bones came to mind (Ez 37, 1-14), which is normally read on the Eve of Pentecost: "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet.

In this impervious place that is open to all types of spirits, I felt the desire to experience my royal priesthood, to be that drop of love offered, capable of appeasing all scorching heat and of bringing what seems dead back to life.

*Elena Ricci*

## Remember

"I will now remember the works of the Lord..." (Sir 42, 15)

Recalling a happy event is a little like reliving the joy of that moment. It is important then, to recall the works that the Lord fulfils in us and in others; it is important to recall the gifts of grace received.

The memory of good received helps us to love, to deal with the trials of everyday. Such a memory always brings joy, as the psalm says: When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. (Sal 63). Yes, we cannot fail to rejoice in the Lord when we recall Him. Memory favours praise to God, thanksgiving for all of His marvels. The recollection of the works of God is beauty of the soul and food, it is a shield and a form of defence from the evil one. And so we are not afraid of the future because Hope dwells in us.

The devil causes us to lose the memory of the Good received and puts a dark future before us that is impossible to live, in order to instil fear in our souls and make them his. The loss of "memory" places us in a constant situation of weakness, disorientation, in which evil may have a large role to play. For this reason "memory" is an important gift that we should ask God for: He alone can give it to us. It is up to us to keep it in silence; yes, in silence, because everything that makes noise in us, such as resentment, misunderstanding, conflict, envy, ambition, the craving to possess, prevents the soul from understanding.

The Gospel speaks to us of a person who practised interior silence, who "kept all these things in her heart" (Luke 2, 5). We know that this person is Mary. It is She who helps us to recall God's works, it is She who continuously reminds us of the Father's greatest gift: Jesus. To Her, therefore we must turn so as not to forget the good received. Let us place our trust in She who wishes to be our memory. And so the good we have received will not be sterile, it will be beneficial to us and to others.

## Pruning

Recent studies have shown that plants "suffer" when they are pruned. And so pruning, which is essential for many plants, especially fruit plants, is a form of "suffering" for them. Without pruning, the fruit will not go on to be tasty and abundant...

In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to us about a vine, which is Him, and vine-shoots, which are us. The Father is the farmer who prunes the shoots so that they might bear much fruit. The pruning that we experience in everyday life must not be cause for wonder then: without these our life would be sterile. It is unthinkable for us to detach ourselves from the Vine so as not to experience such pruning because that would be an illusion as: "he who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15, 5).

Let us grow accustomed then to looking at the "pruning" of every day not as something negative, to be avoided, but rather, as a gift, an opportunity for grace. And let us not fight against any of those who encourage our pruning: we would find ourselves fighting alone, against the only enemy, who is Satan, because God will certainly not be with us if we fight against our brother. Let us learn from Mary that only love has always brought fruit in great abundance. Let us ask her to give us a heart that is always attentive, to be able to recognise the Farmer who comes to prune us, so as not to hunt him away. And so perhaps we will bear fruits of joy for ourselves and for many. □

## The world embraces the Echo

We did not expect such an affectionate and united response from all parts of the world! A true embrace of the Echo, that is suffering due to a disproportionate increase in postal dispatch fees – as we shared with you in the last issue (Echo 210).

We had asked ourselves: "Should we stop here or is this a further challenge?" And then we took the time to reflect and wait for your proposals.

We received many through letters, telephone calls, messages. Some people confirmed their availability for the service. Others sent offerings in cash. Others expressed their esteem and encouragement: a veritable incitement not to "give up" despite our serious financial difficulties. All in all, a rally of solidarity and friendship, that urges us to *challenge* the evidence of costs that are still extremely high and to continue to believe in Providence which, if it is God's will, will help us step after step...

A big **THANK YOU** to all of you, because if the Echo continues to visit the most hidden corners of the world, it is thanks to your generosity.

**THANK YOU** to those of who expressed your comprehension and comfort.

**THANK YOU** to those of you who sent money to cover expenses.

**THANK YOU** to those of you who confirmed their willingness to distribute the Echo.

**THANK YOU** to those of you who agreed to download it from internet yet still send us a contribution...

**THANK YOU**, a thousand thanks to those who pray to the Lord that the Echo might continue its work; so that it might continue to *be an echo* of the grace that Mary is giving us so abundantly in Medjugorje.

With renewed hope and with a faith in God that is "purified in the melting pot" of the trial. The strength of communion nourishes and supports our commitment and the responsibility we feel to continue. For this, and for much more, the Echo would like to thank and, in turn...embrace the world!

## OUR READERS WRITE...

**Elena Belotti from Montello (BG - D):** "...To support you during this critical moment, I will continue to pay you the annual contribution according to my own possibilities, asking you however to no longer send Echo to my home; I will download it from the internet from the next issue. I pray to Our Lady that she might continue to support you so that your voice might continue to bear witness to faith in all the homes of the world".

**Piero Lucani from Bologna (Italy):** "After having read about the need to reduce the expenses as reported in the May issue, I would like to inform you that I can download the upcoming issues from the Internet and so you can avoid the postal dispatch fees. Thank you for what you are doing and I hope that your work can continue with the Lord's help".

**Arda Ramos from Puerto Rico:** "I send you many blessing from those who receive the Echo in Porto Rico: many people benefit from this wonderful magazine that speaks to us about that blessed place..."

### "I am breaking the silence to encourage you..."

Father Peter from the Carthusian monastery of Pleterje (Slovenia): "I would like to thank you for the Echo which, as always, has brought me a little of the Holy Land – Medjugorje – where I arrived twenty-one years ago from America, my native country, to spend the summer...Such are the ways of the Lord... and I trust that as he created a pathway for the Jews into the Red Sea, so too will he prepare a pathway for the Echo, which I recall every day in my prayers, especially on the altar.

I was the first foreigner in Medjugorje to join the brothers of Herzegovina and then I came here to the Carthusian monastery eighteen years ago, where I was later ordained a priest. Now I am breaking the silence a little and the withdrawn life of the monastery to encourage you to continue. Many of Mary's children throughout the whole world pray for this intention. A jubilee year is about to begin for Medjugorje: thirty years from the first apparition on Podbrdo. I am certain that the Queen of Peace will not leave us orphaned of the Echo!"

### A ninety-year-old postman for the Echo

Father Diego Camia from Rapallo (Italy): "My dear brothers and sisters, I read issue 210 of the Echo of Mary in one go yesterday evening. I found it wonderful and extremely useful for all Christians and non-Christians. I shall quote only one phrase: "You are unaware of the great love that God has for you..." How true are the words that Our Lady says to us!

I heard about the financial difficulties that you are experiencing due to the postal dispatch fees. If you want to send me all the private subscriptions that you have here in Rapallo in my parcel, I will willingly ensure that they are delivered to the individual addresses. This is no trouble for me and for Our Lady I will do it willingly, although I have already celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Holy Virgin continues to give me much strength and health. Enclosed please find a cheque for the parcel I received, it is double the usual amount, to encourage

you in your current financial difficulties. May the Queen of Peace help you and support you because you are doing an amount of good. I thank you in prayer and salute you, wishing you all the best".

**Sergio de Leon from Havana (Cuba):** "We hadn't received the Echo around here for some time...Thank you for everything that you are doing for us missionaries of the Campesinos. May the Most Blessed Trinity bless you and may Mary come to your aid..."

**Elsa Molina from Cuba:** "I am an assiduous reader of the Echo of Mary. When I receive a few copies of it I pass it on to others who enjoy reading it like me. Please send us some copies regularly and although our current situation does not enable us to send you an offer, we trust that God will help us to support you so as to receive these beautiful writings..."

**Barbara and Luciano Forlini from Lido di Jesolo (Venice):** "Heartfelt thanks for the Echo, that draws us into another "dimension" every two months, far from the futile problems of this earth. We always find it in the parish, may God bless you. Enclosed please find a modest offer. If possible we would like about fifty copies of your magazine to be sent to our home, so as to be able to distribute it and to spread the word about the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace".

**Odetta Ostwalt from Erstein (France):** "Thank you for the Echo...I recall when I used to work in Rome, I would find the Echo in Saint John's Basilica. I was in Medjugorje in 1987, when returning with my brother and his wife, I was involved in a serious car accident. I was trapped in the back but did not sustain any serious injuries. Upon returning to Rome, one of my colleagues used to say to me that it was a miracle that I survived... I still ask myself whether it may have been a sign for me to change my life..."

**Manuel Navos from the Philippines:** "I received the parcel containing the Echo of Mary. I thank you and God through our blessed Mother because what you have sent me is of great help in my mission among the prisoners. I hope that you will be able to send me as many copies as possible so that I might distribute them in the prisons that I visit, and there are lots of them...The detainees thank you with their prayers".

**Rita and Paul from Six fours les Plages (France):** "Thank you for your bulletin, thank you for continuing to send it to us and thank you to Mary for the peace that she spreads through the Echo..."

**Marilene Batt from Weillcourt (France):** "I distribute the Echo to many people (pilgrimages, trips etc..). I have read about your financial difficulties. I am certain that they will be transitory. I am sending you my offer... Do not despair, do not stop. The Holy Virgin wants this little magazine to continue to touch the hearts of many people. Satan does not want it, but we mustn't listen to him! Mary will help you to help people through the Echo".

**Sister Laure-Marie the Carmelite convent of Frileuse (France):** "Dear friends, after reading about your financial difficulties, I feel that I should thank you so much for this little magazine that develops God's Word and helps us to live in the spirit of the Gospel, like the Virgin Mary..."

**Jacqueline Hiver from Saint Calais (France):** "Your Echo is a holy and excellent publication, that brings inner peace and grace and in turn, it develops a desire within us to become holy. It is of great value in the Church, that I love very much...May Mary assist you in your apostolate, which is wonderful and courageous. I can only help you with prayer and with the offering of my illnesses and humiliations..."

**Josette Bugaut from Zournus (France):** "Dear friends, I was so happy to receive the Echo! You spoke so well of the blessing in issue 208...I am aware that the blessing is necessary and I never leave the church without having received it. Then, I bring it everywhere with me...I am sending you a little offer, which I will renew often because I would like the Virgin Mary to be prayed to throughout the world".

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### Echo fully relies on readers' donations.

To all who have been instruments of Providence for Echo, enabling us to continue to help Mary reach her children, goes our heartfelt thanks, whom we remember especially in prayer and at Holy Mass.

If you desire a written response for your donation, please kindly request it. May God reward you and your loved ones onehundredfold!

*"When I say "HERE I AM Lord", then God's answer also departs. He gives me the gift to love, he gives me his touch of sweetness and tenderness; he gives me an embrace that no man on earth can give me, and I accept to live his life and I set out on my journey with a renewed faith.  
This is because from that living experience, I begin to believe more firmly that He is guiding my life, He is guiding the events in time and in the universe".*

*Enjoy the journey!*

**Villanova M., 8 september 2010**

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