



Message of the 25th of November 2010:

“Dear children! I look at you and I see in your heart, death without hope, restlessness and hunger. There is no prayer or trust in God, that is why the Most High permits me to bring you hope and joy. Open yourselves. Open your hearts to God’s mercy and he will give you everything you need and will fill your hearts with peace, because he is peace and your hope. Thank you for having responded to my call”.

Open your hearts to God’s mercy

Mary’s gaze penetrates into the depths of our hearts, into our soul, and it sees what we are incapable of grasping: the misery of the human heart when it remains closed within its human nature. **Death without hope** indicates the natural outlet of a life in which God is set aside; **worry and hunger** indicate the incompleteness of such a life, the emptiness in which we struggle.

But we must be careful: Mary’s words are not only valid for those who “live without God”, but also for we who call ourselves Christians, for we who “pray”, for we who “have faith”, for we who in our hearts consider ourselves better than many “sinners”, for us too, and perhaps particularly for us, these are Mary’s words! It is not sufficient to say “*Lord, Lord*” to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, nor to boast wonderful accomplishments presumably in His Name; neither words nor works are sufficient; it is necessary to *do the Will of the Father who is in heaven* (cfr Mt 7, 21-23). We, who attach too much importance to our works and our words, struggle to understand and accept Jesus’ teaching. But it is sufficient to stop for a moment and think according to human logic and examine “God’s logic”, as it appears in the Gospel, to understand. Despite the successes of science and technology, something will always be missing from our lives, death will always hang over us; we cannot “save” our bodies and much less our souls “forever”, if we set God aside. Yet, since God was made man, since the Incarnation of Jesus, God is no longer far from us; now God is near to us, next to us, now he is actually in us if we want Him.

But we refuse that meeting; we refuse to communicate with Him, we don’t pray; we don’t place our trust in Him. **There is neither prayer nor trust in God and so the Most High allows me to bring you hope and joy.** God is still waiting for us, but...for how long? Mary bursts into the shadows of our hearts, sent by God to bring more **hope and joy** (but until when)? Jesus cried on Jerusalem, as it failed to recognise the era of his Visit; today do we want to deny the era of



“Although man might forget or refuse God, God never tires of calling each and every man to seek him out so that he might live and find happiness. But such a search requires all the efforts of man’s intelligence, the rectitude of his will, and also the testimony of others who might guide him in his search for God...”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Mary’s presence among us? Do we want to continue to glance at her Messages while our heart remains far from them and grows tired of hearing the “same things” repeated over and over? Perhaps we have also tried to put some of Mary’s invitations into practice, but then life reabsorbed us and our condition is now worse than what it was before. But She is still with us and She seeks us out, She calls us, She urges us, She waits for us.

This is the era of God’s Mercy, the last possibility offered to humanity to save itself, as Jesus said to us through Saint Faustina Kowalska and as Mary repeats to us today: **Open your hearts to God’s mercy and He will give you everything you need and fill your hearts with peace because He is your peace and your hope.** God truly gives us everything; he has already given us everything, beyond all our claims, beyond all expectations: he gave us Himself in Jesus. What more do we expect? Let us not allow our days to be consumed by nothingness, by the apparent, by the provisional: all of this is in the power of the enemy, the liar, he who mortifies (that is, kills) hope in us. Let us raise our eyes to the Father; let us open up, let us throw open our hearts to Him. Let the invitation that closes this Message from Mary be our daily commitment and Jesus will come to us. Let us listen to this invitation from Mary, that is so similar to the order given a long time ago to the servants in Cana of Galilee, let us do like they did and the water that we offer will become wine of a divine quality.

Nuccio Quattrocchi

Message of the 25th of December 2010:

“Dear children! Today, I and my Son desire to give you an abundance of joy and peace so that each of you may be a joyful carrier and witness of peace and joy in the places where you live. Little children, be a blessing and be peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

Carriers and witnesses of peace and joy

The Prophet’s prayer: “Rain down, you heavens, from above and let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together” (Is 45, 8) and even more so St. Jerome’s version: “Rain down the heavens from above and let the skies pour down Justice...” seem to be a good introduction to this Message from Mary which opens up with the overabundant gift of **joy and peace**. Heaven and earth meet, they touch, they penetrate each other. **Dear children, today my Son Jesus and I wish to give you the abundance of joy and peace.**

This abundance is fullness, completeness. Although they are so debased within the world, so adulterated and emptied of all their intrinsic purity and vitality, passing through the hearts and hands of Jesus and Mary, joy and peace are given to us in all their glory, in all the power of their divine, immaculate, nature. Now it is up to us to welcome them as they are offered to us from Them; it is up to us to preserve them in their virginity, it is up to us to protect them from all mundane wear and tear, from all commercialisation, from all undue appropriation. They are not commercial goods, they are not private assets, they do not belong to us: we do not possess them in any way and in any sense. They are the Breath of the Spirit, they are the Breath of Life, they are Drops of the Father’s Heart, that taste of innocent Blood, that taste of the Cross.

Peace and joy that do not assure power or human glory, or mundane successes, or satisfaction of any kind. **Peace and joy** that do not preserve us from illnesses, from humiliation, from suffering, from betrayal. Yet they are priceless gifts, already here, on this earth, and not only in the after life. **Peace and joy** that position us in the Father’s Heart, that free us from all fear, that release us from all slavery; all of this is given to us **so that each of us might be joyous carriers and witnesses of joy in the places we live.**

This is an essential clause and it does not limit the gratuitousness of the gift, but rather, it highlights its divine origin; every gift from God is not for the exclusive use of one person, but for the good of everyone. Peace and joy do not lessen if shared, but rather, they grow; this is the miracle of the *sharing of the loaves* that

A lack of mystics encourages spiritual aridity

was implemented many times by Jesus and that has always been present in the history of the Church, up to our time. What is only yours saddens you, makes you miserable and soon rots; what is given as a gift lives and blooms. In this world that is so divided up into castes, into groups of power, into clans, into feuds, into opposing religious ideals, *the divisor* may seem to be more prevalent than the God of Love; but this is not the case. Christ's sacrifice is not in vain and Love will triumph. Let us remain in fervent and assiduous prayer, let us live Mary's messages, let us carry and bear witness to peace and joy that are gifts from God. **Children, be blessing and be peace** Mary urges us. And this is what we must be; She will do the rest, Jesus will do it.

Peace and joy in Jesus and Mary.

Nuccio Quattrocchi

The mystery of our existence

Let's try to push our memories back. Some episode associated with school or pre-school...some flash about what we experienced as important: everyone must be able to list some memories, be they confused or clear, some from the age of five years, some from the age of three...and some even before then. We found ourselves existing without having asked for or desired such an existence; we breathed and had a name even when we were still unaware.

When did we realise that we were "in the world"? Perhaps one day we managed to stop, reflect and be amazed like children: "I exist! I'm here too!"

Now let's change direction, let's look towards the future. Certainly everyone will have an idea of what they are going to do tomorrow and perhaps in a month or a year, but beyond that? And here we may get lost amidst dreams and plans, but we know well how much these might be revealed to be in vain. And if we were to look even further ahead? Our only certainty is that sooner or later we will die. And then, will there be something *beyond*?

Our life is a gift: the beginning and the end of this journey escape us; they do not belong to us. Nobody gave themselves life alone and nobody is necessary for this world. I realise this: everything would continue on even without me...

Perhaps all of this is sufficient to say that God *must exist*? A God who wanted me, who thought of me and moulded me as a unique person, he wanted my existence as original and unrepeatable in the history of the world? A God who leaves me free to choose, but who **gives me the gift of understanding that this life of mine is not fully mine** and it is part of a bigger plan?

No, there is no answer. We are once again before the mystery: how limited is our reasoning and how great is our freedom!

Those who decided that God mustn't exist will find sufficient arguments to fail to recognise the numerous signs that send us back to Him. Those on the other hand who are open to meeting Him will know how to return to be amazed countless times before the mystery of our existence. Every new thought, every life experience will become for them like a ray of light that penetrates a little deeper into that infinite truth that will only be revealed to us in Heaven.

Francesco Cavagna

One of the causes of the decline in religious practice, especially in developed countries, is "the weakening of mystical inspiration". This is what is affirmed by Father Marcello Stanzone, chairman of the Associazione Milizia di San Michele Arcangelo, in an interview with the daily newspaper Zenit. "The theological science studied in universities obviously rightly bases itself on the intellect, which is important, actually essential – explained Father Marcello – but we must be careful not fall into theological rationalism, what I mean is, for example when we speak of Angels, we shrug our shoulders and affirm: "Yes, **Angels do exist**, the Bible speaks of them, as does catechism, but we don't know too much about them, in actual fact, they aren't that important, and so we're not interested in them...!"

Father Marcello, who has written numerous books on Angels, is also the Chairman of the Angelology Study Centre. "It is rare – the priest continued – to find theology courses with systematic lessons on Angels and demons and this is also reflected in the preaching in churches, where we rarely hear talk of Celestial Spirits. Mysticism on the other hand, Father Marcello reveals, enables us to understand that God is beyond our logical comprehension, because he ob-

We will see angels

Stefano Redaelli, a researcher in a space centre, believes in angels and in his book "Arrivano in tempo" he recounts some stories about them. "All you need do is want to see them: perhaps they present themselves in the face of a friend, or in that telephone that rings just at the right time", he affirms. A physics graduate, he has been living and working in Warsaw since 1997, where he deals with chaos and the solar wind in a space research centre. In an interview with ZENIT he explains that his scientist colleagues have never seen an angel in their space research. "Perhaps we need to look for angels on earth, not amidst the clouds or the stars", he says.

"Who are guardian angels?" Spiritual creatures that accompany us in that extraordinary and arduous journey that we call life, with a precise duty: to show us the way, when we've lost it, to offer us something to lean on, if we are slipping, a hand to get back up, to support us.

Angels never go out of fashion, because the soul never goes out of fashion. It may get dusty, dirty, sick, it may wither, you can put it away in a drawer, but it will never be outdated. There is a thirst for illumination in our era: a quiet thirst, hidden by gulps of life that do not quench it. And there is a need for signs.

Angles do this: they show a light, a sign, they act as a bridge between the heavens and the earth. The angel rises up as a symbol of a spirituality that we all yearn for. There are those who feel

viously goes beyond it. The lack of mystics encourages spiritual aridity".

"The climate of spiritual aridity – he explained therefore – causes many baptised people and people who are educated in the Catholic religion in some way to seek spirituality in Buddhist meditation groups, new age phenomena, sophist or other alternative religious movements with respect to the Church of Rome. As far as angelology is concerned, there are very few modern Catholic authors who deal with such themes, while in the past there were countless works of spirituality on Angels. When I go into a bookshop I am discouraged upon seeing that the vast majority of texts about Angels consists of non-catholic publications", he added.

For the Chairman of the Milizia di San Michele Arcangelo, the mystic is important, as a witness, because he/she "lives in a continuous union with God and he/she makes that union not only an intellectual experience, but a profound existential experience and therefore as Saint Paul might also repeat: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2, 20)".

Lastly, quoting a phrase by the Dominican brother Antonin-Gilbert Sertillanges, Father

Marcello said that "there is no doubt about the fact that there is a link between holiness and angelical existence, only that nobody has ever become a saint because they saw Angels, but they saw Angels because they became a saint!" □



a strange sense of fear upon hearing the words of God, a sense of transcendence and distance. The angel, on the other hand, remains easier to accept. I don't think that this offends God. The angel is a mediator between God and man. If we are careful

and willing, the angel will lead us to God. And it will lead God to us.

How is it possible to feel their presence? We need to refine the senses of our soul: sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. We need to learn once again to tune in to the world of the spirit. Science teaches the experimental method. We believe in that which we encounter in direct experience, in that which is measurable, reproducible. I believe that this criterion is in a certain way extendable to the immaterial world.

To experience spiritual realities we need to start up the engine of love in our hearts. "I will reveal myself to those who love me", we find written in the Gospel. Angels are a manifestation of God's personal love for us. Sometimes a very modest act of love is sufficient to throw open the heavens. Those who have experienced it know. You can become familiar with this type of experience.

Perhaps it is the only salvation in a world that is sometimes dominated by an asphyxiating materialism. If it seems that we can no longer breathe, that we can no longer feel beyond what is purely material, let us start loving: we'll discover a whole new world, we'll learn to inhabit it, we'll miss it. We'll end up preferring it. We will see angels". (source: Zenit)

Luminous mysteries, mysteries of transformation

by Stefania Consoli

“In the First Luminous Mystery we contemplate Jesus’ baptism...”. This is how the prayer of the “fourth rosary” commences, that the Church proposed a few years ago for us to reflect on, thanks to the initiative of John Paul II. And then it continues, going from one event to another in Christ’s life, without a logical consequentiality, because the events described are positioned in times and contexts that are quite diverse.

Yet a common guiding thread links them all invisibly, a link that shines the same *light* on all of them... Let’s try to discover it.

The journey opens with the scene of the Jordan, as we have already seen. The Baptism of Christ. This baptism is different from the one that the Baptist imparted on the penitents who implored conversion, because in this case it was God himself who immersed himself in those waters, only to then start out on his messianic journey amidst the streets of Palestine, seeking out the “lost sheep” of the house of Israel.

What really happens during a baptism? A transformation. From a state of sin inherited from our origins, we move to a condition of being redeemed, destined to perfect ourselves with the holiness of life. Obviously this was not the case with Jesus, *innocent and stainless lamb* by nature. But by allowing himself to be baptised in the Jordan, the Lord wanted to say to us that anything that comes into contact with him changes, is transformed, is no longer like it was before...

This is how it was that day also for the waters of the river that welcomed Jesus’ body: they were sanctified by the divine grace that flowed forth from him and they incurred a profound change, becoming waters capable of transforming those who still today allow themselves to be bathed in the baptismal font into *new creatures*, invoking the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This first luminous mystery thus proposes an essential condition for us in our journey of faith: the call to transform our whole being that must allow itself to be reached by God’s “touch” through life’s various events. A call to continuously immerse ourselves in the water of the Spirit who washes, purifies and removes those layers that cover man on the inside, who needs to re-emerge in order to be able to fulfil himself completely in God’s will.

Let’s move on to the second mystery: In Cana of Galilee, Jesus transforms simple water into good wine for the wedding. A transformation that foretells his omnipotence and the power of mediation of his Mother Mary “before time”; a transformation that comes about to the joy of the fellow guests at that nuptial banquet, but really also destined for us and for the whole population: God’s *epiphany* that has come to transform our lives, that are afflicted by evil, into jubilee and exultance.

From here we start out on the mission par excellence: in the third Luminous Mystery, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God and heals the ill. Almost as if to say: if you wish

to heal your physical, mental and spiritual illnesses, you must change mentality, you must transform your thoughts, your way of looking at things, the world, yourselves... taking on God’s look. “*Dear children – Mary repeats to us in Medjugorje – in this time of grace, convert and put God in the first place in your lives. (25 August 2007)....Convert, dear children, open yourselves up to God and to his plan for each of you. (25 February 2009).*”

Conversion is always an essential condition for our true healing, on the inside and on the outside. Walking according to the laws of the Spirit, we feel how the heart transforms day by day and our ability to love is healed.

Let’s go a step further. Let’s climb up the Mountain with Jesus. To Tabor to be exact. In the third luminous mystery we contemplate the transfiguration of Jesus before the incredulous eyes of his disciples: “He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining” (Mk 9, 3). Christ’s appearance changes, he gives us a preview of the face that he will have after having fulfilled his victory over death; his eternal face, that shines forth in glory *at the right hand side of the Father.*

This time the transformation becomes even more obvious, but what is truly surprising is what happens in the hearts of the apostles: they are the ones who change! Their conception of that Master changes, the Master that they were following *from city to city:* they see him in his divine majesty, completely different from the idea that they had of him and from the Messiah as tradition had presented him up to then.

And by praying this mystery we must interrogate ourselves profoundly: what image do we have of God? What face does “our” Jesus have? That which meets our expectations? That which fulfils our human plans, our calculations? What which fits together perfectly with forms and traditions? ...or are we willing to allow ourselves to be surprised by Him and be blinded by His grace that opens up unexpected and completely new horizons to us?

And to find the answer we must move on to the fifth luminous mystery: Jesus establishes the Eucharist, the mystery of the highest and holiest transformation that exists; the change of substance of bread that admirably becomes the very body of Christ. An incredible transformation, but not only because a fistful of flour is transformed into risen flesh, but because by consuming a mouthful of that bread, we ourselves are transformed, we become part of him, entering into profound communion with his spirit and his very life.

It is here that our questions are answered: God is not the fruit of an idea. God is not an image that adapts itself to our needs, like a frame to a picture already drawn. God is a living reality, capable of transforming all things for the better, if we respect him for what he is, if we are willing to allow ourselves to be penetrated by him and to be drawn into that dimension in which everyone takes on a new image, becomes transfigured, purified, to be definitively risen up to the Father. God is most pure Light, and by praying these mysteries faithfully, his rays will be able to reach us where we need transformation the most and thus make us definitively become: *new creatures.* □

BENEDICT XVI Priests only if united with Christ

It was the centre of attention for a whole year. Much was said, discussed and written about the priesthood and the priestly ministry. Nevertheless, it remains a very vast subject because the grace associated with the priest is very deep, it is a grace that is unleashed directly from Christ’s priesthood that makes it topical here, on earth.

On several occasions Pope Benedict XVI dealt with the various themes associated with the priesthood, highlighting that only in total unity with Jesus the presbyter can truly experience and express his ministry.

Last June in Rome he ordained some presbyters. During that circumstance in some way he traced out the fundamental features that the priest should have in his opinion. Below are some extracts.

“Only those who have an intimate relationship with the Lord and who are grasped by Him, can bring him to others, and can be sent. It is a question of “remaining with Him” that must always accompany the exercise of the priestly ministry; it must be its core, also and above all during difficult moments, when it seems that the “things to do” must have the priority. Wherever we are, whatever we do, we must always remain with Him.

The priesthood can never represent a way of attaining safety in life or a way of conquering a social standing. Those who aspire to the priesthood so as to increase their own personal prestige and their own power have misunderstood the meaning of this ministry from the root. Those who wish above all to achieve their own ambition, and attain personal success will always be slaves of themselves and of public opinion.

To be considered, they will have to flatter; they will have to say what is pleasing to people; they will have to adapt to changes in fashions and opinions and, thus, they will deprive themselves of a vital relationship with the truth, reducing themselves to condemning tomorrow what they praised today. A man who lives his life like this, a priest who sees his ministry in these terms, does not truly love God and others, but only himself and, paradoxically, he will end up losing himself.

The sacrifice of Christians is being united by Christ’s love in the unity of the single body of Christ. The sacrifice consists of coming out of ourselves, allowing ourselves to be drawn into the communion of the single bread, the single Body, and thus entering into the great adventure of God’s love. And so we must celebrate, live, and always meditate on the Eucharist, as this school of freedom from my “self”. (...) In this way we must learn the Eucharist, which is the opposite of clericalism, closure within oneself. (...) Experiencing the Eucharist in its original sense, in its true depth, is a school of life, it is the safest protection against all temptation of clericalism”.



That priest who...

What transfiguring beauty is visible in the person of the priest when he welcomes God's life within himself before offering the sacrifice of Christ! What spiritual peace is transmitted by a priest who offers himself fully to the Lord in a loving sacrifice together with Jesus! What humility is visible in the life of that priest who prays united with the Lord, simply allowing the Holy Spirit to be God, praying and working in him!

The eyes of faith see beyond appearances, beyond all humanly visible gestures, beyond all words that are said or proclaimed. The eyes of faith see beyond the flesh that dresses man on earth and they spiritually understand not only the dynamic mystery of divine inhabitation but also that of Trinitarian communion. The priest who offers himself to the Lord actively, freely and consciously, becomes a holy icon of divine goodness; he becomes that channel of grace that mystically strikes the heart of simple people who seek God sincerely.

The fruit of a fullness

The priest who is "full" of God speaks by virtue of a direct knowledge of the true God present in him, who travels through his soul spiritually, transforming it, enlivening it, purifying it, and sanctifying it perfectly.

The priest allows himself to be moulded on the inside by the mystery of divine love, which allows itself to be seduced spiritually by the Triune God, who enjoys hearing the prayers of the humble, the poor, he will find the mystery of the living and working word within himself, Jesus Christ. Only with this interior passage will the priest acquire the value of the true testimony of the Truth incarnate. Otherwise within the priest there is no living meeting with Christ the eternal priest, from whom all priesthood originates and without whom no priest can bear fruit.

Resting on themselves

The priest who on the other hand, remains closed within himself, does not allow God to act in him, to manifest himself through his gestures: remains empty of authentic knowledge, empty of the living Word, sterile in his preaching, poor of divine newness, deprived of that divine Presence that alone strongly blesses souls. The priest who rests on himself, on his doctrinal knowledge, on his human habits, on his own thoughts, neglects the spirit of the Gospel because he does not seek out the strength of real faith from God.

Thanks to the good shepherds

I thank God for those priests who helped me on my interior journey towards really meeting Jesus. Thanks to those priests who by dying to themselves, taught me great things about faith in God and his providence, who forced me, lovingly but firmly, to look around. Thanks to those priests who accompanied me, supporting me in my first steps and who then protected me with their offering to God. Thanks to those priests who went before me along the way, illuminating the journey towards God's Kingdom with their faith.

I thank then all those priests who obey the Lord's voice and who offered themselves within to divine will, to be joyful carriers

of Christ's Mystery as "useless servants". I thank all those who gave me an example of great abandonment into the Father's hands, with that ardent love and radiant peace that are born of poorness of spirit and forgetting oneself. I pray for all of them, so that in the light of the living Word, they might discern the true meaning of the succession of Christ the Good Shepherd!

The mystery of true faith

Faith is not only believing that God exists, it is allowing God to implement his plan of love for us. Faith is not about thinking that God exists, but it is about giving God's thought the right place within ourselves. Faith is God within us...

And so I pray continuously so that every priest might understand the mystery of true faith, of the ministerial priesthood according to Christ's Heart: God's freedom within them! I pray because I know that my simple prayer is delivered to God the Father through the

hands of Jesus the priest, and it is protected as far as Heaven by Mary's maternal hands: and so it becomes true prayer!

M. Grazia Caramaschi Calati

*"Prayer is not about formulae;
it involves our whole life...
and so you will pray
without ever growing tired,
if prayer does not make
do with formulae and if,
on the contrary,
you remain united with God
throughout your whole existence,
so as to make your life
an incessant prayer".*

Basil of Caesarea (homilies)

SIMPLE THOUGHTS by Pietro Squassabia

A sharing of duties

One day Jesus said to his apostles: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added on to you" (Mt 6, 33). With these words the Master seems to propose the following sharing of duties: *I'll deal with material and spiritual things, and you deal with loving, that is, with seeking the kingdom of God...* This seems to be the agreement that God wants to establish with us, He who gave us the desire and the ability to love. Therefore, like those who are in need, Jesus expects a commitment to love from us, and always, because in this way we give him the possibility of working in us, and through us, in others.

There is no neutral field within the framework of the Spirit: either we "play" in God's field, or in that of the Devil. A lack of love makes us automatically "play" in our opponent's field and it exposes us to the risk of losing, of not doing good. Therefore, despite our weaknesses, let us commit to loving everyone, even those who put obstacles in our way, even those who are enraged with us, even those who never smile, even those who only think of their own interests. In this way perhaps, we will be given the gift of peace that will dwell stably within our hearts. In this way, perhaps, we will act like Jesus, who smiled at the "good thief" from the cross, and redeemed him. In this way, perhaps, we will be given an overflowing *measure*. May Mary, Mother of Love, take up a place in our hearts so that Her love might become ours, so that we might all have the centuple: Jesus.

When we love, nothing more worries us, nothing more makes us feel afraid, as Saint Francis teaches us: not even the wolf, who becomes our brother, not even death, which becomes our sister, not even the Devil, who is reduced to impotence. It is true: love crushes all worry, all fear, even fear of death.

The smile

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say: rejoice" (Phil 4, 4)

A happy person smiles and brings happiness. God smiles and has given man the ability to always smile, because he wants us to live in happiness. Certainly Jesus conquered the "good thief" on the cross, not with discourse, but with a smile, that the man replied to, and so he was immediately able to enter Heaven with his Lord. Yes, because only those who smile enter Heaven, otherwise they will not enter, they will remain at the gates until they learn to smile...

The devil never smiles, he does not know how to smile, and actually he hates smiles because they bring good: he always impedes them because they remind him of the love and joy that he refused forever.

Those who smile know how to thank their God, first and foremost and then their neighbour. Those who are sad and worried on the other hand, do not give thanks and always complain with everyone, even with their Lord. This is why Satan, the accuser, always tries to make us sad and worried, so that we might do his work: accuse God and our brothers...

When we smile Jesus is among us, he rests among us and in us. He cannot be with us when we are in the midst of sadness and worry because we allow his place to be occupied by the devil, who prefers such environments. Chiara Lubich (ed. Founder of the Focolare Movement), affirms that it is very important to smile because smiles cause the devil to flee from us. Perhaps this is why the apostle Paul invites us to always be happy! And so, let us always smile and be happy, in every situation...let Mary generate a happy heart in us, to sing, like Her, the marvels of Her Lord and ours.

Reflections of light from Mary's land

by Stefania Consoli

Incarnation, an ordinary event

We've started again. The liturgical cycle is complete and we've immediately recommenced, proposing the contemplation of the celestial mysteries of the Incarnation and the birth of the Son of God. A rhythm that is known and nevertheless never the same, because the grace that accompanies the various passages of the life of Christ is constantly new.

This spiritual intensity however, is not only reserved for the "strong times" of the liturgical year. *Ordinary* days too – often apparently similar – receive depth from the *Life* that we have once again welcomed at Christmas and that now proceeds promptly to fulfil its Easter mission of salvation.

What happens within us throughout all these passages? Are we external spectators of these events or do we allow ourselves to become involved to the point of becoming protagonists? And, given that the Eucharist is the utmost manifestation of God on earth today, perhaps we should ask ourselves an even more concrete question: are we those who simply "go" to Mass or those who "experience and celebrate" Mass?

"Dear children! I wish to call you to a living of the Holy Mass. There are many of you who have sensed the beauty of the Holy Mass, but there are also those who come unwillingly. I have chosen you, dear children, but Jesus gives you His graces in the Mass. Therefore, consciously live the Holy Mass and let your coming to it be a joyful one. Come to it with love and make the Mass your own. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Message of 3 April 1986)

"Dear children! I am calling you to a more active prayer and attendance at Holy Mass. I wish your Mass to be an experience of God..." (Message of 16 May 1985).

Jesus' incarnation is not an ancient event, it is not a memory or a memorial to be celebrated once a year. The true meaning of the Incarnation of God is his entry into our flesh, every day. Inhabited by Him, by his Spirit, we should then know how to offer Jesus our limbs so that they might be his limbs. Eyes with which to look with infinite tenderness. A mouth with which to say good, or better, to bless. Hands with which to console, to heal, to serve... Feet with which to embark on the journey towards the right destination, without taking the wrong road, to arrive at the Father.

God cannot become incarnate today if we do not make space for him within ourselves. He needs *living temples* within which to position his palpitating heart to be able to love the world, to be able to visit those situations of shadows that need his light to rediscover hope. He doesn't need walls, stones or great speeches, Jesus wants our life within which to live and a place in which to be able to welcome all the souls that seek it.

We needn't do anything special. Just allow him to "move us" as he wishes, in total freedom. And to be obedient to all impulses that we recognise as coming from him. We will be swift in our apostolate...

If all of this has come about then we will have truly celebrated Christmas. We will truly have commenced the "ordinary" liturgical time if we are capable of making our day "extraordinary". It is his presence that transfigures it. Christ's presence changes the sign of our days, which if they are offered to Him, become a continuous mass, a perennial thanksgiving to the Father for the gifts that he offers us constantly, beginning from the precious gift of life.

Let us commit *through Christ, with Christ and in Christ*, to intensely live every instant that

is given to us, knowing how to fill it with meaning, without wasting anything. Let us look with love and compassion at that which is still limited and immature within ourselves and around us, but without stalling too much, without allowing ourselves to be withheld, because there is no more time for the things that make us run around ourselves and others... *The time is near* and Jesus is at the centre, to whom we must give back all things created. Let us start from our own small little world. Let us start from ourselves. The rest will come as a consequence. And we will be the living Eucharist.

You do not ask me for extraordinary feats:
A snowflake is enough to give rise to a river.
A drop of water is enough to pierce
a hole in a stone.
A star is enough to light up the sky.
A flower is enough to brighten up the desert.
A smile is enough to start a friendship.
A yes is enough to give yourself
to your lover.
A tear is enough to cancel
a mountain of sins.
A piece of small change is enough
to make a treasure great.
You are an extraordinary God, Lord,
because you judge what is small
and ordinary
to be great and marvellous,
because you measure nothing
with a ruler or a scales,
but always only on the basis of silence
and the hidden heartbeat
Help me, Lord, every day
to always give you the best of me,
even if it is little, given that
you don't ask extraordinary feats of me,
but only to do ordinary things
with an extraordinary heart.

(Anonymous)

The windowsill of our life

It's still dark in the house despite the fact that the tepid shades of the dawn are already colouring the sky. Morning is breaking and is hunting away the night with its uncertainties nesting in darkness. Reawakening puts us back into contact with the

realities that we left behind yesterday, before encountering dreams that were never dreamt, images that were never seen...

Reeds of sunlight filter through from the shutters and rest discreetly on the floor. It seems almost like an annunciation: it's time to open the window and allow the new day to enter the house!

A gust of fresh air collides with the still numb body; air that frees the breath and dilates the capacity of life throughout the whole being. Upon first impact, our sleepy eyes contract, almost wounded by the light, but then they adapt to the dazzle and start to shoot around to try to understand if there is any news...

The beginning of a morning might well be like this. Some of you will no doubt have experienced it. But if we notice, we might well experience the same thing in our spirit. In ourselves, in fact, there is an inner window that separates the visible world from the world that crosses the frontier into eternity...

When we pray sincerely, when we immerse ourselves in Mary's heart, when we allow the sacraments to act, when we are in harmony with creation...we approach an invisible *windowsill* from where, if we look out with trust, we can clearly see ample traces of the Heavens.

First of all we must faithfully open the *shutters* of our heart, to allow the light of grace to enter, which offers us new life like a dawn. Then we must accept the fact that we are leaving behind the immobility of our fears, the narrow rooms of selfish calculations, the dark corners of hypocrisy and the falsity with which we continuously relate to God, to ourselves and to others...

In our depths there are wardrobes full of habits that leave us constantly the same, incapable of growth and change. Out of convenience or out of fear? Out of need or

scarce trust? Who knows why. Everyone is a mystery. But there are those who enclose themselves every day in small little drawers so as to keep control of their lives through logics that guarantee continuity with a past that is known and therefore for this reason, apparently inoffensive...

It was Christmas just yesterday. The *Sun that rises from Above* came to the earth. Did we welcome the invitation to throw open our being and allow *His Day* to enter? The one that gives us a gift of new amazement and joy and makes us breathe freely, forgetting what the world imposes on us as burdens and worry? Have we accepted to leave the "old things" behind, things already used during the past year, to make space for that which will open up before our days?

"Dear children! In this time of grace, when nature also prepares to give the most beautiful colours of the year, I call you, little children, to open your hearts to God the Creator for Him to transform and mould you in His image, so that all the good which has fallen asleep in your hearts may awaken to a new life and a longing towards eternity. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Message, 25 February 2010).



BEARING WITNESS

It is impossible to live without God!

Medjugorje 19 August 1995, approximately 11.40 a.m. We came out of the church where I had accompanied my wife to Mass. I had gone in as a spectator because I did not believe in God... To pass the time during the celebration I counted those present: twenty-three people, including three children! This figure remained in my mind because later on I compared it with the number of faithful who currently participate in Mass in Italian in Medjugorje...

Having come out of the church, we walked towards the sacristy where the priest, who had just finished celebrating the Eucharist, was talking to the people I met yesterday on the boat. It started raining and to avoid getting wet, we moved under the roofing of the confessionals. After a few minutes of conversation and thirty-five years of total absence from the Church and distance from faith, I decided to go to confession! I informed my wife of this decision and she looked at me a little surprised but decidedly happy. In fact, she was the maker and main tool of my conversion. It certainly wasn't something sudden, but a journey of maturation, full of doubts, interrogations, fears...

I don't want to go to hell!

I believe that this journey began on the day that thought came to my mind (or perhaps to my heart?): "I don't want to go to hell!". An exclamation that left me feeling amazed, fearful and disorientated, because, given that I am the victim of my own pride, I had no intention of asking anyone for illumination or help.

But my Mother Mary was watching over me from Heaven, doing all she could so that this unexpressed wish for eternal life, might be fulfilled through my conversion...

The shopping list

And so I entered the confession box and began to speak with a certain hesitancy... I was no longer familiar with this sacrament, I had remained at the style used during before the Council, when it was an obligation to have the *shopping list!* But with fatherly sweetness, the priest helped me to free myself from the burden of the sins that I had accumulated over a lifetime, sins that I often wasn't even aware I had committed and others that it pained me to even mention, I felt shame and incredulity for having committed them...

Look at that star

All those who adore Christ, who row their boat through the waters of this world, must turn their eyes to that star of the sea - i.e. Mary, who is close to God, the supreme pole of the universe - and direct the course of their lives by contemplating her example.

Whoever conducts himself in this way will not be tossed by the winds of vanity; will not break upon the rock of adversities; nor will he be engulfed in the frenetic whirlwinds of pleasure; instead he will reach the port of eternal rest without incidents.

Fulbert of Chartres
(www.mariedenazareth.com)

The days that followed were wonderful. I saw "miracles" everywhere. I felt like a superior being, a privileged interlocutor and I looked from above at all those whom I saw as being far from faith, believing a similar status to be inconceivable... I forgot that that's how I was for practically a lifetime!

The "right" priest

We cannot fail to see Mary's hand in all of this. The fundamental steps of this story are articulated by her presence beside me during crucial moments. The Lord answered my invocation, appointing his Mother to act as my guide, to lead me to Jesus, thus fulfilling her mission as a co-redeemer.

Father Carmelo, who listened to my confession after many years spent in darkness, continues to be a spiritual and affectionate reference point for me today: we only see each other once a year in Medjugorje, and that meeting always fills me with joy and commotion. I recognise divine intervention in the fact that he was the one who reconciled me with God. Meeting with the "wrong" priest might have compromised the outcome of my deep desire to convert.

Many years have gone by since then. Over time, my relationship with God has grown sweeter. I always knock on his door but I also thank him for everything that I've already received... It is impossible to live without God! I cannot understand how I did so for such a long time, and how it is possible that such a large portion of humanity still lives without Him!

The offering to Jesus through Mary

I return to Medjugorje every year, for a whole month, and I work as a volunteer within a community for welcoming pilgrims. Once again it was my wife who introduced me to a reality that definitively changed my life: the offering of life, that leads you to give yourself completely for others to Jesus, through Mary.

This is the commitment of the members of the community that houses me and with whom I have a deep friendship. To see them again and again each year also means strengthening my faith, which, at home, in everyday life, risks growing cold. In Medjugorje on the other hand, surrounded by their presence, and above all "held close" in Mary's embrace, everything seems lighter, more harmonious and it makes me want to be a better person than I am.

Thank you Jesus because you remembered me and you did so through the maternal work of the beloved Mary!

Luciano Calati

I want to joyfully bear witness

I thank the Queen of Peace because she calls me every year to spend some time with Her in Medjugorje. Like many others, I too have received "spiritual graces" since my first pilgrimage (1997) through her maternal Heart. In that place I feel such love and "coincidences" occur that are signs of her living presence. She lets me meet people from whom a beautiful soul shines forth and others who need help and spiritual communion.

I feel that I should joyfully bear witness to the fact that Our Lady called me to Medjugorje to help me grow in faith and in prayer, so that there might be more and more prayer from the heart, true, sincere, personal, and simple; an impulse of love, abandonment and trust.

I feel that I should joyfully bear witness to the fact that Our Lady gave me the grace of deeply wanting *everyone* to be saved and she called me to offer my life to Jesus through her Immaculate Heart, for the salvation of the world, and she helps me to offer God a love that is ever purer.

I feel that I should joyfully bear witness to the fact that Our lady sometimes calls me to Medjugorje to give me new strength and a sense of renewed inner peace... There I learnt what adoration to the Most Blessed Sacrament is, and love for Jesus grew within me along with a deep desire to enter more and more into his mystery.

During my last pilgrimage "at the last minute" I stayed in a new guesthouse that was lovely from a structural point of view, but I very much missed having a place where I could retreat in silence and meditate on what I had experienced during the day while spending some time *side by side* with the Lord. I am realising more and more that it is very important to find accommodation where the soul, and not only the body, can rest and savour God's presence deeply, along with that of his Mother, even during sleep!

Thank you Mary for taking me by the hand. Thank you for every pilgrimage to *your* land and thank you for allowing me to meet so many of your children.

Luisa Casarotto

I've changed

I recently had the opportunity of spending a few days in Medjugorje and there I left my anxiety, my worries about my daily life, my work and my family. Now I feel different! I came back with the desire to recite the Rosary with those dear to me, and I find myself dealing with the many things I have to do with an amazing sense of calm!

I had already experienced a significant meeting with Jesus four years ago and I believed that to be a great grace, but only this year I wanted to go to the place where Mary had been waiting for me for over twenty-nine years!

The air that you breathe in Medjugorje and in every corner speaks of Her. I can imagine her on that hill, Podbrdo, which is initially so difficult to face but then so easy to reach! It is there that the Mother awaits us to lighten our hearts that are weighed down with burdens; it is there that she smiles and embraces us all.

To those who ask me about Medjugorje I say, do not delay, go there to experience it and understand...

Venanzia Righi

Capacious vases in God's hands

When we look into the intimacy of our hearts, all of our limits and poverty often emerge. And so we catch a glimpse of our nakedness and we see ourselves as we really are, needing to be grasped by a Love that is capable of conquering all resistance.

I have gone through the life that has been given to me up to now with a beautiful sense of communion within my family, in sharing firm friendships, with a willingness to participate in certain Parochial Communities; throughout this journey there has been no lack of fatigue and difficulties that are part of the human soul. Together we have always "tried", placing all doubt, weakness, inevitable falls and moments of joy in the Lord's hands.

Despite all of this, an inner sense of worry sometimes accompanied me, like an open fissure that no human experience could ever successfully fill. I often felt like a field that needs rain while waiting to bloom. How many times I stretched out my hands, seeking answers...

I waited and hoped and the Lord, in the time that He knows, opened up a new road to me, he lifted me up. I have received many gifts throughout my lifetime, without really deserving them; among these, certainly, the joy of many meaningful meetings, and thus I

was able to experience the fact that our existence is made up of these meetings that unveil Love to us that the "Timeless Eternal One" has for his creatures.

The living experience of Medjugorje, the presence of Mary and her Son, the Trinitarian Love encountered through the consecrated members of a Community, made crushed stone in the shell of my resistance and hesitation. I was able to physically touch the fact that the Lord is alive, he is present in man and he truly works in our lives.

His Love invites us towards transformation, it dilates in us and from a small flame, it becomes a great fire, all we need do is trust. Our life must recover its composure, but not with our own efforts; even if our intentions are good, we cannot do it alone. The Lord enters us, capacious vases, and he moulds us like clay in his hands. Welcomed by Him, we can walk, renewed, and fear no longer dwells in us.

We often seek out changes that might give our present a greater meaning. The Lord is the novelty that we are seeking, He wants our good, he transforms us; all we need do is lift our gaze to Heaven and pray to God the Father that our life might become holy and blessed.

This leads us to see others as people to meet and to love: every life needs this. God

himself, without us even asking him, finds the time for us and compensates for our fragilities, our doubts, especially when we see how wide the road is and the steps that we must still take. Saint Paul says that "we do not even know what it is appropriate to ask, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us....".

Nothing is fulfilled yet in my life but, with wonder, I sense that the Lord wanted to put his peace into my heart, into all of our souls. Every moment is a Grace to be offered and every meeting is a new gift to be shared.

Mary too looks at us with the concerned eyes of a mother and spreads her love out to us with open hands, leading us to her Son. Over the years, many people have knelt down and prayed for me too, for my family, my children, my friends who are dear to me...confirming that Jesus Christ is present in the spirituality of our relations.

Everything is a gift and I give thanks to the Lord also for those who have "opened" and "broken" his Word; in many travelling companions who go before me I can see it incarnate, experienced and implemented. This is such a great gift that God offers us, so that every day we might renew our "yes", so that we might become witnesses, proclaim his Love and have a full life.

Lidio Piardi



I will not abandon you...

The messages that the Queen of Peace gives to the visionary Mirjana every month always have a **stamp of special intensity**. With just a few phrases, the Holy Virgin manages to trace out a dense plan of spiritual life for all of us. These are little pearls that should be grasped with much gratitude and responsibility, because it is not sufficient to read them and then put them in a corner, pending the next one, moved by an insatiable thirst for newness and "extraordinary signs". Mary's invitations should be absorbed, compared with our behaviour and then translated into experienced life. Only in this way can we attribute some value to her words. Only in this way can we attribute some reason to her coming to earth. Only in this way can we give thanks to the Father for sending his Mother to educate us and to give us back our dignity of children in fullness.

If we notice, on each occasion Mary speaks to us about Jesus, her Son. It is in him that we must find the example to imitate in order to bring about the plan of conversion that the Mother proposes for us. The Word was made flesh for this reason, to show us that it is possible to live here on earth doing God's will in everything; remaining small, gentle, simple. We cannot go on without Jesus, we read in one message... We need to humbly accept this fact: we need Him; nobody else can lead us to our destination, to the realisation of those promises of eternal happiness that our souls are yearning for. The Kingdom of Heaven is already a reality that is present within us, but only if we accept a serious journey of purification will we allow the Holy Spirit to generate it in our hearts. Only if we accept to let go of all self-sufficiency and hand our existence over to Mary, will the light of life be lit within

us, that which crushes all shadows, that which dissolves all fears...

We are not alone. She will not abandon us. She promises us this. And so we must believe her, without uncertainties that might slow us down on our journey. We are not alone because our Mother is with us. We are not alone because there are also many brothers throughout the world who listen to these messages and want to go forward on the pathway of holiness proposed by Mary in Medjugorje. A true family, *God's family*... Welcoming each other and loving each other with God's love is a whole other thing! The "walls of separation" fall, conflicts are quenched; jealousy is dissolved, along with envy and rivalry. Because in Him there is space for everyone and everyone occupies their own...

Communion in Jesus is the essential condition for being a Church. We are not solitary travellers who must only fend for themselves. We are called together to walk, supporting one another, encouraging each other, comforting the weak and offering our lives as nourishment to deal with the narrow and sometimes rather demanding passageways.

Only if we truly are Christians, that is, of Christ; people capable of discerning the truth within ourselves, good and evil... People capable of choosing to use our own freedom in the best possible manner... People capable of dying to ourselves and to our own whims to obey the will of the Father... Only in this way will God's family be created, as Jesus desires it!

We are not alone. She will help us. And she will not abandon us!

Message of 2 November 2010

"Dear children; With motherly perseverance and love I am bringing you the light of life to destroy the darkness of death in you. Do not

reject me, my children. Stop and look within yourselves and see how sinful you are. Be aware of your sins and pray for forgiveness. My children, you do not desire to accept that you are weak and little, but you can be strong and great by doing God's will. Give me your cleansed hearts that I may illuminate them with the light of life, my Son. Thank you."

Message of 2 December 2010

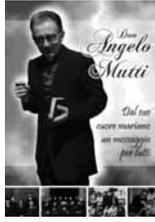
"Dear children; Today I am praying here with you that you may gather the strength to open your hearts and thus become aware of the mighty love of the suffering God. Through this His love, goodness and meekness, I am also with you. I invite you for this special time of preparation to be a time of prayer, penance and conversion. My children, you need God. You cannot go forward without my Son. When you comprehend and accept this, what was promised to you will be realized. Through the Holy Spirit the Kingdom of Heaven will be born in your hearts. I am leading you to this. Thank you."

Message of 2 January 2011

"Dear children; Today I call you to unity (communion) in Jesus, my Son. My motherly heart prays that you may comprehend that you are God's family. Through the spiritual freedom of will, which the Heavenly Father has given you, you are called to come to the knowledge of the truth, good or evil. May prayer and fasting open your hearts and help you to discover the Heavenly Father through my Son. In discovering the Father, your life will be directed to carrying out God's will and the realization of God's family, in the way that my Son desires. I will not leave you alone on this path. Thank you."

Father Angelo a message for everyone from his Marian heart

by the Editorial staff



You start reading this book “of memoirs” and in an instant you find yourself at the end... You can read it in a single breath although there is a whole full and intense life in those pages. This is the story of our dear Father Angelo, author and father of the Echo, and above all, a priest of the highest spiritual and moral calibre.

The volume was published to mark the tenth anniversary of Father Angelo’s death and it tells his story through the memories of those who were alongside him during the difficult moments of his life, those who accompanied him as shepherds and those who followed him as sheep in a faithful flock.

The bishops of his dioceses speak, Father Angelo esteemed them highly and with filial affection, and nevertheless, with audacious sincerity when it was a question of defending Medjugorje and the need to “resound” the messages of the Queen of Peace in his little newspaper, without giving in to any institutional compromise. Naturally the “Echo-parish” inner conflict afflicted him a little because he felt that he was taking time away from caring for the faithful to dedicate himself to the “greater Parish”, that of the Echo readership: “I have no uncertainties, let it be clear – he wrote to Monsignor Caporello – but the Echo-parish conflict comes back time and time again. But other times I console myself thinking that Echo takes me

away from lots of useless work, such as running after people, having to express an interest... I ensure that spiritual nourishment is not lacking, if they want it... I have no doubts about the work that I am doing and it shows all the signs of being blessed, because it always originates from nothing and finds what is necessary. Interest and demand for the Echo continue to grow... I never did anything to develop or promote it; actually the very poorness of the newspaper is not very attractive. This means that the substance is valid, and so it is more and more in demand. Is it not perhaps Mary herself who is promoting this search in these times of darkness? If she asks this work of me, then she will give me the strength to deal with it!” Facts are worth more than all words. It was the parishioners themselves who confirmed the goodness of the work, joyfully offering their services to dispatch and provide assistance with the Echo. End of conflict.

In the words of his sister, sister Chiara, a Carmelite nun and his confidante, to whom Father Angelo entrusted brotherly and family thoughts but also deeply spiritual reflections: “He used to say to me: the cross always accompanies those who do good, because the spirit of the world is in contradiction with those who do good, with the Gospel – writes sister Chiara. This is how it was for Jesus, and he obviously dealt with difficulties and misunderstandings with love and serenity. All of this, I realised, refined his spirit, his behaviour”.

Father Angelo knew that he could count on the praying and confident vocation of his sister and he poured out his certainties and hesitations on her, along with his joys and worries. He asked her for “prayers in solitude” for that 8th December, which was so meaningful in the furrow of his soul: he had been born on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception and on that date he had received his First Eucharist: “And so I offered myself to She who guided my life”, he wrote.

In the words of his “young men and women”, those who allowed themselves to be moulded by his inspired knowledge for years, which then brought them close to Christ, to His Word, to living and ardent prayer, to meditation, but also to peaceful and joyful amusement. “I didn’t delay in recognising his great qualities: generosity, goodness but also firmness, clear ideas and educational goals. I rushed to get my life in order, which coincided with a great undertaking of responsibility in fulfilling my duties as a son, a student, a young Catholic”, recalls Enzo.

In the words of his collaborators, those who in various moments helped him to serve the Echo in its various needs. They speak, tell stories and thank him because each one of them felt welcomed and valued.

And lastly, his illness also speaks, which led him to the threshold of eternity. It speaks in letters and notes that were dictated because his hand was no longer capable of gripping the pen: “As long as I can celebrate Mass... But is it right to live on the basis of my health? There, I’ve told you everything, the Lord continues to visit me with his graces... it is clearer to me now that we must only await him and that the rest is something extra. Our Lady gives me the security of standing beside me. FIAT!”. And then again: “...blessed be God in whose hands my fate lies and who keeps me awake in my thoughts of eternity”.

For this reason Monsignor Busti, the current bishop of Mantova, writes in his presentation: “To suffer by offering oneself is the application of the Gospel. It is not however easy to know how to die. Believe that we live to die and we die to live, this is the utmost testimony that a priest can give to his people. Here the “Creed” as a professed word, becomes filled with He in Whom we believed”.

Our readers write...

Linda Cunningha-Dominguez from London (England): “Please accept my offer for your postal expenses. I’m ill and unable to work. This is why my contribution is modest, but I know a lot of people who go to Medjugorje thanks to the Echo and those who cannot go there receive many benefits from reading it. Thank you!”

Anurée Bétot from Saint Avit (France): “Heartfelt thanks for your precious Echo. Thanks to your little magazine I went to Medjugorje on the bus for the first time this year”.

Sister Edesia Rossato from Quito (Ecuador): “Thank you for the precious Echo that you kindly continue to send me. I always await your bulletin as though it were Mary herself coming to me! May the Lord continue to shower his blessings on all the souls that you save with your sacrifices that this Marian work requires”.

Stefania Dobosova Ruzomberok from Slovakia: “Please continue to send me the Echo. Once I’ve finished reading them I pass them on to others so that the marvellous thoughts that are contained in them, dictated by the Holy Spirit, might spread to others. Given that only graces come with voluntary offers, not only in Slovakia, I will also try to help you financially”.

Jacqueline Hiver from Saint Calais

(France): “Thank you for the new issue of the Echo of Mary, it is vibrating with enthusiasm and joy, theological virtue, faith, hope and charity that the holy Virgin Mary comes to communicate to us in Medjugorje. I like to read and reread the various messages that flow from a pure and fertile source. Thank you for all these marvellous articles!”

Jean Wexler from Soultz (France): “I receive the Echo of Mary with great joy. Heartfelt thanks for your work and your devotion. Mary and her divine Son will compensate you one hundred fold”.

A. Breyse from the Republic of Togo: “I always enjoy receiving the Echo of Mary to nourish and cultivate the Marian devotion of my faithful. I thank you in advance and entrust you to the maternal prayers of the Virgin Mary”.

Ayeko Ovoudougnon from Togo: “With great respect I come to ask you to send me the Echo for distribution in the love of Jesus Christ, with a view to evangelisation for the glory of God and the salvation of souls”.

Robert Courchesene from Montreal (Canada): “I am a member of the secular Franciscan order of the Fraternity of the Holy Family in Montreal. I’ve distributed copies of the Echo to members of my fraternity and they all appreciated it! Thank you...”

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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!

Villanova M., 25th January 2011

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