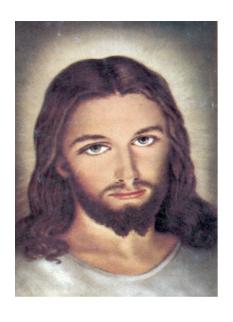


Mary, Mother and Teacher

from the writings of Mamma Carmela Volume X



THE IMAGE OF THE MERCIFUL JESUS

"Write my daughter, you will be the apostle of my Merciful Love. I will bless you. I will shower on you abundant graces and great gifts. I will bless the families who expose my Image. Speak to Me often and invoke Me thus:

'Merciful Jesus, we trust in You:
 have mercy on us
 and on the whole world.'"

Milan, April 20, 1968

The Merciful Jesus in the excessive goodness of his Heart promises that: "Whoever venerates with love and devotion in his house my Divine Image will be preserved from the chastisement. In the same way as the ancient Hebrews marked their houses with a cross made with the blood of the paschal lamb and were spared by the exterminating Angel, so it will be in these sad times for those who will have honoured and exposed my Image."

Milan, September 5, 1968

"I have invited you to be apostles of my Divine Face and I have promised you that with that Image I will touch the hearts of sinners and I will draw everyone to Me."

Milan, January 25, 1972

"My children, you all want mercy for everyone. Well then, become interpreters of our desires. Do so that in every family together with my Divine Face may enter the practice of the Rosary, just as it is, as the holy Virgin wanted it, as the saints, the virgins, the martyrs, the great and the small of every age practiced it."

Milan, May 4, 1972

Front cover: **Our Lady of Mount Carmel.** Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, a prior general of the Carmelite Order, in the 13th century. She gave him the Brown Scapular promising that those who died wearing the scapular would be saved. Patroness of the Carmelite Order, her feast day is on the 16th July.

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Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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AUSTRALIA

The thoughts, the reflections and the meditations in this booklet, were inspired to a soul.

They are, however, addressed to all those souls, who, desirous to love the Lord, seek to put into practice his teachings and to live the Christian life more perfectly.

May Jesus
bless these pages
and those who read them
with the desire
to improve themselves,
granting the help
of his grace.

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Non-Commercial Edition

CONTENTS

| 1. | Sign of contradiction | | • | | • | • | 8 |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|-----|---|----|
| 2. | The finding of Jesus | | • | | | | 10 |
| 3. | I give you a programme | | • | | | | 11 |
| 4. | I make use of your prayer . | | • | | | | 13 |
| 5. | To the young | | • | | | | 15 |
| 6. | I give you gold, incense and | myrrh | | | | | 16 |
| 7. | Persevere and spread good . | | • | | | | 19 |
| 8. | The Eucharist is a gift of love | e | • | | | | 20 |
| 9. | The family must be healed ag | gain | • | | | | 22 |
| 10. | Offer yourselves up for the p | oriests | • | | | | 24 |
| 11. | To the priests | | • | | | | 26 |
| 12. | To the young | | | | | | 28 |
| 13. | Learn to guard these treasure | es | • | | | | 29 |
| 14. | I present to you three types of | of peo | ple | | | | 31 |
| 15. | Think about the eternal espo | usals | • | | | | 33 |
| 16. | Watch over and do all you ca | an for | famili | es | | | 34 |
| 17. | You must be instruments of s | salvati | on | | | | 36 |
| 18. | The good soil makes the wor | rd bea | r fruit | | | | 38 |
| 19. | I fulfil the mission of interm | ediary | T | | | | 40 |
| 20. | Think about the souls who as | re lost | | | | | 41 |
| 21. | I am the Mother of Divine G | race | | | | | 42 |
| 22. | True goodness | | • | | • | • | 44 |
| 23. | I invite you to look at the de | stinati | on | | • | • | 47 |
| | Imitate the example of Peter | | • | | | | 49 |
| | Arm yourselves with grace a | | ayer | | | | 51 |
| | What its mean to do everyth | _ | • | | | | 53 |
| | To the young of Turin . | | • | | | | 56 |
| 28. | I desire that you be happy . | | • | | | | 57 |
| 29. | Prayer and religious instruct | ion | • | | • | • | 59 |
| | To the Trieste group | | • | | | | 61 |
| | To each one Jesus entrusts th | ne Hea | d of th | ne Chu | rch | | 63 |
| 32. | The week of love | | • | | | | 65 |
| 33. | Turn your heart into a burnir | ng forg | ge of lo | ove | | • | 67 |
| | To the cloistered nuns . | | • | | | | 69 |
| 35. | I desire to speak to you about | ıt hum | ility | | | | 70 |
| | Go in search of Christ . | | | • | • | | 73 |
| | Make the old man die . | | • | | | | 74 |

| 38. Watch over your tongue . | | • | • | • | 76 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|----|---|-----|
| 39. Learn to preserve grace | | • | • | • | 78 |
| 40. Prayer and submission to the wil | l of G | od | • | • | 79 |
| 41. The mysterious water of grace | • | • | • | • | 81 |
| 42. Be sincere | | • | • | • | 83 |
| 43. True freedom | | • | • | • | 85 |
| 44. Joseph the just | | • | • | • | 87 |
| 45. To the Turin group | | | • | | 89 |
| 46. Open yourselves to the movement | nts of | grace | • | | 91 |
| 47. Do you want to give the Saviour | to the | world | 1? | | 93 |
| 48. My joy must be yours . | | • | • | • | 95 |
| 49. Fear the Lord who passes by | | • | • | • | 97 |
| 50. Every good tree gives good fruits | s . | • | • | • | 99 |
| 51. Fill your life with good works | | • | • | • | 100 |
| 52. "Deliver us from evil" . | | • | • | • | 101 |
| 53. Bring true love | | • | • | • | 103 |
| 54. You have made your choice | | • | • | • | 104 |
| 55. Faith shows you God as Father | | | • | • | 106 |
| 56. To a group of pilgrims . | | | • | | 109 |
| 57. To a group of pilgrims . | | | • | | 110 |
| 58. The mystical body of Christ | | • | • | • | 112 |
| 59. At the start of Holy Week . | | • | • | • | 114 |
| 60. To a group of pilgrims . | | | • | | 115 |
| 61. Come to draw with a great heart | | | • | | 116 |
| 62. The tragedy continues . | | | • | | 118 |
| 63. Bring aromas to the tomb of Chr | ist | | • | | 120 |
| 64. Jesus had overcame for you all | | | | | 121 |
| 65. Faith and constancy is needed | | | | | 123 |
| 66. Be simple, be prudent . | | | • | | 124 |
| 67. The voice that calls the lapsed | | | • | | 126 |
| • | | | | | |

SIGN OF CONTRADICTION

January 1, 1974

My children, here I am again with you. I have brought you my Child only eight days old. The angel had said to me: "He will be called Son of the Most High", and to Joseph had been said: "He shall be called Jesus." Jesus signified Saviour. That's why therefore, I have brought you the Saviour on the day in which He shed the first drop of blood in the circumcision, in order to save you. I assure you children, that that only drop of blood would have been enough to redeem all of humanity. My Jesus however, wanted to shed it up to the last drop on the cross in order to show you his love.

When a child is born, many times the parents ask themselves what will become of him and, slowly as he grows, plans are formed for him and the heart is opened up to hope. Every mother dreams for her own children health and happiness, moral, spiritual and material goods. But these dreams which are the effect of love, were not for me, who, knowing the Scriptures, knew well what his life and his death would have been. I accepted my cross every day, and every look that I turned to that Child who was the most beautiful in the world, reawakened in me the thought of what was awaiting Him.

The Son of the Most High, come to earth in order to save men, was to have been the most despised of men. His most sweet voice, which gave an infinite joy to my heart, would not have been listened to. His words, which resounded like an echo of the words of the Father, would have been rejected and the truth that they would have expressed, would have been trampled on, combated and substituted with error. His most sweet name, which awakened marvel and adoration among the angels, would have been cursed and accompanied by the most insolent nicknames and by the name of the vilest animals. His white little hands and his rosy little feet would have been pierced by hard nails, and his face which reflected the beauty of God would have been slapped and spat upon.

So, while my heart opened itself to the hope that God would have pity on his people, the thought of what my Son would have encountered tightened my heart as in a vice and wept silently. My children, this your Mother suffered, and she had the confirmation of what she expected, of the heavy sorrows that she would have met when she brought this Son the Man-God to the Temple and heard herself told: "He is set as a sign of contradiction and a lance will pierce your heart." I was presented in this way to the gaze of all the ungrateful and sinful, suffering humanity that would have cooperated to his and my martyrdom.

Children, I have said to you this night that you must consider yourselves as newborn; born today in order to respond to a task of your salvation, in order to

collaborate for the salvation of the brethren. Ask yourselves too these questions that parents ask themselves before a newborn: "What shall become of me? Perhaps a troubled life awaits me, a year full of adversity? How should I behave myself? Should I also be a sign of contradiction for the world?"

Yes, there will be sorrow, but you must not be afraid of it. Perhaps you think that you can go to Paradise in a carriage? But no, the important thing is to look at it serenely, even when your heart weeps. You have only to observe my behaviour. There are crosses of every kind on the path of everyone, but if you take them one by one, you no longer feel the weight.

Many times it seems that your memory functions only to remember past tribulations and, as soon as another one arrives, you go and unearth those that are already in the hands of God as a good capital put in the bank. But children, how can you bundle everything together? The crosses that accompany the life of each one have a value, a purpose, they are riches and, if it is valid for you to recall them for a joyful reason, that is, for having known with the grace of God how to overcome them, you must not complain about them and accuse those who had procured them to you.

In the cross there is salvation, never forget it; from wherever it comes, the cross is a gift that Jesus gives to his friends. Learn to draw profit from all that happens to you, distributing those pearls that you encounter daily on your journey in favour of many.

I have said to you that you too could be a sign of contradiction. Certainly, for if you are with Jesus you cannot be with the world. Your way of thinking, of speaking and of acting must be in contrast with the way of doing of whoever is at the orders of the prince of this world: Satan.

Do not be surprised, compare yourselves with Jesus and with me. Ask yourselves: "What would they do in my place?". If you feel calm, go ahead. Even if everyone were against you, what does it matter? It is the most beautiful sign. If the world has hated my Jesus, it will hate you too. Be serene, be in peace on your part with everyone and let them speak and be opposed to your principles. Perhaps through your sacrifice they will become aware from where good and truth arrives.

"What shall become of me?", you can finally ask yourselves. "I shall one day be in glory." It is for this that you do your duty with love and that you accept adversities. And if I speak to you about glory, I speak to you about the vision of God and I speak to you about myself, as the most affectionate Mother, I will be able to show you all that I have done for you in order to make you rise right up there.

Children, I bless you all. Goodbye and a happy year to you and your loved ones.

THE FINDING OF JESUS

January 2, 1974 (at Seregno)

My dear and beloved children, how dear to my heart is this prayer meeting in which many parishes are represented.

When we used to go to Jerusalem, in the Temple came people from all over Palestine. These were the great solemnities that called the pilgrims to adore the Lord and to celebrate his glory with the reading of the prophecies, the psalms and with the sacrifice of the victims that were offered.

You come here in order to pray and to listen to the word of God. Well then, when you leave home, you make the intention of accomplishing a pious pilgrimage and the results shall be marvellous.

Today I want to speak to you about the loss and the finding of Jesus in the Temple.

It was a lengthy stop, of Jesus in the Temple, who had to explain the prophecies to the doctors. It was the will of God that He remained and every other human matter was to be subordinated to this will. You would say that Jesus should have advised me. No, it was I who had to understand that the mission of my Jesus was not to be impeded by any affection and by any human authority.

My Jesus was in that way to teach to all mothers that children are first of all a gift of the Lord and that in them one needed to keep in mind, above all else, the value of the spirit and their vocation.

The hearts of mothers have many demands and humanly every mother feels a little the owner of the offspring to whom she has given birth. They are a part of herself and many times physical health, wellbeing, good fortune or the good job seem the things of primary importance.

With the suffering by the separation from my Jesus of those three days, that were for my heart of enormous length, I paid the imperfection and the sin of mothers who are less concerned of the evil that their children can commit than the physical evils that they can undergo.

The grace of God that dwells in a soul gives happiness to those who possess it. The will of God, done out of love, is the joy of the life of men, because it realizes in itself that vocation whereby they feel to be in the place willed by God, and on that road which they follow they find all the graces inherent in the embraced state.

I was chosen in order to be Co-Redemptrix of the human race and my Jesus, Son of God, knew the value of suffering. Even with the suffering caused by the loss of Jesus I collaborated so that men of all times, far from Him, would find again the road of return.

My life of sorrowful Virgin has been a continual succession of great sorrows, up to when my Son, dead, was placed in my arms. If I had not suffered, how would I have been able to pay the ransom of so many souls? My Jesus could have spared me everything, but I also like Him, how would I have been able to testify my love for God and for you?

Jesus knew everything and saw all that humanity needed, all the sufferings of the Church, of souls and bodies. He understood and shared everything. And I who had to provide soothing and comfort to every suffering, ought I not to have been myself aware of every suffering, by enduring it?

Experience makes you teachers, and when you have passed through certain trials and you have overcome them, you feel yourselves reassured and much wiser in order to give advice. In this way, children, through the loss and the finding of Jesus in the Temple, I am capable of saying to all mothers who seek their children in order to bring them close to their hearts and to the heart of God: seek them in the temple. Go before the Lord, ask Him through prayer and sacrifice for their return.

I hope that all that I have said to you has clarified your ideas and that you make no reproach to my Jesus, who before being the Son of Mary is the Son of God.

I bless you one by one. I squeeze you to my heart and I promise you to collaborate with you, so that this year that you have begun may be truly holy and rich with abundant fruits of eternal life.

I GIVE YOU A PROGRAMME

January 2, 1974 (at Muggiò)

My children, peace be to you and grace. I am the Miraculous One, I am the Queen of the Universe. I am here as in a family because I have placed my abode here, and I speak to all and to each one because I know the necessities and the worries of all and each one, I know the defects and the virtues.

I am the Miraculous One, and through the grace that God gives me, I can do great works here and everywhere. He is the Author, but He gives me a special task. It is for this that always and everywhere you must thank God, the Almighty who works. He chooses poverty for himself and elevates it up to making it become riches. He raises the dust up to giving it life. He fills nothingness with himself, so as to make it become everything.

Children, what a beautiful thing to understand that you need everything from God and that all that you have is his! How easy it is to give your thanks to the supreme Lord and Creator, when you comprehend his love through which He has enriched you with infinite favours!

With these sentiments dispose yourselves to welcome my word; this must be like a programme on which you will base your day, the year that you have begun and all your life.

I refer to you three sentences of the Gospel that may serve you as meditation. Jesus used to say: "Be the salt of the earth. Be the light of the world. Let your works shine before men so that they may praise your Father who is in the heavens."

First of all be salt. You know how necessary this precious mineral is that serves to give flavour and taste to dishes and to preserve certain things that without it would deteriorate. Well then, I invite you to have that wisdom, that common sense, which may be like the salt through which in every action, in every job, in every prayer or apostolate work it may not lack that proper equilibrium that renders everything pleasing to God and to your loved ones who are close to you.

Equilibrium is the just measure that does not exaggerate in any part, that does not make the full cup overflow. It is seeing the things of life always according to the faith that you have in God and the help that you must give to the brethren. Equilibrium excludes selfishness, and whoever stretches out his arms in order to help the neighbour does it with that reserve, with that spontaneity and with that just manner whereby the right knows nothing of what the left does. Equilibrium is the justice that collaborates with generosity and makes of it a duty.

Moreover, children, alongside the salt I show you the light. Be the flame that illuminates and warms up. Be the light that shines in the darkness. Where will you draw this light that is wisdom? Not from the spirit of the world, but from the Lord's. You draw light from Him, from the Christ who came into the world in order to illuminate all men. Be your thoughts therefore, luminous like the morning light. Be your works therefore, luminous through that simplicity with which you do them and through that love that animates them and which makes them fertile so that they may be multiplied.

Luminous thoughts come from a right intention and are so transparent as to appear in the brightness of your eyes.

The words shine in the smile that you give, which is like a golden shower that goes to reassure souls, to comfort those who suffer, to give hope and courage to the discouraged. How great is the gift of the word! How much light it can bring in the world, in society, in families, in hearts!

And the actions? Oh, they must sparkle, on the command of Jesus! Every man who comes into this world has a task: to know God, to love Him and to serve Him, in order to go one day to enjoy Him in Heaven. Everyone, even by reason alone could discover and admit the existence of this Supreme Being who has created the universe out of love and who desires to be loved. But men are many times blind and deaf and only by means of man are capable of ascending to God. That's why, my children, your actions must be light and shine before men. They must understand the goodness of God through your goodness. They will discover the providence of God if you will be the extension of the hand of God in doing good.

Luminous words are a testimony and an invitation, moreover, luminous actions are the example that draws and brings God amongst men.

So, with a programme ever so simple, you will make a means for reaching sanctity and it shall be a call for others to imitate you. Wisdom and equilibrium exclude certain mistakes, whereby he who has no faith can say that the salt has become insipid. It is like saying that he who has received greater goods has become worse than others.

There are no defects into which a person can fall in which you also cannot fall. The vigilance over your senses and common sense all tested, shall be for you a guarantee in which the grace of God shall have the first part. The light that will emanate from your life, shall be the most beautiful testimony of your faith, that shall be firm, constant and will direct the works. So every day, every year of your life, shall be luminous for you and for others.

I bless you, children, and I help you in everything. I give you the peace that the angels sang in the holy night.

I MAKE USE OF YOUR PRAYER

January 3, 1974 (at Muggiò)

My beloved children, thanks for the generosity and the haste with which you have responded to my call. Your prayer can have the value of a glass of water that you give to a thirsty one. In this case the first thirsty one is me. I thirst for your prayer; yes, children, because with it I can use it quench the thirst of souls parched with

spiritual thirst, those souls who, desirous of truth and of light, go about anxiously seeking it. I make use of your prayer, and I light a torch, I show the way, I illuminate minds, I make opportunities arise, people suitable to be illuminated. This is the effect of a prayer raised to Heaven by good souls who do not spare sacrifice and above all who love.

Moreover, your gift of love, your prayer, goes to quench the thirst of other souls who groan and hope and love. They are the suffering souls. I would like to make you hear their laments in order to make you understand how proper it is to help them. The desire of becoming reunited with God, whose love, mercy and infinite goodness they have understood, makes them burn with thirst; a mystical thirst, which in comparison to the thirst that men suffer in sunny deserts and without water is greater by far. It is a thirst that devours the soul, the same which Jesus felt when He ardently desired to be immolated in order to save men. And the thirst of these souls is coincidental with the thirst that God has of being reunited to them, who, saved by the Man-God, wait to have the eternal reward from Him. Prayer is a refreshing rain and a comfort.

Then there are other souls to whom your prayer goes as a stimulus, as an invitation, as a call and as an instrument of salvation. They are those souls who are withering themselves at the fire of the passions and are not aware that grace could give back to them the joy of living. Your prayer passes over them like a mysterious force, similar to the one that dragged Saul down from the horse on the way to Damascus.

The prayer made well becomes efficacious grace that compels souls to return to themselves. It is like a powerful light that, as it makes one close the eyes to the fatuous and fleeting things of the world, makes one exclaim: Lord, who are You? Where can I find You? And the thirst for God substitutes for the transitory things and true love substitutes for passion.

Yes, children, your prayer is all that I have told you. It seems to you that you are alone, that you are few, but the echo of your prayer reverberates from city to city, from nation to nation. The whole earth jumps. To your prayer all the angels and saints unite themselves. With you good souls thirsting for sacrifice and immolation pray.

Does it not seem to you but a little thing a night spent praying, but it will remain in my mind and in the mind of God like a monument of his and your glory. Do you want for me to receive without giving anything? Does it seem possible to you that just I who has taken in the mystery of love enclosed in the heart of my Jesus, can be ungrateful or less generous?

Yes, children, ask me! I am your Queen and I have the eternal vaults at my disposal. My work before you is unlimited. Look at me! Do you not see my arms open in the act of welcoming you? Do you not see the luminous rays that part from my fingers? It is true, they are of metal, but they are an image of those graces of which I wish to fill you. Have confidence in me, give me full powers. It is true, you see your spiritual needs serious enough, but you see the material ones even more serious. I will invert the parts. I want to render your souls rich with the true spiritual treasures and then I want to help you in all the rest.

Be calm, be good and do lose your peace. Continue to give me that glass of water that quenches me, give me prayer. Transform every action of yours into prayer and let me act. I love you and I am powerful. If you are not heard immediately in your desires, it is because I know that it is better this way. You do not know from how many dangers you have been spared from. Many times you attribute faults or merits to persons of this world, but were you to know how different are things seen from above. What you have not done because impeded, it was the Lord who had impeded you. And that good that you have sometimes attributed to chance, to opportunities, to persons, it was the Lord who gave you the means of doing it.

Have confidence, love the Lord who loves you with a special and infinite love. He loves you in spite of your defects. He loves you just as you are, as if you merited all his love. And He loves you because He sees you needy of help, He sees you little, simple and desirous of love.

Love, because love purifies you, elevates you, sanctifies you and immerses you in the heart of God, so that you may be able to send fiery rays of goodness over all those whom you love and whom God loves.

Goodnight, children. May my embrace fortify you in everything.

TO THE YOUNG

January 6, 1974

My children, why not bless you and encourage you, while you show me so much affection and so much good will? Yes, continue to get together, continue to love each other and to help each other in turn.

Here you draw at that light which comes to you from above, then you bring it everywhere. The Magi, after having studied the Sacred Scriptures and scrutinized the course of the stars, were capable of identifying the Child, the Son of God made man and of presenting to Him the best of themselves.

You also in these meetings bring your hearts which constitute the gift of love, you bring your prayer which is represented by the incense and, not least, the gift of myrrh, which is that part of sacrifices to which you submit in order to be present here.

I bless your offering and I say, as was already told to the Magi: return to your countries following another road. Return home, to your parishes and to your workplaces, transformed. Be true testimonies of the Christ, true God and true man. Learn to do every duty of yours looking up to Heaven, and let faith illuminate it and guide it. Learn to perform every action of yours with that humanity and with that love through which all may be attracted not just to you, but to Him for whom you act. So did the Magi, and after having spent their existence in making known the birth of the Messiah, they crowned it with martyrdom and were worthy of the eternal reward.

Children, life is a trial of love that you must give to Him who came down from Heaven to earth out of love. Develop this divine seed which, falling inside you on the day of Baptism, must become a great tree and produce fruits of eternal life. Increase the faith more and more. Increase through love that sanctifying grace so precious because it makes you live of God, and let hope be always the companion of your life so as not to permit any disturbance, any doubt, any discomfort.

Be witnesses of the presence of God in the world by word and by works, so that the world may amend and return to Him.

I embrace you blessing you one by one.

I GIVE YOU GOLD, INCENSE AND MYRRH

January 6, 1974

Beloved children, here you are as in the hospitable house which lodged me after the birth of my Jesus.

I invite you to get closer to Him and to me with that spirit of faith, of humility and of love with which the Magi came to visit us. On that day that was so beautiful for me, my Son was recognized as Son of God, as King of kings and as Man destined to bring salvation to the nations.

Behold, the same gifts that the Magi offered to my Child, I give them to you. I give you the gold, the incense and the myrrh. I beg you, receive them with a spirit of faith and try to translate them in practical life as a manifestation of your Christian life.

I give you the incense: recognize my Jesus as God. But how will you do it? God has revealed himself, He has made known his existence, He has made known his Word. Accept those truths that were transmitted to you as a great and precious inheritance; do not waste them, but guard them, love them and spread them.

If a personage of a high lineage were to condescend to detain himself with you in loving conversation, or were to write love letters to you in order to unveil his affection and his secrets to you, what would you do? Would you not welcome every word as a precious thing? Would you not preserve, in order to show them to your descendants, the good news enclosed in the letters?

Well then, your God who in this moment wants to receive your worship, has condescended to speak with men right from the beginning of creation; He has willed, in order to make himself better understood, to speak through the mouth of his beloved Son, who did not tire of giving his teachings during the three years of his public life; He has spoken through the apostles and his successors, and He still speaks through the Church vivified by the Holy Spirit.

Recognizing God amongst you means to love to hear speaking about Him, to speak with Him, to make with Him that unity which gives value to the life of man. God is with you, He is the Emmanuel. Do not treat Him like a stranger! Receive his doctrine as a precious gift to be traded.

Many in the world ignore the divine truths. Many reject them because they cannot admit that their intelligence cannot get to grasp them all, they do not accept the mysteries.

Moreover, you who know what infinite distance exists between the wisdom of God and the poor human intelligence, have no difficulty in believing. Be simple like children, because the more simple you are the more you will enjoy these relationships of yours with Him who not only is Wisdom, but also infinite Goodness. How will you be able to understand everything, while even in the things that you see daily and which you live out humanly, there are many to which you cannot give an explanation, they are that is, mysteries for you?

Adore the wisdom of God. Receive that spark which He makes a gift to your souls and thank Him, if He wishes to reveal some truth to you in a clearer way because He wants to help your faith.

I give you the gold of the Magi and I desire that you transmute it into a recognition of the royalty of Jesus. He, born in a grotto, in extreme poverty, desires this recognition.

There are many who rebel against authority and sow disorder everywhere. Your King desires the adhesion of your will to his in a perfect subjection.

There is a law that Jesus has perfected and which He has preached by word, but above all by example, sacrificing himself for the brethren on the cross. It is the law of love. If you wish in imitation of the Magi, to make your life a manifestation, an Epiphany, you must live out this law of love. There is no person that you must exclude from your heart, because you all have to be subjects of the same King and because by Him you are all loved with the same intensity of love. Neither spitefulness, nor wickedness, nor repugnance must distance you from souls. All the earth, all humanity must gather up your good and must draw benefit from your life, lived out in the recognition of that royalty that exceeds every earthly power.

But look, children, I am your heavenly Mother and, as I hold out my Child to you to kiss before I leave from here, I will ask you for the gift of myrrh. I will ask you to accept and to value those little crosses which your life is sown with. I will be happy and my Jesus will make a precious offering of them to the Father.

Do you think that I am deaf to your cries and that I do not wish to hear you? But no, children! I have known all your sufferings because I lived through them and I know the pains that torment your soul. All I need is your perseverance, your patience. Sometimes you want to be quickly freed from sufferings that you have brought on yourselves with that lack of balance that is so necessary. Experience will make you more prudent, but meanwhile constancy in prayer is needed.

Has not my Jesus taught you to ask for the daily bread and to ask to be liberated from every evil? This is also his desire. Have trust, do not let hope die in your hearts.

Those mothers who impatiently wait for the re-healing of their children, consider valuing this time of waiting. You are all brothers and what you do of good always returns to the benefit of someone. You might say: But I pray and suffer for my son, for my children. It is true that motherly love is not free from a certain egoism, but I assure you that your offering shall be for the benefit of souls, it will bring light also to your children. Remember that some of those gone astray are more ready for the call, others act like the Prodigal Son and stay far away from the Father until they have squandered all their belongings; but have faith, I will recompose your families.

This offering of myrrh that you give me, I unite it to the one of the Man-God on the cross and it becomes of infinite value.

Children, I bless you. By the hand of your spiritual mother I myself will hold out my Child to you to kiss. Kiss Him also in the name of all those who on these feasts have given Him the kiss of Judas in a sacrilegious Communion. Kiss Him for all the innocent children and may these kisses serve to console Him.

PERSEVERE AND SPREAD GOOD

January 7, 1974 (in a Church)

My beloved children, peace and joy be in your hearts. Look, I am here with you in order to bless you and to help you.

I like you giving your Rosary a character of solemnity by singing the Glory Be at every decade. It is like inviting the angelic choirs and the saints to glorify with you the Most Holy Trinity. I like also your desire of seeing many persons gathered here. Your desire is like a reality for me whereby I see around you, praying with you, all those good souls desirous of loving me and honouring me. In this way, through your Rosary and through their desires, I pour out abundant graces on all.

I would like there to be in all parishes missionaries of Our Lady, committed to make me known and loved and to pray to me.

You have to be like the spark that arouses a great fire. You have to be the souls who, welcoming the light that comes from above, go out of their way so that all may be illuminated. Do you see that illuminated Tabernacle, how it draws the gazes of those who enter into this Church?

So you, illuminated by the grace of God who dwells in you and by the Word that renders the divine truths clear to your intelligence, you have to be that lamp which illuminates not only your house, but also your parish and the whole Church.

Persevere therefore, and spread that good that you go about doing; all will feel its benefit. Your priests who permit you to get together in communal prayer and to communicate with Heaven and amongst yourselves, shall have an increase of grace that will give efficacy to their word and strength in the fulfilment of their ministry.

"Thy Kingdom come", you implore in the recitation of the Our Father, as my Jesus taught you; but prayer is needed, through which God divinizes human works and makes them suitable to realize the Kingdom of God, which is the kingdom of souls. Whoever does not work for the Kingdom in this sense, even doing wonderful works, will never be able to make the Lord reign.

Only God is powerful. Man is a small thing, and only if he invokes help from Him does he become great. To this greatness that is divine life, aspire continuously, verifying day by day your littleness and your insufficiency.

From the hut of Bethlehem where everything speaks to you about humility, from the behaviour of the shepherds and of the Magi, draw that strength that may be a guide to you in the way of the Lord.

I bless you, children, and I love you. Bring my blessing to your family members. Learn to have compassion for them and understand them in their demands and in their weaknesses and learn to illuminate them with the strength of your persuasion, always balanced and founded on charity.

Goodbye, my children. May peace and joy, fruit of grace, dwell always in your hearts.

THE EUCHARIST IS A GIFT OF LOVE

January 8, 1974

Beloved children, here I am always punctual for the appointment. I am the Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and today I would like to open your eyes and your heart to a great truth, too often forgotten by men.

My Jesus has said to you: "I am the living Bread descended from Heaven (Jn 6:51)", and on that Holy Thursday evening He transformed the bread into his most sacred Body and the wine into his most precious Blood, in this way showing the truth of his words.

He therefore, as living Bread gives life to the souls of the faithful who feed on Him. Every Church during the whole year is his Bethlehem, where Jesus continuously works the multiplication of the loaves in order to nourish the crowd of his children. But why are they nauseated with a gift so precious and refuse to receive it?

The hungry crowds that followed Jesus for a few days, received with joy the bread and the fish, which prefigured the Eucharist. And why do the faithful who know Him for two thousand years, do not want to welcome Him into their homes, into their hearts and disdain his company?

Unfortunately the easy life and the promises that the world makes to those who follow it are more attractive. On the other hand religious ignorance does not give to this precious gift the importance it deserves. So you see the churches deserted and the Tabernacles abandoned.

My Jesus has said: "Blessed those who hunger for they shall be filled (Lk 6:21)." But do they not run the risk of dying of misery and hunger those who do not want to be nourished? It is true also that in order to approach the Eucharist a certain

commitment is required that demands a consistent life between faith and morals. It is true that the conscience must be pure in order to approach such a Sacrament. Jesus in fact, is the living Bread and just as you would not put a piece of bread into the mouth of a corpse, so whoever is dead to the life of grace cannot receive Jesus. Moreover, before a God who immolates himself and gives himself completely for the sake of his children, does it not seem to you that it would be worth the while and it would be proper to deny all that is not according to his Law, in order to follow Him and to receive Him?

The Eucharist, children, is a gift of love and whoever learns to appreciate it and desire it feels its precious fruits in the soul. The most important fruit is holiness.

Just as you cannot stay cold for long when you go close to the fire, in the same way, approaching my Jesus in the Eucharist, you cannot but feel reverberate in you his desires. "Be holy", Jesus has said to you and repeats to you at every encounter with Him. Be holy, that is, be perfect.

If you become aware of having made many Communions and of not having progressed in virtue, look for the cause in that coldness that has let you fail in the preparation and the thanksgiving every time that you have received the Lord in you. A preparation made well demands the struggle not only against mortal sin, but also against the venial one known and willed and against those imperfections that embitter the Son of God.

Therefore, learn to distinguish between those weaknesses in which you daily run up against and that make you fall, and that attachment to sin which truly disgusts the Lord and which puts like a barrier between you and God, whereby He cannot benefit you as He desires.

Jesus has said: "I have come to heal those who are sick.", and in his great mercy does not disdain pardoning the greatest sins and welcoming the greatest sinners. But if the sick man does not desire to be cured and does not want to use the remedies, does it not seem to you that the doctor will not be able to heal him? Even a light illness neglected can become a great danger and lead to the tomb. So it is for the soul. The many venial sins will never constitute a mortal sin, but from that neglectfulness and from that lukewarmness that leads you to commit them, a spiritual weakness will enter in you through which you could lose the faith and fall also into the grave fault with a certain ease.

My children, I am beside every Tabernacle to console and to repair the many offences that my Jesus receives. Moreover, I am also near each one of you so that the

daily or weekly Communion that you receive, may be truly the Bread of the angels, that brings into your heart a little fragrance and taste of Paradise.

Only there will you understand the value of this Eucharistic gift that was the strength whereby many martyrs went gladly to their martyrdom, many virgins were able to guard their chastity and many Christians sanctified themselves because they found in daily Communion the grace to do their duty.

I bless you, children, in the name of my Jesus made Host of propitiation for all.

I bless your hearts, in which very soon you will receive his Body, and I beg you: be living monstrances, so that from you one learns to love and to honour Jesus living and true in the Most Holy Eucharist.

I bless in particular my ministers who will pass by and who have passed by through this place and I grant them to never celebrate the Holy Mysteries without my special assistance and grace.

See you again with ever renewed fervour.

THE FAMILY MUST BE HEALED AGAIN

January 15, 1974

Dear and beloved children, I am here with you. I am your Mother, the Mother of all men of earth. I am the Virgin Bride, guardian of families.

I am glad to be able always to communicate those teachings to you that will make you into models of Christian life. I am happy to admonish you and to encourage you according to need, so that you may be truly able to be in your turn good and simple teachers who, sowing the divine truths everywhere, give the chance to others to know and to love God. The first sphere, however, in which you must carry out your work is the family. This magnificent human and divine institution needs to be healed again. It is like a delicate creature in which ever deeper wounds are being formed that seem almost incurable.

How will you go about carrying out your mission that requires so much delicacy and so much faith, so much humility and prudence? First of all you must have very clear ideas regarding the family.

Willed by God for the individual and social good, the family must see in Him the supreme Lord and Orderer, it must therefore respect Him and observe his Laws. This will constitute that spiritual order which is put above all.

You have observed many times the necessity of sorrow as a means of purification and of sanctification and you know also the social function of redemption that suffering has united to that of Jesus. But whoever does not believe, or accept sorrow stoically or rebels, finds it an unjust punishment.

Death itself, which the saints call sweetly a "sister" and to which Christians think about with joy almost as if to hasten their encounter with God, becomes, for whoever has no faith, a motive of despair; in this way you see, very often, inconsolable people who refuse to believe in eternal life, while they despair for the loss of loved persons.

God must be the guardian of families and justly it ought to be said that in vain are these cells of society formed if God is not placed in charge of them.

The family must be tied by a deep and lasting affection that will not be interrupted even with death. But human love is too weak for it to be able to resist the many difficulties and dispossession of all that formed the object of this love. It is necessary for the love of God to penetrate all the members of the family, to animate them and render them constant. The Law of God is a Law of love. It is possible to save to the sanctity of the family and render it worthy of protection and of providence only by obeying this Law.

For all these reasons, on your part you must try to restore this spiritual order. To everyone their duties and their rights, but the first duties to be respected are those towards the Creator and Lord of the world, who has the right to reign in families.

But let us continue on, children, in our work of healing.

There are moral duties, there is a moral order to be respected which is independent from the level of culture and from the function that the members have in society. There is an authority in the family that is to be respected. In the family of Nazareth one obeyed and there was the most perfect moral order. Joseph was considered the head of the family. My Jesus during his thirty years of private life obeyed him, and I too lovingly obeyed him who represented on earth the Eternal Father, from whom he had received authority.

It is true that many spouses weep over their incredulous husbands so little suited to command. But does it not seem to you that it would be the case of helping with great charity and love those creatures who, perhaps having grown up in families less educated and in unhealthy surroundings, have not had those teachings that would have made them able to become true gentlemen?

No one must presume too much, but when the woman especially wishes to commit herself to obtain transformations, she can succeed with the grace of God and with that constant goodness that makes her superior in virtue in the eyes of the husband.

The respect of the husband on the part of the wife, creates that atmosphere of respect also on the part of the children which is indispensable in order to be able to educate well. Humility is the base virtue in Christian perfection. But how will my children be able to be in harmony among themselves if all want to command? I bless those families in which the authority of the father is respected and I help a lot all the members, especially the obedient wives, who in obedience sanctify themselves even if the head of the family were to be defective.

Once the spiritual and moral order are salvaged, there's nothing left except for the material and physical one to be looked at.

Much peace necessitates much order. How much poverty there was in our house, be it at Bethlehem as at Nazareth, as in Egypt, but how much order! A place for everything and everything in its place. This is a sentence that can be a guide especially to a woman. Then order in the person, which is not luxury but cleanliness. The good odour of cleanliness is a call for everyone to love the home and the people that comprise the family. Cleanliness however, must not lead to being slaves of the house.

There are exaggerated people who would go without prayer, Mass and their religious duties even in order to render their house bright and transparent, so as to make this kind of mania weigh on others. No, children, the house is at your service, and it is wasted toil if all is not done for the sake of God, but in order to have the approval of men. And on the other hand there are those who, wasting so much precious time, do not learn to do those duties so necessary that regard order and cleanliness. The right is in the middle, children. Love to be also in this balanced and learn to direct new families, new generations along these principles.

Children, I bless you all. See you again and let there be a lot of love in your hearts now and always.

OFFER YOURSELVES UP FOR THE PRIESTS

January 18, 1974 (at Trieste)

Beloved children, here I am amongst you. I am the Queen of Victories, I am your Mother. What joy this meeting of yours gives to my heart and to the heart of my Jesus.

Truly it is love that guides your steps when you set off to come to spend some time here, where we have placed our dwelling, and it is love that guides your prayer.

Persevere in it and make love truly your programme of life. The worldly also speak about love, but they mistake sensuality, pleasure and purely human affection for love. True love comes from God and here, in this house so welcoming, I desire to light a burning furnace where all those who come can not only warm themselves up, but also communicate to each other that ardour of charity that God gives you.

I desire however, to entrust a special mission to you. You know how much my Jesus loved his apostles and how much He favoured those children that He calls beside his heart with a special vocation so that they may be in the world the continuers of his mission. I am speaking about the priests and the religious. Well then, they are often like those sick children who in the family need the most assiduous care.

Unfortunately the devil, who also approached me in order to tempt me, approaches them. It happens many times that these children, forgetful of their weakness, neglect prayer and fasting, which my Jesus practised for a good forty days so as to point out that only with these means can one be victorious.

What will you do? Do you recall the prayer raised by Moses on the mountain while his people were fighting? He prayed with arms raised, and when the arms were lowered his people were losing. Then Moses had recourse to those who in the moments of extreme tiredness supported his arms. And his people, the people of God, were victorious.

The priests in this moment are needy of those who support their arms, who pray for them and with them. They have to spread the truth, but the father of lies tempts them, disturbs them and makes them fall. Therefore, shall the faith fade away? No. You pray and love, and light is made in their minds. They have to be the lamp that illuminates and the salt of the earth. The Spirit of the Lord still has to illuminate their minds so that they may uncover error and combat it. But how will it be possible if they are not helped?

The darkness of error does not spare anyone. The most clear truths are denied and atheistic materialism makes headway also in the hearts of the consecrated, who many times deny the existence of hell, of the angels, of the demons and even the Real Presence of my Jesus in the Eucharist. How to overcome all these difficulties? It is again your prayer that, with the strength of the love that comes from God, will combat the demons and, transformed time and again in adoration and in reparation, will protect or bring back the religious and the consecrated to the truth.

I invite you, children, to make your life a continual offering to God, as victims of salvation for this elect category of the Church of God.

If a priest is holy, he sanctifies a multitude of people. Be joyful for participating in this sanctification. I am always close to you.

I gather up your tears, your physical, moral and spiritual sufferings, all your worries. Do so that every little suffering that you offer me may have a marked address: for the priests; and I will be prompt in thinking and providing for all those urgent needs that make a part of your life.

Mothers, who here present weep over the fate of your children, do not forget the sorrow for that overwhelming number of children who break the heart of my Jesus and mine. Join your sorrow to mine, and it will be sanctified.

But I ask particularly you, who in physical or spiritual motherhood find the satisfaction to your desires, to take the priests on as your children. Love them as such, defend them from the dangers and help them. Be they from your parish or from the parish of the whole world, which is the holy temple of God, go out of your way for them and act so that your prayers and sufferings may make sanctity gush forth for that new Kingdom, the Kingdom of love, of charity and of peace that all hope for.

I bless you all, my children, as I present your entreaties to the Father. I bless those who live in and who visit this house. They will receive special graces for the soul and for the body.

In simplicity of life and in devout faith you find joy in little things also, and of all that you receive bless the Lord, the only author of every good.

See you again, children, always with renewed faith and fervour.

TO THE PRIESTS

January 19, 1974 (at Trieste)

My beloved children, be the welcomed ones in this house that I have chosen in order to work the wonders of my love.

I am the Immaculate Virgin, and I would like to tell you with a heartfelt emphasis: take my heart, make it yours and show it to the whole world, so sorrowful as it is and so desirous of helping and of saving everyone. Perhaps some will no longer be indifferent, perhaps the way of truth and of good will be found again.

You all are aware of the urgency of countering evil with good, wickedness with goodness, darkness with light. But how will you do it alone, while evil brazenly propagates itself and good is silent and reserved?

That's why I want to give you my heart, that heart which beat only for God, and I invite you to speak about me and about the riches of which I am the depositary, so that my beloved sons understand the necessity of living out their chastity completely.

Chastity is not only a corporal commitment, but it comprises a dominion over one's feelings, one's thoughts, one's heart; that heart which is the central propeller of life, but which can play some ugly tricks and transmute into idols those affections that seem holy and cultivable.

In this way, children, I desire for my heart to be a model to you in that detachment from all that is material and also and above all from your "I", which is the cause of many grave evils.

Oh, how much I want to insist with you — so that, personally convinced, you may be the mouthpiece before others — on the virtue of chastity, indispensable for priests and religious, if they wish to be faithful to their vocation.

The temptations, which my Jesus accepted to be subjected to during the forty days of fasting and praying in the desert, are still the same to which the devil subjects the well-beloved ones of my Jesus. He still presents himself as mellifluous and good, like Him. But what will come of so many children of mine who abhor prayer and who do not know mortification? Does it not seem to you that it is much easier to give worship to Satan rather than to resist evil?

Children, I repeat to you again: take my heart and see it bleeding. The heart of a Mother bleeds for the rebellions, the insubordination to the Head of the Church, moreover it bleeds also in seeing privileged creatures fall short of their tasks, only because they do not want to understand that prayer is the armour plate and mortification is the barbed wire that defends them from the assaults of the enemies.

Yes, children, it is the moment to act — already at other times I have told you — but in this sense: giving to your communities, to your parishioners, to all, the example of your holiness. Be audacious, aim for the heights. Do not be half hearted saints. You would not be neither hot nor cold and your holiness would be no good to move hearts. Let the enthusiasm of being at the service of the King make you capable of giving your life for his glory, for the triumph of his Kingdom and so that his holy Name may be glorified.

Beloved children, perhaps you have remained surprised in hearing my word so sorrowfully harsh, but the necessity of the moment demands an ardent re-awakening, a fervour and an uncommon fire.

Accept, in obedience to me, to let yourselves be inspired, be led and developed. I shall be your strength and I will give you courage. Watch over yourselves and take good care that no doubt takes hold in you. Let the clear faith, which comes to you from the Pope, be the one you defend and love up to being ready to give your blood in order to bear witness to it.

To all my embrace and the invitation to do more and more and better and better what you have been called to do. You are all my children and the love that you show me is greatly pleasing to me.

See you again, children, always numerous and fervent, propagators of my Rosary and devotion to me.

TO THE YOUNG

January 20, 1974

My beloved children, so dear to the heart of my Jesus for your young age and for those desires of good by which you are animated, be blessed.

I am Mary of Nazareth and I am the Mother of the Church. Today I wish to give you a little lesson on love in order to urge you to do effectively in you all those transformations that I and my Jesus desire ardently.

You have seen a few days ago or so, in the liturgy of the Church, my Child in the modest house of Bethlehem receive the visit of the Magi. They, illuminated by divine light, recognized Him and adored Him as Son of God and bore witness to Him in their countries by life and death. Then you have heard the Father manifest the divinity of my Jesus in baptism on the banks of the Jordan. Today it is Jesus himself who manifests himself to you and lets you know that He is God and therefore, his power to work the most astounding miracles.

The deed of the miracle of Cana, right at the start of the public life of Jesus, being done in a family on the occasion of a marriage, through my intercession, must fill you with great joy.

You have gathered here as at a mystical wedding banquet, in order to tighten more and more your bonds of love with the Son of God, who by means of grace wishes to work great transformations in you. I desire to bless this banquet and also favour all that is humanly dear to your heart. I desire to have the freedom to act and to see you ready and obedient like the servants of that house, who promptly brought jars of water that were then transformed into the best wine.

If you only have no other thought than to do good and to do it well, I will multiply your capacity and your energies so that you will be amazed at what you will know and how far you will reach.

I will help you and I will bless the families that leave from this cenacle. But I beg you, distance from yourselves that lukewarmness and that indifference for the concerns that are very dear to my heart.

Some saints were called mad, because the love that burned inside them compelled them to act in an exceptional way for the Lord. He who is taken in by false loves, on the contrary, sometimes does insane things, because the strength of the passion overwhelms reason.

May you be imitators of Jesus, the great Inebriated One, who out of love for his children went joyfully forward to the cross. If the measure of his love is to be yours, learn to love Him and all the brethren in this way, by seeking and wanting for all the greatest good.

The wine that gives strength in the Mass be the means which you make use of to grow in faith, in love and in greater patience of every suffering.

I love you and I bless you all, my children, touching your heart with maternal goodness.

LEARN TO GUARD THESE TREASURES

January 21, 1974

My beloved children, I am here with you with so much clemency and with all my power. I am Mary, Star of the Sea; and of you, who sail on the tempestuous sea of life, I wish truly to be the Star, so that, turning to me in the darkest and most troubled hours, you may be able to have that necessary light to guide your soul to the safe harbour, after having accomplished the mission to which everyone of you is called.

You have heard many times my Jesus in the Gospel speak to you about precious things that you must at any cost preserve or conquer. I speak to you of pearls, of talents, and I too wish to present to you some precious pearls that you ought to bring intact up to the throne of God. You ought to bring them intact for the glory of God who has created you, for the glory of the Son who has redeemed you and for the glory of the Holy Spirit, since, if you should reach sanctity, to Him you would owe it.

I invite you therefore, to think a moment to what dignity God has made you soar through grace: you have become his adoptive sons and co-inheritors of Paradise with Jesus, Son of God, made flesh and made one of us out of love.

Whoever takes life too materialistically, cannot understand the importance of this gift that comes directly from God and which to Him must return.

Behold, children, the precious pearl that must draw all your attention whereupon all other interests must be subordinated to them. One only is the purpose of this journey on earth, one only the destination to reach: the salvation of the soul. If you were to think however, of being able to reach salvation alone, you can be sure of failure. No man by his own strength can reach eternal life. Try and think of all the good that humanly can be done in the world. Consider all that in the world can be a suffering to you, work, illnesses, the carnage and the atrocities undergone by all the martyrs. Think also of all the goodness and the love with which good creatures can be filled. Well then, add them all up and with all that it would not be possible to save one single soul.

Without the redemption, without the blood of my Jesus, to which I was able to unite my collaboration, no one would have been able to save himself. The offence given to God could not be erased if not by God himself. He has given to you the fruit of the redemption, that is, grace, so that each one of you would be able to reach salvation. There is no pearl of greater value. What care you ought to have of the soul! How you ought to be jealous of guarding grace!

Everyone is called to reach a degree of sanctity that is unknown to him in earthly life. You are therefore, like those mariners who cannot stay still, there being the danger of sinking. You must continue on your journey without ever getting tired. You must proceed armed with good will, trusting in the help of God, who is the Helmsman of your boat who wants and who can bring you in to port. If you find the trip tempestuous because many dangers turn up every day, you must raise your cry like that of the apostles: "Lord, we are perishing, save us!"

Thus there is another pearl entrusted to you, which you must preserve in spite of the battles that rage more and more wildly: it is faith. That genuine faith, simple, based on trust and on prayer. That faith which, though not seeing, is certain because it is supported on the word of my Son who cannot deceive anyone. That faith for which the martyrs have given their lives amidst the greatest torments.

Preserving the faith means to keep oneself humble, for pride is the cause through which many children no longer accept the truth and choose error; it means practising it and increasing it with many acts of trust, especially when everything makes one discouraged and when the crosses of life seem to thrust you into the depth of your misery; it means remaining united to the Pope and to the Church.

When waves of Protestantism came to disturb the mind of the most fervent Christians, there were always those who yielded to the flatteries, but there were always those who continued to practise the Law according to the principles of the Creed and of the Morals and lived and died in holiness.

The faith is the anchor of salvation that gives strength in the fulfilment of one's duty and which helps to confront every danger. To this anchor of salvation today more than every it is necessary to be attached with confident hope. The faith coincides with your vocation as Christians. Everyone in his field must work, busy himself and discover this marvellous pearl that turns you into the elect of Christ. To live in conformity to this vocation means to give witness of Him by responding to the grace and by practising the virtues to which the faith invites you.

Children, learn to value and guard these treasures and all the rest will seem nothing to you.

I bless you all, my children, and I wait for you always joyfully in order to instruct you and comfort you.

I PRESENT TO YOU THREE TYPES OF PERSONS

January 22, 1974

Dear and beloved children, here I am still desirous of giving you light and comfort. I am your Mother, your Guide.

I see many people here. Everyone has his physical, moral and spiritual features. Everyone, coming here, has brought his intentions and his desires. There are those who have come to ask for material graces, some for spiritual ones. Some have come out of curiosity. They have said in their heart: We want to go and see. And I know how to forgive everyone even their weaknesses. Where faith is lacking, I put it. Where love is lacking, I bring it. Even the curiosity of Zacchaeus was rewarded by Jesus, do you remember? He had climbed up a tree in order to see better.

I welcome everyone here, I help and bless everyone, even those, consecrating themselves to me, who are afraid to take on very heavy commitments. I am your Guide and Teacher like mothers are for their children. Do not slip away from my hands, I beg you. For what depends on me I do the impossible.

Today however, I wish to present to you three types of persons, to which each man can belong to, gaining in that way a positive or negative outcome of one's life that can have a projection in eternity.

There is the type of those who think they know it all. They think they have infused knowledge and that they have nothing to learn from anyone. In the search for truth they trust only in themselves and they would like to penetrate the most hidden natural and supernatural mysteries. These are the proud to whom the Lord not only takes away his light, but whom He knocks down and disperses. God resists them because in their great misery they compare themselves to others, whom they always find of little account and bad.

If they possess some gift, they present it to God and to neighbour boasting rights and merits as if it were theirs.

To this type so well represented by the Pharisee in the Gospel, I beg you to never want and then to never belong, for, if God the Father has pity on all, He has no pity on those who think they have no need of Him, and He abandons them to themselves.

Moreover, there is another type that equally grieves the Father's heart. They are those who let themselves become disheartened and, discouraged, give up the fight. They would like to take some step forward, but they do not find in themselves the strength to overcome the most insignificant difficulties even. They are at the edge of the road, they look up ahead, but do not want to walk and conquer themselves. They will tell you that everything is going badly, but they do not learn to have recourse in every moment to God, the highest Good. The tears, which like precious gems ought to give value to the most solemn and sorrowful moments of life, are wasted by them for some trifles. They would like to impose their will on God and compel Him to go along with them in everything.

These people become unbearable to themselves and to others with those continuous gripes that are but lack of trust in God and in neighbour. So in sadness, in bad humour and in negligence of everything, even their own person, they make themselves incapable of continuing the journey. Virtue in them does not increase because they do not feel its attraction. Shut up in their own egoism, they only think of combating against non-existent enemies, hating many times everyone and everything.

Children, this type also you must try to not belong. The Christian must live of faith and joy must make even the sad hours precious. The Christian and also those who do not possess the true faith, must yearn for the truth like the blind man yearns the light. They must love and walk along the way of perfection, seeking in every action that perfectibility that is innate in every man.

He who possesses the true faith can ascend with more ease, with the help of grace. For all the others is substituted the desire for truth and love of neighbour, practised according to the Commandment impressed by God in the soul.

You must add yourselves here, to this type that seeks the Good, that wishes to reach it overcoming daily all those miseries and loosening those snares that prevent one from proceeding. It is a job that must continue for the whole life without fear of the falls, of the temptations and of the dangers, secure that beside you there is always your Mother who picks you up again and who points out the right road to you. Not fearing the danger does not mean however, throwing oneself headlong into it, but also learning to escape it at the opportune moment with that prudence which makes you open the eyes.

Learn to look at the destination, children, and believe firmly that God is the Unbeatable One, the Strong One, the Sovereign of all nations, whom no demon will ever be able to conquer and overcome. To reach Him in Paradise and participate in his glory: this is the destination, and one gets there a step at a time, with these prayer days of yours, with the good works done for his sake, and seeking Him everywhere: in your heart, in your home, in your churches, in the brethren who surround you and in creation that speaks to you about Him. If you wish, He is your possession, King of your families, your nourishment, companion and victim on the altar, your Father in the heavens in which He awaits you.

I bless you, children, and I embrace you saying to you with always renewed affection: walk together in the search for truth and for the highest Good.

THINK ABOUT THE ETERNAL ESPOUSALS

January 23, 1974

My children, thank you for having come to pay me a visit today in which my espousal is recalled. You think undoubtedly that it was a day of great joy, but instead the sadness that filled my soul was great, even if, obeying my superiors, in whose command I saw the will of God, I accepted to marry a man.

See what the Lord does. He disposes of every thing for the good of his creatures. It is He who unites and who disunites, it is He who gives and who takes away, guiding events and persons along the road of good so as to bring them to the attainment of eternal life. The most important thing is that of accepting his will and of being docile in following it.

The cross is never superior to the possibility that you have of carrying it and all comes together, followed and directed to one unique end.

I beg you to be more and more consistent in your life, so that the words may be the echo of your thoughts, and your actions may be the practical manifestation of your words. If you should do that, all will seem easy to you and the difficulties that you will encounter you will learn to clarify and explain them with the light that will come to you from above.

When you think about an espousal, you immediately think of the family which this espousal initiates. But I invite you to think about the great espousal that comes about between my Jesus and the soul in grace; and just as it is desirable for all that fidelity and love keep the members of a family tied together, so I ardently desire for you all to keep yourselves close to the Lord through grace and flight from sin, so as to merit to attain that divine union that will come about in Heaven when at your death you will be introduced to the presence of the Most Holy Trinity. It will be an eternal espousal of the soul with his God, in which an infinite joy will be communicated to you.

So, while on this earth sumptuous espousals happen, and others simple and humble, in the life of each one there can be the pomp of a joyful encounter with the truths of the faith, and there can be the simplicity and also the spiritual poverty. You accept whatever situation, and rejoice always for every little gift, thinking about the eternal espousals.

I bless you all, children. Always find in the cross the reason for your spiritual improvement and an extra reason to increase in grace, so that you may be able to be more and more pleasing to the heavenly Bridegroom.

WATCH OVER AND DO ALL YOU CAN FOR FAMILIES

January 25, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and to your families. I am Mary of Nazareth. I want to tell you today how great is the value of this communal prayer and above all the liturgical prayer that will follow, efficacious not only for you, but for this parish and for all your and my Italy for which it is insistently urgent to pray.

Children, graces come from God, they pass through my hands, but they are always the response to an invocation for help, they are always God's loving response

to the children who, needy of everything, launch their cry or their act of love towards God.

Let your prayer be always like this, an act of love to which the formulas that you recite give power and strength, being based on revelation. The formulas in fact were dictated to you by the Church, but they have a divine origin. Was it not my Jesus who taught the Our Father? And with what love He himself recited it, and Joseph and I made a choir with Him because we knew we pleased the Father. So too the Hail Mary, children, is of divine origin, and the greeting of the angel was repeated also by my Jesus thousands and thousands of times with great love. If then you consider that the Gloria is the hymn that echoes in Paradise, you understand all its beauty and utility. But permit for me to encourage you to utilize your prayer for a pressing necessity for your Homeland.

The family institution is strongly threatened by that rupture which you call divorce. It has been said to you by Jesus himself: "What God has joined together no man may separate (Mt 19:16)." And by instituting the sacrament of Matrimony, He wanted to confirm the necessity of constancy in love and fidelity to an oath made to the creature, but in the presence of God. Moreover, who can pass judgement to loosen a bond which God is guarantor and witness? If the cohabitation of some couples can be unbearable, admitting that all methods were tried, especially those of the heart and goodness, how can one generalize what is for some?

Children, pray so that the family bonds may be strengthened and so the whole Church may rejoice. And after assiduous prayer directed for this purpose, now an apostolate ever so necessary is outlined to you. It has already been pointed out to you in the programme that has been given to you as missionaries of Our Lady, that of putting peace in families, and now I urge it and I say to you: be truly instruments of peace. Watch over and do all you can, so that your family and those with whom your children are starting up may be happy, keepers of that divine gift that is peace; and make a commitment to always counsel moderation, renunciation to one's views when they are only a fruit of self-love, in order to preserve that harmony which is worth more than bread.

Always put water on the fire in all family events, learning should the need arise to pay in person or even to look a fool in order to keep the families together, which must mirror in their love that of the Most Holy Trinity, that love which unites the Church to Jesus and the divine and human love which reigned in my family of Nazareth.

Advise the young to prepare themselves with seriousness, with good will and with the purity to receive that great sacrament which will be extended in eternity, since that love which binds the couples together will continue on in Paradise.

Oh, my children, how painful it is to see many young receive a sacrament already with the prospect of breaking it later tomorrow and while their hearts are already taken by other people who in the family, will play the part of the devil!

Pray therefore, and act by example and by word, and intervening where it is possible. I bless you as of now also for the work of general persuasion that you will do to the glory of God and for the healing of society. May a shower of graces descend upon you. I bless the sick present and those whom you recommend to me. May the peace that God gives to the willing be in you now and always.

YOU MUST BE INSTRUMENTS OF SALVATION

January 27, 1974

Dear and beloved children, peace and joy be to your hearts. See, I am here amongst you as Mother and Queen. I look at you one by one and I say to you: courage! Continue along this road, continue to do good making use of the means that we ourselves, my Jesus and I, put at your disposal. Believe me, the happiness that all men go about seeking elsewhere is not found except by living close to us with prayer and the grace of God.

I know that your hearts are many times anguished through the wickedness by which you are surrounded and by the misunderstanding of the persons dear to you, but you have no other means in order to overcome than the strength of God that is communicated to you through continual recourse to Him. The evil that is spread and which sometimes seems to dominate everywhere, never let it seem to you that not even God can overcome it. He permits it to test your virtue, moreover, with an act of his will He could annihilate all the workers of iniquity. Learn to believe, to hope and to be patient, and you will see the consequences of this patience of yours. God, the King of eternal glory, shall have his triumph and you too will participate at his triumph and your joy will be great.

Children, my Jesus has come to the earth in order to liberate souls from the slavery of sin. Unfortunately however, sin continues and while you think of it, by committing sin and breaking every restraint to be free, one becomes a slave to just about anything.

Observe in your life what happens and you will be forced to say like Paul: "I see the good and I would like to do it, while I feel dragged into doing evil (Romans, Ch.7)." It is the story of everyone: temptation, weakness and the deceit of the devil who shows as enchanting what is wicked, compelling to evil. So in everyone there is this struggle of good with evil, as there is the struggle of those who live in grace with those who live in sin. But my Jesus came to liberate everyone. He came to announce the Good News to the poor, and in this category you can include those who are in moral, spiritual and material need, and at the same time in order to teach how to be poor.

But who are the poor?, you might ask me. Look, children, they are those who place their thoughts, their hearts, their interests in God and make use of the material goods as means to reach the eternal life. Those who, keeping their heart above all human affections, love in God and for God, so as to render their love truly sacred, they are truly poor.

Nothing human must prevent you from walking in the ways of good and from reaching perfection imitating Jesus, the Christ. Not for this, however, must you fail in your duties, which rather you must do with greater perfection. All that is human you must seek not with that longing that leads many to act in order to be enriched, in order to emerge, in order to attain a position, but in the same way as the doctor makes use of scalpels in order to cut away a sick part, or as the sick man makes use of medicines. Or even you can make use of everything with that detachment with which you make use of things of others, which eventually you will have to return.

See, children, that if your life is looked at like so, so much peace enters you because nothing can alter and defeat your security, that is, your faith. You are in good hands and you also can say: Nothing frightens me, neither sickness, nor contradiction, nor persecutions, nor death.

There are many who would like to do something, and then feel as if bound whereby they leave others to do it. But remember that God in his providence has disposed that some of those persons who pass beside you be helped by you, and perhaps the lack of help on your part will not be supplied by anyone.

Let it not happen, children, that the work of liberation for these creatures that Jesus wants to entrust to you, be lost. You are the fortunate ones to whom the good news is continually announced and just for this call of predilection you must be instruments of salvation. To you also, as already to the apostles, Jesus says: Go, teach the Gospel and bring the blessing of God. Go into homes, reawaken the faith, spread love and show with the hope you have in the heart, the certainty of a future resurrection and of an eternal life.

I am Mary Liberatrix and I am the Virgin of the cenacles. I bless all those who will wish to go along with my desire and to gather people everywhere to pray. I will free your families from the snares of Satan. I will free souls from sin and I will preside as Queen in every cenacle, giving everywhere the sign of my presence, joy of hearts and efficacious desires of good.

I have heard that new cenacles will be animated by prayer and by religious instruction. I bless them with the priests that will guide them and who will have and give uncommon light.

Children, I would like one by one to squeeze you to my heart in order to give you courage and to help you to resolve your painful situations. Feel yourselves always all members of that unique mystical body of my Jesus that is the Church, as you are happy to be a part of this cenacle. Do your mission with love and at the same time be missionaries of Our Lady fervent and active. I accompany you, blessing and multiplying your activities.

See you again, children. With maternal affection I kiss you all one by one.

THE GOOD SOIL MAKES THE WORD BEAR FRUIT

January 29, 1974

Dear and beloved children, here you are, united by one only desire: to testify your love and your devotion to your heavenly Mother. I see also that many would like to have answers concerning their own family happenings and their own apostolate. Well then, I am the Virgin of light and I will give light to your minds, even if not with special references, and I will open up the road to you so that you can carry out the will of God in every work of yours.

You must have trust in God, trust in me and distrust of yourselves. That is to say, you must be convinced that God can do all and that you can do nothing, but only in the measure in which He wants your contribution, He makes you powerful. I desire that you convince yourselves more and more that the higher the building of your sanctity is to be, the deeper must be put the foundations with the virtue of humility. It is easy, children, to say with words you to want to follow my Jesus, but the denying of oneself, which is like saying to make one's "ego" die, is not so easy to practise.

It is for this reason that I persist in telling you: have trust in God and not in yourselves, since if you were to know your misery well, the Lord will make you a gift

of his riches: of grace, of mercy, of goodness and of strength whereby every work will have his imprint.

You have heard said many times about the parable of the seed which, falling along the road, amongst the stones and the thorns, did not produce anything, and of the seed which, falling on good earth, produced some thirty, some sixty, some hundred for one.

Look children, speaking to you about humility and of trust in God, I intend to prepare that good soil which makes the word that you receive bear fruit. The benefit depends entirely on this good preparation that serves to harden the soil. If then you are able to add the sighs and the tears that accompany you every day, they will be like that beneficial rain that bathes your fields. The sufferings also will be precious and they will be the manure that gives strength to the good little plants which, sprouting here, must extend their offshoots everywhere. And to fertilize this soil will be the sun of grace. Remember it, my children: without Him, without my Jesus, you can do nothing.

When I see mothers troubled who worry because they would like their children good, and I see them in sin because they neglect their most sacred duties towards God and I hear them say with bitterness: "I no longer believe in God, I can no longer pray", I grieve and I say: but how will they be able to give back light to their loved ones if they themselves are blind?

When I see people absorbed in works of social good who forget prayer, I ask myself: how will a work that is purely human be able to bring spiritual benefits? How much materialism everywhere! How many lost merits! How many good works annulled before God because they lack soul!

Build, children, human works, but let them have one only purpose: illuminating minds and sustaining bodies, may they be able to help men to be directed towards the true life, the true freedom and grace.

In this way I desire that you put solid roots in the faith, in goodness, in hope. I desire that you be teachers of the Christian life, not so much for what you say but for what you practise.

Children, I bless every good initiative and I help you to bring it to completion.

To all my maternal embrace and the invitation to hope and love.

Goodbye, children. See you again.

I ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION OF INTERMEDIARY

February 2, 1974

My beloved children, peace be to your hearts. You are here with your Mother and I rejoice in seeing you desirous of praying to me and of hearing what my desires are in your regard. Even if I cannot always reveal everything to you, I make you understand as through a cloud what the will of God is.

This is the way God behaves with his creatures: He wants the exercise of faith, He wants constancy and love in his holy service.

Do you recall what happened when I went to the Temple in order to offer to the Father his divine Son? I encountered Simeon, a man of God, who foretold me how sorrowful my life would be. And he uttered these words: "This Child will be a sign of contradiction in the world", which was like telling me: there will be those who will believe in Him and those who will not believe. He will be loved by some and persecuted by others. I asked no more. It was enough for me to know that my offering was pleasing to the Father and that I was able to unite my suffering to that of my Son's for the salvation of all.

This is what I desire from you: that you learn moment by moment to offer up your sufferings, your humiliations, your work for the moral and spiritual redemption of those who live close to you. The healing of the family, public, and work environments is due in great part to your collaboration. No one must alienate himself from the miseries of this humanity, which only desires and only wants material goods, riches and entertainment.

If your goodness and your word are small things, call to your help Him who can help you, because in Him resides salvation.

The prediction of Simeon made me suppose that in spite of our sacrifice many would not be saved. But I say to you: ask me first of all for the mending of your loved ones, of those who come to your home, and I will help you. I will present with your offering my Jesus to the Father for each one that you commend to me, and such an offering will not be without a reward.

See, here I accomplish truly the mission of intermediary and when you consecrate your children and your loved ones to me, while I rejoice in occupying myself with them besides yourselves, I rejoice too in saying to the Father that, being mine, He must welcome them and to not let them be alienated from Him anymore. Moreover, I desire that these consecrations be lived out with love. I desire that is, that each one, in the certainty of being guided along the right path, keep that serenity that

is like a badge of the true Christian. If you worry too much over your future and you wish to teach God how He must behave, you run the risk of being satisfied but of finding crosses on your shoulders which they cannot support.

All is regulated according to the wisdom and the infinite goodness of God, and according to human weakness and incapacity. If you are abandoned to the will of God, you will find nothing difficult and you will know how to overcome all the difficulties. Learn to love, rejoice and suffer, thinking always to realize the Kingdom of God in the world.

If in waiting to see your dreams come true, one only desire were to take your heart, that of being good with everyone in order to make everyone good, you would be heard very quickly in what you desire.

Now I bless you all one by one.

THINK ABOUT THE SOULS WHO ARE LOST

February 3, 1971

Children, peace be to your minds and to your hearts, since God is in you. Let there be peace, since I reside Teacher in this house, which I will never permit to be infested by error.

The humility that guides your thoughts and the goodness that opens your heart to communicate with your brethren, make you worthy of special graces.

When in moments of doubt and anguish it seems to you that faith is failing in you, say to yourselves: "No, I do not want to agree to lose peace and joy; I must only humble myself before God and men." You will see the calm return, for the Lord raises up the lowly, He loves the humble and exalts them.

Live out your days always like this and learn to draw profit from every little event also, from every news item and from every difficulty that you encounter in order to increase your faith, humble yourselves before God and put yourselves in the disposition of obtaining his pardon and the eternal reward to which you are destined.

You read or hear or see anguishing things repeat themselves and, if they happen in distant lands, you remain with a certain tranquillity and indifference in their regard. You do not worry too much over the hundreds of people burnt alive, many of whom have passed from the material fire to the eternal fire — of which the former is only an image — in whose flames many fall inexorably.

Well then, children, these souls who are lost were redeemed by the blood of my Jesus, they are my children. Beside them — in a continual call to improve and to be converted — you must feel yourselves also, whom the Lord has called because He wants you saved and holy.

Moreover, at every hour the souls that appear before the tribunal of God is numberless. It is a judgement without return that is pronounced. To it you too must turn your thought, and if hell with the atrocity of its penalties and the judgement with its severity makes you reflect, let the thought of Paradise make you walk with more renewed fervour and enthusiasm in the way of good.

Now I bless you and I help you to resolve your problems according to the will of God. To all my embrace and my affectionate prayer: wish each other well in God and with me.

I AM THE MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE

February 3, 1974

Beloved children, the grace of God be in you now and always in order to give value to your life and so that, enriched with merits, you are able to present yourselves to God the Father.

Children, I am the Mother of Divine Grace. I am also the Mediatrix of all graces. But what graces have importance in the life of man if not those that open the way to the divine communications on earth, whereby man, after having known God, can love and serve Him in order to reach the true life after death? Yes, these graces I want to grant you and I want to help you so that you may be able to accomplish the duties of your state better and better.

Not all Christians rightly learn to distinguish and walk along the straight road. Perhaps they do not have very clear ideas, whereby they exchange for duties those that are on the contrary voluntary evasions, while they forget the direct responsibilities that they have before God, above all those that concern good family progress.

I help you, children, giving you special gifts of light; but I beg you, be thoughtful persons and never let that equilibrium, which is the scale or the measure of your common sense, be lacking. To be balanced is a precious thing that renders you pleasing to your fellow men, to whom you can make a gift of the divine knowledge which you keep on acquiring here.

I give you graces upon graces, but it is up to you to respond with good will and with gratitude, with humility and with love, making of these teachings not just a motive of presumption, but a motive of intimate joy and fidelity to God.

Be generous, joyful and docile souls, desirous of making others sharers of these divine beauties with which you go on enriching yourselves.

All what I have told you can be summarized in one word: grow in grace. This magnificent gift of God, of which Jesus wanted to make me the depositary, is a spiritual wealth that must increase continuously.

I am the Mother of Divine Grace, that is, of that life of God in you whereby every action, every thought, every word can become action, thought, word of God. The more this life is abundant the more you sanctify yourselves. The more you sanctify yourselves, the more you please God; and just as the bigger a tree is the more it can shelter God's creatures under its shade, so the more you live out this divine life the more you are capable of giving to others food and comfort. It is all here, my children.

It is not works that count, but your degree of perfection, which comes from your intimate union with Him who, filling the universe, can approach, speak, act on all creatures. There is no distance of time nor place that can limit your action. There is no long or short trip that can delimit your influence on certain creatures. The soul that lives in God's grace, fills with Him the space and can help all with the power of prayer, which reaches everywhere.

I am the Mother of Divine Grace, which is communicated to you through the Sacraments, which are its channels.

How much abuse of grace for those sacraments which one accesses without faith and without preparation, as to material things received out of habit!

I am beside the altar when the Holy Mass is celebrated and I desire to make a gift of the body and blood of Jesus to all. Jesus has said to you: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall have eternal life (Jn 6:55)." They are therefore, a pledge of salvation. But how few are those who receive this great sacrament of the Eucharist with the due dispositions! Many then approach the sacrament of Confession, preoccupied only with not making the confessor understand the gravity of their sins and of concealing them as much as possible. What an abuse of grace!

I would like to preside with Jesus at every matrimony as once at the wedding of Cana, but we are excluded by many spouses who, if out of convenience receive Communion, they do not possess that grace of God that would open the door to the

state of grace, for they already start with preconceptions and intentions contrary to the Law of the Lord.

So to many children, to whom I would like to give every help with full hands, grace many times is lacking because they reject such a gift, not appreciating it, or because out of religious ignorance do not know it.

My children, I desire to tell you with even greater persistence: seek and love God's grace. Live in God's grace. Jesus has told you: "Be prepared, watch, for you do not know neither the hour nor the day in which the call will come." You do not know when the Bridegroom will arrive. And if you are introduced into the Banquet hall, the nuptial garment must not be lacking to you. May the garment of grace always cover your soul and make you more and more the object of admiration and satisfaction on the part of the heavenly Father.

A last suggestion. Grace is synonymous with love, for love is identified with God. There are many people who would like to do great things and are dissatisfied with themselves, always in search of the will of God. Grow in love: this is the divine will. Grow up to transforming everything into love in your life. Let every action no matter how insignificant become love of God and neighbour. I assure you that in a short time you will attain sanctity, you will bring your vocation to the highest degree of perfection. Love will annihilate the other love, that of one's "ego" so harmful to all.

My children, I promise you more graces, I give you and I render to you for what you do for me, so that my school and my devotion may be known.

To all my embrace and a cordial goodbye.

TRUE GOODNESS

February 4, 1974 (in a private house)

Dear and beloved children, I have taken part in your conversation and I desire to clarify the ideas to you so that you in your turn may be able to teach others.

I am the Mother of Goodness and of Mercy, and how can I not invite you to be constantly good and merciful? On these two virtues maternal education must also be based upon.

It is necessary however, to distinguish between goodness and incapacity to govern and to correct. There is the true goodness that knows when the right time is to be also severity, when it is necessary to make understood that a certain behaviour is

not according to your way of thinking and living. There is a zeal that is called holy and which, coming from a good heart, manifests itself also with particular strength. My Jesus, who was goodness itself, gave you an example of it when He got to the point of taking up a whip in order to chase out of the Temple those who profaned it, buying and selling in a sacred place.

On the whole, that respect which is demanded by others must also be given, so that no one does to others what he would not like to be done to himself. There are however, some defects that need to be rooted out from the most tender age, like certain habits are corrected and perfected from the early years of life. If one waits to straighten the plants when they are in their full vigour, one will not be able to obtain a straight tree anymore.

When the young and the children show evil tendencies, the educators and the parents, after having tried with so much love and with reasoning to correct them, if they are not listened to they can have recourse to a little stronger manner. The most important thing is this: that the corrections are not the fruit of anger or outbursts of impatience, but are based on the conscience of one's duty and produced by the desire of good that makes one act.

It is said in Sacred Scripture: "Sorry is that father who does not use the cane over his own children." Even if the cane stands to mean the strong manner and certainly not the beatings, it remains evident that severity is a virtue to be used. There must not be however, a contradiction in expecting from others that obedience or that exact observance to some rules that perhaps you yourselves do not observe.

Currently you see evil spread itself in front of your eyes. They are the means of social communication that favour it, above all the press and the modern inventions.

There always has been evil because the devil was its provoker and because with original sin the passions had the dominion over the spirit, but you must not be frightened because of this, for the Lord does not let help lack to anyone; one needs to ask for it with prayer and to be prudent and watchful. One needs to have the eyes open over the young though respecting their liberty and personality, one needs to illuminate them with reasoning and to make them understand the dangers they go up against.

Evil is spread because it presents an attraction of happiness in the momentary pleasure that it brings. The evil is repressed with penance and with conversion. To be indifferent and not to give it the importance that it merits, not bothering to check it in one's home and outside is like approving it. Even in civil law, whoever does not prevent an evident evil is considered an abettor.

The world is going astray. There have been given messages and messages, which are not the fable of the wolf that grandmothers related in order to frighten the children. They are calls to conversion, mending of ways and changing of life.

It is necessary to put the hand to the plough and that you take away from your soul, from your family and from your land all that displeases God. This is wisdom. Deep down there is everything to be gained, for whoever does good already foretastes Paradise which takes away nothing from that human happiness to which all yearn for. To observe the Law of the Lord out of love is a great thing, because the weight of obedience becomes sweet and light.

Create an atmosphere of serenity and peace around you, which your children will keep a grateful memory of. Love to give your children wise advice and good teachings, and demand from them fidelity to their duties towards God with prayer, towards themselves occupying the time so precious in works and good things, and towards yourselves asking them also for those helps which you need and which will make them sensitive to your needs.

My Child Jesus, who wished to be educated by Joseph and me, his creatures, never had need for scolding of any kind, but He wanted to have like other children a good upbringing, good manners, love for work and all those virtues that make a man a gentleman.

May your children, who mirroring themselves in you, understand to have to learn everything from you.

Be indulgent with everyone and learn to understand the weaknesses of others, just as you would like others to make allowances for yours. Do not be obstinate in your opinions and learn to meet everyone halfway with liberality of heart in order to help them.

I bless you, children, one by one.

I am happy to be in this house. You will gather together here once and another time in the parish.

Goodbye with greater and greater charity and faith.

I INVITE YOU TO LOOK AT THE DESTINATION

February 5, 1974 (at Muggiò)

Beloved children, here I am with you as at an encounter of love and joy. I look at you and I rejoice, even if I may see you full of ailments, due to the fragility of human nature or to something independent from your will to which you must submit. I rejoice also if I see you with many spiritual defects, because I do not note in you attachment to sin but the desire for perfection.

I do not rejoice in seeing your sufferings and your imperfections, but I see you as projected into eternity. I see you already in glory, beautiful as you have never been, good as never, perfect as never, taking part in the glory of the Most Holy Trinity, to mine and to that of all the saints and angels of Paradise. Oh! Children, it is this thought that gladdens me and makes me be constantly close to you in order to help you in everything, so that you may be able to reach the destination.

You see the sky populated with stars, you admire the order that directs them, and their movement and their light amazes you. They obey a law which does not admit of violations, established by God. Woe if the celestial bodies were one day to rebel against this law and utter their "we do not wish to obey."

You see vegetable nature run in the great road of the world and bring oxygen and nourishment to all men. I say run, because also by means of the wind the vegetation and the plants are multiplied. The vegetable kingdom also obeys a law. Plants, saplings, flowers, grasses, cereals grow and are multiplied and die. When in winter the bare and saddened trees seem to speak of death, you see them as like a miracle of nature go green and blossom again in spring and you see their fruits in summer and autumn. They obey established laws which they cannot rebel against. Every tree, every flower, every blade of grass has its story and a law to which it has to submit to.

Moreover, observe the animals too and you will see everyone of them, according to their species, behave in a certain way, obey an established law, which is binding.

In nature all is order. Every creature has its reason for existing and everything has a purpose in the marvellous plan of the glorification of God and of utility for man.

Man also, created to the image and likeness of God, has a Law to observe, a purpose to reach. Different however, to all other creatures, man, given his intelligence, was left free to observe the Law or to not observe it; the pledge of observance is the salvation of the soul, the punishment for disobedience is the loss of the soul.

You therefore, are here just because you have preferred the observance of the Law and the salvation of the soul.

When I make my apparitions on earth, I have no other purpose than this: to reawaken in all the thought of Heaven, to teach what men must do in order to reach eternal salvation, the reward. This is my intention, my desire. But what happens? As I go about speaking of Heaven and eternal conquests, my children come and in all the shrines they only ask for health in order to be well off on earth. It is true that many times you ask for health in order to be able to do good, in order to be able to work and make yourselves useful. But who assures you that the work and the apostolate that you would like to do is more useful than the acceptance of that suffering and that humiliation that renders you needy of others?

See, my children, how I must invite all also through you to look at the destination. The presumption of saving yourselves without merits would be condemnable. But if you look at Heaven with trust, basing yourselves on the merits of my Jesus and you conduct your life even monotonous and sometimes heavy, resting on the hope which is the reason for your existence, all will come back to you lighter and easier to do.

You have God's Commandments, some of you have a rule to observe, you have the truths of the faith that enlighten and show you the way, you have prayer which is your strength and the sacraments which are your life. If day by day, trusting in Providence, you do well your duties observing the Law of God, you will be like those stars that, following their course, do not cause disorder, and give glory to the Lord.

So, children, as I stretch out my arms to you in order to welcome you all under my mantle and in order to squeeze you to my heart, I say: let that song be habitual on your lips with which my devotees usually greet me: To Heaven, to Heaven, to Heaven, I will go to see her one day!

Yes, you will see me one day and I shall be ready to give my life in order not to see you lost. Learn to stay close to me. I know your material needs and I will never permit for the cross to be too heavy on your shoulders. Have faith, I help you in everything.

To those who come from far away my thanks. I generously reward those who with sacrifice move from their homes in order to honour me. To those consecrated present I grant an increase of faith, hope and charity.

To this home my blessing. I appreciated the offering of prayers for the Cardinal. Always pray for him because the present difficulties demand many superior virtues, with which I desire to adorn him.

I give you peace and joy to be brought everywhere. I am the Sovereign Virgin of Paradise, the cause of your joy.

IMITATE THE EXAMPLE OF PETER

February 10, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to your hearts! See, I am here with you. See me with the eyes of faith! My presence is an invitation to increase your faith more and more. If you were to see me with the eyes of the body, it is true, you would enjoy a little of Paradise, but of what use would it be for you for eternity? You do not see me, but you believe on my word.

You believe and increase more and more your attachment to me. Not just because I want to keep you all selfishly for myself. No, I want to teach you to love my Son. In fact, who after the Father has loved my Son more than me? Well then, this transport of love that I had for my Son and my God, I desire to communicate it to you up to becoming true loving souls. I desire that, looking at you individually, my Jesus is able to say: "Here is my Mother, here is my brother, here is my sister", exactly for that resemblance which must make us the same.

I desire still that you lean on me as to a support, because I know your weakness and I do not want you to fall along the way.

I am here today to teach you how you must ask God for help through me. I also want to show you a Gospel picture that will be useful to you to understand.

Jesus, after having preached for a long time to the crowds, turning to Peter, invites him to bring the boat further out and to cast the nets. "Teacher — Peter says — we have worked all night and we have caught nothing, but on your word I will cast the nets (Lk 5:5)."

Many times it happens that my children ask for graces and, not seeing themselves immediately satisfied, allow themselves to be overcome by discouragement and lose trust. Did not my Jesus say: "All that you ask the Father in my name He will grant it to you (Jn 16:23)."?

So did Peter and in the name of Jesus, which is like saying according to the will of God, he persevered in that operation which up to then had been fruitless. When with the others he hauled the nets, they were so overflowing with fish that they threatened to break. It was then that they asked their companions who were on the

other boat for help. All verified the fact, and the boats seemed they were about to sink under the weight of the miraculous great haul.

See, children, you see many times something extraordinary verified in your life and you call others to share your joy. Not everyone understands however, the importance of a communal action and of a personal observation; but if the intention is good and if Jesus is with you, in the name of Him cast your seed and do not be afraid. The harvest shall be certainly important and unexpected.

God hears his children, especially when they are united amongst themselves and with me, in the name of the Son. It happens sometimes that the response is delayed, but no call, no cry is without a response.

Now let us go back to Peter. Before a spectacle so miraculous, he turns towards the Teacher and, bowing in the gesture of one who wants to ask for mercy, says: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinner (Lk 5:8)."

God's graces come, and every minute of your life marks his intervention with an action of grace. But what happens? There are people who, receiving gifts of heaven, close their eyes and, while they remember past grievances up to the smallest adversities, ask themselves: What has the Lord done for me? I have had nothing but sufferings in life!

There are others who boast of having received gifts, but think they had merited them themselves with faith, with an upright life and with work. It does not seem necessary to them to thank God, because they deem they already have been rewarded for what they have given Him.

Then there are the ungrateful, who use the gifts in order to offend the hand of God that gives them. Ingratitude, together with wickedness, makes the Christian similar to a devil.

Even the demons had in fact received gifts of grace and intelligence, when as marvellous angels they came forth from the creating will of God, but their pride made them consider the gifts as rights and they wanted to be like God. In this way they lost his friendship and were thrown into hell. That intelligence that was to serve to announce the divine greatness to men, they used in order to draw them into deceit, and the grace with which they had been clothed was replaced by an implacable hatred towards God and towards man, so as to become instruments of evil.

Children, the example of Peter who, prostrated before Jesus makes his act of sorrow and utters his confession, must stimulate you to imitate him.

The grace with which you are filled must make you reflect and, if you must be amazed, let it be only in this sense: that being so unfaithful, so little, so mean, the Lord continually loves you and benefits you. Only if your faith will be great like Peter's, so that on the command of Jesus you will persevere in prayer, only if by humiliating yourselves before God you will recognize yourselves as unworthy of any favour, you will hear repeated to yourselves the words that my Jesus said to Peter: "Leave everything, come and follow Me, I will make you fisher of souls."

Tell me, mothers, who come here with the heart full of tears: What do you ask for? Do you not want the return of your children to faith and love? And those who weep over the broken marriage what do they ask for? Do they not perhaps ask for the return of their spouse to the family? And are these not miraculous hauls, and are they not fishers of souls those who can obtain these returns?

So, children, be always in my following. Trustingly persevere in your requests and thank with faith and humility. May perseverance make you grow big in that sanctity that I desire from you.

See you all later.

ARM YOURSELVES WITH GRACE AND WITH PRAYER

February 14, 1974

Beloved children, I am here with you and, even if your Eucharistic reparation may require a word from my Jesus, I wish to speak to you, for as one cannot disconnect devotion to me from devotion to the heart of Jesus, so one cannot speak about the Eucharist without mentioning to you that prayer so dear to me that is the Rosary.

I am here amongst you and I am the Immaculate One who, appearing at Lourdes, asked Bernadette for prayer and penance and for the Eucharist to be honoured with processions.

I always ask for the same things, my children, here also: I ask for prayer to be intensified more and more so as to become habitual on your lips and in this way to be like the breath of your soul. I desire that one prays, that one prays for all and that one prays with faith.

What is presently needed in the world? The healing of many sick in soul who are the sinners is needed, healings of the body of many sick who keep on filling homes and hospitals are needed, it is necessary to liberate men and society from that diabolical invasion that tries to ruin everything and everyone.

Well then, my Jesus, before leaving this world and before ascending to Heaven, said to the apostles: "Go throughout the world ... Those who will believe shall make these signs: they shall lay hands and will heal the sick, they will cast out devils, they will pick up serpents in the hand and if they drink poison they will not be harmed (Mk 16:15)."

Take all these promises and make them your own, for, if you will learn to have faith and join together your hands in prayer, not only will the sick in body and in spirit be healed, but the Lord will give you so much strength whereby you will not fear the assaults of the devil.

The satanic hatred that is manifested in the Church with the struggle against the truth, morality and holy things, will not harm you, because you will be fortified with that help that comes to you with your encounters with Heaven.

Children, pray, and with your faith you put pressure on the heart of God. Moreover, if you wish to have an infallible means in order to overcome the difficulties, pray through the mouth of Jesus with the Eucharist, with the Holy Mass, pray with me reciting the Rosary.

When you feel disheartened and tired because it seems to you that the graces that you desire take too long to come, turn your gaze to the Tabernacle where for days, for months and for years the Son of God awaits the return of the new and ever more impenitent sinners. Turn your gaze to me who with open arms invites you to come and to ask for what I desire to give you.

Do you want and support family peace? Well then, I am the Queen of peace. Put down your pride, humble yourselves even with those who seem to you to have offended you and you will see that the calm will return. Peace is the most beautiful gift after the grace of God, but it is also a personal conquest, which one arrives at with much humility and with many humiliations.

Observe what I did with Bernadette. I said to her: "Go and wash yourself", and it required washing herself in the mud and countering the gossip and the derision of all. I said to her further: "Eat that grass", and again it meant being considered as mad.

And I say to you: do you want conversions? Wash your souls in Confession and, making some sacrifices and mortifications and accepting and putting up with the criticisms of all, keep faith to your intentions and feed yourselves with the Eucharist. If you wish to be charitable, you must learn from Him who is charity itself.

If you want for your soul to become strong against the temptations and learn to overcome the evil inclinations so as to crush the head of the infernal serpent as I did, arm yourselves with that shield that only God can give you, Him who is the Strong One, the Immortal One, the Invincible One, arm yourselves with grace and with prayer.

Everything that is human can be resolved. There is no situation no matter how difficult, there is no state of health that cannot be changed. There is no wickedness no matter how diabolical that cannot be annihilated and replaced with the greatest goodness.

Man is a creature capable of great evil and of great good. If God with the touch of his hand, throwing Paul down from the horse made a great convert and the apostle of the nations, you can hope for your loved ones. None of them had arrived at Paul's greatest level, none of them had killed a great number of the brethren. Well then, you shall be those who will move the hand of God and you will obtain those miracles of conversion and salvation.

When some privileged soul is gifted with some special vision, it has the sensation of touching Paradise and of having reached happiness. I however, desire for everyone to realize that happiness does not exist on earth and that you are all called to rejoice infinitely only in Heaven. If therefore, asking for graces and miracles you set your sights only on earthly happiness, you are in error. Set your sights on Heaven and all that passes will seem to you a thing of no importance.

Now in the name of Jesus I bless you all and I embrace you. See you again!

The young present I invite to intensify their prayer for the priests.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DO EVERYTHING WELL

February 15, 1974 (at Civate)

My beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. What joy this encounter brings me! Truly I have desired it. I desire also for it to be repeated every third Friday of the month, while I promise to pour out over you, over your families and over your loved ones every sort of graces.

Young mothers will have help in bringing up their children. I promise you peace in families and special helps for the situation of your children, be it for work or for their vocation.

When you meet, do not make age distinctions. Call everyone, elderly and children, men and women. This chapel will become my royal palace, from which I will pour out the most choice blessings. You will come here and you will bring me your sorrows and I will give you consolation. Those hours that you will spend here alongside my Jesus, living and true in body, blood, soul and divinity and alongside me, who as Mother of the Church shall be your Teacher, you will find them in Heaven and you will rejoice over them as of a great work done by you, for with this prayer and with your sacrifice you will have given help to the whole Church.

The time also that seems to you wasted here, you will recover it because I will make you more able, more expert and more ordered, so as to be able to make every minute that you will have given me fruitful in another way.

And now I desire to make a small reference to you to a Gospel deed. They brought a deaf mute before Jesus so that he could be cured. Jesus introduced his fingers into the ears of that man, He wet the tongue of him with his saliva, then He raised his eyes to Heaven and said: "Be opened!". Straight away the deaf mute was cured and started to praise God. Jesus ordered to not tell anything to anyone, but everyone began to speak about Him and said: "He does everything well, He makes the deaf hear and the dumb talk (Mk 7:37)."

Children, I would like great truths to be learned from this little deed. Many people still today are deaf to the voice of God and do not know how to speak well of Him. They are like insensitive creatures to the gifts and to the works of God in them and in the world.

What will you have to do? You will have to be the means with which God uses in order to open the ears of many. What you can do is indicated with the general name of charity, but specifically you must be the finger of God, or even the bell that rings in order to make his presence in the world understood and felt. The saliva also can have its meaning and its importance for you and for others. From the mouth the sweet and the bitter comes many times. I would like for your words to be truly imprinted to that sweetness that serves to make those who live beside you explode into a song of gratitude. If the tone of your voice can be unpleasant or authoritarian, I beg you, soften it with that serenity which is very effective in your speech.

When you recognize your incapacity to make yourselves heard, do what my Jesus did, learn to raise the eyes to Heaven and invoke the Father so that He may open the ears and the hearts of your loved ones.

If there are deaf mutes in body and you feel sorry for them, do not forget that they can be helped. But if these deaf mutes are so in the spirit, it is a definite duty that of helping them to understand and to speak. You must be teachers, and of you it must be said what was said of Jesus: "He did everything well."

How many times in your desire for good you make mistakes, not keeping account of freedom, of personality, of the weakness of others and of the dangers to which they are subjected to.

Doing well means learning to understand, meeting halfway, learning to walk with those who limp, acting as a support, even if it is indispensable to warn those who are on the wrong path. Doing everything well means having that sense of equilibrium and that diligence that makes you always equal, be it whether you are praying in Church, or whether you are working at home. Doing well means feeling oneself in the presence of God, in whom you are immersed like the fish in the water, and enjoying going out of your way for all so that you see his face in all. Finally doing well means performing every action for the glory of God in such a way that everything must be remunerated.

I would like to make another little remark to you. My Jesus with his saliva cured the muteness of a man. But there are many people who with the mouth wound, and even mortally, the honour and moral life of the brethren.

I would like to beg you for a favour: I would like every day, at the setting of the sun, for you to think a bit about the way with which you have spent your day, for you to be able to say: "Today with my mouth I have praised God, I have spoken well of everyone and I have taught everybody to love God."

I bless you, my children. I am the Virgin of the Annunciation. The greeting of the angel filled my heart with a holy fear. May my greeting fill you with joy and may you be able to bring my announcement of peace, of goodness, of reconciliation and resurrection everywhere.

I bless this parish, its parish priest and all your parishes. I bless the mothers of the priests who listen to their word. How necessary it is for the mothers and sisters of priests to be presently like angel protectors of priests and how necessary it is for they too to be sanctified in order to help the priests. Goodbye, my children. Remember that I never disappoint anyone.

TO THE YOUNG OF TURIN

February 16, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. I call you all by name, I look into your eyes, right into your heart and I say to you: yes, children, I am happy with your faith, I wish to help you to always hope and I wish above all to make you grow big in charity so that your heart may become a brazier of love. It is for this reason that I have desired you at my feet.

The world lives of egoism, you must sow love. But how will you be able to give if you were not an overflowing chalice of love? I give it to you, therefore, and I dilate your heart so as to be able to receive an extra abundance. If you love me, you obey me, and from your subjection and docility in following me will come every good to you.

I am fond of reminding you about that page of the Gospel in which Martha, criticizing the attitude of Mary, solicits from Jesus a rebuke because according to her that time dedicated to prayer is wasted time. And Martha says: Why is my sister not helping me? Deep down it seems that she was not all wrong, because Jesus and his apostles had the right to be served and to find the dinner ready at the pre-established hour.

Jesus however, did not think it so and repeating with loving-kindness, but also in a tone of rebuke that "Martha, Martha", wanted to point out that above the bodily needs are those of the spirit.

What happens today in the world is just this undervaluing of the value of prayer to that of action. "There are needy persons who are waiting for your help! It is time to act", they say. And while community groups emerge here and there intending to elevate the social status of many, well here, I also like my Jesus repeat to you: children, you worry over too many things. One only thing is necessary: to serve and to love God. That's why I say to you: you have chosen the better part. While this world that walks in death wants to do everything by itself, I invite you more than ever to warmly raise up your prayer as a work of salvation towards Heaven. Yes, pray, young people, for your strength is here, in recourse to God.

You are like the children immersed in the burning furnace; the fire of the passions, the dangers by which you are surrounded on every side put the salvation of your soul at risk. Errors of any kind tend to divide, to strike, to annihilate truth in which you have up to now believed. The faith is in danger and if you keep it intact, it will be only because the Holy Spirit will intervene directly behind your plea.

Pray, young men, and never think you are wasting that time that you destined for prayer, for it shall be the best employed.

Pray, mothers, and when it will seem hard for you to make your language understood to some rebellious son or husband who believes little, act so that through prayer it may be God who speaks, or even after prayer your word may become his word, with an efficacy to which contradiction cannot be found.

Pray, children, fathers, religious (male and female), because in hard times one needs to oppose the light to the darkness, grace to sin, generosity to avarice.

It is a time of grace the jubilee year that you are going through, moreover it is a time of conversion and reconciliation.

If in life it is necessary to keep present the point of arrival, your point to which thoughts, words, actions and affections must converge has to be God. In Him and for Him it is necessary to renew one's behaviour in the observance of that Law on which everything is based.

To be reconciled with God means also to form an alliance with all the brethren so that, formed into one unique embrace, they too may arrive at enjoying that happiness which only God can give.

And now I bless you in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and I promise you help. To all an embrace and an affectionate kiss.

I DESIRE THAT YOU BE HAPPY

February 17, 1974

Beloved children, I am the Queen of peace and the cause of your joy. I desire to communicate to you a little of that beatitude that fills my heart, which is full of God, so that you may be able to leave from here with a lot of serenity, happiness and joy.

All men yearn for happiness. There are some who think that it consists in the satisfying of every desire, but that does not correspond to truth, for man is inexhaustible in his desires. If then these desires are turned to purely material things, there is the complete failure of happiness, these desires being guided either by pride or by lust or by avarice.

Also in the things of the spirit, however, too many desires can ruin happiness, since they become desires for the things of God and not of Him, first cause of every joy.

That's why, as I look at you and smile at you since I see you as the flowers that adorn my altar, I cannot go without telling you, children: seek happiness also, since for this you have been created, but do not seek it in the things that pass.

It is great to see you here. Everyone, like these flowers, has his perfume, everyone has his characteristic, everyone has his mission to carry out, just as every flower has its features and its significance.

There are some who are a little withered spiritually, they have wanted to make their own experiences and have found themselves disappointed. There are others who, though having already passed a great part of their life, have preserved the freshness of youth. There are some who are like flowers, destined to honour the altars of the Lord; others still will be like the olive that will adorn the house where they will grow up.

For me you are all beautiful, and all in the fulfilment of your mission, are invited to seek true happiness.

When a mother weeps for the adversities and affronts suffered from her loved ones, you could imagine that in that moment she is unhappy. No, children. If this mother knows that she has always done her duty, she must feel deep in her soul a tranquillity that nobody can take away from her. The joy of duty done is real even if burning tears furrow the face.

When a son or a daughter have sought God with all the anxiety of their heart and find themselves disoriented and alone, while for the greater part, men criticize them and mock them, the intimate joy of having done one's duty must be the fount of happiness also for others, for those who do not appreciate the pain and the sacrifice.

Illness knocks constantly at the door of your house. But if in it you learn to discover a sign of God and a means of salvation, you no longer feel its weight. The sick man becomes the suffering Jesus, who through his passion saved the world.

It is true that human nature badly puts up with what makes it suffer, but there is an interior force that dominates every evil and that learns to discover, in what torments the body, an invisible and provident hand that soothes the most tremendous evils. Ask a blind man, who in blindness has learned to see the will of God, why he possesses that spiritual equilibrium that fills him with joy. He knows that man is worth what he has inside and even the sight of the eyes pass into second place.

Come now, children, I desire that you be happy and I do not intend to take away from you those sufferings that prepare you an eternal happiness, but I desire to help you to transform everything so as to make it become a cause of joy.

If you, son, suffer because your wife does not understand you and does not accept you, greatly tighten your bonds with God; the same thing is valid for you, daughter, if your husband has abandoned you. Happiness does not consist in matrimony, even if in it one will have to receive that grace that sanctifies the family. To be in the divine will for what depends on you, this is happiness, since truly He wants you happy.

If the fulfilment of one's duties is not exempted of many conflicts, for everyone has their own views, one's interest to be defended and one's honour to be safeguarded, the peace of the conscience is joy.

If everyone were to be against you so as to create around you like a barrier that does not permit you to act, what does it matter when you have as companion of your life Him who directs the destiny of the world? Be pure in intentions, in heart and in body. Be thirsty and hungry for truth and justice. Learn to weep with those who weep and laugh with those who laugh. The beatitude is here, even if persecutions and troubles will not be lacking to you and even if tears will be your daily bread.

I give you my bread which is Jesus living and true and I help you to overcome every difficulty, for this divine bread contains in itself every taste and every power. Whoever wishes to preserve chastity, let him be nourished with it with a clean conscience. Whoever wishes to become generous and imitate my Jesus in charity, let him be fed with it. Whoever wishes to pass the present life in beatitude, and with death enter into eternal life, let him be nourished with Him for He is the strength and the salvation for all.

When therefore, exiting here you ask yourselves: "What must I do in order to be happy?", say to yourselves: "I must nourish myself with God in order to be able to do my duty well, wherever I find myself. In the peace of the conscience resides happiness."

I bless you all, children, beginning from my well-beloved son, and I urge you to prepare yourselves well for the month of my holy spouse Joseph, who will bring you special graces on his day.

PRAYER AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

February 19, 1974

Peace be to you, children. I am the Virgin of Light, Mother of the Church.

Today I wish to support your prayer, so that on the part of the Church the heroic sanctity may be recognized of him who, through the will of God, gave birth to those prayer groups who were supposed to bring that ferment of Christian life so necessary.

You see how one tends to materialize life everywhere and how the idea of God is many times confused, combated and transformed as in an identification with man. And you yourselves can realize how recourse to God is indispensable, for, certain evils, only God can prevent them and only He can give you a remedy.

The desire to promote crusades of prayer was the motive that pushed Padre Pio to form these groups. He, who through prayer had benefited a great part of humanity, desired for this help to be promulgated throughout the world. His persistent prayer was based on the invitation of the divine Teacher: "*Pray without ceasing.*" And he marvellously had succeeded in making his spiritual elevation an uninterrupted fact.

You therefore, have to ask for Padre Pio to be glorified. First of all that his example may be pointed out by the Church as a model to be imitated and then so that the prayer groups may be consolidated and multiplied, maintaining that characteristic that must distinguish them from any other association for their decidedly spiritual aims.

You know how much Padre Pio loved the Holy Rosary, which filled all his free moments. Moreover, you know also that one cannot pray well if one does not have a certain awareness of the truths of the faith. That's why, with the recitation of the Rosary, the prayer groups must cultivate religious instruction. That it may be imparted directly from Heaven as it happens in this place, or that it may be imparted by upright priests, united to the Pope and to the Church, or that it may be meditated on inspired books, it does not matter. But believe, children, how one cannot love whom he does not know, so one cannot make prayer a heart to heart encounter with God or a dialogue, if one does not study, through religious teachings, who are those to whom the prayer is addressed.

You could say to me that many pray a lot and are constant in praying is spite of their religious ignorance, but I desire to advise you that it is also very easy at the first encounters with the difficulties of life for that spiritual edifice built on sand to collapse.

Certainly, speaking about religious instruction, I do not intend saying that you all must become theologians or doctors of the Church, but I mean that clarity of ideas that makes you be intransigent before error and so sure of the "Creed" that you have understood, as to be able to confute the errors and point out the truth.

Religious instruction shall be for you a new responsibility, just as the one of having receiving Baptism is, but it will give you also so much light in learning to distinguish your duty, what is good from what is evil, what is good from what is best.

Unfortunately in many prayer groups one does not pray and only gossip is done. What will they be capable of giving to the world?

Beloved children, I am the Mother of the Church, and in these moments of so much disarray, so much confusion and so much darkness, to which even worse ones will follow, it is necessary to make these truths known and practised which are basic and essential. Without prayer there is no salvation, neither individual nor social nor worldly. Without religious instruction one cannot turn back and love and serve Him whom one does not know.

If the prayer groups were to follow this path, souls flooded with light and filled with spirituality will come out of these meetings, whereupon the exercise of charity in one's home and with others will be a consequence.

In the world presently everyone speaks about charity, even about love and social works in favour of all. All speak but few do; but also those who do, who build for human ends, build on sand. Only if you will learn to introduce my Lord in your work, then all will progress and will bring benefits.

My children, ask, turning to Padre Pio as intermediary, for the graces which you need, and persist so that with his valid and powerful intercession you may be able to be heard. I support your pleas.

And now, as I am pleased with you who with so much love pray to me and listen to my word, I bless you all one by one. Padre Pio looks upon you and smiles at you.

TO THE TRIESTE GROUP

February 20, 1974

My children, my little birds, you have come here from far away with your burden of tears and sufferings you have brought them to me as a filial gift. Thank you, thank you!

You are truly strong, you are strong in faith, strong in love because in the daily suffering you have reinvigorated your body and your spirit. Be blessed, children.

I look at you in this moment and, as Mother of divine Love, I wish to enrich your heart with gifts of Heaven. But remember that, with a very special goodness, every

day I look upon you from the top of that shrine that was called Queen of Victories. Do you remember? That effigy, which is venerated there, after having travelled through all the cities of Italy by the will of a Pope, but you could say by the will of God and mine, stopped in your city. It was a demonstration of affection on my part and of trust on the part of the Church.

Now I am here, where you have come to return the visit, and I entrust a task to you that must be of help to the Church. Keep firm your faith and never permit it to be mutilated by those heresies that make the mystical body of Christ suffer as if it were torn to pieces by ferocious and rabid dogs. Keep firm your trust in your heavenly Mother who will never abandon you, just as she has never abandoned you and your ancestors during the terrible and bloody wars. Hold tight in your hands that precious jewel that are the beads of the Rosary and, when the times will become more dark, let it be the lamp that gives you light.

I love you, my children, and my affection is not made of words alone. I watch attentively over you so that you are not tested beyond your strength, but be generous. Think with what ardour the soldiers who truly loved Italy, learnt to die combating there on your mountains and along your streets. You do the same also. Be always like vigilant sentinels ready to defend your faith, the grace of God and the devotion to your Mother up to death.

Death, my dear children, is a triumph and a glory when it is lived well and one has sought in everything the triumph of the will of God. Do not be frightened therefore. Every day is a step forward towards eternity, every day must mark as a personal conquest on the way to sanctity.

The worldly seek to triumph usurping the goods of others. When they wish to advance, they trample on their fellow man as enemy. You are mine and like me you must love everyone. Enemies must not exist for him who believes and loves. You silently, but audaciously and serenely, fight your holy battle loving all. Leave the rest to me. I promise you that I will re-compensate a hundredfold what you have given to me today. I promise you that you will not feel tiredness and the bad consequences from this sacrifice that you have offered me. I will watch over your journey and your rest. To whoever has offered me most shall be given most.

Your deceased ones also today have had relief and some of your loved ones will ascend with me to Heaven, others will come on the solemnity of Easter. Love, forgive and pray. The Queen of Victories is and shall always be at your side.

I ask you for a favour: every morning, getting out of bed, turn your head towards your shrine and greet me like so: "Virgin, Queen of Italy, grant a good day to me and to all Italians." It shall be a prayer and a good omen for you and for me.

I wish you a night in peace, children, and I kiss you on the forehead.

TO EACH ONE JESUS ENTRUSTS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

February 22, 1974

Dear and beloved children, peace be to your hearts and to your families, now and always.

See, I am here with you. I am the Sorrowful Virgin and I rejoice in seeing you here on the memorable day of the death of my Jesus, because the memory of his passion and death must be constant in your hearts.

You see me also beside the cross and you hear the words that my Jesus addressed to me and to John, his favourite disciple: "Woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother." Note well that in that moment John not only represented the priesthood, but the whole Church and its Head.

Today I would like for those same words to be heard addressed to oneself. I would like in this moment for everyone of you to feel the responsibility of what has been entrusted to you.

To each one therefore, Jesus today entrusts the Head of the Church as his son and your favourite. Yes, to each one Jesus entrusts the Head of Christianity who sits on the Chair of Peter, who in the world must represent him. He said in fact, one day to Simon Peter: "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. What you loose on earth shall be loosened in Heaven and what you bind shall be bound also in Heaven, for I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of the Heavens." He said also: "I will be with you until the consummation of the ages."

This authority, this superiority, these gifts that from Peter are handed down up to the present Pontiff, never permitted for the assistance of the Holy Spirit to be lacking to him who must hand down intact the faith and the morals.

But why today do I desire to entrust the Pope to you as a son, and desire that at the foot of the cross you take my place? Here, children, the dense clouds that hang over the world and the Church demand your dedication and services and your interest.

I welcomed John into my heart and he welcomed me into his home. You already dwell in the house of the favourite son to whom was entrusted the highest task, the greatest cross. You need to welcome him into your heart with a filial affection, and be solicitous in helping him with prayer and with the offering of your sacrifices.

Many times fathers in their old age are despised and derided for that sensitivity that renders them like children. Let it never be so for the Pope, who with a wise and upright mind only sees his own duty to fulfil with that perfection that is common to him. But if age brings ailments with itself, let your unceasing offering be that precious gift that gives him strength in every occasion. May his unshakeable faith find a resonance in yours. May the hope that he nourished to be able to unite and conciliate all men, find the personal application in each one of you for that collaboration to make peace not an abstract fact, but concrete and attainable.

If Jesus has said to you that the priests are the pupil of his eyes, even if sometimes they do not behave well, think with what love He will compensate those who have a special devotion and attachment to the person of the Pope, the visible Head of the Church.

Children, I bless you for what you have done up to now and for what you will do afterwards. My blessing always accompanies you in all those works that aim to make the Church a united and ordered family.

When some bad thinker wants to break the order that Jesus willed, remember the words of my Jesus: "Every kingdom divided in itself is destined to perish (Mk 3:24)", or even remember these words: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall never pass away (Lk 21:33)." Trust in Him, in Jesus, trust in him who on earth represents Him, and trust in me who speaks to you and who loves you more than myself.

I bless you all one by one. Continue to meet here with me at the foot of the cross. I will give you help and strength in order to carry your little or big crosses. Be generous in offering them, and you will feel so light that they will weigh no longer.

I embrace you, children. Your filial love compels me to treat you with special delights.

Goodbye, see you again! The Rosary is a means of union with God and with yourselves, it is the chain that saves.

THE WEEK OF LOVE

February 24, 1974

Beloved children, children who love me, peace be to you now and always. I am the Immaculate Virgin, the Queen of the Universe, your Mother. See, I look at you and I bless you every time that, responding to one of my direct or indirect calls, you come here to pray.

I always have new plans for you and even if some momentarily are far from God, because they do not possess his grace, I will work on them, I will make them reflect. I will do like the shepherds do who, stroking the fleece of their sheep, make them understand their tenderness. If it is necessary, I will take some soul in my arms, I myself will bring it to the fount so that it may regain candour and beauty: I will bring it to Confession, to Communion, to the Church because the fount that purifies and quenches the thirst is there. It is there that my Jesus gives himself and pays the ransom.

I love you all and I want for you to one day enjoy my infinite joy in the bosom of the most Holy Trinity.

Children, many times I speak to you about the future joy and to you the contrast between the world and my Jesus, between the world and myself appears clearly. "Let us crown ourselves with roses", it tells you, "while there is time". It is forgotten that the roses have thorns and that they are destined to wither very quickly. Every worldly joy, in fact, leaves some bitterness in the mouth and a disgust of life that is insatiable in its demands.

I say to you what my Jesus used to say: Be blessed and joyful in all the conditions and situations of life. Be joyful in suffering, in poverty, in persecutions, when they slander you, when you can only weep. Be joyful even when you lack the necessities, because He, the Son of God, is with you. He only asks you to keep your heart pure and to have a desire for Him so that you may be able to possess true joy.

Today you begin the last week of carnival. I say the last week, but you also realize that by now life has been transformed into a continuous carnival. Well then, if those who live for the world employ their time in insane enjoyments, I desire that you be able to give to all a witness of true joy. Whoever has God with him has the fount of happiness. It must shine through in these days by all your behaviour. I would like for you to call this week "the week of love."

When the love of God burns in a soul, it seems that it acquires a readiness, an agility and a capacity all special. It glimpses and foresees what can be pleasing to

others and gives with so much serenity and grace all that it possesses. The more the love of God is great the more the soul goes out of its way and desires to communicate that intimate gift that renders it festive.

I fill you with love today. If someone wants an abundant measure, he has only to invoke from God a big and generous heart. Then you make yourselves available to God and He uses you as his instruments.

St. Paul spoke to you about the gifts that God gives to all and to each one: gifts of the Holy Spirit, gifts of love. God gives to each one according to his capacity and his attitude. When you go about the streets and your heart burns to tell whoever you run into where you are going, and when you give out your invitations to come here to consecrate oneself to me, do you not believe that it is a charism so important just as when my instrument writes? And when you speak about me and your eyes sparkle and words come out which you yourselves are ignorant of the source, tell me, perhaps is it not the gift of tongues that you have, that touches the hearts and makes them docile to the voice of God? When you say with sincerity: "Lord, tell me what you want from me and I will do it even if you were to ask for my life", is it not the spirit of the Lord that gives you that fire and that readiness?

Oh, how I look at and bless everything that you do! And when you marvel at having been able to do so much work in so short a time, so many good works even in favour of others who are not of your natural family, is it not true that you can with sincerity say that the charity of Christ urges you?

This that you will pass shall be therefore the week of love. You will give proof of it to everyone with your serenity, with your encounters, with your understanding and lifting the pains of others. Hospitals are regurgitating with the sick in body, but on the inside how many sick in the spirit, how many morally sick!

Children, I look at the world: it is truly a great hospital. Well then, this world needs love.

Just as on the formless mass God made life breathe, pray that always by means of his Spirit that spiritual renewal may come which is life. Pray and invoke this Spirit on your natural and spiritual family, on the whole Church, on all humanity. May the love that vivifies and transforms, that sanctifies and gives joy return to blow gently.

Be joyful in these days and learn to reconcile with the gifts of the Spirit also those that give some satisfaction to the body. I will help you, especially you, mothers, so that you may learn to prepare that succulent and delicate dish. You will think also about some poor man who will have no possibility of having what he desires.

Let your love be spiritual and concrete at the same time. May your concerns and your charity be valid to make understood that above the pleasures of the flesh there is the joy that God himself procures for those who love Him.

I bless you all one by one. I bless the children of the whole world so that during the carnival they may not be scandalized.

See you again, children!

TURN YOUR HEART INTO A BURNING FORGE OF LOVE

February 25, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and joy and grace. I am with you. I am the Mother of Divine Love.

Children, you see how the world tends to mechanize everything in order to render communications easier, in order to facilitate meetings between men and in order to favour those means of life and subsistence that are convenient to every nation. You see airplanes fly over cities and nations, you see ships of every type plough the seas, and coaches and cars of every shape and quality travel across the land and bring one in contact with other men.

In the midst of all this progress the Lord does not remain indifferent, who, while He blesses every human work intended to procure wellbeing to all, works in favour of souls. He also has his inventions in order to make souls progress in sanctity. He has his airplanes, his, ships, his cars.

But what are the wings that give the airplanes the strength and the push in order that souls can ascend? They are those of love, my children, which the purer it is the more efficient it is. If you wish to be detached from the miseries of the world and from your ego in order to throw yourselves into the arms of God, turn your heart into a burning forge where the acts of love may continuously be the bait that nourishes the flame.

The ships, the planes, the means of transport are destined to welcome inside them persons and things, so that they may be transported and serve for good. It is the same in the spiritual sense. If you let yourselves be carried, you carry others; it is like a communal action that you do, for your love makes God act, who in the immensity and in the infinity of his being embraces all creatures.

The more active souls are those who love God more continuously and with more generosity. Every age, in many parts of the world, has always had, has and will have these burning forges of love that sustain the Church and make reparation for sinful and indifferent humanity. Sister Consolata, St. Teresa, Padre Pio and, in his time, St. Francis and many, many other saints were these living fires of love.

Do you want to be like one of these? I ask you for nothing else, children, except to throw yourselves into my heart of Mother and; while with simplicity you do your usual actions, those everyday ones, of work and apostolate, that you sublimate them with that love that must vivify and render them divine.

You have undertaken a journey. You go in order to give something, you go above all in order to ask. Give with joy, ask with humility, for what you receive is much bigger than what you give.

Prayer, united to the sacrifice of liberty and to the complete renunciation of all that one can humanly desire, is the money with which you will make those works bear fruit to which you have given a start and which you will have to continue.

The prayer groups which, like buds of a new spring, will have to sprout a little everywhere, and the Marian priestly movement will find in the prayer and in the sacrifice of those souls which you will visit a great support. Sister Consolata will help these movements willed by God and, consolidating the ferment of love of the "very little ones" in the prayer groups, will render the priestly vocations that are entrusted to my Immaculate Heart more effective and more solid.

I bless you therefore, for this desire that you have approved of going to Moriondo and I accompany you, so that you may be able to do some good to those spouses of my Jesus and to all those people who will come to you.

On the wings of love let no difficulty frighten you, but remember: like the oil and the petrol that make the motor work, the more they are purified the more they respond to their task, so the less impurities you introduce into your actions the more pleasing they will be to God and effective. The impurities are self love and human and material interests.

I embrace you, children, I am your Mother.

TO THE CLOISTERED NUNS

February 25, 1974

My beloved daughters and brides of my Jesus, allow me to address a greeting and an invitation to you.

You are here in a cloister and you are like a "garden enclosed", where my Lord can and wishes to cultivate his perfumed flowers. You form that precious nursery from which the Church must be able to draw out strength and vitality; strength and vitality that come from God through incessant prayer and daily sacrifice. You have therefore, a task ever so important and demanding. As "garden" you must let yourselves be cultivated and as "nursery" you must transmit life. How will you do it — you could ask me — while you are so weak, with many ailments and few possibilities?

Daughters, the Gospel has said it to you today and the minister of God has repeated it to you, explaining it to you: "Nothing is impossible to God"; and St. Paul tells you: "I can do all things in Him who gives me strength (Phil 4:13)." However, all the saints of Paradise could tell you this who, though miserable like you, have reached the heights. You can do all things in your beloved Bridegroom who, as the divine Gardener, will go out of his way to cultivate this garden.

The most necessary thing is docility, which ought to honour you. Docility is synonymous with obedience, with humility and also with grace and with charity, for docility is like a queen virtue.

The docile are like those meek ones who ravish the heart of my Jesus, who sees in them a copy of himself. Docile to the will of God, so that He may be able to strength the soil, pull out the weeds that attempt to suffocate the good seed. So docile as to accept to be sometimes, ill-treated by his hand, when it is necessary, so that the divine seed may enter more and so that it may be able to produce more resistant plants with deeper roots. If you will be docile to the divine action and entrust yourselves to me, who knows the secret to guard and to make the divine word bear fruit, you will enjoy great peace.

Around your garden you have already put up high walls and also the barbed wire of mortification. I will intercede for you that dew of graces whereby you will grow more and more in the life of love, a life of union with God that makes saints.

Now turn your gaze to the world. Look without getting dismayed, for you hold in your hand the keys of God's heart. You have to pay for many. You have to, like the ancient Esther, prostrate yourselves before the King of kings and beseech Him that He may have pity on his people.

Many good ought to perish, many wicked lose their souls. Well then, beseech your Bridegroom. I pray with you, I suffer with you, I pay with you. You have given all with love and for love and love must triumph, mercy must triumph. If you are a nursery — and the world ought to be full of these nurseries — do not get dismayed, you are victims of love so that all may have life.

My beloved daughters, never say that your life is useless, that your sacrifice is wasted. The whole world needs you.

Moreover, how can I forget these well-beloved daughters of mine who in the order of Consolata truly give me consolation?

My blessing also to them and to their whole congregation.

The Marian priestly movement, which I am now organising, will have its support in the cloistered religious and in those communities that wish to give me consolation. It is a divine thing but, because of this, much prayer and many sacrifices are needed. Put therefore, my daughters, in your intentions the flowering of this movement destined to heal the Church.

I bless you, daughters, and I embrace you, as I invite you to always be more and more hungry for suffering, which will be the strongest fertiliser that will nourish your "enclosed garden".

Dear brides of Jesus, my dear daughters, courage, serenity and trust. This is the threesome that must give you honour.

I DESIRE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT HUMILITY

February 26, 1974

Beloved children so dear to my heart, see I am here again in order to tell you: rejoice in the Lord, for He enriches you with ever new favours. God, the Emmanuel, is again in the midst of his people in order to give them the bread of life, his Word and his Body, as lights and as sustenance. And I, as his and your Mother, accompany Him in his work, I render the word easy for you and I prepare you to welcome his gift of love.

Beloved children, let your ears always be opened to hear and your eyes to see, but especially let your heart be disposed to welcome the gift of love, so that it may not be said of you: They had ears but did not hear, they had eyes but did not see, their hearts were closed by the hardness of their egoism.

Oh, no! I will never allow this to happen, for I will act like those teachers good and severe at the same time who know how to counsel and to call with sweetness and with strength according to the need.

I am the Mother of holy humility, my children, and even though at other times I may have spoken to you about this virtue, I desire also to reaffirm the principles that form it and that nourish it, so as to render you so humble and therefore so dear to God.

At this point I refer you to a Gospel event. The apostles with Jesus were heading towards Capharnaum and Jesus, thinking about what was awaiting Him, spoke about his passion and death and also about the resurrection that would have happened on the third day after his death. But the apostles did not understand the language of Jesus, they, so to say, turned a deaf ear. Instead they took up again a discourse that they had already made at other times: who among them was to be the first. Perhaps they would have arrived also at a quarrel. Good for them that, having arrived at Capharnaum, they stopped; and Jesus, after having wanted to know from them the reason for the discussion, said: "If one wishes to be the first, let him be the last and servant of all (Mk 10:44)." Then having taken a child in his arms, He raised him towards heaven and said: "Whoever welcomes him, welcomes me; but if you shall not be like children you will not enter the Kingdom of the heavens."

Everyone in this world behaves a little like the apostles on this occasion. When suffering is spoken about, even if Jesus praises it and adopts it as means of salvation and even if it is the most precious gift that He gives to friends, men do not want to know about it. If instead it concerns putting one's capacity at the top and showing off one's value, all or nearly all are inclined to do it.

I put you on your guard so that the works that you seek to do so well are not wasted. I desire that you always see, in all that you do, the grace of God and his help, without which you would only be incompetent persons.

It has been said to you that without Jesus' help you would not even be able to say "Jesus" that is worthwhile for eternal life. In fact, for every good work that you do, not only do you need sanctifying grace so that your work has a divine value, but also actual grace, that is, that grace of the moment whereby you feel in you the desire to do good and the strength to overcome human respect and that natural laziness to which man is inclined. If therefore, you do some good and feel inside you a very lively joy, thank God who has given you the way to do it and address it straight to his glory.

The apostles also, sent by Jesus, went about the roads of Judea and Galilee speaking about Him and performing miracles and wonders even. Amongst these was

Judas also, and he too in the name of Jesus had performed some miracles, but then the spirit of pride filled him so as to desire to reign over Israel as the Messiah.

The apostles of my Jesus have to qualify themselves for that joy that they have in doing good, but also for that right intention that moves them to work and to that attributing to God the good outcome of their work. Humility is truth. If you do some good you cannot say differently, but you must rejoice not just with yourselves, but with God, the highest Good and Author of every good thing.

Another thought ought to guide that apostolate so precious that you do in favour of the brethren as missionaries of Our Lady. You have been called first, but whoever comes after is equal to you. You must therefore, have great esteem for everyone, to love everybody and to consider that, being the workers of the first hour, you have the duty of serving the others.

In everyone that comes to the cenacle or whom you call to take part, you must see that child whom you must welcome for the sake of God, so that what Jesus used to say may be verified: "Welcoming him, you welcome Me."

No spirit of rivalry or of jealousy or of envy must enter through the door of this house, but if there is to be a competition let it be in being the littlest of all. The little ones believe with ease, they do not despise anyone and they accept the little gifts with gratitude and with joy. You be also the same.

Sometimes it happens that some may desire to have special words addressed to them and the Mother keeps quiet. Do you want to know the reason why? She wants to make you grow in that virtue that is very pleasing to her.

My children, I thank you for all that you do and I encourage you to continue to do every thing with wisdom, with prudence, with generosity and with constancy. But I beg you, put the solid base of humility, only in this way will you persevere. The failures, the oppositions, the adversities are the order of the day. The battles of the evil one are continuous, the persecutions lie in ambush, but if you will be humble neither discouragement nor despair will take over you. To look at everything in the light of the will of God and to accept it with submission is humility in action, for what right have men to criticize the will of God?

Put God before you: God to be better known, God to be loved the best you can, God to be served in everything and in all, and you will be serene in the present life and happy in the eternal life.

I bless you all and I love you so much, more than myself.

GO IN SEARCH OF CHRIST

March 3, 1974

My beloved children, peace be to you. See, I am here as Teacher in order to direct your thoughts and your actions.

It is great to see you animated by the holy desire to give to others some idea or some good teaching that you have made your own. I rejoice as teachers rejoice in seeing that their pupils have made some progress in the field of learning. I would like however, for every one of you, leaving home in order to come here, to say to yourself: I am going to learn, not so much to teach. It is this humility that renders you especially worthy of light and of love.

Docility in welcoming my word and the desire for it must coincide with the desire to listen to whoever wishes to address his word to you. The world unfortunately is made up of people who want to impose their own way of thinking and acting. You must be among those who love to listen, more than of being listened to, and who seek in dialogue the meeting point and the way with which to love God and neighbour. If therefore, it is very good for everyone to express not only their own wisdom, but those thoughts that seem of public utility, let him do it with much charity and humility, never with too much self-assurance whereby he could irritate the susceptibilities of others.

And now, almost summarizing what you have said and heard, I say to you: yes, go in search of Christ, the centre of history, the life of the Church and souls. Go to meet Him with reflection, with prayer, especially with the liturgical prayer, and with mortification, which is above all the denial of one's self in the search of God's will and the good of the brethren.

Let humility, which puts you before God like those who can do nothing if God does not help them, make you good towards everyone, so as to avoid those reckless judgements that are condemnable, and make you more understanding towards all, learning to see in the neighbour the virtues more than the defects.

I bless you one by one, children, and I assure you that I will guide you patiently to holiness and to salvation in spite of some defect that surfaces continuously. Remember, children, that it is not the defects that frighten us, but the attachment to them.

Continue to love one another and commend yourselves one to the prayers of others, for this act of humility is very dear to God.

See you again, children. May the joy of the coming Easter be preceded by the Lenten joy made up of charity and prayer.

MAKE THE OLD MAN DIE

March 3, 1874

Beloved children, I will never get tired of speaking to you and of addressing my loving invitation to you as long as you do not get tired of me and do not want to abandon me.

I am the Mother of all the mothers of earth and, as such, I have only one lively desire, that of seeing you grow according to that model that the divine Father has given us in his divine Son and to see you reach in Heaven not just a position of command over others, but a degree of glory corresponding to that spiritual stature that you will have reached.

The whole liturgical year is an invitation to grow with Jesus and in Jesus and to walk in the world as true risen ones, moreover, Lent is a more pressing invitation to prepare oneself for that resurrection that is not only an annual event, but must be a daily fact to be repeated up until the total death of the old man, so that the new man may be able to live, the one modelled on Christ.

Who is this old man? — you will ask me. Old age is synonymous with ailments and every year that passes brings with it the increase of those defects which, if not destroyed in young age, become more and more serious. Well then, man is old in spirit when he does not put all effort, good will and commitment in order to destroy those habits and evil inclinations that derive from the innate passions and from the continuous temptations.

To launch a battle against the old man that everyone carries in himself, is not an easy thing. One's own ego, which crops out in every work and in every intention, is the first part from which the battle must commence. A daily check on the intentions of your doing must make you amend and modify many behaviours.

"If the seed does not fall onto soil and does not decay", Jesus has said to you, "it does not produce the ear". Your ego is that little seed that you must humble and hide in the earth.

It will seem strange to you that, while the moderns speak only about personality, of strength, of orders and of rebellions, I speak to you about an early death. And yet I say to you: every one of you will be victorious in your own field of work, in your own

family and everywhere, if your ego is annihilated, that is, if it will have acted in everything and always for the glory of God and the good of the brethren. To this annihilation and to this real victory one must tend to everyday.

When the drop falls on the stone uninterruptedly it has the power to dig it. There is no character no matter how defective, there is no defect no matter how hardened that cannot be won over by the persistent will to die in order to blossom again in a spiritual life truly Christian.

The Hebrews took many years to reach the promised land. Hope sustained them and whoever persevered reached the destination.

You also, my children, are on a journey towards the homeland. Many events accompany this journey of yours that is without return, but who will want to surrender their arms? Not he who will have placed his hand on the plough, but he who will continue his work without looking back shall be rewarded, Jesus has said to you.

This continuous work that you can compare with that of the sculptor, who uninterruptedly gives blows with the scalpel to the unformed mass in order to draw out of it a work of art, must be yours.

Never lie down in the Christian life, thinking of having reached a good point, for he who lays ambushes and traps will pretty soon make you fall.

Be always prudent like doves and cunning like serpents, so that temptations may find you prepared. On the other hand, you have before you an incomparable example in my Jesus. He, the Man-God, the perfect One, undergoes temptation, but He prepares himself to confront it and to overcome it with prayer and with fasting.

You also have the infallible means close at hand in order to win. You have prayer and especially the sacraments and, if corporal fasting is so reduced that almost nobody thinks about it, there is the fasting of self-love. Accepting an humiliation without retorting, accepting an insult serenely without justifying oneself, to make one's existence not so much a suffering for yourself and for others as much as a means so that all together can glorify God, this is true mortification, true fasting.

There are some people who play act the martyr or victims of the misunderstandings of others and of the malicious gossip of others. Let these people try to look reality in the face. Let them think about the Christian life as a done deed not when all proceeds for the best, but when clashes and difficulties enter in, and they will find the strength to react not just against others but against themselves.

Children, I desire that holy Easter may find you white in the clothes of grace and resplendent with light through the joy that your eyes show. I desire that you proceed in light becoming luminous beacons for others.

Know however, that when I speak to you about others, I do not mean to point them out to you as dead wood but as those children of mine who, though not having had all those gifts that you have received, are to be saved and you for them can be instruments of salvation.

Goodbye, beloved children. Your Mother, walking with you, awaits the day of the resurrection in order to see you covered with glory in the bosom of God.

WATCH OVER YOUR TONGUE

March 5, 1974

Beloved children and so dear to my heart, here you are, desirous of helping everyone and of bringing with your prayer comfort to men of all the world. You do good to always enlarge your sights and to extend your intentions universally. I endorse them, for no human creature, more than me, understands this great necessity that all have of being helped.

I wish however, to point out to you an infallible means so that you may be able to have the desired outcome. The more a soul is crystalline and pervaded by divine light the more the Father looks at it with pleasure and with benevolence, so as to grant also its smallest desires. And what will you do in order to possess this delicate splendour and powerful at the same time? There are many ways to embellish one's soul and to increase its splendour.

When you were regenerated in the baptismal waters, your soul acquired that marvellous gift of sanctifying grace that was its adornment. Voluntary sin disfigured this magnificent nuptial garment and sometimes it completely destroyed its splendour. But the acts of virtue, the acts of love of God, after the reconciliation with Him, reestablished in you many times that celestial union between the soul and God, so that many times it came back as beautiful as when it came out of the baptismal font, and even more beautiful.

The events of life are made up of a continuous chain of good and of evil, of an ascending and descending. Taking up again strength and life after certain falls is a divine work, for without the help of God it is impossible for man to rise up again. When however, the thought of one's weakness remains constant in him, the Lord promptly lifts him up again. When the will to offend God is continually combated and

faith in Him and his love remains constant, even if in a moment of weakness one can fail in the most firm intentions, God uses mercy.

I desire this constantly from you, my children: that in you there may never be the will to offend God, not only with mortal sins, but not even with venial sins and with the same imperfections. What's the worth of saying to the Lord and to me that you love us, when you do not learn for his sake and mine to detach yourselves from those sins that daily form your sorrowful baggage that will weigh on the scales of God's justice to your harm?

Children, let Lent find you determined to remove what, harming your soul, does not give glory to God. Well now you will continue on this line that marvellous construction of your sanctity that my Jesus has invited you to begin.

To exclude voluntary sin means not only to maintain grace, but to make a continuous effort over yourselves that obtains for you an increase of it. And what can God refuse to a soul who is disposed to sacrifice itself in all even to avoid also the slightest failure?

To desire sanctity is equivalent to wanting to live a life of union with God. How will those souls be able to sanctify themselves who do know how to say no to their own inclinations, their own tastes, to self-love and to the wicked tendencies of their own nature?

I ask you for a special commitment so that you may be able to prepare yourselves for the Holy Easter. A severe vigilance over your tongue. It has been said to you that he who does not sin with the tongue is a perfect man. And I know well that the greater part of your sins are those that you commit with that muscle so delicate and important that is the tongue.

Watch, children, since it is easy for those murmurings that seem insignificant things to you and which you accuse yourselves of habitually as things of no account, can seriously harm your neighbour after having brought great harm to your spiritual life. It would be better if you did not speak rather than use the tongue in a wicked way; but without the tongue in order to be able to sing, eat, speak, communicate, what would your life be like? In a tomblike mutism, existence would be truly distressing.

Be grateful to God for this marvellous gift, and use it well. When I think about so many useless words, so many bad and obscene discourses, so many blasphemies, so much malicious gossip and slanders, I would like to scream at all those who perform these wicked deeds: ingrates, why do you use God's gifts against Him and your brethren?

May your reparatory prayers come quickly and, if therefore, you wish for them to ascend directly to God's heart, take away from them that slag that hampers the ascent. Let this commitment of hating sin of every kind especially, beginning with the one committed by the tongue, accompany you everywhere. I will help you moment by moment. It is only in this way that your works become luminous before men so as to let sentiments of gratitude burst out from their hearts towards God. And it is for this true desire for holiness that the Father looks at you with special preference and hears you.

Children, I bless you and I thank you for your constancy. See you again, I go with you everywhere.

LEARN TO PRESERVE GRACE

March 6, 1974

My children, be the welcomed ones in this house that I have chosen as the place of my abode. I bless you and with largesse of heart I fill you with grace of which I am Mother. Learn to preserve this precious gift, the only one truly important for you.

When you shall have arrived at the end of your life, I again will be near you so that you can defend this precious gift and preserve intact in order to present yourselves to God. In that moment the devil will unleash his last battle and it will be tremendous, but, if from now on you will always be winners, you will overcome the last battle with ease.

Let priests come here to draw strength in order to expel the demons. I give the gift of great humility to my well-beloved ones so that they may succeed in their not so easy task. How in fact would they be able to overcome in battle him who lost himself through pride? But also all the faithful, who undergo the guile and the harassment of Satan, must learn from me what they must do in order to be victorious. First of all prayer is needed as a means that lets God enter into your life. Then a determined will is needed in order to learn to react to what physically can demoralize you.

Know, children, that no one equals and exceeds the power of God and that not even the united action of all the demons of earth and of hell could compel a soul to commit even one venial sin alone. This certainty must give you strength in putting up with all the adversities and the evils that derive from the evil one and must give you faith and ever increasing love. Know that also by means of the devil, by combating him strenuously and accepting for love of God and the brethren what he brings you in

order to lead you to despair, you grow in grace and you will have a glory without measure in Heaven.

I bless you therefore, children, and I thank you for having come here. Drink with faith the water of my Jesus and prepare yourselves to celebrate Him next Sunday at Holy Easter.

See you again, children, one does never leave here empty handed.

PRAYER AND SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF GOD

March 6, 1974 (at Muggiò)

Beloved daughters, brides of my Jesus, children all who love me, be blessed for that comfort that you give to Jesus and to me and for that help that you give to the brethren through your prayer. The angels and the saints rejoice, the demons tremble with rage, for whom prayer is like a stick that persecutes them and makes them suffer beating them.

When you pray Paradise is opened up, I have said to you at other times. Always turn prayer into a loving elevation towards God and a true unity amongst yourselves and with all the Church. That admonishment is always true: if you are about to make your offering at the altar and you are aware that you have something against your brother, or that your brother has something against you, go and make peace, then return and make your offering. If the heart is free from any even little resentment, the prayer becomes an offering like very pure incense, which mixes its fragrant waves with those of the blessed.

I beg you, scrutinize your heart therefore, and ask yourselves before starting to pray: "Am I in peace with everyone? Have I desired for this peace to triumph in my community, in my home and have I tried on my part to put into action all that depended on me so that peace may have its triumph? Is my heart ready to renounce my points of view in order to understand and help others?" If it is like so, be certain, your prayer touches God's heart.

Do not be mean in asking. Ask for everyone. Ask for perseverance for the good, conversion for the wicked, but never limit your requests to personal and family things. He who created Heaven and earth and who watches over his creatures individually, is not to be treated like some wretch who has few possibilities. Widen your mind in the vision of human needs and widen your heart in order to love all and in order to desire the salvation of all.

This is how I prayed when the angel Gabriel came in order to bring me the divine announcement. I looked at the world as in a vision of immense sorrow and the evils of humanity wounded my heart so as to make me groan sighing so that the Lord would save all men.

Today humanity is afflicted by evils certainly not less than those of then. Raise up your cry everyone towards Heaven. When Jonah was sent to Nineveh in order to ask for the Ninivites to do penance, they were converted and God did not send the chastisements that He had sworn to send. Children, what will become of this world if it will remain deaf to the voice of God inviting to conversion and penance?

Beloved children, in a few days the feast of the Annunciation will come to interrupt the Lent, not just to tell you not to do penance, but to launch an invitation to you ever so pressing and necessary.

When the angel greeted me, he communicated to me the will of God which meant entirely for me a heap of great sorrows and without number; but by my response of adhesion to the will of God derived the salvation of men. What would have happened if I had refused to believe and to accept? From one cause another emerges, you say, and it is truly so. By my "yes" a series of events followed on that gave rise to the redemption.

Everyone of you are now here in expectation of an explanation. You live your life for a "yes" uttered by your parents at your coming. But there is not only the human life, there is the life of the spirit, the life of the soul that you have received. Just as to the mothers is the task of giving life to the bodies, so there are the spiritual mothers who, again out of that constant and loving adhesion to the work of God, give life to souls. Only one is the difference: while to spiritual motherhood all can be called, rather, all must feel its responsibility, for that physical one not all have the call and the possibility to have it.

Oh, how I would like for you all to be included by this invitation and desire of God! Do you want to accept to be a giver of life? — the Lord says to everyone — I am Him who is. Life gushes forth from God. If you accept to be my collaborators, here is your task. My creative will has given life to the world. My redemptive will has recovered man. My divine vitality is a gift through which the world and men subsist and live. Do you wish to be in my will? Do you want to collaborate with me? This is what the Lord says to you and He does not hide the crosses just as He did not hide them to me, but He promises you an infinite reward.

Do you want the God of Hosts to save the world one more time and drive inexorably into hell the demons that tempt men in order to drag them to eternal damnation? You only have to stay united more and more intimately among yourselves, with me and with God in order to direct according to his command our war operations.

Yes, prayer, children, prayer made well, adhesion to his will in good and bad times, always ready, always available. In this way we will save individuals, families, nations. With perseverance, with insistence pray, so that the grave chastisements are avoided in which many good will perish and many, many will damn themselves.

Have only one thought, that which animated my prayers before the announcement of the angel: the salvation of your people. Do not worry yourselves over what is material. God is the provident Father and He lets nothing lack to his children. Look at everything in the service of salvation for which you have had life. Never despair, because I am near you as a good Mother and I am ready for everything in order to save you.

I bless you, children, not as a group but one by one and, as I am pleased with the good who have already taken long strides in the way of good, I say to the more mischievous and to those who in laziness do not shake off their torpor: courage, make a last effort, I am close to you and I help you.

See you again, children. The Virgin of the Annunciation shall be happy to bring you the announcement of salvation when, after overcoming the evil in the world, a new era of peace and love will have begun.

THE MYSTERIOUS WATER OF GRACE

March 10, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. I am with you in sweet communion of spirit. I desire — oh, how I desire it! — to communicate to you those spiritual gifts that make your souls like a flowery garden. I desire that you be virtuous, that you be saints, that you have that is, an unceasing longing for perfection.

When I look at you one by one and I see you with so many defects, the desire comes to me to plunge you into the heart of my Jesus and make you have a salutary bath in his blood in order to render you beautiful, just like the mothers do with their little children. You can do this purifying bath every time that you wish in the sacrament of Confession. The defects however, are many times left behind in spite of Confession, and in order to take them away the intense work of grace is needed strengthened by your good will.

Little by little as you come to these gatherings, many things are clarified to you that you must take away and others that you must add. In this way from time to time you ought to improve yourselves; and if you just do not make any step forward, perhaps you ought to give an account to God for having abused his grace.

God is not frightened of your faults. He who sees simultaneously the crimes of all men in the whole world, remains horrified by the lack of love of men, but He does not marvel in seeing them fall, because He knows that by rejecting his help only a continuous fall can happen. God is infinite goodness and wants to forgive, always forgive. He truly has that mysterious water of grace that quenches to no longer feeling thirst anymore, and which purifies up to giving back the splendour of the soul scarcely come out of his hands.

God wants for you to go to Him, for you to humble yourselves. Have you heard what the Samaritan woman's behaviour was with my Jesus? And who among you has not been in his life a little like the Samaritan woman? How many infidelities, how many little idols have often taken your heart, so as to make you forget your most sacrosanct duties!

So, many have come here with many difficulties to overcome. They have asked for the water for some physical ailments and perhaps have felt themselves accused of some spiritual disease.

What a gift of God for having been able to discover the true state of your soul! Sometimes a certain self security and a certain tranquillity made one put off certain defects that were not hidden to my eyes and to the eyes of God.

Whoever comes here with the desire to draw, enjoys making these discoveries. It is like it was for the Samaritan woman when she heard herself told that, after the other five, the husband she had was not hers. And hearing one's defects uncovered, for those who are desirous of improving, is an enthusiastic call to the apostolate.

I am sorry when some distance themselves just because they do not want to accept the humiliation. I therefore today, while as Mother of divine Grace wish to give you to drink of this gushing and limpid water which, setting out from the heart of Jesus, descends down to you, I invite you to welcome it serenely and gratefully so that, enriched by this precious gift, you can run through the streets of the world and call everyone back to good.

If you love me, I help you. If you have great desires of good, I help you to realize them. If the evil that you have committed in your life disturbs you, place it in my hands and never get tired of having trust in the mercy of God. If the Samaritan woman, after her forced confession, had had the fear of making a bad impression or was to let herself be won over by human respect, she would not have called an entire people beside Jesus and she would not have sanctified herself.

Be humble, children. Acknowledge your mistakes and your limits, I will intervene in order to help you to purify yourselves and I will increase your abilities. Be easier in changing your mind of your mistakes than of accusing others. Children, the world is full of people who believe themselves self-sufficient and who want to judge men and things with their short views and with their short charity. Do not imitate them.

You must build, and in order to build the foundations, the scaffolding, the material is needed. Let the foundations be the continued study in order to acquire humility. Let the scaffolding be your generosity that makes you rise up towards Heaven in a continual availability, and the material — the bricks, the cement, the water, — be your work, your penance, your tears. Let the whole be always blessed, confirmed and consolidated by the grace of God, without which man builds in vain.

Children, I bless you all.

There are some people who are anxious over their dear departed loved ones. But no, children, you must be anxious when they are in life, in the sense that you must worry over the salvation of their souls. But when they are dead, you must make many acts of faith and trust in the mercy of God.

To all my wish that you may be able to prepare yourselves well for the feast of my Joseph. The Church more than ever needs him. Do so that the whole Church may feel the strength of his protection through prayer.

To all my embrace, and see you again.

BE SINCERE

March 12, 1974

Beloved children, which a sentiment of compassion towards the brethren and of love towards Jesus and towards me reunites here at my feet, may you be blessed.

I look at you and I repeat to you that I love you more than you could imagine and I promise you a scent of graces, if you will with patience and with constancy learn to turn to me in all your needs.

I bless those families where the spouses, overcoming difficulties of character and principles, learn to be patient and I promise peace and well-being. The woman's grace

is usually the bait that makes the husband the true sweet destination and the desired companion of life. How much are they to be pitied certain families where divorce is aspired as a means in order to resolve every difference!

I beseech you, children, to try to persuade and convince, so as to prevent the acceptance of rules that can only sow woes and ruin, besides leading many into grave sin. My Jesus said it to you: "Whoever repudiates his wife or husband exposes him to adultery. And whoever marries a repudiated woman or man sins seriously of adultery (Lk 16:18)." How can one not tremble at these statements that put eternal salvation at risk?

To live in sin is dangerous, children, today especially when the most unthought of disasters tie men to a thread, suspended between life and death. So I desire that you warmly pray to the Father that one more time He may have compassion on these hard hearted and stiff necked men. How can one in fact, through one's own selfishness, forget God and one's own children?

Yes, make extra prayers and join together your tears and your sufferings. From an approval, not according to the will and the Law of God, can continue on other approvals all on the plan of divorce, all against morality. I bless your steps and your words, I bless your illuminating and peacemaking work that will be like a ray of divine light.

Now permit me, referring myself again to the Gospel, to remind you of a saying ever so clear. Jesus said: "Let your speech be: yes, yes, no, no (Mt 5:37)", and meant to say: be sincere. Sincerity, so hard to be practised in the world, is that specific virtue of the children of God, just as the lie is the dominant feature of the children of Satan. Note that this sincerity must direct you in everything, so as to make your more and more stronger with yourselves, more and more gentlemen with others.

I will give you a phrase that can seem a paradox to you, but which shows you how dear sincerity is to my heart: if with a bad lie, that is, of those that bring harm to their neighbour, you were to save the whole world, you should not say that lie because it would be an offence to God. I am not speaking of those playful or pitiful lies that do not harm, but of that denying the truth out of one's pride, out of one's interest and out of that desire of putting on show one's talents.

Therefore, be sincere, my children! Sincere with God, acknowledging that all you possess and do is his gift, while all that you do that is defective and bad is only the fruit of your evil inclination and your passions. Be sincere with yourselves learning to see, to discover, to condemn the evil that you do with so much ease.

Be sincere with your neighbour. And here I would like to tell you that sincerity must not be neither imprudence nor that cheeky disclosure and denunciation of the defects of others. Sincerity must be that brotherly love which, letting you desire to see perfection in others, sweetly advises about the imperfections that are being uncovered, and must be accompanied by a help given for the sake of God, so that the brother can be corrected. So, children, I beg you to admonish one another, rejoicing in seeing in others blossom those virtues that makes everyone true Christians.

Do not forget what has been said to you. Make it a theme of examination and reflection in this Lent, so that you my truly be able to rise to a new life.

I bless you and I love you. Goodbye, dear ones, see you again.

TRUE FREEDOM

March 17, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. See, I am amongst you in order to give you, with my word, the divine teachings that must guide your life.

Many, unfortunately, attracted by false teachings and by false doctrines, abandon the right road and deviate into those heresies that bring divisions among Christians and turn many of them into sheep without a shepherd. They prefer to have hirelings as guides who, seeking their own gain, only aim to spread error and make converts. Other children of mine, attracted by miraculous things in order to enjoy them, have no fear of letting themselves be dominated and instructed by the same demons. The historicity of the Gospel is put into doubt and the assertions of mediums and the possessed are accepted as Gospel.

Against these dangers I must put you on your guard and I desire that you have ideas so clear in the mind as to know how to expound, defend and spread them practical and simply as I do with you.

My Jesus has said to you: "The truth shall make you free (Jn 8:32)." But how will the knowledge of the divine teachings give you freedom? God is truth personified. In Him the Law is a command of love and the knowledge of Him is the same as discovering again what He desires for you to do or avoid, for, in his infinite love, He sees no other means in order to keep his children united to himself except in the observance of his commands and his desires. He who observes the Law is, so to say, immersed in the truth and enjoys freedom like the fish which, obeying a natural law, live in the water and dart about freely in its waves.

There are those who feel the Law as a coercion and think that by rebelling against it they can be free. It is one of the worst illusions, my children, for he who disobeys the Law breaks his bonds with God; sin takes possession of his heart, which automatically passes on to the dependency of a very hard and severe master who, little by little, will compel him to do all that he desires. In that moment alone he shall have lost true freedom.

Children, the Law however, which Jesus wished to call a sweet yoke and a light weight, must be observed out of love. Everything becomes easy when one loves and God wishes to be obeyed out of love. It is not the Law that sanctifies, but the accepting of it with faith and the practising of it out of love that makes you pleasing to God.

Freedom is the gift that distinguishes man from the brute. It is the quality that gives merit to the good that you do and which will render worthy of eternal chastisement those who use it badly. The freedom of the children of God is the joy of feeling yourselves at his service, walking perhaps with Jesus on the way of Calvary, but supported by his arms, confident in being able to get to the Father in whom resides every good.

If you do not look at your freedom in the light of these truths, you will feel yourselves more and more enveloped in all those vanities which, embracing your life, render it the sought out victim of the devil.

You think that the slavery of men is by now an outdated thing, with the exception of some cases that exist in distant lands. But I say to you that, even if under an appearance of freedom, there are many more slaves than free men. Slaves of opinion, slaves of fashion, slaves of pornography, slaves of modern means of communication and you can say, in a word, slaves of sin.

Ask some father or some mother how they were able, after many years of marriage, to forget the most sacred affections, to abandon the family, to neglect the children. Into their heart has entered an affection for another person. They have cultivated this affection and, little by little, they have found themselves chained to a slavery. They think of a liberation that can come with divorce, but that will be another turn of the key that will increase the slavery.

Ask many young people, who are now immersed in vice, how after a good youth, a pure childhood they have reached such a depth. If they were to answer you, they would say that from one impure sin a string of them has followed and then the inability to rise up again.

So is the story of every sinner, who in the sin believed in finding freedom and happiness and saw instead every aspiration to true good and to God decline.

Yes, children, come here to my feet, come with the desire to improve. Come with the desire to break definitively all those nooses that keep you tied like birds in a golden cage.

Always walk in the presence of God. Make his Law a daily study and when the will of God appears clear to your eyes, follow it with faith and with love. Only in this way will you be truly free.

Children, I bless you all. See you again!

Have a good feast of St. Joseph and let there be graces for all.

JOSEPH THE JUST

March 19, 1974

My dear and beloved children, do not be surprised that, even though my spouse Joseph may be here in a marvellous and providential way, that I myself wish to speak to you about him in order to encourage you to love him, to imitate him and to pray to him with ever greater fervour, so that those spiritual benefits may come to the Church and to the world which they need.

How I would like to make you know him intimately, Joseph! How I would like to make you understand his holiness which excels in a marvellous way above that of all the saints! It was not in fact, the important mission entrusted to him that made him acceptable to the gaze of God, but that interior life of grace which moment by moment kept on growing in him through the perfect and quiet adhesion to the will of God.

The love of God and neighbour, which forms the summary of the Commandments, absorbed so to say his every thought, affection and action, whereby at every instant, if someone or God himself were to have asked him what he was doing, Joseph would have been able to respond with sincerity: "I love."

The saints of Paradise are the gems that set the throne of God, but amongst these gems there is one whose intensity and very clear brilliance cannot be compared with any other.

The justice practised at every instant towards God; towards the neighbour and towards himself has given him the title of "just", a true global quality that is like the significant expression of every virtue.

When justice is spoken of in the world, usually duties and rights are distinguished, but whoever wishes to do justice claims never ending rights and forgets his duties.

Joseph, the just, was a model in whom one could find the greatest diligence in the observance of the duties up to scruple, whereby he would not have been able to be more just than he was. The mission of the foster father of the Son of God made man demanded such an example, such a perfection, whereupon Jesus would have to have to learn from him. And it was truly so. Jesus learned from Joseph not only the human and civil life, but also the religious behaviour towards God and the whole of those virtues that made a man of a true Israelite.

When temptation, sickness, misery with all that complex of sacrifices that it brings, knock on the door of the house, the faith many times gets knocked about and many find themselves troubled by doubt. Joseph passed through all those sorrowful trials of life. You will say that he was directed by the invisible hand of God. But exactly because invisible, the obedience to the commands, even if given in sleep by means of angels, was truly a continual heroism. He did not have the joy of seeing his Son rise up again and he had no consolations of any kind, except that of seeing this adoptive Son, obedient and docile, learn his trade and love work as he himself loved it.

So just in his behaviour towards God, he was also so towards the neighbour, from whom he endured injustices and wickedness in an exemplary way.

Jesus was the Son of God and as such He would have not have need of anything from men, but the divinity was so to say hidden also to Jesus himself, whereby the humanity of Jesus was entrusted to this man who did not glow on the outside with grandiose things, but who did his every duty in a perfect way.

My Joseph loves your group because too much noise is not made in it, and in silence you work and sanctify yourselves. What is left for me therefore, to do here beside him and beside you? I must encourage you to continue on in silence and with good will to do all that good that you can. When you would like to do more and you feel like your wings are clipped, consider that it is not the many works that count, but the love of God and neighbour that directs them.

If you wish to resemble Joseph, practise justice so that an eternal memory of you may be kept in this sense. If you love doing great works, look at him who, though having had the most sublime mission to accomplish, learned to hide its importance so well as to be called with contempt "smith", as if to say that nothing good could come out of a man like him.

Love to hide in humility, that is, do not seek your glory in this world; it is vanity to seek it. Let your works however, done as an act of justice in the observance of the Law of God and as an act of goodness towards your fellow men, shine before men so that they may feel the duty to praise and to thank God.

The death of my Joseph was the most desirable one. Jesus said those psalms for him that had given so much joy to family prayer, while He promised him that He would have freed him from Limbo soon and brought him with himself into glory. And I comforted him with my assistance and my tenderness.

This holy death will be yours too, do not fear. If the saints of Paradise were able to relate to you the wonders accomplished for their salvation and of all those who entrust themselves to the protection of Joseph, marvellous stories of extraordinary graces would come out of it.

Trust and forward! Entrust your loved ones to him and leave him with true faith the responsibility of their salvation. Joseph is great on earth and in Heaven.

We bless you, children, and we promise you to sanctify the families that you will entrust to our custody.

TO THE TURIN GROUP

March 22, 1974

My dear and beloved children, peace be to your hearts now and always. See, you have come here on this announcement of spring in order to bring me your desires and your intentions, and I give you like an announcement of hope and joy that I base on your good will, on the desire of good and on that certainty that you have of being helped by me.

What do you desire, children? What do you ask from this sorrowful Mother who sees the ruin of many souls, an eternal and irreparable ruin? You ask for the salvation of your loved ones. You ask for families to remain united. You ask for the faith to be the inspirer of works, the support of life. You ask for your children to enjoy the benefits of health so that they can work for the glory of God. And are not these my desires? Therefore, let's join together, I with you and you with me, so that these children may be as if seduced by a divine communal action. And this spring that comes with you, must show like a religious awakening in everyone.

It seems hard to you for some souls to return to believe after they had abandoned every religious thought and every contact with God. But is it not just as hard for the

swallows — which last autumn left their nests in order go to warmer places — to go back looking for them and fill them with feathers and squeals? And perhaps you think that it is easier to make meek thoughts return to those who have abandoned them, or to make the swallows return to their nest? It is true that the Lord has to fight against hostile wills, but do not fear. If you shall have faith, you will see hope become green in you and thoughts of Heaven will pass from your minds to those of your loved ones with extreme ease.

It is beautiful to see life working for a spring that must continuously renew itself in order to renew. It is for this that I invite you to have a continuous desire to improve spiritually in your relationships with God. I would like for your Sunday or daily Mass to be truly an encounter of hearts, and a most lively joy, expressed also exteriorly, it must bear witness to all the happiness of being Christians.

Perhaps Christianity has been up to now signified with a certain seriousness, a certain silence, a certain sadness. Be Christians joyful of living in the midst of so many difficulties, with many crosses; Christians not apathetic, not indifferent; Christians who learn to ascertain and offer up the best that life offers in order to give it as gift to all.

What do you want from life? Not great things — you tell me — health, work, peace. And it is right to ask for all that. But the Christian is a hero who learns to smile, who learns to ascertain also when something is lacking and with faith and with constant prayer learns to knock on a door that will not stay closed for a long time. How many times have you believed that everything was irremediably lost and then everything was back to normal.

When days of despondency come to you, think of me, children. Let my life be an encouragement to you and a model. When you feel afflicted, disappointed and it seems to you of not being able to do it anymore, think of me, whom God willed assumed into Heaven body and soul so that I would be able to more and better understand you and share your sorrows.

Therefore, preserve the peace and bear witness to your Christianity in this way, keeping faith to the intentions of Christian life in spite of seeing in it as a complete failure.

You have sown well, you must gather well. Do not let yourselves be intimidated by the storms of atheism that are passing over your Italy. The Lord makes use of evil in order to do good. Your constancy, your serenity and your goodness shall have its merited triumph.

Progressing in virtue day by day, you inadvertently work the transformations of your neighbour. When the wave, illuminated by the sun, hits against the shore it is purified and it purifies at the same time the sand that is lapped by it. You are the wave that, illuminated by grace, works unceasingly in order to purify yourselves and all your loved ones in that unified action that renders you divine in working with God.

Children, you come from the city of Mary, where however, materialism keeps on spreading its theories more and more, convincing not only the laity but also the priests and religious themselves. May your springtime announcement may reach up to them, to all those children, and your prayer help them to see their positions clearly.

Work within the limits of your possibilities so that divorce may not become accepted and there may not be a great ruin for Italy. Already many families are destroying themselves undermining that peace that is already threatened. You make your offerings, give wise counsels and do not let any occasion pass by without making your mind heard.

I bless you all, children, one by one and I thank you for what you do and what you will do. See you again!

OPEN YOURSELVES TO THE MOVEMENTS OF GRACE

March 23, 1974

My children, be the blessed ones in this house of mine so welcoming and so blessed.

You have come as to a special audience to the throne of the Queen of the Universe and through this effigy of mine, which is miraculous and so sweet and talking, you intend to turn your mind to Heaven and to see me surrounded with glory and with power.

I thank you for the trust that you place in me, which shall certainly not be disappointed, for, as I gladden all of Paradise with my presence, so I am capable of helping all my children travellers on earth.

You pray to me for the dying, especially for those who want to remain deaf to the voice of God, and you pray to me for that category of persons who, being particularly bound to the devil, perform diabolical works in the world at the expense of the Church and of souls. But how will you be able to give strength to your prayer and make it

effective and powerful? It is necessary for you first not to be deaf to the voice of grace and to correspond with sincere faith to the call of God. When the Lord calls, He requires a definitive choice and a determined and complete conversion: this, God wants from you in this holy year, in this Lenten preparation.

Do not be half-hearted Christians, but accept the Law and the Creed fully and let a new fervour animate your existence. One cannot serve two masters, one cannot be God's one day and his adversary's on the other. Renew your decision to be true witnesses of my Jesus with that rectitude that lets you practise justice towards God, towards the neighbour and towards yourselves. In this way you are capable of saying that you are not deaf and only in this way are you capable of understanding in order to be able to speak to others that are deaf and mute.

When they presented a deaf-mute to my Jesus, He put his fingers in his ears, He wet with saliva the tongue of the deaf-mute and, looking up to Heaven, He uttered that word which in this moment I repeat to you: "*Ephpheta* (Mk 7:34)", which means "be opened".

Be opened to the movements of grace, I say to each one. If you did good, you must do better. If your faith up to now has been listless, if you have been lukewarm, you must overcome that inertia to which you feel led and you must change the water into wine, tepidity into fervour. If you feel empty handed, the heart empty, the mind empty, this is the moment to fill yourselves with God. Only in this way you also will be instruments of salvation. Your words shall have the power to break down erring minds. Your works will be blessed and you also will be able to say your "Ephpheta" that will obtain miracles.

You have recited a whole Rosary, fifteen decades. You have recalled the most salient points of my life and that of my Jesus. Learn to rejoice with our joys, learn to unite your sorrows to ours and learn to hope always and, looking up to Heaven, believe that the place of your eternal abode is there where everyone of you has already marked his place.

Do not get caught up in the foolish things of the world, keep the destination fixed in the eyes. Life passes quickly. The faith is the great anchor that gives joy in crucial moments. Keep tight to it and beseech from Heaven an ever greater increase of faith. I am close to you always, in order to counsel you, to help you, to support you in all the difficulties. Do not fear anything. Chastisements come and they will come and they will be grave, but, if you will invoke me and love me, you will be protected and defended from all the dangers, especially from those of the soul.

I bless you, children, one by one, according to the mission and the tasks you have. I promise you so: you will not leave here empty handed. Come back and bring others with you. It does not matter if they come only out of curiosity, I act in depth and I work the most beautiful transformations.

See you again, children. The heavenly Mother blesses you with your intentions and desires, and blesses all your loved ones.

DO YOU WANT TO GIVE THE SAVIOUR TO THE WORLD?

March 24, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you. I am the Virgin of the Annunciation and I enjoy addressing to you a warm invitation to prepare yourselves with an intense prayer and full of love, to celebrate the greatest feast that recalls the moment in which the Word of God took abode in my womb. On that day the salvation of humanity was announced with the fulfilment of the great mystery of the Incarnation. This mystery was tied to the adhesion of my will to that of God's.

Children, the world still has to be saved. The Eternal Word, the Son of God, must enter once again into the world. Who wants to make himself with me an instrument of salvation? Your full and conscious yes to the request of the angel is needed. "Do you wish to give the Saviour to the world?", asks Gabriel to each one of you. If you welcome Him in yourself, this Saviour God, you are capable of giving Him to others.

To welcome God means to make a clean sheet of all that displeases Him, it means welcoming the light. What did John the apostle say to you? "The light shone in the darkness and the darkness did not welcome it (Jn 1:5)." You must welcome the light, you must be light.

How much the sight of a blind man arouses compassion in souls! Every other evil always seems inferior to that of not possessing sight. But what is the sight of the body and what is it worth in comparison to the sight of the soul? It is painful not seeing and the desire to see is justified. My Jesus understood it when He gave the gift of sight to the man born blind. He spread some mud over his eyes and sent him to wash himself at the fountain of Siloam. And he saw.

But does it not seem to you, children, that the blindness of the soul that comes from pride is much worse? Observe what happens among Christians? There are some who seem to have eyes only in order to see the defects of others. If they speak to you of absentees, they will say every bad thing about them. It seems that they have put on

magnifying glasses in order to see. The trifles become great things, the twigs become beams. Try to make them reflect and to observe some of their little defects: you will see them jump like springs. They are so convinced of being perfect that they would say at every instant: I am not like that publican there at the back.

It is lack of light, the spiritual sight is lacking. Perhaps a deeper and more accurate reflection, a more humble recourse to God would fix everything and they would see better. The spirit of pride makes one incapable of seeing one's own defects, for it rises up like a bulwark before one's eyes that does not let one see.

I am here in order to help you to see and I repeat to you the question of the angel: Do you want to give the Saviour to the world? Make light, accept the light, distance the darkness. "Let it be done as you say (Lk 1:38)", I said to the angel Gabriel. To do as God wills, as He says, as I say to you. They are simple things that require an effort of the will and a desire for holiness.

There are some sick who go looking for healing everywhere; they would ask for it even from the devil and they would prostrate themselves before him, in order to be healed. But does not theirs seem a very miserable faith to you? How can you not think that if the devil knows how to cause the illnesses of the body, so he would also be capable of taking away what he has caused? But how can you want and dare to overvalue the power of the devil? If you entrust yourselves to God, He, who is the absolute master of life and death, wants to and is able to help his children in the order of eternal salvation. But what is a health obtained at the expense of the faith and the life soul worth?

Well then, my children, I look at you and I see your physical infirmities. I see your sufferings from which I desire to free you, but why do you not increase your faith and do not have recourse, with a sincere conversion and with a more fervent prayer, to Him who is the Doctor? If you have recourse to those who have absorbed the knowledge of medicine, why not unite to those cures an interior cleanliness that, giving you the grace of God, renders you more acceptable to Him? Or, perhaps, what God does not wish to grant you because it is not good for you, men or even the demons can grant to you?

This is in order for physical health; and for the soul, oh, with what desire is it necessary to ask it from God! "Let it be done as you say", Christians should know to say, and with all humility and simplicity ought to say to the Father how great is their blindness. Who among you is not a little blind? Who can say of seeing everything with perfection? It is for this desire of giving salvation to the world that you must accuse yourselves of being immersed in the darkness. After this accusation light is let in, God is lodged and He gives himself.

Children, let the feast of the Annunciation rekindle in you the gratitude and the desire to be generous. The "Ave" that you will address to me up till tomorrow will not be without a response. You will make an echo to the invocations and to the greeting of the angels and of the saints. I will respond to you letting the most sacred affections and the divine blessings fall into your heart.

Kneel down, children, and as you worship the divine will, welcome his grace into your heart.

I embrace you in the Lord and I send the angel Gabriel to you who, covering you with his protection, may accompany you to your homes.

MY JOY MUST BE YOURS

March 25, 1974

My beloved children, joy and peace be to your hearts! I am the Virgin of the Annunciation.

I am here with you to validate your prayer. I am here to listen to your petitions, to grant your desires.

Ask with faith, children! I am Virgin and Mother, I am your Mother and I am Queen. The heavenly Father denies me nothing, the divine Son denies me nothing, the Holy Spirit, my celestial Spouse, denies me nothing. Ask for all the men of earth help, mercy and compassion. Ask for the Church strength, light and increase of charity and faith. When you pray for the Church, you pray for yourselves, for you are the living stones that comprise the Church.

I am here listening and I enjoy seeing you confidently speaking with me as you would speak with your mother, she who gave you life. I also have received you at the foot of the cross, on Calvary, and in sorrow I communicated to you the life of grace which my Jesus has made me the depositary of. You are my conquest of love and of sorrow, for, through the offering that I made to the Father of my Son, I realized with his merits my dream of co-redemption. You are here, children, and I would like to make you understand how great is the joy that you give me.

Many ask themselves: "Why repeat hundreds of times the same invocation? Hail Mary, hail Mary! But wouldn't it be enough to say it only once?" Oh, children! If you had felt, after the angel's greeting and my adhesion to the will of God, the joy that I felt, the leap of love, the ineffable happiness of having the divine Word a guest in my

womb, you would not hesitate one instant to believe that every time that Christians repeat this greeting to me, they renew that most pure joy to me.

Is the Rosary valuable? I do not hesitate to tell you, children. It is valuable, besides the recalling of the divine mysteries, also for that renewing in my mind and in my heart of the memory of the most solemn moment of my life and more important for humanity. The more "hails" you say to me the more joy you give to me.

Moreover, I want to remind you of other solemn moments in which I renew my joy for you and in you.

When in every Holy Mass, at the moment of the consecration, the bread and the wine become the Body, the Blood, the Soul and the Divinity of my Jesus, my heart jumps with tenderness and love. Every Mass is the renewal even if unbloody of the Sacrifice of Calvary, and I see, through this new incarnation and this sacrifice, the benefits that are derived to souls, who through it will be sanctified and be saved.

But children, permit me to tell you that my joy can and must be also yours. I welcomed the Word of God who in me became flesh. But what happens when you, uniting yourselves to my Jesus who gives himself for you, welcome Him in your heart in Holy Communion? Is it not the same Word, is it not my same flesh that you receive?

If your Communions were well prepared, what infinite tenderness, what happiness and grace they would bring into your life! He is a God who, covering you with his shadow, wishes to perform radical transformations in you. He comes to be flesh of your flesh, but above all in order to be life of your soul. A God comes to you in order to make you capable of living the Christian life in its perfection and the Eucharist speaks to you of every virtue. It speaks to you of purity, of obedience, of charity, of humility. It speaks to you of mutual giving, in that patience and in that silence so necessary. The Eucharist is a school. It is a practical lesson that Jesus gives, at every Communion, to his children. And of every Communion made well I rejoice, as I rejoiced with an ecstasy of love when the Word took flesh in me.

Today I give you an invitation. Every time that you greet me with the Hail Mary, consider renewing in me that joy of which the angel Gabriel was my annunciator. Every time that you receive Communion, pray to me, so that I may be able to make you understand and taste the joy of being in company with God.

And now I bless you all one by one.

I thank you for having wanted to come on this day so beautiful to this house. You will not leave empty handed. I bless the whole Church for this meeting and in a special way those who, consecrated to me as "slaves", love me and serve me.

I bless the priests who are a part of the priestly movement and those who promote the consecrations to me.

May those spouses who weep because the husband has left the family, consecrate him to me every day. He will return, I promise you. Strengthen the prayer and let sacrifices accompany it.

I greet you, children, repeating to each one of you with your baptismal name: hail daughter, hail son, and I desire that your heart jump for joy.

Goodbye, see you again!

FEAR THE LORD WHO PASSES BY

March 26, 1974

Dear and beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. I am the heavenly Nurse and I am here to point out to you the remedies that you must use in order to cure your evils and those of sorrowing humanity.

It has been said to you that the world is like an immense hospital in which all men are a little sick. Some have serious illnesses, others less. All are next to a Bethsaida pool and could dive in and be cured, but the greater part of them are not aware of their own illnesses, or even do not find anyone to give them a hand so that they can enjoy that beneficial water that can heal them.

First of all it is necessary for you to be aware that human nature, so weakened by original sin, is extremely fragile. The mind of man is not stable. As he proposes one action, he does another.

He would like to do good and he feels himself as if drawn to do evil. The passions are always lying in wait, the temptations offer flatteries and pleasures, whereby man argues incessantly over good and evil and many times does not know how to choose.

Liberty ought to spread out the wings to the will, which ought to tend to the best and to the eternal. But what happens? The free man feels himself as if bound to the observance of the Law and thinks of drawing his happiness from the infraction to the Law. In this way the leprosy of sin becomes a serious and infectious disease that is communicated from one to the other with extreme ease. How will one be able to be cured?

When they presented the blind, the paralytics, the lepers to Jesus who passed by along the roads of Palestine, from their hearts and from their lips came the invocation: "Lord, save us!" And Jesus let himself be touched and He cured. But how will He be able to cure those who think of having perfect health, while they are corrupt up to the marrow of the bones?

Many times it was the apostles and the disciples who presented the sick to Jesus, and He had compassion on them and accepted that kind of intercession. And why in those moments so terrible, in which evil keeps on continuously increasing, my children do not make themselves everything to all in order to present these sick ones to Jesus, to the Father?

You enjoy some special privileges, but you cannot allow that too many lay down as dead in the midst of humanity and for there to be no one to give them a hand. The pool is the grace. But so that the sinners can find life in it, the contribution of your work is needed, your tribute of tears, the constant sacrifice of your life is needed.

No one was prompt, near the Bethsaida pool, to throw in it that paralytic who for many years was waiting to go in at the moving of the waters by the angel of the Lord.

The angel of God is still in every sacred place and works bringing the gifts of Heaven everywhere. Even here in this house, having become a meeting place of souls with God, the angels of the Lord call souls. Here the mind is cleared up, here the heavenly bread that is the nourishment of the mind is received. Here one learns to love the Lord and his Mother. Here one receives the script for the purchase of those medicines that are the Sacraments, capable of giving back life and health.

Many refuse to come, to believe, to accept. It would come spontaneously to you to say that one must not throw the pearls to unclean animals. But no, children, we want to invite you to a much more wider apostolate. We want that with Jesus and with Me the calls be multiplied to come to draw at this fount. All must be cured, all must find life and salvation.

And for you a simple warning and ever so heartfelt. Do not abuse the grace, do not abuse the gifts of God. Why, in spite of the urgings and invitations, do you not advance, do you not improve? You remain like those frail people whose lungs no longer permit a purifying action. Do not sadden your days with that tenor of life that makes one think of a lukewarmness in continual increase, rather than of a flourishing vitality full of love.

No, it is not right to throw the pearls to those who reject them. But you who receive them with so much abundance, do not barter them with things of no value, do not waste them. From one meeting to the next you must mark an improvement, you must be more holy. If you have the conviction of being self-sufficient successful people, how will you be able to accept my counsels and my words with humility? Fear, children, the Lord who passes by, and fear that these extraordinary gifts, demanded by the exceptional times that you are living in, may be taken away from you in order to be given to others who make better use of them.

Yes, my children, I bless you and I help you; but be humble, recognize your limits, recognize yourselves sick so that you may be able to be cured.

Today some of my well-beloved children have gathered here under my gaze in order to understand what they must be and what they must do in order to please me. Here in my Milan they have gathered and then little by little in other cities they will respond to my call. Act so that these priests be never alone, act so that they may find a hundred, a thousand hands ready to immerse them in the Bethsaida pool. Do not wonder and do not say: it's up to them to immerse us. It is a mutual help. But if these children of mine are perfect in health, they will rock the world.

See you again, children!

EVERY GOOD TREE GIVES GOOD FRUITS

March 27, 1974

My beloved children, be the welcomed ones in my house. I welcome you blessing you and I lean your head on my heart saying to you: persevere in devotion to me and continue to do in your towns all that good that the Lord desires from you. My Jesus has said a great thing: "Every good tree gives good fruits (Mt 7:17)", and you must be those good trees that produce fruits of eternal life.

Unfortunately, children, the moment has arrived in which the wolf dressed as a lamb, goes about sowing error, ruin and destruction in the world. Learn to recognize the false Christs looking at their works. They will speak to you of love and meanwhile they will spread hatred. They will speak to you of truth and they will instil heresies on you. They will distance you from the Pope saying to you every evil against him.

Whoever truly wants to love me, loves the Church of which I am Mother and remains united to the Pontiff Paul VI who on earth represents my Jesus.

Let my Rosary be your weapon, and your banner be your clear, sincere and strong faith. Learn to pray and to believe, and the final victory will find you happy in Heaven with God, with the saints and with me who loves you more than myself.

I bless your homeland, your families, your parishes.

See you again, children. May the most beautiful graces adorn your soul.

FILL YOUR LIFE WITH GOOD WORKS

March 27, 1974 (in a private house)

My beloved children and so dear to my heart, peace and grace be to you now and always.

I am your sorrowful and immaculate Mother, I am the Miraculous One, but today I present myself to you as the heavenly Gardener. You are my flower beds that I must cultivate in order to present them to the Father. You are that good tree that must produce good fruits.

Remember this event of the Gospel: Jesus was hungry and, passing by a fig tree, He approached it in order to gather some fruit, but He saw only leaves, whereupon He cursed that tree saying: "*That you may never produce fruits forever* (Mt 21:19)." And the fig tree withered away and was wood to be burnt.

Children, you must, your tree, enrich it with fruits, you must that is, fill your life with good works valid for the eternal life.

There are people in the world who think they are greatly active and before God they are layabouts, for their works are not useful neither for themselves nor for others. They are works that will die with them.

There are others who in appearance do works that have little value. And the proper fulfilment of the duties of one's state, are those acts of goodness of which the whole life is woven. The life of these people is ever so humble and simple, but it is rich before God, who in any moment could approach this tree and would find it full of fruit.

Then there is the chained life of those children of mine whom the Lord has chosen as victims. Illness compels them to a bed and they but only say every day their "fiat", as I said on the day of the Annunciation. It is a life apparently useless, while it is a continual fount of merits that go on to enrich the spiritual treasure of the Church which all the saints draw from. It is a state of life that they have not chosen through

their own will, even if their willingness to the will of God renders them heroically consenting.

And I am always beside these blossomed flower beds and I sow good thoughts, holy affections, intentions more and more Catholic, more and more universal. It does not matter if the lips cannot say much, if the arms get tired even if inactive. The spiritual life grows, it grows out of proportion and it is a flowering of virtue, of faith and of charity. The bed becomes an altar before which one goes with devotion as if to take part at a holy sacrifice.

Children, I bless you all. May a shower of relief fall in this moment on some of your loved ones who are still in Purgatory.

I thank you for this great gathering that gives me consolation and joy.

See you again therefore, with more and more lively interest and love.

"DELIVER US FROM EVIL"

March 29, 1974

My children, so dear to my heart, peace be to you. I am the Mother of the Church, therefore the Mother of each one of you who are the living members of the Church.

Today I wish to teach you to address your invocation to the Father, which you usually recite in the Sunday prayer, in a special way, in a universal way, in a truly complete way, whereby you may receive personal, collective, social and world wide benefits.

How many times have you said and say in the Our Father: "Deliver us from evil". Perhaps, as you pronounce these words, you think simply of those physical evils which no one is exempt from. But I would like to open your eyes in order to show you the true evils, those that is, that deprive you of the gift of grace and deprive society of God's help.

"Deliver us from evil", you must say with persistence. But what is the true evil if not sin? Oh, if all those who pray, reciting this invocation were truly determined to flee sin of whatever kind, how effective would the prayer be and what abundant fruits of grace it would bring!

Presently sin is not thought of as a true evil, but only as any means in order to reach happiness. Therefore, only poverty, sickness is held to be true evil and all that ensemble of unpleasant things that bring suffering to the body.

Children, if my Jesus, in teaching you that prayer which we ourselves recited, has invited you to ask also for material things and to be freed from those evils that are unpleasant to human nature, He certainly did not mean to exclude that true evil, sin, that was the first cause of every evil and which even now is the ruin of humanity.

Say therefore, always with much faith: Father, deliver us from the true evil, helping us to beat the temptations, to overcome the evil inclinations and to control that evil will that, though seeing good, is still dragged below, towards sin.

But from whom do the temptations come from? From the evil one. "Deliver us from the evil one", understand also to say. It is Satan, the great rebel who out of hatred for God tempts man to evil.

Many presently do not believe in the existence of the devil. Jesus speaks widely about him to you in the Gospel and He has given you proof of the struggles that are needed to be made against him. He has told you that the devil is defeated with prayer and fasting. Those who do not believe in his existence will not feel the need and the duty to defend themselves from such a serious danger.

You ask yourselves why does the Lord allow so many devils to circulate in the world. I answer you, children.

No one believes anymore in his existence, and the Lord gives you a tangible proof and shows you the ruin that the devil can bring into individuals, into families and into society.

"Deliver us from the evil one." Oh yes, say it with great persistence and faith! Do not let these intelligent and rebellious beings use all their tricks in order to ruin you. Pray to the Father that He may relegate them to hell as soon as possible and deliver the world from such a terrible chastisement.

Children, all the evils that strike the body, that make one suffer morally, spiritually and physically, can be transformed into good, into great good that can be a means of sanctification. The only evil to be combated is sin, of which the tempter is the instrument.

Be strong, be determined. The Holy Year that you are passing through and the Easter to which you are approaching are an invitation to conversion. If you do not feel like hating sin and of imploring grace from the Father in order to be able to live the

Christian life well, you will be but like whitened sepulchres which on the outside exhibit a fatuous Christianity and truly negligible.

Be converted in order to convert. You do have children, husbands, relatives far from God? Your sincere and true conversion will be the pledge of theirs. I am not saying by this that you live in mortal sin, but, when I speak to you about conversion, I mean to invite you to a radical improvement that consists in the flight from every voluntary sin. I want you truly good, holy, for Jesus has said to you: "Be perfect like your Father who is in the heavens."

And now I bless you all one by one and, as I wish you a Holy Easter, I pray for you so that you may be delivered always from every evil.

See you again, children!

BRING TRUE LOVE

March 31, 1974

My children, children of God, may there be deep faith in your hearts, perfect love in you, love of God and neighbour, and be joyful, for faith and love are founts of happiness.

I am the Immaculate One, I am the most humble one whom God, in his infinite goodness and mercy, chose to be Mother of the Incarnate Word, and in Him and through Him willed to extend my motherhood to all men.

As Mother of God, I was called to be Co-Redemptrix of the human race and my will and capacity of salvation is fused with that of my Son, true Redeemer and Saviour of the world.

Moreover, as your Mother, I call each and every one of you to be the extension of the arm of my Jesus and the extension of my will of salvation. I desire for you to become aware of a special call. You are called to the Christian life with Holy Baptism. You have received the command to walk in the way of perfection, for Jesus, his followers, He wants them holy. But the call to be my devotees, my missionaries, is a very special gift which stands to show you the special tenderness of my heart in your regard.

You could say to me that you dream of a position in life, a family. And I agree for you to have these desires and I will help you to bring them to term. But in the present world, in which violence and the undervaluing of the value of life is so great, you

must commit yourselves to bring true love, harmony and peace. You will draw out fruit from this apostolate, for I assure you that in the families that you will establish peace will reign.

Approaching dejected, depressed, desperate souls is the second task. When faith wanes in hearts, everything becomes unbearable and suicide is thought of as a remedy for every evil. Learn to uncover the wounds with which your brethren are covered, bleeding wounds that barely are concealed. Bring the Lord to the brethren, so that they may be able to enjoy that serenity which you have experienced. And first of all be those children of mine who look at life in its reality: a trial to overcome, a destination and an ideal to capture.

Never be half hearted Christians, Christians who keep one foot in both shoes. Be sincere, be charitable and humble. Learn to be silent and to speak when it is necessary in order to defend the truth. Keeping silent, when your silence can be more eloquent than the word, and speaking, when you must give glory to God and give value to your faith.

I bless you. I will come to table with you, I will come with you on visit to the city. You will bring me to your towns and you will make me known and loved. To those who propagate me more warmly, I will give the efficacy of speech. Good, good, my children! Do not be ashamed of me, and I will not be ashamed of you in presenting you to the Father.

From this cenacle and from those who have come from so far away will rise priestly and religious vocations that will increase the glory of the Church.

To all my affectionate and maternal embrace, full of sweetness and grace.

YOU HAVE MADE YOUR CHOICE

March 31, 1974

Beloved children, so dear to my heart of Mother and Teacher, be the welcomed ones and may you be blessed in soul and in body. May your intentions, your families and your works be blessed. Whoever speaks of lacking faith, be equally blessed by that witness of faith that he has wished to give me by coming here to pray.

I love you, children, and this love which as for you is commanded by God, is in me multiplied to the infinite, for I desire and I wish to love you with the same heart of God.

Trust me, children, that when I call someone to follow me and I see the response to my call, I have no measure in rewarding and I give graces upon graces so that you may be able to become sons worthy of your elder Brother, Jesus, and of your Mother.

What shall I say to you today therefore, in order to make you better? I present to the imagination two pictures that, from the beginning ever so sorrowful, were transformed later into an object of joy.

See the Hebrew people who, reduced to slavery, in subservience to the Pharaoh, and see God, desirous of freeing them, leading them across the desert up to the Red Sea.

Here the Lord divides the waters, touched by the hand of Moses and, as they form on the sides two high walls of water, the Israelites are able to pass on the dry ground and be freed.

You have gone through a great part of your life. Many a Pharaoh enter in the life of Christians and take away their liberty, reducing them to slavery. I would like to show you these Pharaoh's to whom my children have given faith, have given their service and sacrificed many times also their health, and you would be forced to exclaim that the free men in the world are very few.

You are the lucky ones who, following the invitation of the Lord, have in great part abandoned the object of your imprisonment. You have not yet totally freed yourselves, for you are continually assailed and disturbed by the enemies that surround you. The definitive and final liberation will be on the day that you will leave this life and, after the purification, you ascend to Heaven.

It is therefore a continuous and bitter battle that which the Christian has to put up with, even if, being under the obedience of the supreme commander Jesus Christ, you will be defended.

It is necessary to pray, to pray a lot, so that the waters that attempt to overturn every good custom, be divided before your eyes and you be able to pass untouched in the midst of so much of a deluge of evil.

You have made your choice, however. You have understood that one cannot be with Pharaoh and with Christ, to be with the world and with the heavenly Mother.

My invitation is this: that you may be able to walk at a brisk pace without making yourselves slaves neither of your defects nor of human respect. The soldiers of Pharaoh, in the same waters that gave salvation to the Hebrews, found death. Do not be frightened therefore, let them all talk. Let the dogs bark. Do not forget that before you there is a pillar of fire that shows you the way. It is the light that comes to you

from the good Spirit who guides you. Learn to conscientiously judge the facts and say to yourselves what my Jesus says to all: in order to do good I do not have to ask anyone's permission.

When you are with the Church, obedient to the Pope, when you try to collaborate with your parish priests for the good of souls, do not have any fear. Let "God is with us!", be your cry. And make Him truly live in you this God, infinite love, by preserving grace and practising those works of charity that are the reflection of God's love.

See the world once again, children. Remember the event of the resurrection of Lazarus. He was already dead four days and was putrid and sent out a great stench. If you were able to smell the stink of sin and of death that comes from the many Lazarus's spread over the earth, your heart would not stand it.

Well then, you have found the way, you have light and grace, but, alongside the many children who have lost the life of grace, you must be like Martha and Mary and beseech Jesus that He may once again utter the fateful words: "Lazarus, come out". Their eyes are bandaged, their hands and feet tied, these children: it will be necessary to untie them, to loosen the bandages and to help them to see and to move. They have eyes like you, but their sight is clouded; they have hands like you, but do not know how to join them in prayer nor make the Rosary slide through their fingers; they have feet like you, but do not know how to walk towards the Church, they do not know the ways of good.

Oh, children! Liberate with your prayer, with your work, with your apostolic action those who are slaves of sin.

I am your Mother and I teach to my children to take flights and to enjoy the holy freedom that God gives you.

Children, remain in the love of my Jesus and mine. I am constantly beside you, I count your words, your steps, your intentions and desires. To all many blessings.

FAITH SHOWS YOU GOD AS FATHER

April 2, 1974

Beloved children, I am here with you. I am the sorrowful Virgin. I am here to give you words of comfort. I am here to encourage you to accept and to offer up the suffering of the heart, the mind and the body, for this suffering is a precious coin with

which you can ask and obtain from God for the many prodigal children that have distanced themselves from the paternal home, to be able to return to enjoy his goods.

Many of you are here in tears and ask for graces. But as you ask, you are already convinced inside you that you will not obtain. They seem too difficult situations for them to be fixed. You would like the miracles of conversion. You forget that God knows how to make miracles, but He wants faith on your part. There are some who say: "If that cure will come about, if that person will amend, many will believe." No, children, faith alone obtains the miracles, it is not miracles that increase the faith. Do you want some proof? There are people who only through special graces have regained health and many other graces, and yet, after the wonder and the gratitude of the first moment, they went back cold and indifferent as before.

You all have need of God. If for only one instant he were to abandon you to yourselves, what would happen? What ruin, what desolation? The faith shows you God as Father. Remember the parable of that son who, after having asked for the part of the inheritance due to him, goes far away and wastes it all on carousing up to reducing himself to the greatest misery, up to becoming a minder of pigs, reduced to feeding himself with husks. Observe the father who, anxious, waits every day scrutinizing the horizon for the return of that son.

The goodness of God, assiduous, watchful, timeless, always the same and infinite, is the model for you all who suffer the wickedness and the betrayals of persons close. The constancy in loving must be the special characteristic of Christians, who must love in God and for God. The heavenly Father does not get angry, He does not punish unjustly, He does not strike except to call back to good. He will use his infinite justice only in the other life and He will punish with an eternal penalty those who, rejecting his gifts, rejecting his grace, have hated and cursed Him up to the last moment of their existence. Moreover up to that point He will put to work every art in order to call back, and He will wait to see even the least desire of amendment in order to forgive, to award and to save.

This same desire of salvation, that cannot fade in the heart of God, must be in your heart, children. If faith must not make you doubt the divine power, goodness and patience must be the magnet with which you must draw the lapsed.

No one is sure of being saved, and whoever possesses a tried and tested virtue, cannot believe himself so firm in faith and in works as not to have to fall. The great personages of the Old Testament have sinned and persons that seemed models of holiness have become heretics and unfaithful. No one is confirmed in grace, whereby everyone in fear of making a mistake must be very understanding with whoever makes mistakes.

How can sinners be understood? How will one be able to love them? Only if the souls are looked at in the light that comes from the Crucified One and from the love that God brings to each one. If many make mistakes, tomorrow you could make mistakes. It is a thought that humbles, but which translates into its reality that statement of Jesus: "Without Me you can do nothing (Jn 15:5)." The salvation of the soul is the most important fact of your life, therefore, refer that "nothing" especially to this fact and say: I cannot save myself without the help of God.

Love your soul, children, up to feeling yourselves incapable of saving it and, in the humility that comes to you from this thought, the desire will come to you to continually have recourse to Him so that He may help you moment by moment. Love souls and learn to see in them the continual yearning of my Jesus, who desired nothing else except to save them.

Do not let the miseries, the crimes, the obscenities and the vileness into which men can fall frighten you. There is always a Father who waits for them and who through your faith, your prayer and your love wishes to save them. And when a stray returns to the Father, do not look at him with superiority. Do not think in your heart: I am not like that one, I have served the Lord from the most tender age. Be neither jealous nor envious. Provided that they may find the way again, welcome them you also like the father of the prodigal son. Make merry, thank the Lord and never talk about the past. Are we in agreement, children?

Never let despair enter into your heart, have trust, remain serene, doing on your part your duty in the best way possible. Remember that, if you have sown well, in its time the good seed will make headway and produce good fruits. If you had sown badly, if you had not done everything possible on your part, humble yourselves, accept the consequences as expiation and pray. The God of goodness and of mercy does not expect anything except that you go to Him to tell Him all about your weakness and misery in order to be lifted up again.

Children, I bless you all.

You are passing through Passion week, then Holy Week will come. Learn to share your pains, offering to us, as tribute, yours.

See you again, children.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

April 3, 1974

My children, peace be to you. I am your Mother who, appearing at Fatima, asked the whole world for prayer and penance in order to avoid the great evils that afflict and which could afflict even more greatly the whole of humanity. See, I welcome you under my mantle and I promise you to guard you and to help you always.

I beg you, listen to my words. The world does not want to accept them, but you who love me, be docile and obedient children. I desire that you live in the grace of God every day. I desire that you have such a horror of sin that you would prefer death rather than sin. This living in grace will make you worthy of celestial favours, for the Father will see his divine Son in you, and your prayer, your voice, your life will be mingled with his.

My children, the world lives wallowing in evil like unclean animals role themselves in the mud. But you who know the value of faith and morals, must give constantly an example to your brethren and show them that the Lord has willed nothing impossible and that, with his help, it is possible to live honestly.

I wish you at this moment a good day. What is a day? It is a space of time that starts with the sun that rises and ends with the sun that sets. Your life must be like a day in which the divine sun of grace must illuminate every instant and every action. What will happen at the end of the day? Perhaps the sun will go out? Oh, no!, a curtain will close in order for the door of eternity to be opened, and a sun that never sets will welcome you and illuminate you and will make you rejoice forever. The divine sun shall be God, your reward and your joy.

And now, children, I wish to give you the gift of peace. I cannot take away the crosses that weigh on your heart, because I would be taking away a means to save your brethren. I wish to give you however, resignation, which is like saying: I wish to help you do penance. My Jesus said to you: "If you will not do penance, you will all perish." I desire the salvation of all my children. If you will have patience in your sorrows, if you will learn to say "blessed be the Lord" even when your heart is weeping, you will have so much serenity in your soul whereupon you will no longer feel the weight of the cross.

Children, I bless you all one by one. I bless these effigies that you bring with you. Whoever looks at them with devotion and love and feel sorrow for their sins, will obtain pardon and an increase of faith, hope and charity.

I bless your families, your intentions and your holy desires.

I bless again and always the organisers of these pilgrimages destined to rekindle the spirit of piety in the faithful, and I bless amply the father who in these journeys of faith brings the presence of the Church. Love the Church, children, and pray always for my priest sons, especially for those who, seduced by the devil and the flesh, no longer understand the value of the spirit.

I bless you again with your nation. See you again, children!

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

April 3, 1974

My children, peace be to you and every good. I am with you in order to bless you and to help you, besides instructing you.

Your desire for prayer pleases me and I would like for all men of earth or at least all Christians to feel it in such a strong way as to put into practice what was the command of my Jesus, who said: "*Pray always, pray without interruption.*" To true prayer, in fact, your sanctification is tied and are tied those moral and material helps which every person needs.

You come here in pilgrimage and you go also to other places of prayer. Well then, I desire that you have very clear ideas in the mind. It is very good to get together as a group and go into the shrines or to the places chosen by myself as meeting places for me. One thing alone must you worry about: that you must not fall short of your duties of state and family, because you will run the risk of seeking in these trips not the glory of God but the satisfaction of your will.

If the free time or a determined time you wish to destine for this relief of the body and the spirit, it is good, for I can tell you that it is not the pilgrimages that sanctify but the doing out of love the divine will. What would happen then if, because of your absences, some of your family were to curse God? Therefore, your duties seen in the light of God, it all becomes easy and beautiful.

Many ask themselves whether one must obey or disobey. I answer you, children. Obedience is a virtue that puts you before God in the state of him who must be heard for obedience never errs. I am not telling you to practise a foolish obedience to anyone. First of all you must obey the Law of God, his Commandments, and in order to better clarify it to you I say to you: you must practise the love of God and of neighbour. Then you have superiors who have an authority over you. Every authority comes from God, for this reason you are held to obedience.

In this way, here there are wives who must obey the husband, religious who must obey their superior, children who must obey their parents, and unmarried women and widows who must obey the contingent necessities and to the duty that they have of helping the neighbour.

In this way you see that obedience becomes a universal necessity, if one does not wish to run the risk of saying like Lucifer and his satellites: "Non serviam", that is, "I do not wish to serve you."

Imagine what the families can be where there is no obedience, the public places where obedience to the employer is lacking, the hospitals where obedience to the doctors is lacking. Imagine what the Church would be if there were insubordination, and disobedience and rebellion in every field. The greatest disorder and the greatest ruin would reign everywhere.

That's why I invite you to be obedient, for obedience is humility and simplicity, it is order, it is mortification. With perfect obedience the religious is sanctified, obeying the husband the wife is sanctified and obedient children make the parents task of upbringing easy.

The works of God are always very much combated by the devil and by those who see them in a false light. You desire my triumph in the places of apparition and my triumph will be had if you will learn to pray and to love, keeping in this way, in love, my Jesus.

Every year Joseph and I went to Jerusalem for our pilgrimage. When Jesus was twelve years old, He also started to come. On our return journey we lost Jesus. The psalms were sung and recited. I don't know how to tell you how great was our sorrow.

I only desire that your pilgrimages bring you always an increase of grace, that is, I desire that Jesus may remain and grow in your hearts. I invite you therefore, to avoid murmurings and criticisms and not to lose time uselessly with gossip, even if it is lawful for you to make some witty remarks in order to keep the group serene.

Let there be no sadness in your hearts and bring joy into your homes, so that your family may be the first to draw good fruits from your encounters with Heaven.

I bless you all and I assure you my most tender affection.

THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

April 3, 1974 (at Muggiò)

My children so dear to my heart, peace be to you and joy and grace. I am the Mother of the Church, that is, the Mother of the mystical body of Christ. But what is this "mystical body?" It is the true and living body of my Jesus, who gives life to all Christians who are united to Him through grace. Grace is the lifeblood that circulates in all, vivifying souls.

From whom did the Church start, that is, the mystical body?

Jesus was born from me who am his real Mother, moreover, with Him another life began, and it is yours. Just as a mother does not conceive and does not give birth to a child without hands or arms or legs because it would be a monster, so I also together with my Jesus, Head of the Church, have given birth to all those who are united to Him because they have received Holy Baptism, or even because, living according to the Commandments of God impressed on the soul of every man, they are united to the soul of the Church and spiritually with Jesus himself.

The mystical body is a perfect body in which all the faithful have their mission to accomplish, their task to carry out. It is right what St. Paul used to say, that one part of the body cannot be the other, for, if everybody wanted to be the hand or the heart or the brain, how would the body be able to assume all the functions that every part must perform.

So, children, in this body you also are incorporated and everyone has his mission to accomplish that cannot be performed by others. Just as every capillary no matter how small must bring its own contribution of vitality, so you, no matter how simple, incapable — and even if you were disabled through sickness and through old age — must bring life to the mystical body in the same way with which you receive from it.

You might say to me: Why Mother are you talking to us about these things just today? It is not out of place, children. Next week you will begin Holy Week. On those days will be accomplished the greatest and the most solemn mysteries of the whole year. You also will take part in those functions that will make you re-live the moments of grace and love in the institution of the Eucharist, the moment of the most tremendous tragedy in the death of my Son, Son of God, and you will rejoice with the most pure joy of his resurrection, pledge of your final resurrection.

Well then, what do I ask of you? That this Holy Week be truly for you a call and an invitation to holiness. Your Christian life can be lukewarm, cold or fervent. I would not like for you to be lukewarm, because I would fear that the Holy Spirit, not seeing

you neither hot nor cold: were to vomit you far away from himself. I do not want you even cold, for I would fear that He who stands at the door and knocks, were to pass by with great danger for your salvation. I want you fervent therefore, so that your heartbeats, that is, the rhythm of your heart, can bring to the whole body a ferment of life.

Does it seem a hard thing to you? And yet it is not. You also have seen, and you have personally known persons who with their vitality that came from love and suffering, have shaken the world.

Do you want to imitate them? I am not saying to you that you ought to have the stigmata or become so good as to be unbeatable. No, I only ask you to be animated by holy desires and to live day to day, in the grace of God, making the will of God your daily law.

When a body is withered by sickness, transfusions of blood can save and give back health. Your beautiful Communions are but transfusions of blood so that the whole Church can benefit.

Every baby that receives Baptism is like incorporated in the great tree of life. From that day, the divine life flowing in him, it begins to grow and to become robust not only physically, but also spiritually and it is up to the parents to watch over, to pray and to help so that this growth may be constant. But who has no need of growing and of enjoying the Fruit of the tree?

So, children, when you think of me as Mother of the Church, see me assiduous and sensitive to make you benefit from the life of Jesus. To you the response.

Be careful in fleeing those dangers that could bring destruction and death. Be holy, if you want for the Easter mystery to be re-lived in you and be able as risen ones to give life to others.

I bless you all, children, one by one and, as I benevolently lean you on my heart, I repeat to you: give abundant life and receive it with great joy.

AT THE START OF HOLY WEEK

April 7, 1974

Beloved children, here you are at the beginning of the Holy Week to validate your good desires beside your heavenly Mother.

What are these desires? Making inside of you like a general clean up and starting a new life that has goodness as the programme.

"God alone is good (Lk 18:9)", my Jesus has said to you. That's why the effort to be good coincides with that of being perfect, because it makes you co-resemble the Father who is goodness personified.

Today I wish to point out to you a means in order to be able to be truly good and, to better explain everything, I present to you my Jesus who, riding a donkey, crosses triumphantly the streets of Jerusalem. Before Him and at his passage, as if to make a procession and way, women, men and children wave palms as a sign of peace and place, as a sign of subjection, their cloaks on the ground as a carpet to Jesus. "Hosanna to the son of David!", is the cry of everyone. Children, a few days later, the cry: "Let Him be crucified!" will be unanimous and it will be those same people who have received from Him every good in soul and in body.

Men normally behave like this and act like the spiders that detach the thread that holds them suspended to the branch so as to find, in their own web, death.

What shall my advice be? If you do good, never have human motives. The recognition is so little that you would find yourselves disappointed. Always look above and have as aim the glory of God. He alone is unchangeable, sincere, and with love and with justice He rewards all that you do for Him. Do not fear the gossip and opinions of men, moreover, do not make too much of their praises even, which many times can be given for ulterior motives or not with fairness.

If your act of love animates your works, they will be all meritorious of a reward and love will serve to purify them from those imperfections that ruin their beauty.

Children, blossom like hidden and perfumed flowers, that is, be guided by this desire: to witness, in every moment of your life, your desire of love for God and for the brethren. When in silence you scrutinize yourselves, do not make problems for yourselves in order to discover your imperfections. Let your charity, which is the centre of the Law and its perfection, triumph always.

To each one of those present here I have many things to say. In the serene moments of reflections that you will grant me on these days, I will make you

understand many things. If they should seem good and useful for your spiritual growth, write them down and read them again. It is the tasty bread that the Mother will give you in preparation for the Communion of Holy Thursday.

I bless you all, children, and I say to you for the umpteenth time that I love you, even if sometimes you distance yourselves from me by offending my Son.

See you again, children.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

April 7, 1974

My children, who have arrived from beyond the Alps, be the welcomed ones. You are all my children. I love everyone, even if a different language and different customs separate you. I love everybody, but if I have a preference it is for those nations that suffer greatly out of diverse circumstances and out of the consequences suffered from the selfishness of other nations.

I behave like those good mothers who, having sick children, go out of their way with love in order to make their cross a little lighter, their illness more acceptable.

You are here and I, as always, wish to leave you my word as a reminder. You are at the start of Holy Week and my invitation to holiness cannot be lacking. I am not telling you that you ought to dress in sackcloth and eat grass roots, but I say to you that you ought to sanctify yourselves in love. The love of God and the love of neighbour must direct your life. All the rest is nothing. When difficulties arise in your families, in your parish, in your homeland, ask yourselves what can you do in the name of love in order to compose order and peace and in order to destroy what is contrary to it.

There are people who think they are faithful to the customs and are proud to keep them, and who therefore, are obstinate in disobedience. You are lovers of order and, where there is no sin, obey and bring love. Whoever brings love, brings God. In mutual respect let everyone see in you a model to be imitated.

The Church keeps on dividing itself more and more and heresy is making more and more headway. You remain in the truth. You have the Creed and the Commandments. You have the Gospel, you have the Pontiff. With these things and with him you cannot be lost. Remember what my Jesus said to Peter: "I will be with you until the consummation of the ages (Mt 28:20)." Whoever is with him is in the boat, he is in the Church, he is saved.

Remember, children, that the trick of the devil is that of dividing, for he knows that a kingdom divided in itself goes to ruin.

When therefore, you have discords in family, consider that they do not come from God. When you feel rebellion inside you, say to yourselves: that does not come from God.

When the early apostles spread throughout the world in order to preach the doctrine of Christ, all were admired by the strength of their words. They preached love that up to then had been not understood and badly understood. A new era must arise, it must be founded on love. To you the task!

When your defects make you suffer, your sins make you weep also for their consequences, consider that love is the great medicine, the great means of purification. Whoever knows to love is a progressive in holiness, for, were he to die, he brings before God what He truly desires. Put therefore, children, a pinch of love in every work of yours and your holiness will be great.

Children, I bless you and I help you. Do not forget that your nation is so dear to my heart and that your crosses are mine. I hug you to my heart and I give you, as pledge of my love, the Rosary. It will be the gift of love of the children to the Mother and of the Mother to the children.

I bless the organizers of this pilgrimage, the religious and the youth on whom the hopes of the Church rest. Love everybody, good and bad, because you are all mine and I want to find you all one day with me in Paradise.

Goodbye, children, see you again!

COME TO DRAW WITH A GREAT HEART

April 7, 1974

My dear and beloved children, I am with you, I am the Virgin of the Cenacle. I am here as once with Jesus and the apostles. I am here to pray and to give you that tasty bread of the word, whereby you are able to grow spiritually up to reaching the perfect stature, that of my Jesus, that is, sanctity.

Holiness is always spoken about to you and I can assure you that it is not difficult to reach it, if on your part you are docile and let yourselves be guided even in little things.

What shall I say to you today in order to be of help to you? Listen to me well. I desire that those who come to this place of grace to stick to what I keep on suggesting.

You come here as to draw from a fountain. But how will you be able to draw abundant grace and countless graces? My Child is telling you today who is waving his little heart dangling from his hand. You have to have a big heart, always available, always ready to enclose in itself one's sufferings in order to welcome the sufferings of others. Come with joy here, and the bigger the heart is, the greater the riches you receive and bring into the family and into the world.

Are there other cenacles? Oh, I would like one for every housing block where, besides the Rosary, the good word were to be read. Everyone of you can invite a neighbour from home, some friends for the recitation of the Rosary. The cenacles have to be spread and multiplied, but must not be repeated. I mean to say that you cannot and must not go around the city in order to take part at meetings and at groups, but that everyone, forming a group, must call the closest ones, perhaps those who do not go to Church together with those who are very assiduous, just so that good is propagated.

Perhaps you might say that these things my instrument has already told you, and I am happy to approve them just because this is the thought of God.

There are some who are always dissatisfied and desire always new things. But I invite you to be obedient and affectionate to this mother that has the task of representing me, even if obeying costs you and you like to do your will. If up to now you have had many blessings and the good is spread orderly, it is because you have obeyed and you have collaborated, receiving and giving with love and with simplicity. It is enough at times a little rebellion to create some ill will and to make persons suffer distancing them from the truth.

Therefore, be little, children. Try to do good but always with that sense of moderation, with that equilibrium that makes you be appreciated and imitated also by others. Be above all upright in your intentions. Let the desire to improve yourselves and to be perfect in the observance of the Law be always united to the desire to be subjected to whoever directs you. How much I rejoice when you turn to your spiritual mother in order to ask for advice also on things that you yourselves could decide!

If it is true what my Jesus said, that to whoever more has been entrusted more shall be required, it is also true that, if the Lord entrusts a task, He gives also the capability, the grace of state in order to direct. Know that through that act of humility that makes you subjects to your mother, you will have special helps from her word and you shall be preserved from greater dangers.

Are we in agreement therefore? My Jesus wants you similar to Him. And pray for this mother who is weak and defective like you, but who also has a great responsibility.

You come to draw with a big heart and, if you have free time, you go to some sick man and you bring with your material help the spiritual one. Pray with the sick, that they may feel lifted up in body and in spirit. The most important cenacles are these.

To those who come from afar my congratulations because, returning to their towns, they will be living flames that start fires.

The work of the cenacles, remember well, is not an end to itself, but must tend to bring all men closer to the Church and to make the necessity of the Mass understood and to receive the sacraments, and it will be the religious instruction that you receive that will make you capable of transformations.

I bless you all, my children, embracing you one by one.

THE TRAGEDY CONTINUES

April 12, 1974

Beloved children, how can I not address my word to you, while I see so much benefits for you and for others?

I am the Mother of Jesus, children, of the most beautiful and the best amongst all the sons of men. I am the Sorrowful Mother, who has seen that delicate face bleeding and covered with bruises, spittle and mud.

I am the Mother who has seen that head, which I had sweetly caressed, surrounded with prickly thorns, and has seen the hands and the feet pierced by very hard nails. That body, so delicately kept from every filth, I have seen it torn by the blows of the scourging; his shoulders, children, damaged by the weight of the cross and the knees skinned by those falls that had given Him so much pain.

I am the Mother of the most holy Son, even if they had called Him "the evildoer."

Well then, children, they have killed my Son and each one of you can say: He has been killed for me! It is but a sorrowful reality, for nobody would have been able to aspire to eternal life if this Son had not immolated himself. There are those who say that He wanted to do too much, for He freely met the cross, He submitted his

shoulders to it and accepted to be nailed to it. But believe me, only in this way was He able to show you the infinite love that He bore you.

There are those who say that, my Jesus being Son of God, He did not suffer much, even if in appearance his death was a real torture. And I say to you that, if He had not been sustained by the divinity, He would not have been able as man to put up with so much pain, but that God gave Him this capacity, whereby He suffered as man — for as God He could neither suffer nor die — something that no man would have ever been able to suffer.

The Most Holy Trinity adhered, collaborated and gave to the Man-God the possibility to accomplish, through the Incarnation and the Redemption, the work of reconciliation of humanity with God.

My Son, whom I with so much love welcomed and generated through the work of the Holy Spirit, whom I brought up with maternal care dedicating every moment to Him, whom I saw grow wise, good, generous and full of grace, was taken away from me. The soldiers took Him away from me with so much wickedness, but behind the soldiers there were faces of every colour, of every race, of every type.

Were the tragedy to finish in that way, it would have already been an incredibly sorrowful thing, but the tragedy continues and I, every day and every moment, can go along the streets of the world and cry out with all the worry of the heart: they have killed my Son.

They are the children that lose innocence, they are the young who fall miserably into Satan's claws; they are the numerous victims of materialism who renounce hope in eternal life; they are mothers who do not know the greatness of their duty and their task and they are my consecrated ones who prefer to become guardians of pigs sometimes rather than shepherds of sheep. The souls lose grace, they kill my Son another time and render his and my sacrifice vain.

When a mother weeps, one cannot remain insensitive to her sorrow, and if you wish to know up to what point your children love you, observe if they remain more or less insensitive to your weeping. I show my tears everywhere, my Jesus invites all to salvation. I beseech you to look me in the eyes, to look at my heart. See if you find a sorrow equal to mine! If it is not enough for you to observe what is happening in the world, consider how many betray my Jesus deep down in their heart and cry again like the Jews: "We do not want for Him to reign over us (Lk 19:14)."

I know that you love us. Well then, if it is so, flee sin, help others to understand the gravity, do not allow for that that continual renewal of deicide that many wish for, so that the name of God himself be erased from the face of the earth.

Look at my hands. They are rich with graces for those who, consoling me thus, bring about joy to the heart of Jesus and triumph to the Church.

I bless you and I love you.

BRING AROMAS TO CHRIST'S TOMB

April 13, 1974

Beloved children, thank you for the faith and love that you show me. Thank you for your desires of good. I look at you and smile at you. I think with joy of you and I feel my heart lighter out of that sorrow that the evil put in my heart with their sins.

You are, in this moment, numbered among those pious women who, after the burial of my Son, accompanied me home and spoke words of love to me. I express my gratitude in this way. I would like to say to you a word that can be a light and a program to you and that can bring you for tomorrow's Easter and life the joy of living and of dying.

Here is what I say to you. My Jesus truly died and rose up again and you too will rise up again never to die again. Your earthly life can be more or less long, but you are destined to an eternal life not only in soul but also in body. Every day that passes sees something of the human fade in you and sees, arising in hope, a timeless divine life. Go towards this hope with joy. Let no sickness or death frighten you, it is only a parenthesis that is closed while before you a timeless Sun is open wide.

How must you live this life? In this way as you have begun. Bring aromas to the tomb of Christ; you will find it empty, but around it you will find some brethren anxious to enjoy these delicious perfumes. It will be your charity. Do not remain deaf to the voices of your fellow men. You walk as risen ones towards the destination and you invite all to rise up again. Jesus precedes you and you follow Him.

Today you have given me comfort for the death of my Jesus; tomorrow and always you will console me so that the other children, dead through sin, on your example, with your encouragement, and with the grace of God will take up life again. So grow in mutual love and, in reciprocal help, live out again that first dawn of the Christian life that all were able to mark as times in which one truly loved.

Be good, be apostles, be true witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus.

I bless you, children. A happy and holy Easter to all.

JESUS HAS CONQUERED FOR YOU ALL

April 14, 1974

My children, rejoice and be glad in the Lord, for Jesus the Christ, the Son of God made man, after having undergone the humiliation of death, is risen. I saw Him, beautiful and resplendent. I saw Him with my eyes, I touched Him with my hands and many other privileged ones saw Him. Not all the people of God saw Him, because those that saw Him had to bring to all the glad news and all had to believe what the prophets had predicted, what my Jesus had assured.

Faith in the resurrection is the greatest certainty for the faith itself. Jesus is risen! Shout it to the four points of the earth. He is risen through his own power. If it had not been so, faith in Him would have been in vain. His doctrine could be refuted, his divinity denied, and Christian hope would not have had any point of reference.

Jesus is risen, therefore, He has triumphed over death that was the chastisement of sin. Death had been overcome by Him in others. The dead like Lazarus had regained life at the sound of his words. But to Him, who hung from the cross, the Jews said: "You have saved others, but You cannot save yourself (Mt 27:42, Mk 15:31)." Only in this way could what Jesus had said referring to his body come true: "Destroy this temple and I in three day will build it again (Jn 2:19."

Jesus overcame death giving to himself a glorious life. My Son rose up again and took up his body even if made light, transparent, spiritual, and wanted to render evident this corporal resurrection of his by eating, drinking with the apostles and inviting Thomas, the unbeliever, to put his fingers in the wounds of the hands and his hand in the wound of the side.

Children, my Jesus triumphed over death as He had triumphed over the devil. At a hint, at a word, the wildest demons left the bodies of men and sought refuge elsewhere. Certainly there is no comparison between the power of God and that of the devil. He is the Creator, the other the creature. Moreover, also as man, Jesus overcame the tempter and prince of this world through his integrity, through the penance He practised and prayer. Jesus was unbeatable and He beat the prince of darkness because there was no shadow of sin in Him.

Children, if Jesus definitively overcame death, the devil and sin for himself, He won it also for you all. But — you might say — why, after these astounding victories, these very bitter enemies still triumph in the world and not only in the world, but also in each one of us?

Children, it is a simple and arduous thing at the same time. You possess the freedom and the will to decide and to choose. And who will be victorious so as to win the arduous battle? Who will be able to assure himself an eternal life after having reduced the devil into slavery? Only he who learns to choose between good and evil and, with full liberty, decides to follow Christ up to Calvary rather than fall short of his teachings.

Yes, He is risen, Jesus, and with Him every Christian must rise. There are those who think about resurrection and in the meantime shuffle along in their Christian life. There are those who do not take a step and lie down like sick men, though knowing how beautiful it is to walk and to fly. Illness is preferred to health, idleness to activity. But the true risen one, has overcome all three adverse powers, does not know delay, does not slow down, resumes again continuously and love gives him the wings so as to fly over all the contrarieties and difficulties. There are no dangers that he does not know, but the true risen one knows that he must attach himself to the anchor of salvation. He knows that sometimes he will have to leave something that is a part of himself, just as Jesus left the bandages and the shroud, but it doesn't worry him as long as he becomes lighter. The detaching of oneself from the things of the world is a consequence that favours his flight.

Children, the world expects to see the tombs to be uncovered and the dead to rise. Sometimes in the vivid fantasy of men also these things are created. But it is not yet the time. It will be the signs of the end of the world when the dead will rise again.

At the death of my Son, many tombs were uncovered and the dead returned to life after the veil of the Temple was torn. But in the world your resurrection must enter; the Christians must, as risen ones, announce that Christ has died for all and is risen again and is with you all. You know so, He still lives in the world. He lives under the Eucharistic Species, moreover, He lives in the heart of all those who love Him. To rise again every day with enthusiasm and with the certainty of reaching Heaven, bringing and spreading hope and certainty: this is life.

I help you, I fill you with joy and I bless you all one by one.

See you again, children. Alleluia, alleluia!

FAITH AND CONSTANCY IS NEEDED

April 15, 1974

My children, why not give you my word? You are here like open calyxes towards the sun; the morning or evening dew refreshes you, reinvigorates you, and you take on new vigour in order to continue on your way. And what is dew if not that gift of heaven which, descending in your heart, makes you rejoice and hope?

I am your Mother and I have suffered for you. I also, you know, waited for my sweet Jesus to return from his apostolic journeys and to speak to me of heavenly things, to speak to me of himself. His word was light and joy at the same time. His wisdom and his goodness amazed me and made me happy. I welcomed everything and kept in my heart those teachings that, after the ascension of Jesus to Heaven, I communicated to the apostles.

You also do likewise, children: receive and guard this precious treasure. Sometimes it seems to you of forgetting everything as soon as you leave here, but it is only a momentary thing; when needed, when you find yourselves in the occasion of having to speak, everything returns to your mind and you become teachers.

Today I wish to encourage you to be persevering, for only he who perseveres merits to be heard.

Know that there is no evil no matter how great which God cannot put a stop to and which He cannot destroy up to the root, and there is no grace no matter how great that He cannot grant you. Your faith only is needed, and your constancy in love and in prayer.

Know that many people are drawn into deception by the devil and, when they open their eyes and discover the work of the evil one, the most radical change comes about rapidly in them. Know also that many things that you judge to be very grave are not so, be it because the intention to do evil is lacking, or because sometimes, especially in the elderly, the illness provokes a mental imbalance. Whatever may be your situation, you must resolve it with the help of God and mine, with goodness, serenity and peace.

What happens where one wishes to act and to persuade whoever errs, also with force? Arguments and clashes happen that worsen the situations and do not construct anything. Especially the woman, who is called to be an angel of goodness, must testify her faith in this way. Jesus also during his public life made use of the woman in order to call back the lapsed. See the Samaritan woman, who recalled the inhabitants of Samaria; and the Magdalene, do you think that she had not brought to Jesus all those

souls that she had seduced? Also after the resurrection, Jesus made use of her and of other women in order to make known to the apostles the great miracle and mystery of his resurrection.

To you, my daughters, in particular, I entrust the task of testifying your Christian life and your faith. It will be your life, lived out holily, the means to call back.

Do you want miracles of conversion? You say that the saints do them and I say to you: make yourselves holy and God will work miracles also through you.

I bless you all one by one. Be calm. To all a word of encouragement and hope.

See you again!

BE SIMPLE, BE PRUDENT

April 16, 1974

Beloved children, may the joy and grace of Jesus risen be in your hearts. I am your Mother, the most prudent Virgin and today as such, I wish to give you my teaching.

It has been said to you by my Jesus: "Be simple as doves and be prudent as serpents (Mt 10:16)." And today, as I invite you to act towards God with the simplicity of doves, in the sense that you may be always ready to lift yourselves up towards Him in an unceasing desire to love Him, capable of detaching yourselves from the world and from all its ugliness, I invite you to be prudent with men so that you may not be dragged into error and into evil and so that, also in doing good, you are not misunderstood.

I say to you to be prudent as I invite you to be humble, for prudence and humility walk together and are never disunited. If in fact, humility makes you fearful of coming out of hiding, prudence becomes the means to live hidden.

Unfortunately, the world lives for bold and sensational news, and the more the news are related in an extraordinary way the more it takes hold on the mind and on the heart of men. In this way the spreading of error happens. Prudence, the sister of humility, lives for truth and wants the certainty of truth. It is not so easy to be prudent, for impatience in acting does not permit to make verification if in things the lie or truth exists. If you are humble, it all becomes easier.

Sometimes the evil spread imprudently, as a bad news, is more harmful than the evil itself, for in spreading it the imprudent aggravate it, deform it, render it unrecognisable. To be prudent means also to be watchful, because the dangers laid out by the devil to the sons of God and by men to their own brethren are always numerous.

Prudence is the virtue of the wise, who watch attentively over their thoughts, their words and over their works and scrutinize the surroundings and discover, in those who surround them, what is not to be imitated and followed.

Prudence in thought allows for a continual rectification of one's opinion, so that one may not run the risk of making them reckless and bad. Prudence in words will be like an airtight seal that will not allow murmurings and criticisms towards the neighbour, and prudence in actions will be the moderator that, putting a break to one's zeal, makes one practise true charity, that which goes to the help of the neighbour without being intrusive and without putting on show the defects noticed in others.

Children, I would like you all fire because I desire for good to be spread, but nevertheless, I must say to you again: be prudent also in doing good in order not to have to put discord and disorder or in order not to jar the susceptibilities of others.

If what you live, if the joys which you enjoy are so great that you would like to communicate them to all, keep this desire, enhance it with prayer and with love, but do not be so prone to tell to everyone. Certain graces that you have received cannot be given to others. A preparation of virtue and of grace of God is needed in order to be predisposed to receive them. If you believe in telling all in few words and break through with your enthusiasm, you will come to nothing.

Many times people come to this place who have been pulled along by force of words, but, lacking the suitable soil, the good seed remains like suffocated and these brethren of yours go away as they have come, cold and overcome by doubts.

Observe what a mother does when she wishes to make her child assimilate a food. She does not administer it to him all at once, but gradually. The medicines also you have to sip them. If you expected to cure immediately from an illness by giving all the medicine, you would risk seeing your patient die.

Let human prudence, also in the most simple things, be your teacher for acting to you also in the things of the spirit. You know the saying that too tight a bow breaks. It is true, dear ones! Therefore, you must be prudent also with yourselves, learning to use your strengths with order, with balance, always directing all to good.

And from the others? Do not demand more than what you could do and learn to understand others, who must act according to the help of God that they receive, according to the faith that they possess, according to the capacity and the upbringing that they have received. Never demand for others to behave like you, rather, pray so that they may behave according to the Law of God.

You might say to me: then we will no longer be able to communicate and do that apostolate of the word that has been inculcated into us so much? Children, not always and not with everyone will you be able to give a sermon, but if, after having prayed and given an admirable example, finding the ground prepared, you would like to speak abundantly from the heart, do so. Always keep in mind however, Jesus' teaching: "Be prudent like serpents."

And now I bless you all.

May the feast of the merciful Jesus find you all here to receive the abundance of his graces and of his mercy.

See you again, children, and alleluia.

THE VOICE THAT CALLS THE LAPSED

April 19, 1974 (at Civate)

My dear children, who out of a thought of love and of faith have come here to pray, peace be to you. I am the Queen of Peace and I desire for this marvellous gift of God to be in you, in your families and in the entire world. Peace is a gift of God, but only those who desire it, ask for it, and collaborate with God with their will can receive it. Well then, may this will of peace be constant in you. I want to increase it for you up to making you abide in peace as in a place where no bad thing can disturb it.

Children, you are in Easter time, and the alleluia that announced the resurrection of the Lord will be protracted for a long time as to call all to rejoice. But how will those who are willingly far from God be able to rejoice and be glad because they do not want to believe and because they want to remain in sin? That's why today I direct to you an invitation ever so persistent. You must be the voice of God in order to call back the lapsed.

In order to point out to you the road that you ought to take, I will cite to you two Gospel passages. First of all I will tell you about the two disciples of Emmaus. See them walking sad beyond Jerusalem and, as they walked, they reasoned among themselves and showed themselves disheartened. My Jesus walks alongside them and

asks the reason for that sadness. "Surely", affirms one of them, "Jesus had promised us that He would have risen on the third day after his death and now three days have passed, but the only thing known is that some women have found the tomb empty."

I am not speaking to you about the dialogue that took place between my Jesus and them; I only say to you that, having entered into a house, the two disciples realize that their companion was Jesus when He broke the bread and they too took some.

Children, I underline to you the impatience of those disciples, who would have liked to see realized straight away the salvation of Israel in the space of a few days; moreover, I remind you also that this is also the habitual approach of all Christians and perhaps also yours. One asks for graces and one would like to see everything clear immediately. If then one asks for conversions, one comes to do a novena, to say some prayer, but one would like to see the results straight away.

The way of salvation is the one indicated by Jesus himself. You can understand the breaking of bread in the material sense, but above all in the spiritual one. Breaking the bread, so that the eyes of your loved ones may be opened, of all the lapsed, ought to be the exercise of charity that truly moves; but above all it is the Christian life and sacramentally lived out in the most perfect way.

Charity makes you the means for touching the heart, piety makes you act in the mind; but it is always Jesus who hides himself behind your shadow and works deep and evident transformations. When therefore, your heart weeps thinking about your loved ones who do not pray, do not believe, and are far from God, do not be impatient. Make a little reflection: see at what point you are in the practise of the love of neighbour, see at what point are your relationships with God, and whether you learn to give to others as a testimony of faith that Bread that He gives you in the morning in Holy Communion.

When the apostles, after having worked all night fishing, found themselves at dawn with empty nets, and obeying the Teacher again cast down the nets, they withdrew them from the water filled with big fish.

Children, perhaps it seems to you that you have worked uselessly when you have imparted to your children or grandchildren a Christian upbringing. Perhaps it will seem to you that you have made a failure in your life. But if you will renew your faith and, in the name of Jesus, make a last attempt, what you will do, will not be in vain. The last word, the last stroke of grace, He will give it. The most important thing is that the longing which is that of the Crucified One and is also mine: "I thirst!", be constant in you. You must have thirst for souls, so that those who are on the verge of being lost may amend and there be mercy, forgiveness and salvation for all.

I bless you, children, and I repeat to you: this is a place of grace. Pray, and have great confidence for everyone, also for those who do not believe.

Mamma Carmela's Published Writings

Titles in the original Italian editions:

Pensieri e Riflessioni— published in 6 volumesGesù nostro Maestro— published in 10 volumesMaria, Madre e Maestra— published in 25 volumes

English Titles:

1. THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

Six volumes in the series covering the period from March 14, 1968 to June 1, 1970 with 14 entries up to December 28, 1973. English translation under way.

Volume I - 14 March 1968 to 23 April 1968. Volume II - 24 April 1968 to 23 June 1968.

Volume III - 24 June 1968 to 29 September 1968.
Volume IV - 1 October 1968 to 2 February 1969.
Volume V - 2 February 1969 to 29 August 1969.
Volume VI - 31 August 1969 to 28 December 1973.

2. JESUS OUR TEACHER

Volume X

Ten volumes in the series starting from May 1, 1970 to October 26, 1978. English translation and publication undertaken by Divine Mercy Apostolate, Melbourne, Australia.

Volume I - 1 May 1970 to 30 September 1971, published 2004.

Volume II - 6 October 1971 to 25 May 1972, published 2005.

Volume IV - 29 May 1972 to 23 March 1973, published 2006.

Volume V - 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006.

Volume VI - 1 December 1974 to 9 October 1975, published 2006.

Volume VII - 12 October 1975 to 25 June 1976, published 2006.

Volume VIII - 29 June 1976 to 16 June 1977, published 2007.

Volume IX - 17 June 1977 to 13 April 1978, published 2007.

3. MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER

Starting from June 15, 1969. English translation and publication undertaken by Divine Mercy Apostolate, Melbourne, Australia. Progress so far:

- 14 April 1978 to 26 October 1978, published 2007.

Volume I -15 June 1969 to 28 July 1970, published 2007.

Volume II -1 August 1970 to 30 March 1971, published 2008.

Volume III - 2 April 1971 to 12 September 1971, published 2008.

Volume IV -12 September 1971 to 30 January 1972, published 2008.

Volume V -1 February 1972 to 31 May 1972, published 2008.

Volume VI - 4 June 1972 to 12 November 1972, published 2009. Volume VII -14 November 1972 to 28 March 1973, published 2009.

Volume VIII -1 April 1973 to 4 September 1973, published 2009.

Volume IX - 5 September 1973 to 31 December 1973, published 2010.

Volume X - 1 January 1974 to 19 April 1974, published 2010.

Volume XI - 23 April 1974 to 26 September 1974

Volume XII - 27 September 1974 to 28 January 1975

Volume XIII - 29 January 1975 to 16 May 1975

Volume XIV -18 May 1975 to 15 September 1975

Volume XV -16 September 1975 to 11 January 1976

Volume XVI -18 January 1976 to 30 April 1976

Volume XVII -1 May 1976 to 3 October 1976

Volume XVIII- 3 October 1976 to 12 January 1977

Volume XIX -14 January 1977 to 10 April 1977

Volume XX - 12 April 1977 to 6 July 1977

Volume XXI - 7 July 1977 to 27 October 1977

Volume XXII - 28 October 1977 to 22 January 1978

Volume XXIII - 24 January 1978 to 28 April 1978

Volume XXIV- 1 May 1978 to 25 August 1978

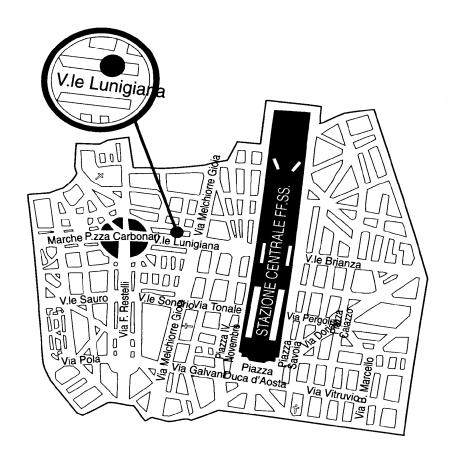
Volume XXV - 26 August 1978 to 29 October 1978



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MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER 10

FROM THE WRITINGS OF MAMMA CARMELA

The Message of Merciful Love was received by Mamma Carmela during a period which lasted some ten years, from 1968 to 1978. It ended in the year that Rome had at last lifted the suspension on the Divine Mercy revelations to Sister Faustina, who was subsequently canonised by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000 in St. Peter's, Rome.



In 1968, in the city of Milan, a widow with a large family, who had given her whole life to works of Mercy in her city, was praying one evening when she heard a voice that said: "You will be another witness to my Divine Mercy. I will bless you and give you special graces. I ask your help as a beggar asks alms. Will you help Me? I want you to find new apostles, and once again spread my message of Merciful Love to the ends of this earth."

On March 22, 1970 Sister Faustina herself gave a message to Carmela and her Mother of Divine Love Prayer Group, she said: "It is not the first time that I come among you, but it is the first time that I wish to speak. I am Sister Faustina and I ask you to make with particular devotion the Novena of Mercy, so that all men will begin to believe in the mystery of salvation, which is contained in the devotion to the Divine Mercy."

Carmela Carabelli was born in Melegnano, Italy on May 9, 1910. She died in the peace of Christ on November 25, 1978. Since 1968 she received, almost daily, messages from Jesus Christ as the Merciful Jesus, and from the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Divine Love. She transcribed straight away into notebooks all that was said, without hesitation or correction afterwards, in the form of conversations with Jesus, who spoke about His Father, the Father of all men, and of His Mother, very tenderly; and so lovingly of his foster father St. Joseph, and about many other saintly people, and through this privileged person to all the world, for these writings are meant for all wish to seek and find God.

"MARY MOTHER AND TEACHER" TENTH IN THE SERIES
COVERING THE PERIOD FROM
I January 1974 to 19 April 1974