

March 2022



The LIGHT of MARY

To bring Jesus - the Light of Mary

*„Help me
with prayer,
little children...“*

(more on p. 3)

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INTERNET NEWSPAPER

It is a spiritual impulse for prayer groups and individuals associated with the Light of Mary Community. It is published monthly before the first Saturday of the month.

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First Saturday of the Month – it is the day when we are connected in a spiritually way: we pray the rosary, meditate on the Scriptures, celebrate the Holy Mass, adore Jesus in the Eucharist, meditate on the texts of The Light of Mary Newspaper.

Newspaper distribution without alteration is welcome and permitted. When copying particular parts and their use in another context, the editors of the newspaper reserve the right to give their consent.

"Dear children! I am with you and we pray together. Help me with prayer, little children, that Satan may not prevail. His power of death, hatred, and fear has visited the earth. Therefore, little children, return to God and to prayer, to fasting and to renunciation, for all those who are downtrodden, poor, and have no voice in this world without God. Little children, if you do not return to God and His Commandments, you do not have a future. That is why He sent me to you to guide you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

*Message of Our Lady, Queen of peace,
February 25, 2021*



Return to God and prayer, fasting and penance

Through this message, Our Lady confirms that she walks with us through this valley of tears. At the beginning of the season of Lent, the Church has been calling us, and Our Lady does so with this message, to prayer, fasting, acts of love and renunciation.



Father Ljubo Kurtovič, OFM

Sadly, this time is also marked by the terrible war in Ukraine. No war has brought anything good. Every war has left behind the dead, the wounded and the mourners. In war, everyone loses, both those who attack and those who defend themselves. Every war begins in the human heart, within. The heart is the place where a man meets God or closes before Him. Heart is hidden from sight and is revealed by words, appearance and fruits. Man has a terrible ability – he can be two-faced. The human heart, as the Bible teaches us, can be hardened, petrified, hard. The heart can be wounded, filled with fear and hatred.

We cannot and do not have to hide from God as we do from people. "I, The Lord, search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve" (Jeremiah 17:10).

No one had ever any idea that there could be a war, killing, destruction in our time in Ukraine, where innocent people suffer the most. Every war is the work of the devil. Only Satan inspires people to kill and destroy.

Our Lady as Mother suffers with us and for us. Her life, too, was filled with pain, persecution and rejection. But Our Lady knows that God has, in spite of everything, the last word. The weapons of God that he gives us and calls us to are prayer, fasting and renunciation. From a political perspective, these means of God seem weak and powerless. But from God's perspective, these means will eventually bring victory. We need God's grace of perseverance and patience. Only God can touch, transform and convert our wounded and enslaved hearts.

Our Lady warns us of the power of

- *Reflections for Prayer Groups*



Satan's action and the fruits that he leaves on earth, and which are death, hatred and fear. She is the new Eve who crushed the head of the serpent, the enemy of man.

The Holy Father also calls us to fervent prayer and fasting for the end to the war. As the true shepherd of Christ's faithful, he addresses us saying, "Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

Let us take refuge in Her, the Immaculate and full of grace, to protect all who are directly affected by the war in Ukraine.

Let us pray: Mary, the Queen of Peace, you who gave birth to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, grant us the peace that only your Son and our Savior can give us. We especially ask you, Mother, for all

who are filled with fear for their lives because of the terrors of war. Touch and liberate human hearts that sow war, death and hatred around them. Pray with us and for us, Our Lady, that we may persevere in hope, believing that God will turn everything for the good of those who believe in him and take refuge in him. Never have we heard that you abandoned anyone who turned to you in trust. Do not forsake us, Mother, who gave birth to Jesus, the Prince of Peace; do not forsake anyone who feels abandoned and forgotten. May especially those who are at risk of war and in fear for themselves and their neighbors experience the help and closeness of your intercession.

Accept our humble prayers, the Queen of Peace, and offer them to your Son for peace, for peace where there is war, for peace in troubled hearts of men. Amen.

God is sending me to guide you

Our Lady needs us. So many times She has said to us, "I need you, without you I cannot accomplish my plans of peace; help me." With fasting, prayer, renunciation, we can stop even this terrible war in Ukraine. Our Lady is sent to us from Heaven with hope. Even today she is showing us a way out of this dramatic situation in which the world finds itself.



Terezia Gaziouva

Rosary and fasting are two powerful weapons that the Queen of Peace has been giving us from the very beginning of her apparitions in Medjugorje. Her first words were: "With fasting and prayer you can stop even wars. It is not easy to fast and renounce, but their fruits are enormous."

One young man came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje shortly after surviving the horrors of war. He and his group were meeting with one of the visionaries who spoke about the messages of Our Lady. Being disappointed and hurt, he asked, "I don't understand how eating only bread and drinking only water can help me. How can this stop the war?" The visionary answered him, "It will help because Our Lady tells us so."

Let us respond to Our Lady's call. Victory is promised to Her and She is leading us to it. Evil is noisy and seems to prevail. Its power of death, hatred and

fear has struck the earth. Love is silent. It makes no noise. Its victory comes in secret. Love has the last word. We must not allow hatred to pollute our hearts. Let us pray unceasingly for the gift of God's love. Even when it is difficult. That is why Our Lady invites us to meditate on the Stations of the Cross, to pray at the foot of the cross, so that we may have Jesus and what he has done for us before our eyes. Let us kneel at the foot of the cross and know that Mary is always with us.

"If you do not return to God and His commandments, you do not have a future," She tells us later in this month's message. This means returning to the greatest commandment. To love God above all else and the neighbor as yourself. No one has greater love than he who lays down his life for his friends. „Dear children, do not have hearts that are hard, closed and filled with fear.



Permit my motherly love to illuminate them and fill them with love and hope; so that, as a mother, I may soothe your pains because I know them, I experienced them. Pain elevates and is the greatest prayer. My Son, in a special way, loves those who suffer pains. He sent me to soothe them for you and bring hope. Trust in Him. I know that it is difficult for you because you see more and more darkness around you. My children, it is necessary to break it by prayer and love“, She tells on April 2, 2016.

Fasting and renunciation is the acceptance of pain, difficulty, inconvenience in the unity with Jesus. Mary repeats Jesus' call to us - to be close to all those who are downtrodden, poor and have no voice in this world without God. Such are the words of Jesus, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me“. The Holy Father Francis too challenges us in this Lenten season, “Let

us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized“. (Message of Pope Francis for Lent (2022)

Let us believe Our Lady's promise that through prayer and love the world will set out on a better path and love will prevail in the world.

Let us pray: Our Lady, you teach us to shield the pain with love. Help us to live this heroism. Help us, as you did, to accept with love what hurts. United in prayer with you, we ask for the gift of God's love for those who are struck by hatred, war, violence. We surrender to you all who are downtrodden, poor and have no voice in this ungodly world. Hide in your Immaculate Heart, to whom victory is promised, all humanity and this world. Amen.

Help me



"...help me by letting your prayer be from the heart and all of you surrendering completely to me. That way I shall be able to teach and lead you on this way which I have begun with you." August 28, 1986

My children, help me in my motherly battle and pray with me that sinners may become aware of their sins and repent sincerely." December 2, 2012

I love you, dear children, and so not even counting the number of times, I go on calling you and I thank you for all that you are doing for my intentions. I beg you, help me..." June 6, 1987

Apostles of my love, you who sincerely and with a pure heart strive to follow my Son, you who sincerely love Him, you help; you be an example to those who have not yet come to know the love of my Son." March 2, 2020

*Our Prayer meeting
will take place
on the first Saturday,
March 5, 2022.*

*In this month
we pray for peace
and for the end
of the war in Ukraine.*



AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO PREPARE FOR CONFESSION



Father Slavko Barbarič

(This preparation was made with youth in May 1986 during a vigil. It can be used during a pilgrimage or a retreat.)

Practical Recommendations for the Leader

1. As the faithful enter the church, turn off all the lights. Darkness is the symbol of the situation of a soul in sin.
2. Prepare the Paschal candle and one candle for each of the faithful, for each priest-confessor.
3. Make sure that there are sufficient moments of silence.

Words of Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is what happens often: instead of turning on the light, we turn it off; instead of spreading love, we bring hatred; instead of bringing hope, we choke it and live in despair. So many times we started and continued that way...

But we have come here because we want to cross our Red Sea. We experienced darkness and slavery; we want to turn on the light...

I do not know what is happening in your hearts now. I can only assume. Forgive me if I begin with the possibility of darkness in your heart...

Some may feel at this moment like someone who has heard from his doctor that he is seriously sick. He feels maybe sadness, anxiety, uncertainty, emptiness in his heart... but now it should not matter anymore. If in your heart and in your body

you feel that this can change, you should not be disappointed... There is an answer! Jesus is with us. He came and brought light. He said: "I AM THE LIGHT!" (Jn 8:12)

Jesus, I do not want to stay in darkness. I want Your light now, Your light for my life, for my soul, for my heart. I want Your light for my family, for my encounter with my neighbour. I want Your light for my school, my college, my work... Jesus, I want the light, and You offer Yourself to me as light. Now I open my heart to You...

Jesus, in front of You I ask myself: How do I live my life?

I question myself in front of You, and in Your light I want to see the path that I took. Grant me to see my life through Your eyes.

In Your light I ask myself: Where are You, Jesus, in my life? Where is my love for God the Father, whom You want me to love above all? Where is my love for my neighbour? Where is my love for the gifts that You have given me?

Jesus, I question myself in front of You and in Your light. Help me find the answers. You wanted me to pray, to trust. Now I ask myself how do I pray...

Jesus, You wanted me to receive new Food in the eucharistic encounter with You, receiving You in the Word and in the Host. You stayed with us because of me! How do I attend Holy Mass? How many times was my heart absent and the encounter with You was not possible... Jesus, in front of You I ask myself: What



have I done with my tongue, with the gift of speech? Do I praise You and bless You, or I used my tongue to dishonour Your Name, to curse, to offend?...

In front of You, Jesus, I ask myself: What is the place of cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, excessive food in my life?

In front of You, Jesus, I ask myself: What is the place of television, of the media in my life? How do I use my precious time?

In front of You, Jesus, I ask myself: How did I understand Your call to respect my soul and my body, the soul and the body of others?...

In front of You, Jesus, I ask myself: How do I understand human life before and after birth?...

It is important that I understand in Your light, Jesus: How did I understand Your call to love everyone?...

In front of You, Jesus, I ask myself: What happened to the plan You had for me when You granted me gifts to serve You, to serve my neighbour?...

Lord, I ask myself all these questions and I hope to find the answers in the light of Your Spirit...

We remain in silence and search for answers. We listen to our heart. Let us be sincere. No one sees us except God. With our eyes closed and in silence, you will surely hear His voice, and in His light you will see light...

Practical Recommendations for the Leader

1. Invitation to reject sin.
2. Decision in favour of the light.
3. Lighting of the Paschal candle.
4. The leader gives candles to the priests.

Questions to the Assembly

On behalf of Jesus Christ I ask you:

- Do you reject sin?
- Do you reject selfishness and hatred?
- Do you reject evil?
- Do you reject the influence of Satan?
- ... other possible questions...
- Are you ready to receive Jesus Christ as your light?
 - If you are ready to receive Jesus Christ – the Light – I light on your behalf this Paschal candle which is the symbol of the Risen Lord who was raised from the dead by the power the Father.



Spiritual fruits of Medjugorje

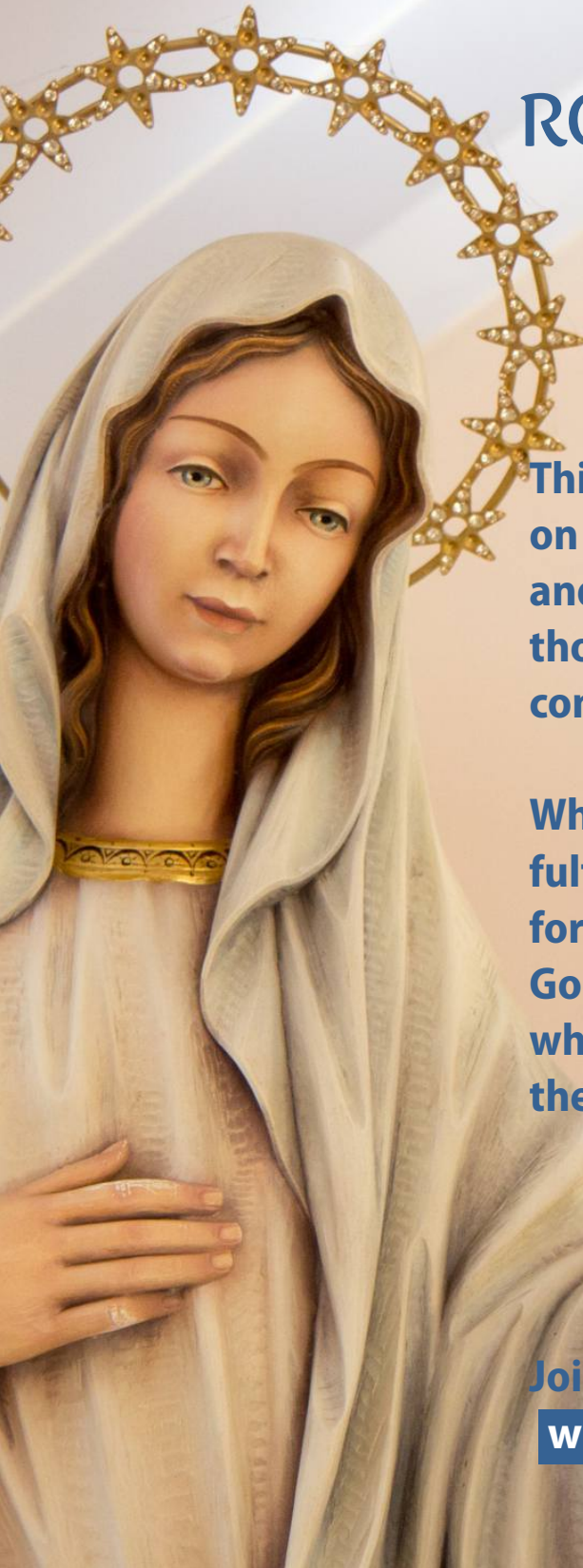
Praised be Jesus Christ! Greetings from Belarus. We want to share with you the spiritual life of our prayer group.

We have been praying together for 16 years, and in those 16 years we can already see the fruits of our prayer. We have prayed for our men to be more active in faith, in prayer and in service to the Church. Nine years later, the St. Joseph's Men's Prayer Group was formed in our parish. Also, one of the fruits of our prayer group was the vocations to the priesthood. At the moment there are two young men in the seminary and three girls from our parish decided to leave everything behind and consecrate their lives to Jesus. Now they serve in the Community of God the Father in Austria.

Another beautiful fruit of our prayer group was the birth of 16 children who were born to 16 members of our prayer group. We pray for these children to be pious, to have faith and love for the Lord. Our prayer group also participates in the perpetual prayer of the rosary. Each

member of our group chooses one hour on 17th day of each month and prays the rosary for Our Lady's intentions during this time hour. In our group, we have also organized perpetual fasting; each member fasts on bread and water for the intentions of Our Lady on the day he or she has chosen before.

Our desire was to go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. For a long time, we did not manage to get there, every effort was unsuccessful. What we managed was that we were able to participate at Medjugorje meetings in Ukraine. Once we were at a prayer meeting in Ukraine, one of the participants wrote a letter to Our Lady. A few months later, Our Lady invited us to Medjugorje and we all were happy to go there. Each of us has been to Medjugorje several times. Some five times, the other four times, some people even less, but to each one the time on pilgrimage bore some fruit. People who have experienced something extraordinary there share their testimony.



Perpetual ROSARY PRAYER and FASTING for PEACE

This activity was launched on October 1, 2014, and, thanks to the Lord and those who have responded, continues to this day.

When we pray and fast for the fulfillment of Our Lady's plans for peace and for her intentions, God works through Our Lady where it is most necessary, in the best possible way!

Join us! Sign up here:

www.mir.com.hr





THE LIGHT OF MARY COMMUNITY – it is a Private Association of Believers. By following the life of Our Lady, the desire of the members of the LM Community is to bring the Light – Jesus into the contemporary world, to pray and to bring sacrifice in fulfillment of God's plans of salvation through Our Lady in our times.

For more information: www.svetlomariino.sk

PRAYER GROUPS – members usually meet once a week to pray the rosary for the intentions of Our Lady, for the needs of others, meditate on the Scriptures, and consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayer gesture, with fingers pointing upwards. The hands are positioned centrally in the upper half of the frame. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. Overlaid on the lower half of the image is the text "PRAY FOR UKRAINE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "FOR" is partially obscured by a circular graphic that mimics the Ukrainian national flag, with a blue top half and a yellow bottom half.

**PRAY
FOR
UKRAINE**