

June 2022



The LIGHT of MARY

To bring Jesus - the Light of Mary

*„Be builders
of peace
and carriers
of joy...“
(more on p. 3)*



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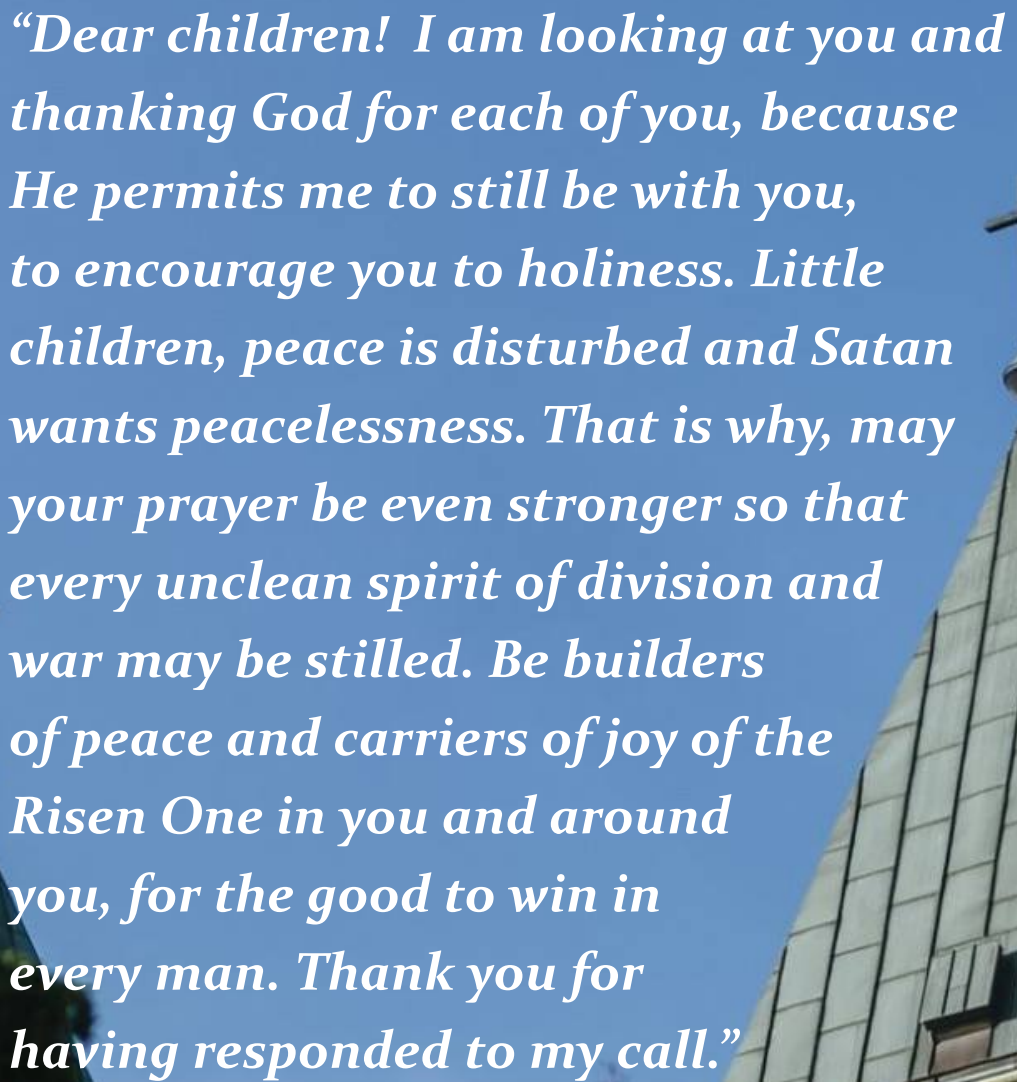
INTERNET NEWSPAPER

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.

Subscribe to the newsletter: www.svetlomariino.sk
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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.

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“Dear children! I am looking at you and thanking God for each of you, because He permits me to still be with you, to encourage you to holiness. Little children, peace is disturbed and Satan wants peacelessness. That is why, may your prayer be even stronger so that every unclean spirit of division and war may be stilled. Be builders of peace and carriers of joy of the Risen One in you and around you, for the good to win in every man. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

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

I encourage you to holiness



Father
Ljubo
Kurtović,
OFM

Our Lady's maternal gaze watches over us, seeks us and sees the best what we need and what we lack. This is the same look as at the wedding at Cana of Galilee, when she first noticed, "They have no wine." Our Lady sees how lost we are, our desires and our will to come to God, but we do not have the strength nor do we know the ways as Our Lady knows, who is full of grace. She wants only the best for us and what we need most, and that is holiness. That is why she has called us to walk in holiness all these years.

The very words holiness and saints may seem too abstract and incomprehensible to us. For some people, saints are just legends and fairy tales. For others, this is a calendar list of somewhat vague and meaningless names. For some Christians, saints are

a kind of automats and a special kind of self-service. Some consider the saints to be strange hermits and penitents who hated and persecuted their bodies and fled the world so much that they became strange and abnormal people.

There is an anecdote that tells how a



disciple came to the teacher and told him that he was ready for sainthood, because he had tormented his body so much that he was able to sleep on the ground, eat grass and whip himself three times a day. "Even a donkey sleeps on the ground, eats grass and is constantly whipped, and no one has declared him a saint. Where is your love?", replied the teacher.

The most important thing by which saints are distinguished is love. Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things, but in doing simple and everyday things with love. Holiness is measured by love.

We often tend to think that holiness

is reserved only for a few, only for the elected.

Holiness is offered to us all. And it does not consist in doing extraordinary things, but in uniting oneself with Jesus Christ and living his mysteries, in learning his attitude, thoughts and behavior.

If you want to be truly holy, always fulfill your small duties. To become and be a saint is not to be without sin or never to fall, but always to rise again humbly and perseveringly.

Our Lady told us in her messages that the saints should be a model and an example for us to live the life of faith. Engaging and studying the lives of the saints also helps us to also ask the

question, "Where am I in relation to the saints? How do I live my faith? Can I be as holy as they were? Do I have the courage to belong to God, to Jesus and to Our Lady in today's world? Do I believe that God has the last word even though it might seem to us that He is hiding?"

In one of his sermons, Pope Francis said, "In order to walk on the path of holiness, one must have a heart that hopes courageously, keep asking questions and humbly open oneself to the grace of God."

Only God is holy. And He bestows His holiness on the soul to the extent that the soul surrenders and opens itself to Him with trust and perseverance.

Pope Francis teaches us, "Holiness can only be attained with the help of four essential elements: courage, hope, grace, and conversion."

Our Lady does not cease to walk with us on the path of holiness, to encourage us and to guide us along the path she has already taken. She knows that it is possible for us to walk the paths that leads to God. But she can't do it instead of us. She cannot change us or live and believe for us. Let's help her so she can help us. Mother who loves her children, longs for them and

wishes them the best that is necessary for their souls and lives. She knows that God created us for himself, and our heart is restless until we return to the source of our life, to God.

Let us pray:

Our Lady, Queen of peace, you come to us from glory to which God has brought you, because of the merits of your son, Jesus Christ. You come to us because God has allowed you to do so, as you tell us in your message. You, who gave birth to the Prince of Peace, Jesus, sees restlessness, hatred and war in many human hearts. You tell us of the destructive action of Satan who is destroying human lives. Evil is happening because of people who have opened themselves to the spirit of war and destruction. To you, O Mother, we raise our hands and open our hearts that by the power of your intercession you may beg peace from your Son Jesus. Just as you interceded at Cana of Galilee, so now we ask you, Queen of Peace, to grant us who are suffering from the consequences of war and hatred liberation, peace and an end to war and all the wars that are taking place in human hearts, in our families and in our human relationships. Amen.

Be creators of *peace*



Terezia
Gaziova

For 41 years we have been under the loving gaze of Our Heavenly Mother. "When I first knelt before Our Lady at her first apparition and looked into her eyes, I saw her immense love for us. I felt loved, accepted and protected. This is very difficult to describe, it can only be felt and experienced with the heart" – testifies the visionary Jakov Cholo. With this gaze, Our Lady looks at each one of us.

Each of her apparitions on earth leaves behind a trace of heaven. This is the case in all the places in the world where she appeared. Father Slavko Barbaric used to say,

"All the graces we receive in Medjugorje are for the sole reason - that Our Lady appears."

She thanks God for still allowing her to come. She counts on us, as a



mother with children she can count on to help her, "Little children, peace is disturbed and Satan wants peacelessness. That is why, may your prayer be even stronger so that every unclean spirit of division and war may be stilled."

In prayer, she teaches us to build a strong friendship with Jesus. She said, "When true friendship with God is realized, no storm can destroy it." Friendship grows by getting to know Jesus in prayer and by reading Holy Scriptures. When

we trust in Jesus, the unclean spirits will cease. This is still the case today.

A soldier who is at war in Ukraine testified, "All of a sudden the enemy attacked us. The shooting began. There were only a few soldiers and we had nothing to defend with. It was terrifying, it looked like this was our end. We began to pray out loud. Already after several Hail Marys, the weapons miraculously died down. I will never forget the power of silence in which I realized that God is stronger than all the weapons."

Today, when evil is so strong and noisy, Our Lady encourages us that prayer is more powerful. Evil is noisy and love is silent. If love is silent, it does not mean that it does not exist. It is only waiting for our cooperation. When we pray, love triumphs. To pray is to love, "There is no love without prayer because love is prayer - forgiveness is love. Remember, for I tell you that love will triumph," says Our Heavenly Mother.

What Mary tells us helps us also to live. With her help, we find in silence and prayer the peace of the Lord who fights for us. Mary of the Gospel is our example. She was always by Jesus' side, always in hope. She didn't say much, but she was always there when and as needed. She is our eternal inspiration. Even today she encourages us on the path of holiness, "Be builders of peace and carriers of joy of the Risen One in you and around you, for the good to win in every man".

May these words be a resolve for us to work on ourselves in every moment, as we see in the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

He left us a prayer that has accompanied us for centuries:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A person wearing a white, textured robe is shown from the chest down. They are holding a large, reddish-brown terracotta jug with both hands. The jug has a wide opening at the top and a smaller opening at the bottom. A stream of water is pouring from the smaller opening into a smaller, similar jug held in their other hand. The background is plain white.

For the good to win

„Little children, pray, convert your hearts and come closer to me. May good overcome evil.“ July 25, 1995

„Dear children, the reason that I am with you, my mission, is to help you for ‘good’ to win, even though this does not seem possible to you now.“ August 2, 2014

„...my children, love all those who do not know my Son, so that through prayer and the love which comes through prayer, they may become better; that the goodness in them could win; that souls could be saved and have eternal life.“ July 2, 2017

„Dear children, I am calling you to be courageous and to not grow weary, because even the smallest good—the smallest sign of love—conquers evil which is all the more visible. My children, listen to me so that good may overcome, so that you may come to know the love of my Son.“ October 2, 2018

● **Messages on the topic**

*Our Prayer
meeting
will take place
on the first Saturday,
June 4, 2022.
In this month
we pray
for the spirits
of division
and war
to be stilled.*





Some of the faithful who are in such a state think they are good Christians, but they commit evil the same as those who do not know God! For such people, to be a Christian is an outer label, something superficial, immature. There is no real relationship with God and with Christ. Such a Christian establishes his own standards, he is proud, an agent of the works of darkness and of evil, he perseveres in the works of the flesh, and he is far from the fruits of the Spirit. Here we can understand the words of St Paul:

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the Cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (Phil 3:18-19)

Through a well-formed Christian conscience he knows that he must

resist sin even until bloodshed, so that the fruits of the Spirit may grow and develop:

Therefore take the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Eph 6:13)

Apart from monthly and occasional Confessions, it is good to remember the possibility of special occasions when the whole family approaches the sacrament of reconciliation: on the occasion of a baptism or a wedding or when there are tensions and conflicts in the family. When a family begins to live spiritual life consciously, it can easily find opportunities where all members of the family approach the sacrament of reconciliation.

In many countries, there is a beautiful tradition: that the entire parish community confesses on the feast of its patron saint.

Where there is no love, *there is no life*

In May 2022, a Seminar of fasting, prayer and silence was held, which was attended by participants from Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia. At the beginning of the seminar, Father Marinko Shakota emphasized the importance of restoring the relationship with The Holy Spirit in our spiritual life, which is the first foundation for our soul to grow and walk in the right direction.

One participant shared, “During the catechesis and prayers in which we all prayed together to the Holy Spirit, I realized how much I miss the living relationship with the Holy Spirit in my life. I have a very close relationship with Jesus and Our Lady which deepens and the Holy Spirit has always been on the sidelines. I realized now how much I need just him and his help. It was a very strong moment for me – I understood what to do next... It was also important for me to have an experience of inviting the Mother Mary into my daily situations to better discern what is right. These words helped me, “Where Our Lady is, there is always the Holy Spirit“. During the seminar, I also felt physical suffering, weakness due to fasting. I felt I received a new strength during the Stations of the Cross, where the words

were spoken about the importance of connecting our small sufferings with the sufferings of Jesus.

The themes of the seminar became important and relevant for many participants. Father Marinko stressed how important it is to be careful what we accept into our hearts, because this is the food that nourishes our souls and influences us.

In the theme of accepting the cross, one of the participants found a cure for her soul by understanding that this acceptance gives true freedom to her heart. “When I accepted the fact that we have difficulties in my family, peace and joy returned to my heart. Here I realized that I needed to renew the love to my husband, because he is closest to me, he represents Jesus in our home Church. At the seminar, I saw that I could not love



him. I am returning home with the fact that I need to work more on my heart: to be more gentle, understanding and accept more people around me."

One priest who attended the seminar said: "During the seminar I realized that my whole problem is what is called love. I was most touched by the words, "Where there is no love, there is no life..." And at this point I rediscovered Jesus as Love. I realized that without love I am a Pharisee, I condemn others and I do not accept them... I am returning home with the resolution to adore the Blessed Sacrament adoring as often as possible the Blessed Sacrament - true Love - as often as possible!"

A participant from Lithuania shared with us these words, "During this pilgrimage, I had a desire to sacrifice whole journey, all prayers, Holy Communion for Our Lady – for fulfillment of Our Lady's intentions and express gratitude, because she has helped me a lot. For about three years I have offered the prayer of the Rosary for

the realization of her plans."

A participant from Russia said, "I came here with great pain and sadness in my heart. My heart was deeply wounded because of the war. My main intention was to pray for an end to the war. From the very first days of the seminar, I experienced the living love of God and Our Lady. Instead of anxiety and various negative experiences, I felt my heart being washed by the gracious balm of peace and hope with which I am returning home."

With great gratitude, we can see how the faces of the participants, filled with sadness, wounds, anxiety, pain and tears, were transformed and filled with peace, light and hope day by day during the seminar. At the end of the seminar, all the participants noted that what had initially divided them - the language, the difference between cultures and liturgical rites - became a moment in which the group was united into one big family.

Novena

FOR THE 41st ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY'S APPARITIONS IN MEDJUGORJE

Dear friends, we invite you to unite with us through this Novena in thanksgiving for 41 years of the apparitions of Our Lady and for all the graces we have received through Her intercession before the Most High. We will begin praying the Novena together with the Parish of Medjugorje on June 15, 2022.

Those of us who live in Medjugorje will ascend each day to Podbrdo and will be united with you in prayer.

The Novena consists of praying the Rosary for the following intentions:

1st day - We pray for the Visionaries

2nd day - We pray for all Priests who Minister at the Sanctuary

3rd day - We pray for all Parishioners of Medjugorje

4th day - We pray for all Leaders in the Church

5th day - We pray for all Pilgrims who already came to Medjugorje

6th day - We pray for all pilgrims who will come to Medjugorje

7th day - We pray for the realization of all plans God has through Medjugorje

8th day - We pray for all the Medjugorje Prayer Groups and Centers in the Whole World

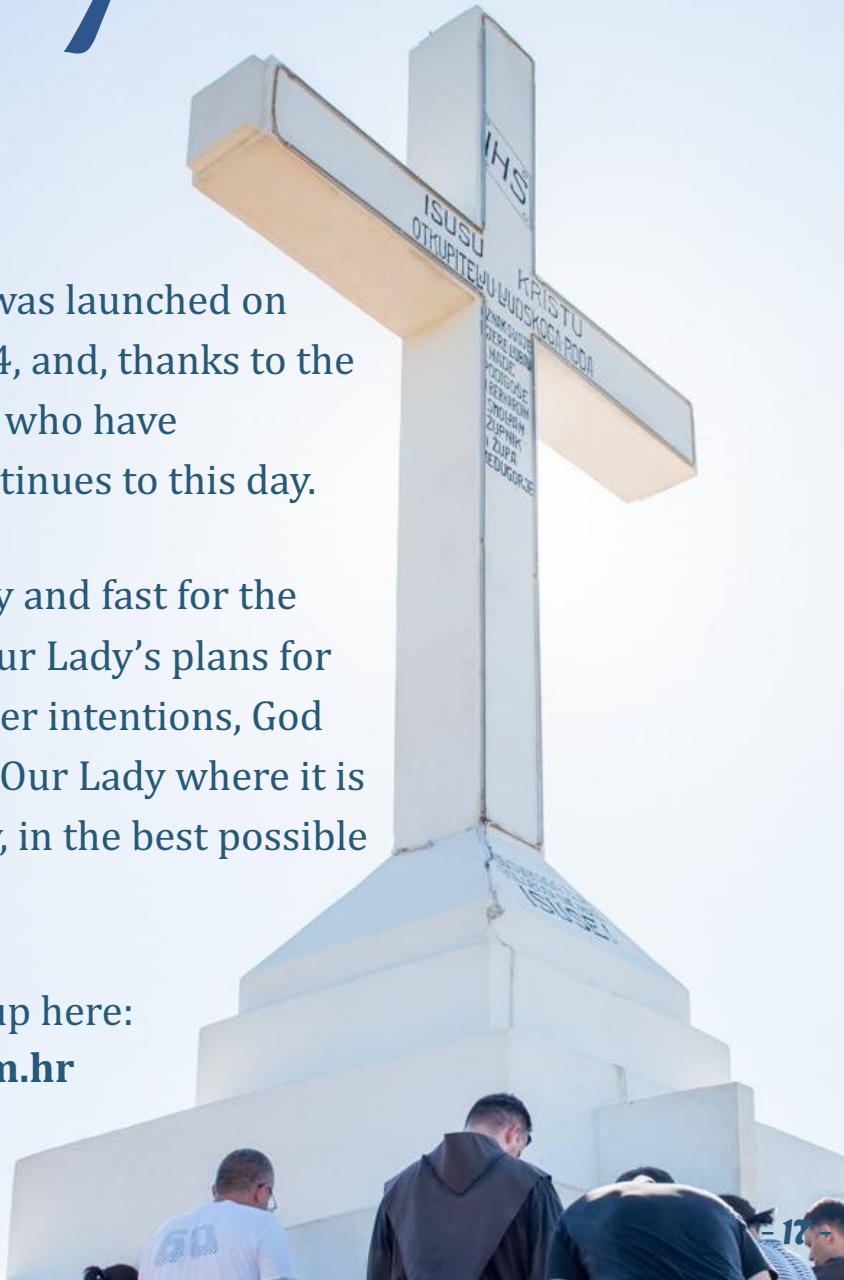
9th day - We pray for the Intentions of the Queen of Peace

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





Learn from me
and you will find peace

We invite you to the 25th INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR PRIESTS to be held in Medjugorje from July 4-9, 2022

The theme is:

Learn from me and you will find peace (Mt 11:28-30)

The Lecturer at the retreat is Fr. Damir Pavić, OFM



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL IN MEDJUGORJE

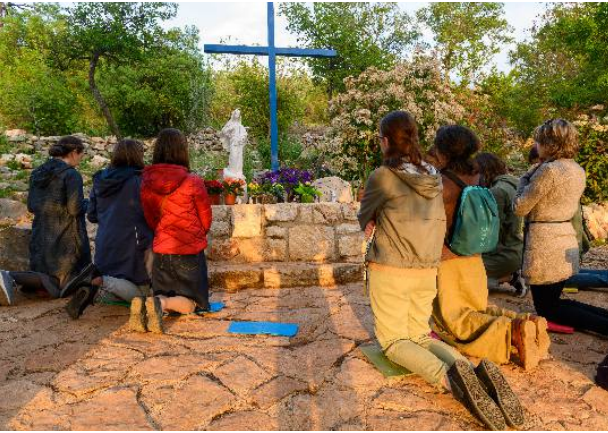
Mladifest

33rd Mladifest will be held from August 1 to 6, 2022

Theme: **Learn from me and you will find peace**
(Mt 11, 28-30)

We are waiting for you in Medjugorje. The festival will also be streamed live online.

Source: www.radio-medjugorje.com





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.



PRAY FOR UKRAINE



If you want to make a financial donation
and support the mission of The Light of Mary,
you can transfer money online to:

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Thank you!

In conformity to Pope Urban VIII' Decree and the directives of the Council Vatican II, the editor declares not to have the intention to precede the judgment of the Church about the supernatural character of facts and messages related on these pages. This judgment belongs to competent authorities of the Church, to whom the editor submits himself fully. Words like "apparitions, miracles, messages" and similar have here the value of human witness.