



MESSAGE FROM OUR LADY "QUEEN OF PEACE" MEDJUGORJE,

November 25, 2014

"Dear children! In a special way, today I am calling you to prayer. Pray, little children, so that you may comprehend who you are and where you need to go. Be carriers of the good news and be people of hope. Be love for all those who are without love. Little children, you will be everything and will achieve everything only if you pray and are open to God's will – to God who desires to lead you towards eternal life. I am with you and intercede for you from day to day before my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call."

R E F L E X I O N

We all know that throughout history, and the documents of the Church, that one of the pillars that supported the primitive Church, was "prayer". In Acts of the Apostles 2, 42 we are told: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:32).

I get the impression, that, never from a few years back to now, have we been spoken so much about prayer. The Blessed virgin in her messages does not cease to repeat to us on way or another, the need for prayer. And backing up the wishes of the Mother, we priests in our retreats, in talks, catechesis, etc. we nearly reduce our evangelization to the need for prayer. And we are all convinced that without a dialogue with the Lord, without communication between heaven and earth, life is impossible, the Church secularizes, it becomes a human enterprise. But let us be realists, and not pessimists. Is the Catholic Church going through a stage of flourishing religious vocations, or on the contrary, are convents and seminars closing because of the lack of those whom feel the calling of God? which is the median age of our priests and religious? If we judge humanly and rationally, is to be overcome with sadness. Already in some Dioceses there are no priests to tend to the sick, there are hospitals where there is no chaplain, in many cases it is not the priests who take the Holy Communion to those infirmed or disabled to where these faithful are gathered, but rather the laity. And as far as I know, lay people cannot absolve sins. Parishes where only one Holy Mass is celebrated on Sunday, and none on weekdays. You have to be blind to not be aware of this harsh reality.

I repeat, seeing reality from a human viewpoint, it makes you want to cry. And my doubt keeps growing and I would say up until a visible contradiction. And I keep asking myself, is prayer being made? where

are the results? "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Mt. 9:37). And through my mind a flourish of questions go by: Are we praying, just as the Blessed Virgin asks? Does our prayer meet the conditions of: Piety, trust, humility and perseverance? Are we in friendship with God when we ask? Is our prayer going one way and our life and conduct in a different way? Let us not forget that prayer is a life, and life is a prayer. You cannot separate one from the other.

Since the beginning in the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin in Medjugorje, we know that differing from other apparitions such as Lourdes, Fatima etc. is that always the Blessed Virgin has asked for prayer, here since 1981 in this blessed village, she asks for prayer "with the heart", something that I do not recall her having asked like that in her previous apparitions. And I ask again: Could it be that we are praying with our lips and not with our hearts? Is it that here we are going through what the Hebrew people endured after the exile in Babylon, when they return to their homeland Israel, the prophet in the name of God, complains: "This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are empty..? How do we explain the words from Jesus: He who asks receives, he who knocks the door is opened, he who seeks find. Something is missing here, either Jesus lies or we do not pray, and if we do pray, it does not meet the conditions, it is not prayer it is just words.

I do not want to tire you, as you can see I have barely touched on the message of the Mother, that tells us to pray in a "special" way. What is to pray in a special way? Is it that there are different categories of prayer? Would the Mother be lamenting that we have to put more life to our prayer, that we have to pray with more than our lips, that we must pray with the heart? That talking is not enough, but we have to put our shoulder on to it? Before I finish I want to state the answer that I hear most to this question and this apparent contradiction more under the level of Christian life, of interior life, of contemplative life. Would it not be that from a Praying Church of the earlier times to a Church of modern actual prayers?

A most ordinary example comes to mind. There are persons that nourish themselves by eating three times a day in an orderly and timely fashion. They enjoy good health, their bodies have the calories and proteins they need. On the contrary, there are persons that never have a set schedule for their meals. Sometimes because of work, or simply, because they are at every moment putting something in their mouth, and then they do not feel the need to sit down to eat. The health of these people leaves much to be desired, their bodies do not have the calories, proteins, etc. that are needed.

Could it be that this is one of the reasons (causes) that nowadays it seems that praying souls are not found? As Pope Paul VI, addressed the Blessed Virgin on his "Marian Devotion" encyclical.

I do not know, but perhaps this is the explanation to what the Virgin is asking for this month.

As a priest, I find many souls that dedicate plenty of time to prayer, but, are they "praying souls"? Do they talk with God, with Jesus, with Mary? Do they listen to the answers or the queries of them?

May God Bless You.

Fr. Manuel Hernandez Morales.