

MESSAGE of JANUARY 25, 2004

“Dear children! Also today I call you to pray. Pray, little children, in a special way for all those who have not come to know God’s love. Pray that their hearts may open and draw closer to my heart and the Heart of my Son Jesus, so that we can transform them into people of peace and love. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

TO COME TO KNOW GOD’S LOVE

Our Heavenly Mother, the Queen of Peace, addresses her maternal word to us all, tirelessly, patiently, and with a challenging love. The love of Mary, our Mother, does not leave us passive, but wants to move us to do something beautiful and good for God in our neighbor. We can be moved only if we allow God to touch us and to bring us in motion. Only the one who has met God, and who has made the experience of how much God loves him, will be able to give to the others what he himself has received. We cannot give what we do not have, and we cannot have if we do not ask from God who is not giving in a stingy way, but abundantly.

Nobody can say: “I love God so much that I cannot love Him more”. We can always love more and in a stronger way.

Mary, our Mother, wants that we understand how much God loves us. The love of God is so tender that it never imposes itself. God never brings confusion to the soul; He prefers to attract it and to fill it with His love. However, God cannot fill what is already filled by something. We must empty ourselves so that He may fill us. Jesus teaches us: “Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God” (Mt 5: 8). Only a pure heart can see God and can recognize in his neighbor somebody for whom he is himself responsible. We are all responsible for one another and we are linked to one another by invisible spiritual bonds. We radiate around us the good or the evil. The good of the other is also my good.

Today still, through Mary, God needs our hands, our voice, our feet, to love this world through us. God does not expect from us great and magnificent deeds, He rather asks us to put love in all that we do. We cannot and we should not keep the love of God for ourselves. The goal of our efforts, of our prayers and of our deeds is not to come to God and to remain near Him, but to attract to Him all humanity – all those whom He has put on our way; or rather to allow that

He attracts them to Himself through us, and that He grants them health, peace, and freedom.

Blessed Mother Teresa said: “True love always brings suffering. It is always a suffering”. Love and suffering always go together. This is also what Christ showed us. He loved us even in pain. He loved us, but not because it would be pleasant for Him. He went until the death on the cross. Jesus teaches us when He tells us: “There is no greater love than to give one’s life for those whom one loves. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (Jn 15: 13-14)

Today, the world is not hungry of things or money, but of love. We are created for love. If we do not have love, we will seek to fill this emptiness with things and with fleeting pleasures, but we cannot cheat our heart and our soul, because they claim the source that has created them. The greatest hunger of human beings is to love and to be loved. We become sick because we do not love and because we do not make the experience of the love of God. This is why - also in this message - Mary, our Mother, calls us: “Pray”. However, prayer is not a psychological need, but a request of the love of God. Love is prayer. If we do not pray, we will not be able to love, and if we do not love, we will not have the strength to die to ourselves and to our selfishness, which hurts us as well as the others around us.

Let us not become weary to walk on the way to which our Mother calls us, and on which She goes with us, in order to lead us to the source of life - to God.

(Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, January 26, 2004)

A REFLECTION by FATHER ED

“Dear children! Also today I call you to pray.” Again, this very simple but significant request of Our Lady is given to us in the first sentence of Her message of January 25, 2004. During these days, as we conclude the month of January and begin another one; may we look into our hearts and continue to pray while making prayer a priority in our lives. Praying is so necessary for any believer who wishes to come to God in faith. Also, a devoted prayer life is needed for one to perceive and contemplate on the reality of the presence of God in one’s life. It is here that we must seek out the intercession of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady to become their prayer warriors.

We must continue to understand in faith that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, the personification of the love that God the Father and Jesus have for each other has been given to us by them to be our Sanctifier. It is through the grace of

the Holy Spirit that we become sanctified, a process that can lead to holiness. It is at this point, that praying can become a joy for us. This reality evolves in our lives through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “the well beloved Spouse of the Holy Spirit.” It is through the Holy Spirit and Our Lady’s embrace that we can begin to understand the immensity of God’s love. This profound love of God comes to us in a creative, sacrificial, redemptive, and sanctifying way through the power of the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. For us, this is a wonderful blessing of the highest magnitude.

I wonder if we are ready to embrace prayer, and to be willing to pray in the way that Our Lady is calling us to do. The time is now. We must consider the need that we have to spiritually feed our souls. If we are willing to undertake the mandate from God to purify our own souls, we can help others to prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord. The remaining sentences of Our Lady’s message of January 25, 2004 speak to this concern, calling us to pray for our dear fellow human beings in this world. As we reflect upon these requests of Our Lady, may we continue to offer prayers and sacrifices for two particular intentions: the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. Also, may we take some moments to reflect upon this first sentence of Our Lady’s Message of January 25, 2004. “Dear children! Also today I call you to pray.”

“Pray, little children, in a special way for all those who have not come to know God’s love.” This request of our dear Blessed Mother should go right to our hearts. In fact, we may be filled with tears as we reflect upon the millions of people that do not, “know God’s love.” Some may think that there is little they can do for these people in our country and throughout the world. However, that is not true. As believers, as people of faith striving to love God in a most profound way, we must become more sensitive to the needs of all human beings. To accept this challenge can be more than overwhelming to any one of us, but it can be accomplished when we strive to be more like Jesus.

It seems that there are some definite questions regarding God’s love that we should reflect upon and try to answer. Has our dear Lord Jesus Christ’s sacrificial love become part of us? Do we accept Jesus’ humility and mercy on a regular basis? Are we willing to follow in the Lord’s footsteps carrying His cross for our fellow human beings? I wonder in what way do we answer these questions? Are we willing to make the changes in our lives that allow us to become one with God’s love? It is only in this way that we will become sensitive to the spiritual needs of all men and women.

“Pray that their hearts may open and draw closer to my heart and the Heart of my Son Jesus, so that we can transform them into people of peace and love.” It seems that in this request, Our Lady is calling us to pray for the conversion of all Her dear, “little children.” We do know that the best way for anyone to embark upon a process of conversion to God is to bind oneself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and through Her motherly intercession, She will bring souls to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Are we ready to offer prayers and sacrifices that the hearts of men and women will be open to God’s and Our Lady’s love? As people of faith, who are giving ourselves to the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Our Lady, we must be filled with compassion, gentleness, and kindness. These qualities of God and Our Lady should fill our hearts as we either continue or embark upon the opportunity that we have to be people who pray and are devoted to prayer.

During these days in this time between Christmas and Ash Wednesday, let us be enthused by God’s grace that has touched us in such a beautiful way. Our Lady continues to inspire us with Her Motherly love urging us to accept Her call to give ourselves to Jesus to be part of His work in the salvation of souls. Let us not be satisfied with whom we are, knowing we can be better. Also, may we realize the horror of our sins, and the abomination that they are to the unconditional love of God. We need to purify our souls by confessing our sins regularly, by adoring Jesus, and by receiving His sacred body and blood. We have to be devoted women and men of prayer, worshipping God, and attending the Eucharist as often as possible. Become and be those special little sons and daughters of our loving God and Our Lady. No matter what each day brings may we be filled with joy, hope, and peace. Again, the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady are with us. In reality do we need anything more than that?

I hope you are well. My best wishes to you and your families. May God’s peace fill your lives and may the sacredness of God’s love fill your soul as you prepare yourselves for His presence. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. May Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever and ever. Amen.

God’s love and prayers always,
Father Ed

(Father H. Edward Chalmers is Pastor of Saint Bernard Parish, Worcester, MA, posted by iknowjesus1@juno.com, Internet International Prayer Group (IIPG), Friday, January 30, 2004 7:41 PM)

<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>