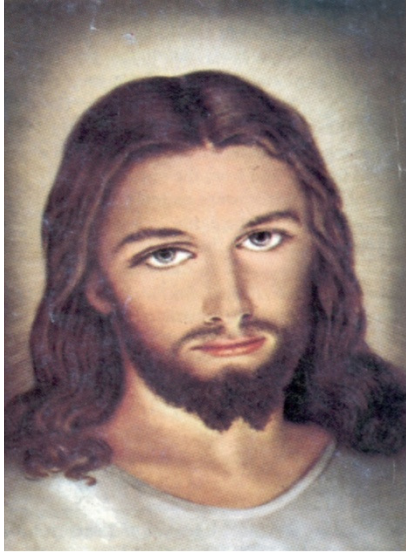




Mary, Mother and Teacher

**from the writings of Mamma Carmela
Volume XI**



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: **La Divina Pastora.** Our Lady under the title of **The Divine Shepherdess** is venerated in many places, notably in Spain and the Philippines.*

MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER

11

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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.*

Cenacle of the Divine Mercy
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COME, BUT BRING ME EVERYONE

April 23, 1974

My dear children, peace be with you now and always.

I am the Mother of Mercy and, like the heart of my Jesus, in the same way my heart is moved to pity for this world that offends God sinning, and for so many brethren who hate each other sowing evil and death everywhere.

Children, how can the heart of the mother remain indifferent in the midst of so many woes, which certainly are not willed by God, but by the devil and by human wickedness? Children, at least you who understand, who pray and who suffer, learn to speak to the heart of your brethren. Arm yourselves with courage, warn them that they do not enter, with despair, into ruin. I want mercy for all: shout it out with a cry of love that reaches everyone! I desire for my children, redeemed by the blood of my Jesus, one day to be with me in glory.

But how can I get to make myself understood? My Jesus said: *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall never pass away”* (Lk 21:33; Mk 13:31; Mt 24:35).” Well then, what I am telling you is the echo of the words of my Jesus. Let everyone listen to these invitations. If you will not do penance, you will not be able to save yourselves, for penance is fleeing the occasions of sin. Penance is learning to love and to forgive. Would you not like to repeat these words and tell them to your children, your friends, your relatives, to all?

You have understood the value of prayer. Jesus has said to you: *“Watch and pray”* (Mk 13:33).” *“Pray without ceasing.”* Prayer is the incense that rises towards God, it is your strength, it is man’s way of communicating with the divinity.

What is the worth that man strives in order to want to build for himself a greatness, a power, a glory that passes with time and which a puff of wind can destroy? If you pray, every solution taken is seen by God who inspires it to you. Every problem becomes easy to resolve. In every sorrow, with prayer you find comfort.

The law of sorrow is so mysterious, but the light that comes to you through prayer unveils to you a mystery of love in sorrow and transforms the most sorrowful things to you into springs of joy and happiness. The mystery of the cross coincides with that of the resurrection and with prayer one walks as true risen ones on the wings of Christian hope.

All seek happiness and wellbeing and dive into the pleasures of the world. But if these children would like to dive into my heart, oh, how I would like to make them happy!

Whoever finds me, finds salvation, for I bring to my Son those who entrust themselves to me. I want you happy, and it is not the lack of material goods or the removal of creatures from you that makes you unhappy. If you have God in your heart and you love Him, you pray to Him and you live united to Him, nothing will disturb your days.

I go throughout the world in search of souls to save. I make use of everything and everyone in order to call back souls to the heart of God. I re-awaken the faith and I give of it a true desire. I search the consciences and I put that unease that finds a remedy in a Confession.

I forget nothing of what is done for me. It is enough at times for me to be offered a flower, a candle, a sacrifice, in order to re-awaken the desire to do more and better. I need your collaboration. If you speak about my constant love, my maternal solicitude, there will be someone to listen to you.

Bring to my feet your loved ones, let them consecrate themselves to me. I have repeated it to you, but I will never tire in telling you that if you willingly and consciously entrust a task to me, I no longer forget it.

I want to save you, I want you happy. Accept my counsels, treasure my words. When you feel tired and disheartened, come before me, weep also, they are blessed tears. What do you do when you have a big worry, do you not go to the mother? My Jesus also came to me in order to have comfort in his sorrows. If you love me, you think about me and come. But bring me everyone! The desperate, the disheartened, must not abandon me as if I could do nothing for them. Sometimes a word that I suggest, a little gift of love, a smile, can lift up again and give courage.

Come, children! Yes, come. You will depart from this place strengthened in faith. Don't let yourselves be taken in by doubt. Accept with the simplicity of the child and know that, even if my instrument does not succeed in being perfect, I perform my work perfecting the thought in your mind and giving you the capacity to practise what is taught to you.

You come here and patience becomes your legacy, for from the faith many virtues are issued to you that you do not even ask for and appreciate.

Children, come here and pray because in this oasis willed by Heaven charity is increased. You must love everyone here and that affection that binds you must be an example to others.

The mercy that I give you, for which I forget with great care what evil that you do and which makes me forget or not to see willingly — in order to better be able to forgive — the defects that you have, you too must exercise it with others. Oh, yes, promise it to me! Try

not to strain your eyes or ears in order to discover what there is that is defective in others, but try with the cloak of mercy to cover all that is not the fruit of weakness. If you wish one day for the Supreme Judge not to condemn you, be merciful.

You might think that there is a contradiction between what I said to you at the start and what I am saying to you now. No, children. Detest evil, unmask it if it is necessary, but be always ready to give a hand to those who make mistakes. With love, with faith and with certainty, act, always keeping present that the mercy of Jesus and of the Mother are infinite.

I bless you all, children, and I help you. Stand beside me with faith and trust, so that the struggle for justice and good may have its triumph.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

April 24, 1974

Beloved children, be welcomed in my house! It is a royal house, where I welcome you as Mother and Queen. I desire to know you and to speak to you in particular. I desire to enter into a brief dialogue with you that will lead you to make some decisions.

First of all I ask you: do you love me as Mother? I have given you life since, by giving life to my Jesus, head of the Church, I have give life also to you who are members of the mystical body of my Jesus. I took you in keeping when my Jesus, dying on Calvary, entrusted John to me and in him you all.

I love you because you are like me creatures of God, but my heart has received a superabundance of love from God himself, whereby I love you so much that I would not be able to love you more.

Well then, children, if I love you so intensely, you ought to return this love to me. To whoever gives you a gift, you give your thanks, but if you understand that the gift comes from affection, you feel yourselves obligated to return it. It is for this that I renew my question: Do you love me as Mother? If each one can respond affirmatively, I say to you: Yes, I consider you as affectionate and devoted children. However, I await for you to express your good to me with deeds. If you love me, you must help me realize my desire of salvation.

Jesus said: *“He who believes, will be saved (Mk 16:16).”* But do you see how many unbelievers there are in the world. In your own family also how many deny God, do not love Him, blaspheme Him. Then if you take a glance at the world, you realize that the darkness of

incredulity and of error is making headway more and more. If you love me, you have to be light and walk in the world with a lit lamp in order to be able to illuminate others also.

When the Hebrews, after having crossed the Red Sea, had to cross the desert, they saw themselves led by a luminous pillar that pointed out the way to them. In the desert of the world may you be the light that illumines. But how will you do this? The light comes from above. The divine sun that illuminates the mind and the heart of men is the grace of God. You cannot be light if you do not want to welcome it inside you, keeping the grace that is God himself who lives in you.

If you love me, love my Son, and from this love a precious transformation is derived for you. We become guests in your soul, whereby, all that you think, say and do becomes divine. Then the light that is inside you sends to the outside like a powerful irradiation that brings heat and life also to your fellow men.

I have said to you that I am Mother and Queen, and, as Queen, you are my subjects. I however, leave you full freedom to serve me, for your service has to be a response of love. What do I ask you for? Be apostles, children. Make the King known, make the heavenly Mother known, so that the Kingdom of God may be widened and all wish to obey the Laws established by the King.

Is it hard to make us known? No, children. If you are consistent with your faith and your morals, all in you will be a call for others. There are people who have a double life. They are angels in Church and very different outside. No, children. Your sincere and shining faith must manifest itself always, even when difficulty, adversity and crosses makes its practise hard.

See, children, that I summarize my dialogue to you in few words. If you love me as Mother, love my Jesus, live in grace. You will be light for others. If you love me as Queen, obey and, in the observance of the Law, contribute to the spreading of the Kingdom of God in the world. Do not forget these words.

And now, as I thank you for having come here to honour me, receive my blessing.

Yes, I bless you one by one starting from he who guides you with so much love. I bless the young who stand beside and will stand beside him and collaborate in order to bring light everywhere.

See you again, children. I promise to grant you help and graces. Be trusting. Pray for your Italy in so much danger. Ask for mercy, compassion and pardon for all.

I embrace you in the heart of Jesus risen, saying with you: “Alleluia!”

TO THE PUPILS OF AN INSTITUTE

April 26, 1974

My beloved daughters, I have sent you this instrument of mine so that she would speak a word to you in my name. Are you happy?

Now I want to communicate to you a big announcement. Know that God has placed in your hands the salvation of your families and of your Italy. Oh! — you might say — how will this be able to happen? I also to the angel Gabriel, who brought me the announcement of salvation on the part of God, asked: *“How will this be able to happen?”* And the angel answered me that all will come about in the will of God.

In this moment, I answer to you. How will you be able to collaborate with God and with me in order to save men? Look at my effigy that towers over this altar. Observe my demeanour: I keep my hands joined in the act of prayer. This is what you have to do: first of all, pray and pray well as you have done in this moment.

Do not forget that prayer is not speaking words only, but uniting the words to the thought and the affection of the heart. What would your mother say if you were to go before her and say to her like a nursery rhyme: *“Mother, I love you”*, and in the meantime you were looking somewhere else or spoke with other people perhaps interrupting the nursery rhyme also? So, when you pray to me, you must give an expression to your words and render them like a melodious hymn that may be mixed with that of the angels.

The second thing that I ask you is this. Observe again my image. I keep my eyes turned to Heaven; you too must lean to Heaven and you ought to arrive there walking along that road that is pointed out to you by the Law of God.

All have to obey this Law. It is indicated to you by the Commandments that are impressed in the hearts of all and it is indicated clearly in the will of your superiors. Here are your good sisters who give you their commands, to which you are held to obey as to an authority that comes from God, and at home from your parents. He who obeys does not err and walks certainly along the way of Heaven.

These teachings that I give you, put into practice by you, shall be like a track that, followed, will bring you to holiness. That’s why I said to you that you must save the family

and Italy. Your sanctity will be the means of attraction in order to sanctify others. If you all become holy, you will get to Heaven and it will be a great feast for Jesus, for me and for you all, who will participate in an infinite glory.

I would like to show myself to you in the same way that many saints saw me during their life, but I desire that you believe without seeing me, or better that you see me with the eyes of faith.

To Bernadette who saw me at Lourdes, I urged prayer and penance. She saw me and no sacrifice was heavy for her any longer.

You do not see me, but the words that you now hear are mine. Listen to them, and promise that from this meeting of mine with you, you will no longer want to forget me. You will love me, you will pray to me and you will show your love with an edifying behaviour.

I love you so much, my daughters, and I bless you one by one hugging you to my heart. I am your Mother and Mother of Jesus.

ASK FOR LIGHT TO HIM WHO CAN GIVE IT TO YOU

April 26, 1974

My dear and beloved children, here I am to direct my word to you in the form of teaching. I am the Mother of Good Counsel and my presence has to encourage you to be confident in God and confident in me.

The men of the world can be divided into three categories.

There are the supermen, who think they are successful or self-sufficient. You will see these people thoughtful over their affairs, desirous of creating a position and convinced that in everything and through everything they have to arrive with their own intelligence, their own strength and that they have no need of anybody. I do not wish for you to be amongst this number, because their pride will be their ruin and they will realize too late about the failure that they will have had in their life.

Then there are others who, knowing they are needy, entrust themselves easily to the help of men. The Holy Spirit says: *“Unhappy is that man who trusts in man.”* Not because in you that mutual trust ought to be lacking that is translated into mutual help, but because that help that you receive is too imperfect, and many counsels that are given to you can be based on selfishness, which seeks its own interest and its own benefit, on ignorance or on incapacity, and therefore, that good that you believe you receive is false.

But fortunately there are also the right thinkers, who know that one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is that of counsel, and they entrust themselves to God in order to obtain light in all their needs. I think that you also want to belong to this category and that in every social or family event, going also through my intercession, you want to ask for light to Him who truly can give it to you.

And who more than the mother or the father in a house have need of divine lights in order to be able to guide, bring up, and establish their own children? The dangers by which they are surrounded demand wisdom in counselling. The enemies that surround your young ones demand wisdom and intelligence from the parents in order to expose and make them understand what grave consequences the acceptance of those specific dangers can bring. And who will give to these parents the capacity and the strength needed? Through recourse to God you will have this light.

Here you form a prayer group that wishes in a compact way to fulfil the task received by God as mission. Well then, if you will be persevering in your meetings, I, the Mother of Good Counsel, shall be generous towards you over this help of grace and of light.

Are there family commitments that hinder you from coming here? Pray in your homes. Act so that the Rosary may return to live and vivify the faith in your families. But when with a sacrifice it is possible for you to take part in communal prayer, and at the word of the minister of God you can add hearing the Holy Mass, do so.

I promise you help in all your needs and strength in carrying your cross. Sure, children, I love you, and for the love that I bear you I desire for you to have a cross to carry, for my Jesus one day said: *“Whoever wishes to come after me, let him take up his cross and follow me.”* I desire for you to be true followers of my Jesus, therefore, the cross cannot be lacking to you. If however, you have strength and light from me, you no longer feel the weight of the cross, moreover, faith transforms your sorrow into joy.

So, children, while I wish that the good that I want for you may be demonstrated by you with continual recourse to me, who desires and wishes to help you, I will show you continuously that I am truly a Mother to you not letting what you need be lacking to you.

I bless you, my children, one by one.

To those families that lack peace, I desire and I wish to give it. I urge all mothers and wives that they learn to keep quiet, to suffer and to love. Practising this threefold virtue, peace will be certain and lasting.

I bless the priest who presides over this prayer group and I promise him unusual graces. Let him speak about me and I will speak about him to the heart of God.

See you again, children.

TO A COMMUNITY OF NUNS

April 26, 1974 (at Bassano del Grappa)

My well-beloved daughters, spouses of my Jesus, peace be to you and let there be light to your minds as you have desired. I am the Seat of Wisdom, and as such I do not want to remain inactive in this community of yours so dear to my heart and to that of my Son.

I want to turn you into perfect religious. Perfection is always in action in the life of man, who is perfectible and who must continue to perfect and improve himself up to reaching the perfection of the Father. But for you, who have had a special call, perfection is a demand and a responsibility. You have to be holy and you must not neglect any means in order to reach that summit to which you are invited to go to.

He who walks along the road must observe the road signs in order to avoid the dangers, but you who have to ascend the holy mountain of God it is very important that you go roped together. If one of you were to refuse to ascend, it would be very dangerous because it would force the others to stop. So, united and all heading to the attainment of the destination, you will get there certainly in good shape.

Mutual help, proven charity will bring each one to those spiritual benefits that God wishes to give you. Undoubtedly you all have defects. You must keep in mind that your Superior is at the head of your party, even if the rope is held by me who collaborates with Jesus. She has the grace of the job whereby with difficulty she will make mistakes in giving the orders. Whoever obeys therefore, and with docility sticks most perfectly to the rule to which she also is held to obey, cannot err.

I see the anxiety of many of you and the worries deriving to you from those persons whom, by entering the convent, you have left in the world. Well then, I say to you: look up, keep the summit in sight, and your loved ones, whom you have left at the foot of the mountain, commend them to God with all the ardour of your heart. Remember however, my daughters, that you have married Jesus the Son of God and for this holy union you are held more than others to love all men of earth who are children of God.

If you are worried over the health of your relatives, pray with equal commitment for the health of all the sick of earth. If the conversion of your loved ones presses you, think about

all those unfaithful and ungrateful children who are far from God and, with largess of heart and with much love, pray so that they may return quickly to my heart and the heart of my Jesus.

Every community is like an oasis for me, where I go around seeking favoured souls who understand devotion to me and practise it imitating my virtues and making me known. The virtues that made me the favoured one of the Father and which made mature in my womb that blessed fruit, work of the Holy Spirit, blessed Jesus, are purity and humility. And who will want to deny me this great gift of devotion to me practising these virtues? They are sister virtues because it is impossible to separate them.

That's why I insist that you try and make and feel yourselves more and more little to your eyes, more and more little in behaviour with the sisters: because the splendour of chastity and the purity of intentions, of thoughts and of all your doing may draw the pleasure of the Most Holy Trinity on you.

And then make me known in this way as I am: a human creature like you, your sister and your Mother. If all men were to know how great the love is that unites me to them, with difficulty they would ill treat me with blasphemies and with unmentionable sins. My daughters, make me loved, make it so that the Rosary becomes the official practice in order to obtain graces for your community and the special practice in order to improve yourselves spiritually and to obtain the graces that you desire.

Behave so that all united in love and agreement, you have only to form one only heart and one only soul. So that the worldly, seeing you, have to notice in you true souls of God and all of Paradise may find something to rejoice about for these exchanges of love, which resembles that of the saints.

I thank you, my daughters, and I bless you one by one. I wish to give you an increase of interior life, so that every moment of your day may be like a solar ray that rises up to the heart of God.

I bless you with all the people that are dear to you and with all those to whom you will speak about me.

Goodnight, daughters. I protect you and I help you.

I INVITE YOU TO GOODNESS

April 27, 1974 (at Bassano del Grappa)

Beloved children, so dear to my heart of Mother, joy and grace be to your hearts, to your minds and to your families.

I am Mary of Nazareth and I come with so much joy to address my word to you, which I know is so desired by you. My word is the echo of that of my Jesus and it is like the seed that is cast with full hands into desirous hearts, that are the good soil; into thorny and stony hearts where it is suffocated by human preoccupations, and into hearts where fickleness abounds and wastes this seed. It is as if it were thrown on the road, where the passer-by's and the birds trample it or steal it.

When you wish to improve spiritually, so as to be pleasing to God, welcome the word of God and reflect: draw out those resolutions that will be precious, for they do not permit you to be half-hearted Christians. Many profess themselves Christians but of the Christian life they have only the appearance, or even they are Christians in words but not in deeds. The consistency between thought and action, between belief and morals shall make of you perfect Christians.

Children, the times that you are going through are ever so difficult and perilous. The devil, sower of darnel, brings into families, into nations, into the Church and into the world only division and hatred. How should you react at the spreading of these evils? Against hatred one needs to set love. A true love made up of goodness, of understanding and of devotion.

Oh, how I would like to make all my children understand, especially those whom I can say are qualified for they understand the duty of prayer and the need for God, the meaning of true goodness!

Who is truly good? Only God. Well then, in order to be good you must model your heart on God's heart. God's goodness is infinite and you will never be able to reach it, but there must be in you a desire to imitate Him and to progress that makes you more and more pleasing to your neighbour.

There are many social and family dissensions that goodness would succeed in healing and conciliating. A common effort would be the ideal, moreover, even if only on one side there were true goodness, very quickly the dissensions would finish, even the most bitter. Usually in the big and little quarrels there is always a little blame on both sides.

Be good therefore, children, as our Father who is in the heavens is good, who uses mercy on all, and on the good and the bad He makes the sun rise. Do not keep resentments and spite. Learn to forgive. Selfishness is the enemy of goodness. Pride does not recognize the merits of anyone and destroys harmony. By your understanding of the needs of others, will echo back to you understanding for yourself, and the pity for your inadequacies and defects.

I have said to you that goodness is devotion. And here I desire to address myself to you in particular, mothers and sisters of mine, who have received that great sacrament from God declared indissoluble, that is matrimony. And what does this sacrament entail for you if not a devotion without measure, up to forgetting yourselves in order to think about the husband and the children? If you were to put into practice this word of mine, these teachings of mine, there certainly would not be so many disorganized families and in ruin, while the children bear the worst consequences.

See, I invite you to goodness today, it is certainly not that I want to say to you not to avoid evil and not to combat it. I say to you to prevent with your goodness, to learn to combat it equally with your goodness and to triumph over it again and always with goodness. If you are good, you will draw the benevolent gaze of God, who will side with you in order to make you victorious.

Beloved children, I bless you.

I am happy that in a firm and constant way you continue to meet together in order to pray. I am so happy with the Father who directs you, and that with you there are those aspirants to the religious life, to whom I urge, as a sure means for a good outcome of their vocation, devotion to the Eucharist, the recitation of the Rosary and obedience and docility to their superiors. I bless them all, even their brethren, and over them and over all this beautiful assembly I invoke the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as I sing with you and for you the Easter alleluia.

TRUE LOVE COMES FROM GOD

April 28, 1974

My dear and beloved children, children sometimes disobedient and naughty, but most often desirous of virtue and good, be blessed, because I see you in the light of God and I know that one day you will come with me to sing the glories of God in the eternal centuries.

But why many times do you not wish to listen to me? Why do you let yourselves be disturbed and overcome by the evil one? Why do you lack trust in your heavenly Mother,

trust in the providence of God who watches over you, trust in God who loves you as no one will ever be able to love you and who never abandons you?

There are, also among you, souls so dear to me that let themselves be taken in by worries, by fears and let themselves become disheartened. But have I not explained to you a thousand times what is the behaviour of the devil towards souls?

He tries to drag them to evil, possibly to mortal sin, and when he sees his work is vain, he acts on the mind and on the memory showing them how their life was a failure, or showing the sins of passed life blown up and badly confessed. Sometimes he shows the mistakes made as irreparable due to their enormity, for which God cannot grant his pardon.

A spiritual prostration comes about in the soul. Solitude frightens, religion seems a tall story, all that is good seems an illusion, and a climate of terror, of sadness and disgust invades the soul.

Careful, my children, because this is the terrible moment in which the devil can have the upper hand and, bringing despair into the soul, distance it from prayer, from good and can lead it also to suicide. If then a suicide of the body does not happen, it is then to the detriment of the soul with the loss of faith and of serenity which is so important to cultivate and to maintain.

Courage, therefore, my children! Do not fear but the true evil, that of distancing yourselves from God, and have unlimited faith in my maternal help which I do not allow to lack to anyone.

Then there are some who in these moments of despondency think they are loved by no one and do not love anyone.

No, do not think about it like that! There are children, relatives, friends that seem to forget people to whom they were once perhaps tied by affection, but it is only the ensuing commitments of life that hinders from keeping affectionate bonds. Sometimes it is not truly wickedness that distances one from the other, even if the persons gifted with a particular sensitivity suffer from it, but only work, worries and defects of memory.

If you wish however, for your friendships and your bonds to be constant and lasting, love one another in the Lord. Many say they love each other but their affection is based on interest, on the bank balance, or even, especially in engagements, on beauty, on comeliness, on position and on intelligence. Even if these gifts can be an attraction, they are not things that can last into eternity, rather they undergo metamorphosis with those setbacks that age,

illnesses and vicissitudes of life bring along. True love, instead, comes from God and cannot fail not even before the most unheard of changes.

Now, children, the Commandments of charity: “You will love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength, and you will love your neighbour as yourself” no longer become an impracticable command, but they assume a marvellous simplicity and become a reciprocal necessity. That’s why he who loves God feels the need to love the neighbour and he who loves the neighbour desires to love God. A true love of God wants its triumph in the carrying out of his will. Love of neighbour wants for the brethren, besides the salvation of the soul, all those goods that can be useful to him in order to possess happiness.

One contributes to the glory of God by exercising faith, which lets one know all the virtues of God and, after having known Him, one desires that all may know and love Him. That’s why the apostolate is a consequence of the love of God.

One loves the neighbour body and soul, for one cannot separate one from the other, but precedence is given to the second and this love is shown also by curing the bodies, which are the instruments of the soul. Whoever says he loves the neighbour, and lets him, or makes him suffer physically and is not interested in his material needs, does not have a complete love of neighbour. Jesus taught it to you who, in order to reach the soul, healed the bodies.

You might say to me: what can we do, who are so limited in our possibilities? There are many ways to go and help: with prayer, with action, with sacrifice, with moral help that can give comfort and advice.

If when you come to this place it is lawful and proper for you to remember in prayer all those people who are dear to you, when you are in your homes the help will be given in the exercise of those corporal and spiritual works of mercy which you know well and whose practice you can extend to all the circle of your acquaintances. The important thing will be for those works to depart from and to be directed to God, even if the beneficiaries are your neighbours.

I repeat to you: courage, and forward with trust and perseverance. Exercise charity, that is, love everyone, whoever loves you and whoever makes you suffer, because even the less good are my children, children of God who loves them infinitely.

I bless you all one by one. To whoever learns to offer up with joy his sufferings as a means of conversion, I promise that what they ask for with these sorrows they will obtain.

See you again, children. May the month of May see you fervent and loving besides my altars.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

April 29, 1974

My good children so dear to my heart, how much I enjoy addressing my greeting and my word of encouragement to you this day on which the Church celebrates the praises of Catherine, who has been defined Doctor of the Church.

The Church triumphant also celebrates and honours her, while great are the favours that she obtains with her prayer for her brethren, wayfarers on earth.

She was truly the wise virgin who kept the lamp of faith lit and never let the oil of prayer and mortification lack, so that she was joyfully able to go to meet the heavenly Bridegroom.

What teachings ought you to get out of this feast and this privileged soul!

She was able to enlighten all men on the truths of the faith. Well then, you must ask the Holy Spirit every day for that light which, clarifying for you the truths of the faith, may render you capable of enlightening the minds of those who surround you.

You represent different nations and everywhere error, heresy and disorder produce divisions. The Church is suffering tremendous persecutions, not only on the part of those who do not believe in God and hate Him, but also on the part of those who profess themselves Catholics and followers of my Son.

If it has always been necessary to deepen the truths of the faith, now more than ever it is indispensable to do so. The light however, must come to you from above and from the Supreme Pontiff, whom Catherine loved in the person of the Pope who then governed the Church up to being disposed to give her life for him. If you will be light that illuminates, at your passing the darkness will vanish and you will be able to do so much good.

Again I wish to say a word to you. Act so that all your loved ones may honour me in this month of May that is approaching, in which I wish to call to my heart and to save many souls. Honour me in your home, drawing the attention of those who live there or who will call on you, to my image. Speak to everyone about my love for each one: I love the good and the bad and I desire all beside me in order to convert and to sanctify.

To you who have set up or propose for yourselves a great apostolate, I give you a special place in my heart. By your means I bless your nations. When you return to your countries, say to the Most Holy Trinity: eternal God and infinitely good, through the merits of Jesus and of his Mother bless our nation and all the nations of the world. I bless you again and I

urge you: spread trust, obedience and respect for the Roman Pontiff and know that whoever honours him performs a work so pleasing to Jesus and to me.

See you again, children! I am the Virgin of Light.

I ASK YOU FOR THREE GIFTS

May 1, 1974

Beloved children, always ready to respond to my loving calls, be blessed.

I am the Queen of the Universe and in this moment I wish to communicate my joy to you. The joy of being able to be of help to you, the joy of speaking to you and of communicating with you, the joy of showing you the infinite greatness to which you are invited to participate in, living the life of God.

I am Teacher of your souls and like all teachers I rejoice when my pupils hang from my lips and, after having understood the lesson, carry out the tasks more or less perfectly, showing their good will.

I am the Queen of the Universe and Mother of men. How numerous is my family! As much as the stars of heaven! And yet, I know all my children in particular, I respond to their calls and I know everything about them. I love everyone and I want everybody to rejoice one day with me in Heaven. That's why I invite you to collaborate with love, with faith and with intelligence to my work of salvation.

This May perfumed with flowers, which fills the trees and the nests with trills and songs, must bring to the throne of God like a re-flowering of faith, and the song of the alleluia must truly mark a resurgence to a new spiritual life and of grace. I therefore, direct an appeal to you: I desire that you in this moment extend desires of good to all the earth.

Three gifts I ask of you and they will form the object of your daily offering in this month.

Observe all men. In everyone of them a heart capable of heroism beats. Unfortunately this marvellous gift of God, love, is many times wasted and degraded and used to perform bad and criminal acts.

I desire for you to offer me every day the love which the hearts of the children of God are capable of. It is an offering that I will be able to purify and render a delightful homage to present to the Father. If in every heart a pure love were to lodge, every man would be able to

call himself Abel and could compete with him with his own offerings that would be extremely pleasing to God.

Moreover, I desire another daily gift. There is over humanity like an enormous heavy weight. It is suffering, sorrow that, though being the consequence of sin, strikes everyone: sinners and innocents. Rather, if one observes from the outside, without considering the weight that sin carries in every conscience, one can say that the innocent suffer more than the sinners.

Well then, all this sorrow that ought to serve as money, because, united to the price of the Redemption, ought to save the world, is many times, more than often scorned, wasted and becomes the focus of rebellion.

Your daily offering shall be your sorrow, united to that of all humanity, which you will offer to me. All has to be purified and sanctified here in my heart which has understood well what suffering means. From this offering many good things will mature. Just as from the offering of love a purification that heals the family, friendship and human brotherhood can emerge, so from purified sorrow that resignation which is peace, that development of suffering whereby despair and cursing against God and life may cease can become truly a gift of love also through the martyrdom of suffering.

My children, I have said to you that I desire three gifts from you and the third gift will seem so despicable to you, while I with great anxiety wait for it.

The world under the weight of the sins that are committed seems to be going under. Well then, I desire that you make me the repository of all the sins of the world, so that I may be able to repair them and make those who commit them amend themselves. Remember when Jesus asked some Saints who wanted to give to Him, besides their whole person, the sins they had committed in their past? He would have burnt them in the furnace of his Heart. Well, I ask you that you offer me all the sins of humanity. They are the cause of the passion and death of my Jesus and of my sorrows.

I wept and I weep over the fate of those who, rendered slaves of Satan, do not want to renounce sinning. And yet, we must succeed in rendering them victorious over themselves, over their evil inclinations and over the devil.

Every day in my heart I will place your threefold gift: the love which men are capable of and your love, the sorrow that lies heavy over men and your suffering, the sins of all humanity and yours. What shall I do with it? We will go together everyday either bodily or spiritually beside the altar of the Lord and there we will place them on the paten and in the

sacred chalice, with the Body and the Blood of Jesus, so that they may become infinite riches in the Holy Mass.

As of now I thank you, because I am sure that you would like to honour me thus and in this way you will give me the means to help you.

Children, I bless you all. To all my wish that this month be full of graces and blessings. I forget nothing of what you do for me and I reciprocate you with sincere maternal affection.

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

May 2, 1974 (towards Bonate)

My beloved children, you have done well to start the month consecrated to me with an act of faith. Every good thing is inspired by God and whoever goes along with Him in his desires can only do good.

I accompany you on this trip and on all the joyful and sorrowful circumstances of life. I bless the good initiatives and I make them flourish. When however, the successful outcome of an enterprise is dear to you, you only have to turn to your heavenly Mother who helps you in everything.

Now you ask for the family to stay together, and I too desire it and want it, for the devil is the prince of this world who triumphs in separating. Satanic hatred has its victory in the disintegration of the family, while only goodness and love would be able to heal it. Holy therefore is your intention, pleasing and useful your prayer, which I accompany offering my tears and my sorrows.

Do not desist, work in the name of the Lord in order to convince friends, relatives and all those who wish to listen to you. If you save the principles of faith and morality, all will be able to be brought to completion in the name of the Lord. Exercise goodness in all manner and in all ways. Your word will be illuminated by a supernatural light and your work will be about salvation and redemption because in you and for you blessed Jesus works.

Preserve serenity, invoke the holy angels and do not be afraid, for the Spirit of the Lord hovers over your Italy which we love so much.

I bless you one by one and I make you heralds of peace above all in your families which are so dear to my heart.

I ASK YOU FOR PRAYER AND PENANCE

May 2, 1974 (at Bonate)

My dear and beloved children, peace be to you, to your families, to your homeland.

I am the Queen of Peace and I rejoice in giving peace to those who desire it and use the necessary means to obtain it.

I look at you one by one and I see the desires and the anxieties of each one. And how could I call myself Mother if I were to remain indifferent to your calls?

I am here to help you and, just as on the first day of my first apparition in this place was my desire to call souls and families in order to give to all my favours, so I enjoy telling you that now as then I desire to call many souls, so that from this humble chapel I want to pour out celestial favours over all.

What shall I grant you? Spiritual graces, material graces. You know then, how dear the family is to me and how I desire for this cell of society to be healthy. If with a sick cell you want to use cancerous substances in order to heal the other cells again, what will happen? The others also will fall sick and the whole body will suffer its consequences. If you wish to commend to me the families in which the cancer of hatred has entered, together we will see to re-establishing order and love.

I want for the children to come here, so that they may learn to be means of union between the spouses. I want the grandparents and the mothers to come here, so that they may draw light in order to counsel. Moreover, I desire also for the priests to come here, so that they may learn that humility which, while it makes them prudent before supernatural facts, makes them also confident in the goodness of God, which can make use of everything and everyone in order to realize his will.

The heavenly Mother does not hold resentments against those children who combat the apparitions and the extraordinary, she is only saddened by the abuse of her gifts and for the good that is not done, while this good could hold back and place a barrier to the evil that is rampant.

Today I wish to bless everyone and, while I assist you and help you in everything, I give you a programme: be always obedient to the Supreme Pontiff and to those who bring you his orders and his word, since whoever obeys does not err. But also learn to go along with the desires that Jesus and his Mother express to you.

Never let prayer be lacking in your day, so that your life, your work may be sanctified. Never let your offering of sorrow be lacking to God, because only sorrow accepted and offered up becomes joyful and worthy of recompense.

In every apparition I ask for penance, and many times also with tears of blood. Penance is indispensable in order to be able to live a truly Christian life; that mortification which is demanded by the exact fulfilment of one's duties. Moreover, if to this penance you add the bearing of those crosses which your existence is sown with, you will sanctify yourselves and you will no longer feel the weight too burdensome.

Children, it is in this way that I ask you to live serenely.

When devout and faithful souls go to the shrines they obtain graces. But the measure of the graces is faith. He who believes more receives more, for the word of the Saviour is never vain that says: *“If you will have faith as much as a little grain of mustard seed, you will say to the mountains to topple themselves into the sea and they will obey you (Mt 17:19) .”*

I however, as money in order to obtain the graces, ask you here for prayer and penance. Do you want to make me happy? May those who live in these places never fail to come here to pray and to offer up for all. And may the distant ones come sometimes in order to draw and renew their faith.

I have asked you for obedience to the Pope, and I ask you to pray a lot for him, so that supported by your prayers, he may be able to bear the heavy cross.

I bless you all, children. I bless the children who carefree are playing, to whom however, you must teach to pray and to respect the adults who, praying, speak with God, and as pledge of my blessing I say to you: see you again, children, and not only here but in Paradise, where I wait for you in order to crown you together with my Jesus with immortal glory.

TO THE YOUTHS

May 5, 1974

My beloved children, here I am amongst you with the abundance of my maternal love.

I am the Divine Shepherdess who with this youth group so dear to my Heart, wish and must be its voice and guide.

I love you so intensely that, like my Son Jesus, I would give my life for each one of you who are my little sheep and I demonstrate this love to you in a thousand ways. Since however, by the will of God and mine, you come to this place, I manifest my desires to you, besides through the means of the good inspirations that are lacking to no one, also by means of this instrument to whom I give faculties and special spiritual helps.

That's why I approve and desire for you to have towards this mother, defective like all human creatures but chosen by God, the greatest confidence united to the greatest respect. Yes, I will always speak to you through her and you shall have the joy of hearing my voice in hers. She directs you to good and recalls to you the principles of the faith that some of you may have forgotten or suffocated.

There are some among you also who declare themselves believers but who are not practising, others who assert they do not believe. They are souls which the Father loves infinitely and which in the providential design of eternal salvation has called beside me. The teachings that you will receive here shall be light and grace, whereby I assure you that they will succeed in fitting in to your community and reach the highest degree of perfection.

I listen to your prayers and your words: there is nothing left for you except to let yourselves be guided and to be docile to this voice who in her humanity however, reflects the goodness and the docility of the heavenly Mother. I know you one by one and I know your exuberance and also your susceptibilities. If you let yourselves be moulded, you too will know me in the most perfect way granted to you and then we shall truly love one another, whereby it will not be difficult to face also the hardest sacrifices and overcome the most arduous battles.

Be humble, my children, and be united. The Divine Shepherdess will lead you across the smiling pastures of the grace of God up to Heaven.

I bless you all. See you again, children.

BE FAITHFUL, BE PATIENT, BE APOSTLES

May 5, 1974

Beloved children, little sheep of my flock, peace be to your hearts and to your souls now and always. I am the Queen of Hearts and I enjoy drawing them to me with the strength of my love!

You have joined your prayer to that of my Jesus, and I rejoice because He loved me more than any other creature in the world. His prayer therefore, becomes true riches for you. The

love with which He can fill it is so great and powerful whereby you but have to rejoice in being heard.

I hear many times souls, also practising ones and who profess themselves devotees of mine, who doubt and accuse God and the Saints of not keeping their word. They say: “They promise us but do not keep.” This displeases me a lot because, if you think that way, you put God on your level and you qualify Him as evil and a liar. I invite you to believe, to hope, to have trust and patience.

Remember the promise made by God to Abraham. He desired so much to have children. Well then, God granted him one — Isaac — and promised him that he would have given him a numerous offspring like the stars of heaven and the sand of the sea. What was Abraham to do when after this promise, God commanded him to kill his only son? He could have disobeyed and you in his place perhaps would have said that God was not good and, who knows, perhaps you would have rebelled against his command. Abraham obeyed. The son was preserved to him, and his offspring, for they were to represent not just the people of Israel but Christianity, that is, the people of God, was truly of a very great number.

Children, God is always faithful and if I speak the word of God to you and I promise you help and graces, you must have trust, even if the trial is prolonged and your apprehensions are not resolved straight away. The Lord is eternal and everything in Him is present. God is infinitely good and being Father He wants to grant the desires of his children, even if He waits for the right moment, even if He wants for the graces to be prepared by many prayers and if some things He cannot grant them being harmful for your eternal salvation.

But permit me today to address yet an invitation to you. You listen to my words, but, even if you do not put them into doubt, with difficulty you remember them and put them into practise.

Well then, allow me to remind you what took place in the early times of the Church. The apostles, inflamed with the Holy Spirit, preached the divine doctrine to the Jews, but they were always diffident whereupon the pagans were called. The Jews went away and the pagans welcomed the word of God with faith and love and were converted.

It must never happen for you to distance yourselves and be bored and feel sick about what I teach you, moreover, I desire also for lapsed souls to come to listen to me. Jesus says in the Gospel that in Heaven the harlots will be in the first row; certainly not because it is lawful to do evil, but because, called to do good, the lapsed are many times more fervent than those who, having known God from their youth, serve Him with coldness falling always into the same defects.

Do not be amazed therefore, that I call here people who have not lived well, rather, you also behave like and with goodness, with charity and with love bring me everyone, especially those who in your family find it hard to love me and are not practising. I will touch their hearts and make them monuments of the glory of God.

John, in the Apocalypse, saw thousands and thousands of souls who in white clothing gave glory to the Lamb. The immaculate Lamb is Jesus, who is at the same time sheep and Shepherd. Before the altar, imploring pardon, sinners, purified in soul, must glorify the immaculate Lamb who still immolates himself for their salvation.

To you my pressing invitation so that your prayer and your work be in collaboration with ours.

When one day all the good, the purified ones, the saints shall be introduced into Heaven, Jesus Christ will have his full glory, the full recognition of his work. All will know fully and perfectly the effectiveness of the word of God to their own benefit and the contribution of love and sorrow received through the life, passion and death of Jesus on the Cross. Every child of mine shall also see the love and the sorrow which I gave to each one and the maternal assistance given in every circumstance.

Never utter therefore, that terrible sentence: *“I no longer believe because Our Lord and Our Lady no longer remember me.”* This sentence is truly terrible, because the Lord could take away from you that marvellous gift in order to give it to others.

If you were to see in the world what difference exists between those who believe and those who do not, you would be astounded. Imagine that in the sea in which you sail there were a great storm. Well then, the lifeboats would be lowered into the sea so you would not be drowned but saved. The comparison stands. Whoever possesses faith can hope to be saved in the stormy sea of life. Without the lifeboat of faith there is desperation and ruin.

Children, be faithful, be patient, be apostles. All is useful for good.

I bless you all. I bless the nurses present and I wish to give to their hands that delicacy whereby every sick man cared by them feels my caress.

In the love of God and mine, in union with all the brethren of the world, let us form a barrier of good against the forces of evil.

THE PRODIGIOUS WEAPON OF THE ROSARY

May 7, 1974

My dear and beloved children, I am with you. I am the Queen of the Holy Rosary and how much I thank you for those beautiful Rosaries that you keep on offering me with ever renewed fervour, with greater and greater love and with all the varied intentions. I receive them as wreaths of perfumed roses and, after being delighted with them, I present them to God as fragrant incense.

Truly, children, it is necessary in these times of confusion and calamity to adopt this miraculous weapon that serves to weaken the bitter enemies. I invite you therefore, to make yourselves true propagators of this beautiful prayer and to bring it to families and into the parishes from where it has been dismissed as if it were not only a useless thing, but bad.

When on the death bed your hands are as if crowned by the precious object which is the blessed bead, they will be like imploring hands that will invoke compassion and not only for you. They will be the last gesture of devotion, the last tribute of love of the children to the Mother. And I will be obliged out of gratitude to return your affection.

Now I must remind you how many years ago what happened in the lands where a marvellous shrine now arises, destination of many pilgrims: Pompeii. In those places of paganism the most grave sins deconsecrated the bodies of men. They were places of orgy and sin. Well then, on those ruins I wanted a temple to be built. Just as on the place where rubbish was thrown, I appeared to Bernadette. What does this mean?

That the Lord knows how to draw good also from evil and that the ruins and the evil that men can commit must never frighten you. When evil increases, your faith must increase and to so much pride it is necessary to oppose with humility, to so much immorality with a chaste life, to so much insubordination with obedience, and whoever thinks himself to be self-sufficient it is necessary, rather it is urgent, to oppose with constant recourse to God through prayer.

The Lord who has created the world and has established perfect laws, which regulate besides the course of the stars, the life of every human creature from the insect to that of man, certainly does not fall short of his commitment to preserve and govern the world.

Man, in his pride, presumes to equal, and even to exceed, to command and counsel God himself. Human foolishness that does not realize its own misery and its own weakness! He who governs the world that He has created and to which He has given his laws, could with

one only act of his will destroy everything, except the angels and the demons who, being spiritual, are eternal.

Man, in his foolishness, does not take into account the infinite goodness of God, who gave to the world his Son so that by his means there would be redemption and salvation. The world stubborn and ungrateful rejects the laws of love, of humility and of poverty established by Jesus, of which He rendered the Church custodian. It is like a spiritual anarchy, whereby every authority is rejected and chaos is preferred and disorder to obedience and to order. Today it is thus for many and I thank you for that light which you wish to welcome whereby you can see very clearly.

I thank you for that attachment to the Pope that distinguishes you, and for the attendance to the practises of piety that are carried out in your parishes. Be firm, be faithful and bring your say, your witness of true Christians forward. Learn also to make my word and devotion to me penetrate into hearts.

If the mother is taken away from a family, certainly the family situation does not improve. You are used to saying that “while the cat’s away the mice will play.” It is a proverb, but because it is exactly such it is a principle of wisdom. Whoever wishes to take the heavenly Mother away from himself and from the Church will fall quickly into heresy, which, from the moment in which I am removed, it is already done.

I am the immaculate Virgin, the Mother of God, mediatrix of every grace who, assumed by the angels into Heaven, I perform a motherly mission of salvation before men. Do not forget these prerogatives that are so dear to my heart.

I bless you all, children.

I am happy that a religious who has lived for so many years in that land so dear to me has taken part in your meeting. With her I bless all of India and her community.

Peace be to you, children. See you again!

TO EACH ONE A MISSION IS ENTRUSTED

May 8, 1974 (at Seregno)

My beloved children, I am among you. Rekindle your faith and believe that, as soon as you raise your prayer to God in order to invoke help, we are there attentive to your invocations, desirous of helping you in all.

You are all dear to my heart, and as a mother can take care of her own children especially if she sees them little and sick, so I who sees with what humility you turn to me and how needy you are, I cannot neglect you.

Today however, I wish to give you a teaching ever so important. I want to teach you to perform your duties with perfection, so that, you can always be efficient members who work effectively for the advent of the Kingdom of God.

You have come into the world and none of you can say that you were born under a bad star, because you are born under the sign of the Cross that is to be your salvation. Also for you there is a seat in Heaven, a glorious place prepared from all eternity, which you must win. To each one of you however, the Lord has entrusted a mission. No one can say that their own mission is useless or confers little. Each one has a task to carry out in life that will have a repercussion in eternity. Everyone of you is a collaborator in the work of redemption. There is a limit to your field of work, but the reflection of what you do is continued in time and in space.

Every Christian must resemble Jesus. Observe what my divine Son did. He lived, worked, suffered and died in the land of Palestine. But his work and the echo of his teachings, given by means of the example and the word, are continued in time. So Joseph, my beloved spouse, lived out his simple and laborious life at Nazareth and everything was in this way the same as the behaviour of other men, so much for Jesus as for Joseph, it could be said that with their death all would be finished.

For me it was also the same. I did in my life all that good mothers do: from the washing to the housekeeping, I prepared the bread, I attended to matters, I worked on sewing like all of you.

Perhaps you think that the mission of a man or of a woman ends in the limitation of the works performed with the hands or with the word or with the mind? You would be able to say that Jesus, the Son of God, had made a great failure, if it were so. Oh, no! The mission of a soul in the world is that complex of actions that serve to bear witness to one's faith, one's love, one's hope.

It has been said to you many times that you must be the living rocks that comprise the Church. You cannot be alive if the life of God does not circulate in you. Grace is like life blood that circulates in the body and keeps all the different organs together.

If you consider a part of the body in itself, you have but an imperfect idea of the human body. So, if you consider yourselves as divided parts and you see your mission by a purely

human light, you will find that, when you have completed your family and social commitments, you are perfectly at ease.

The mission that the Lord entrusts to his children is much more important. By exercising the faith, the Christian grows in the spiritual life up to being capable of communicating to others the divine gifts that he possesses. But I must tell you more. To render your mission marvellous and luminous there is charity, that is, the love of God and neighbour that moves minds and warms up hearts, whereby one action itself performed with this charity that emanates from God himself, is transformed and from human becomes divine.

The works that you do therefore, can remain human and can fall into oblivion, can make you into good persons, but not perfect Christians.

Every mission is measured with the thermometer of love. It is like the means to purify from it, the love, and to take away from it all that slag that makes it unwelcome: the slag of selfishness and one's own interest.

In this way, in the light of Christian hope, you will see every action become a means of sanctity and conquest. Not for nothing did some saints say: "The good that is awaiting me is so great that every sorrow is a delight to me." Hope sweetens every sorrow, it destroys the difficulties and gives the wings to walk in the way of the Lord.

This is how I want you, dear children, who come to this beautiful group: understanding the importance of your mission, which, even if in appearance is that of the mother, of the teacher, of the nurse, of the worker or of the employee, a mission simple and common, it becomes a specialized mission in which the presence of God is reflected and the expectation of Paradise. To Paradise you must incline with all your strength with greatest perfection possible.

I bless you all, children, and I wait for you everyday beside my altar in order to fill you with graces. I am the Mother of Holy Hope, the Queen of all Hearts.

THREE KINDS OF TEMPTATION

May 8, 1974 (at Muggiò)

I am the Immaculate One, my children, and I enjoy showing myself to you, as in this effigy which you honour, keeping the infernal serpent crushed under my feet.

The world currently is dominated by his strength and power, which is nothing compared to the power of God. But men adhere to the orders of the devil, therefore he becomes stronger

and stronger. I have repeated it to you many times that the devil is like a dog tied to a chain that can sometimes harm the man's body, but not the soul, which you have in custody and which is God's dwelling. Only with sin is the door opened to the infernal serpent, who takes possession of the soul making it an enemy of God.

The temptation that made the rebel angels fall, that is, the desire to be like God, is still today what forms the cause of much confusion in the world. The devil tempts man. To be like God is the temptation of pride that appeals to human minds.

One studies, one works, one believes that one must build the world with one's own strength. This is the reason for which persons, who were filled with superior and uncommon gifts fall like the cedars of Lebanon. One sees the ruin of souls in the most terrible falls of persons who have jobs of responsibility. They were enriched with graces upon graces, but they have forgotten that everything comes from above. They hold Jesus' saying, "Without me you can do nothing" to be outdated, because with their own intelligence they have succeeded in creating important works.

So, children, I see my favoured children and so dear precipitate themselves into the dark abyss of error. The light of the mind is darkened concerning divine things and their intellect is aroused in the desire for great and extraordinary things. They perhaps also have recourse to God, but with haughtiness as equal to equal. Poor deluded ones, who forget that death makes everyone equal and places everybody before the irrevocable judgement of God! They think themselves gods and are ready to assert it, so much are they full of pride.

But you who know well how miserable you are, do not belong to this category, that all you have received you feel grateful and thankful for. Remain in humility and repeat with particular persistence: Lord, deliver us from temptations.

But there are others who not only make themselves equal to God, but rail against Him and insult Him accusing Him of every defect. They think that He is uninterested in his children, and that He is unjust with all, especially with the poor, with the sick, with the sufferers.

To this category you also do not belong, because I know that you have accepted and do accept the cross with resignation, even if you ask to be freed from it because, to be honest, you do not love it that much and that is why it is so heavy for you.

The devil works assiduously so that rebellion against God may enter into hearts and so that there may not be submission and peace. The world is full of these souls who do not learn to resign themselves to their condition and, of all the things that happen to them in life, they accuse God as if He were a pitiless master. They find God's commands too hard and

impracticable, the Law of God a burden and an oppression that takes away liberty. In this way, rebellious against God, they are also hostile to Jesus Christ and to the Church, even if in appearance they say they are believers and have admiration for Jesus Christ.

These children of mine also are poor men, and both for them and for you, so that you may not fall into the same errors, you must say: Lord, deliver us from temptations.

Then there are all the others who have highs and lows. They pass from moments of fervour to those of discouragement. From desires of good that they would like to realize they pass to coldness, which drags them into voluntary venial sin and perhaps also to mortal sin.

These souls have understood the love of God for them that they must return, but they would like to enjoy the special gifts and the spiritual gifts as a right and let themselves be disheartened when they realize they are deprived of them. They believe in the mercy of God but only in moments of fervour, to fall again into sadness straight after, that is, at the first encounter with an humiliation, an adversity or some refusal on the part of superiors to something on which they feel attracted.

To all these children, whom I love tenderly, I would like to say: tighten your bonds more and more with God. The temptation to distance yourselves because you do not enjoy his caresses, must make you say like Peter: Away from You, Lord, where shall we go to find life?

In this way, the evil one beaten and weakened in these three kinds of temptations, you will feel stronger because you are covered by the strength of God. You will entrust yourselves to Him like little ones who entrust themselves to the powerful arms of the Father and you will work for his glory without asking for other rewards than that of being covered by his shadow and being able to love Him.

My children, I bless you all one by one and I give you the task of bringing this blessing to your loved ones. Embrace your sick for me and say to them: The heavenly Mother loves you. If you find on your way disconsolate persons, say that Paradise is worth the trouble to be merited.

Shake the hand of your enemies or of those whom you consider such and say: The Mother wants for us to forgive and love each other. In this way, in this climate of peace, you bring my smile and my goodness into the world.

See you again, children, always full of joy for what I tell you.

BE MOTHERS ACCORDING TO MY HEART

May 12, 1974

Dear children, I am your Mother, the Mother of mothers and as such today I direct my word and greeting to you.

You want to celebrate me because you love me, and I thank you and desire to communicate to you the riches of the gifts of which my heart is full.

Who is the mother? She is a creature whom God has chosen to communicate not only the life of the body to other creatures, but also so that she may give as gift to them all that complex of knowledge and graces that are derived to her from having been called to the Christian life, to the faith. The mother therefore, is also an instrument of that spiritual life which exceeds in value the life of the body itself.

Who is the mother? She is the heart of the family who must keep alive in all the flame of faith and love. She is that strong woman who is always ready to sacrifice herself for the children, so that they reach with the health of the body the health of the soul. The mother is many times the scapegoat. She is the victim on whom the responsibilities and the blame falls on, whereby almost instinctively it is passed from son to mother and, if one of them errs, you ask yourselves: *“What will become of the mother?”*

My daughters, it is the wisdom of the mother that creates most often the family wellbeing, and it is the virtue and the holiness of the mother that makes real gentlemen out of the sons, even if the rule admits its exceptions.

That’s why, as I give you my most fervent wishes, I give you a warning that can be of use to you always.

Be dignified mothers who know how to handle their mission. That your children may be able to see in you always a model to imitate, a living Gospel, and that they can always have recourse to you, sure of being well counselled.

Be strong mothers who know how to value suffering without transforming the daily sorrows into a tragedy. Every unhappy event, looked at in the light of Providence, presents its good side. A whining and pessimistic mother does not attract the understanding and the affection of her loved ones and brings disgust and antipathies everywhere. Therefore, the strong woman must be also an optimist and must show her confidence serenely, even though on the outside, when through great sensitivity her heart is weeping.

The mother must be ready to sacrifice herself for her children, that is, to pay personally, for the true love which my Jesus gave an example of is this: to give one's life for one's brother. No one has a greater love than him who gives his life for his own son, and the mother gives proof of this love.

There are foolish mothers who have understood motherhood badly and made a personal satisfaction out of it. There are mothers weak of faith and of trust in God who have refused and rejected motherhood. There are bad mothers who to their own children give scandals and prepare future delinquents in them.

I desire for you to be true mothers, to be forged on the heart of God, who though being infinitely good is also infinitely just. I desire for you to love your children with all your heart, but for yours to be a true love whereupon you set the spiritual values above those of intelligence, of position, of culture, in short of all those goods that are worthless for the eternal life. You must love them in this way as to want to see them dead rather than obstinate and rebellious sinners against God.

I invite you to be vigilant over your children from the most tender age, so that all dangers may be moved away from them. With the same care you must concern yourselves with the health of the body and that of the soul. If you notice that a small mark or a spot of a different colour appears on the cheek of a little one, why should you not notice the moral or spiritual harm that could come to them?

Vigilance, my daughters, you must have; an assiduous and caring vigilance that supports the little one, the child, the young man and be of help, without oppressing, so that the ideas remain very clear, so that they are put on their guard against the dangers that can derive from bad friendships, from bad literature and bad shows.

And finally be, mothers, true friends of your children, deserving their confidence with that divine knowledge that makes you teachers. If the religious teachings that you receive are taken in by you, at the right moment you will learn to express your ideas, you will learn to convince and counsel with grace and charity.

Be mothers according to my heart, my daughters, and learn from me, who has lived your life and who continuously takes part in all your problems. If in the different circumstances you will learn to ask yourselves: "How would the heavenly Mother behave in my place?", I assure you that you will never err.

And now a word to all those who for various reasons have not had the honour and the responsibility of natural motherhood.

Remember, dear sisters, that there is another motherhood for you to which you are called and it will be attributed to you in Heaven as if you were real mothers. There is the motherhood that derives from the help that you do not allow lack to the orphan children or to those children whose parents do not know how to or are not capable of exercising their authority. There is the spiritual motherhood that embraces all categories of person, for whom you can pray for and sacrifice yourselves. And there is an ideal motherhood that lets you consider the greatness of souls and makes you accept being victims for their salvation.

To you all, who in the mind of God are accumulating great treasures for children unknown and loved, my embrace. And to all mothers my serene best wishes so that they may be able to have consolation from their children.

PUT YOURSELVES TO WORK

May 13, 1974

My dear and beloved children, I am here with you as once with the shepherd children of Fatima and I am here once again as then, to urge prayer and penance on you as a means to obtain mercy from God.

I confirm to you, children, that if the world will not be converted, He will be forced to use the strong means and what through myself He has announced in its time will come about.

Therefore, make yourselves heralds of my desire. Beseech, act, speak, but above all pray and offer up with a pure heart your mortifications so that mercy may be obtained from God.

You are my devoted children who, loving me, suffer for all that evil that surrounds you, but you must transform this suffering into a personal work that leads you to a greater perfection.

To all the followers of my Son the invitation and the command has been given to lean to the perfection of the Father, and I from my devotees require as a sign of love, through imitation of me, resemblance with me.

Therefore, put yourselves to work and follow as a daily programme made up of goodness, love, faith and trust.

When at every setting of the sun you will be able to present to me a perfumed bunch of flowers, symbol of your virtues, my heart will rejoice over it and through this I will be able to beseech the Father to have mercy again on all your brethren in need of faith and love.

Children, to all I recommend to be energetic in reacting to the demonic forces learning to impose yourselves with the force of your will.

One by one I bless you all, as once again I say to you: be holy, love each other mutually and spread love.

I am the Virgin of the Rosary, I help you and I love you.

ONE MUST STICK TO THE DIVINE LAWS

May 14, 1974

Beloved children, here you are again and always in my company.

I am the Virgin of Light and I wish to give light to your mind, I want to be light in your life, for darker and darker is the road before you. You have only to follow me listening to my instructions, following that direction that was already pointed out to you by your teachers of the spirit, who in their turn drew their doctrine from Jesus himself.

My simple word can sound like an absurdity to the wise of the earth, but the simple, the humble welcome it with joy and draw out of it those rules that act as guide. On these rules they model their way of acting and thinking. In this way a true change comes about in these souls: what they first sought and loved, they flee and despise; what they first fled, they seek with the avidity of the hungry and thirsty man.

This desire for my word, which transforms, can have the answer in that beatitude that Jesus uttered in the sermon of the mount, which the apostles and disciples did not understand well: *“Blessed those who hunger and thirst for justice (Mt 5:6).”* And is it not justice that you desire to practise? Is it not true that the world needs just men who like Joseph, my spouse, attend to their family with true love, with promptness, making work a great means of sanctity, of purification and of life? Is it not perhaps true that you first of all desire to be just, that is, to exclude from your life that selfishness that ruins yourselves, your family and society? And if John in the desert preached justice, practised in charity and in mortification, is it not true that you too would like to adopt these means in order to re-establish order and to heal again those families sick with selfishness?

My children, it has been said to you repeatedly that the Lord knows how to draw good also out of evil. Well then, it is a sacrosanct truth, because He always works well and sees far in the distance, therefore, He sees the outcome of an action in the evolution of time up to its last end. Moreover, are you not God’s collaborators in the admirable work of salvation? Your

will is needed, your work is needed, your thirst for souls to run throughout the streets of the world is needed.

Look, children, human laws can be unjust or evil, but if you like alert workers work in the Lord's vineyard, you perform divine works to which human laws cannot bring any harm.

There are many laws established by God, which, summarized in the Commandments, must direct man on the right road. But, if the human laws are in opposition to the divine ones, what should men do? Stick to the divine ones and do not use those mistaken human laws.

In this way, you who come near me will begin, in the exercise of charity and goodness, practising justice, and your families will become a model for others. Do not be sad therefore, for what the men of this world can decide. By observing the commandment of universal love, you become like vital principles and around you an electric current of generosity is formed, of altruism that overturns and conquers.

I am your Leader and I go about seeking a host of souls who understand me. If you want true good for your children, here I am. Be parents full of faith who put their lives at the service of God and the Church.

If you are young and you feel the call of God to reach that ideal of sanctity that burns in your heart, for which you would like to do a lot, let yourselves be guided and moulded by me. Let me reclothe you with the shield of grace, and then do not suffocate the good desires, follow them. Your good works, your prayers, your loving impulses direct them to me so that I may lead you to God.

I raise up armies everywhere. They all have a common point of arrival, one only aim: the glory of God. I desire that no movement be smothered. All animated by zeal must be, firm and supportive. They are all my children, and whoever works with ardour must wake up the dormant; whoever lies on the edge of a precipice must be shaken at the sound of your voice, at the encouragement and the help that you give out. You can be all militants in my army.

But in this moment I turn especially to those who, disheartened, desperate and anguished, are tempted to throw up their arms and go about saying: I can't do it anymore, it is better to die.

Oh! my children, what is it that troubles you and makes you suffer? Perhaps a disappointment, a failure? Perhaps you have seen crumble around you the most rosy hopes? Well then, know that I need you. Rise up again, rekindle your faith. You are my little soldiers who in the battle of life have been wounded. Well then, I am Leader and Mother, I am nurse

and doctor. Come, children, I will cure you with heavenly medicines and you will be heartened and happy. Shake that sadness away from yourselves, which is not justified if you think of Heaven. Love me, pray to men, follow me. I take you in my arms and I want you to be happy.

And now I urge everyone to put themselves to work for a better generation, for a family united in holiness and for an Italy true cradle of Christianity and seat of the Head of the Church.

I bless you all. See you again, children. Peace and every good be with you.

TO THE YOUNG

May 19, 1974

Beloved children, who, urged by good desires, you come to this place, be blessed.

I look at you as a Mother and I offer you my teachings as delicious bread, so that your mind and your soul may be nourished so that you may be able to rejoice and in your turn teach others.

There is a category of persons who watch you and copy from you, because the very easy and so necessary imitation puts this category, and they are the little children, before the young. These are the tender flowers, tender little plants who have not yet understood the ugly things, but who aspire to grow. You cannot be teachers of the little ones through the word, except for a few exceptions, but you all must be teachers of Christian life.

Today and on the other succeeding days Holy Communion will be given out, the first that these children receive with joy, feted by relatives and friends. Then the days will pass by and Communions will be neglected and forgotten. Few will understand its value as spiritual nourishment. The celebration of the Eucharist is more than often held to be a rite that the priest performs, to which one assists passively.

I would like to entrust a task to you: that of becoming as much as possible Eucharistic souls, so that the fire of these encounters with the Lord may become a force to convince and attract others. Let those little ones who in these days are approaching my Jesus, also by your means understand that the feast of one day can become a daily feast.

Holiness, good, grace are synonyms that stand to indicate an intense Eucharistic life, without which holiness makes no sense, good is not possible to do and grace cannot be preserved.

So, children, while the world, immersed in sin and agitated by deeds of blood and by violence, yearns for peace and for God's pardon — I am speaking of the world of the good — you have to be sowers of peace and reconciliation.

At your school and by your example, the little ones must understand that it is necessary to love peace in order to obtain it and one has to build it by learning to forgive and by learning to humble oneself before God and the brethren.

In this way, in this individual and communal improvement, you will prepare yourselves to celebrate the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven. The earth with all its ugly things is a thing to be disregarded. When the eyes are fixed to the heights, it is a pleasure to breath with open lungs and climb.

Children, I bless you all. Let each one honour God and communicate with Him in the best way he feels attracted. Let every good spirit praise God.

I help you in everything and I give you light and grace.

PRAYER FOR THE LITTLE CHILDREN AND GOOD EXAMPLE

May 19, 1974

Beloved children, that I keep on growing in the spiritual life so that you may be able to possess that grace and those virtues that the Lord desires from you, may you be blessed.

I am the Mother of Jesus and yours, I am the Teacher of souls and I follow you individually even if the lessons that I impart to you are communal.

Not all can learn in the same way, for there are the steps that need to be respected. You are all so dear to me however, and in the variety of the results I see you very effective and represented by the variety of flowers with which you continuously keep on adorning my altar. So, if there are simple souls like daisies, they will not be less beautiful than those perfumed ones like the roses. Everyone receives according to his own capacity and blossoms in his own field to gladden the heart of God.

My lessons serve to make you not waste that beauty which God has given you with Baptism and, if the tempests of life have knocked you to the ground sometimes, they help you to get up illuminated by the Sun, stronger and more resplendent than before.

How I would like with my practical lessons to make you understand that the Lord not only does not ask you for the impossible, but in his infinite goodness is always disposed to lift you up after every fall and to give you new strength so that you can continue on.

If on your part you follow me, I present the lessons to you under a double aspect. I speak to you about Jesus' teaching and the truths that He has pointed out to us and I speak to you also about myself in order to tell you how I put his words into practice. It is a study that I base on example.

The first example, the most luminous and unmistakable, is the one Jesus gave us. Many times, however, the too perfect model can strike a certain fear in you of not being able to imitate it. At this point I intervene and I show you a light not so strong, a more imitable example. In fact, if on a sunny day you wanted to look at the sun with the naked eye, especially in summer, your eye would be injured, but if you looked at the rays of the sun reflected in the moon or through darkened glasses nothing serious happens to you, and yet they are the same solar rays.

Jesus, children, lived his life as man in a very perfect way, so that no stain of sin ever touched him. I imitated him and as human creature, being like you, I performed my works humanly well, seeking perfection always. Following me, studying me, shall be so easy also for you. I worked, I wept, I prayed and I overcame the temptations as you are able to do. There was no inclination for evil in me, but the temptation could not be lacking. Jesus also was tempted. And I overcame the temptations, especially against the faith, by practising humility and with continual and fervent prayer.

Sin, the cause of so much sorrow for my Son and of many evils for humanity, was abhorred by me. In this way, I would like for you to learn to hate, from the depth of your heart, sin of whatever kind and that you tried with all your strength to flee also venial sin.

In these days, Jesus' heart rejoices in the encounters of love that He has with the many souls of children who have desired him, have welcomed and feted him in their hearts. The years will pass and many will smother in sin the memory of this day. I would like for your prayer, which in these days is validated by the prayer of innocent souls, to be so powerful as to obtain for the new communicants to never have and then never stain themselves with mortal sins.

It will be in a special way up to the parents to guard these little lilies. It will be up to them also to not give scandal to their children by maintaining an exemplary conduct, the mothers with a correct manner and with a stamp that does not destroy the innocence; with learning to impose sacrifices on oneself, renouncing also watching television shows that could bring harm to the children. Moreover, you all will be invited also to protect them with prayer and with your good example.

Children live by imitation and they have found the greatest crimes perhaps, in the scandals received from adults. Scandalized, heading on a bad road, then one ends up suffering. At times society hurls its anathemas against delinquents who have ruined entire families. But tell me, is there not perhaps a sin common to all when, disinteresting yourselves with burning issues or of social, spiritual or religious interest, you allow for many youth to be led astray?

There are parents and teachers who in the name of liberty would like to abolish also the name of God himself in schools, besides religious teaching. But tell me, where will these children go to ask for light and help who, growing up, will only see bad example and many scandals?

Here is my request, this is what I desire from you. For your spiritual maternity, your concern for the social needs to be able to be of help to families.

There have been holy and generous mothers who, offering up their children to God, have asked death for them rather than sin and it brought about saints. If this thought can be of use to some mothers, let them not doubt one instant of going along with it and prefer to be they themselves victims for the salvation of their children. But on the part of everyone may this thought never wane: rather than scandalize a little one, it would be better to put on a millstone around your neck and throw yourself into the sea.

May the fragrance of these lilies so dear to the heart of God be able to gladden families, heal society and one day gladden Paradise.

I bless you all, my children.

Before leaving from this place, consecrate to me all the children who have received or will receive First Communion. I promise you that, if you will do what I have told you, I will save them all for you.

Love the children, they are a force that moves the heart of God.
May peace be today and always in your hearts.

SIN, JUSTICE AND JUDGEMENT

May 21, 1974

Beloved children, so dear to my heart, so privileged by God for the abundance of graces with which he has filled you, be blessed. Yes, be blessed, if with these graces that you receive you learn to profit from for yourselves and for others.

All expect a good outcome from you, since they ask themselves: Might it be true that they go to the school of Jesus and Mary? Only by seeing the fruits, seeing the way you behave yourselves will they say: *“Truly one must believe, for the pupils are worthy of their teachers.”*

This is why, children, you must not let this divine word fall in vain. This is why, you must improve yourselves from time to time. Because it is necessary to convert the world, but it will not be possible to do anything if the example of the good has no power over souls.

Jesus said one day: I am going to the Father because I must send the Consoler to you, who must convince the world of sin, of justice and of judgement.

Men must be convinced of sin and above all of the sin of lacking faith in the Son of God made man. See, children, just like two thousand years ago men lack faith. They do not want to believe because their pride blinds them and because it is more convenient not to admit the existence of God and his Laws.

You believe. Well then, I insist and I ask you: how do you believe? If you accept the truths and you have no doubts, you must practise what you believe in. It is only in this way that you yourselves, illuminated by the light of the Holy Spirit, will be capable of leading others to accept the faith. You will be able to speak even without speaking, but only with an upright life: People of little faith, trust in God.

He who does not believe already condemns himself, if there is no desire in him for truth and a search. He who does not believe because he holds it an humiliation to accept those truths that, even if contrary to reason exceed it, shows of not admitting that everything that one sees in the world must have had a beginning from an uncreated Being, supreme and omnipotent, who has received life from no one. He who does not believe does admit and does not accept the Redemption, whereby by himself he puts himself on the side of the reprobates, that is, on the side of those who want to remain covered with miseries and with sins.

How necessary it is therefore, for the Holy Spirit once again to descend on the minds and in the hearts of men. How much I desire for you to be the first to invoke him and to welcome him, so that, having learned the truth with clarity, you are able to be shining beacons also for others. If all were to know this precious gift of faith and were to invoke him, how much more serene life would be, easier to carry the cross, despair less frequent.

The Hebrew people did not want to believe and preferred to be accused of sin, of the most serious sin, that of the killing of my Jesus, of which, as like a challenge, invoked blood upon themselves and on their children. It is still the same, children, and whoever rejects the faith and combats it still makes himself guilty of the blood of my Jesus for himself and for his children.

The Consoler must convince the world of justice. An unjust death had an infinite glorification in Heaven. But still today without pause and without end the injustice of men is repeated, and the innocent are ill-treated and the weak are put below human dignity and values. The Holy Spirit must clarify the ideas to all and everyone must acknowledge their wickedness and injustice.

And you children, who, instructed at this school, learn to be good, generous, just, you must present everywhere a shining example of fairness. Therefore, may people of all lands come to draw at this fount, and from a humble house like this and from every home of yours may an example of human justice, but true, irradiate itself everywhere.

When children commit some pranks, they hide themselves or blush and are afraid of the punishments. But if in the light of faith, fleeing sin and practising justice, you are a model to others, you will not fear the final judgement.

The prince of this world keeps on announcing his triumph, for with cunning and with malignity he keeps drawing men to evil; but when my Jesus comes above the clouds of heaven to judge men, the defeat of the devil will be very great, who inexorably shall be relegated to hell in the hateful company of men whom he has seduced and who let themselves be seduced.

May your encounter with the divine Judge be what I wish to you.
I bless you, my children. I am the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. To all I wish to give a little of that divine fire of love that devours my soul.

See you again, children! Prepare yourselves joyfully for the feast of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. I am with you.

I OUTLINE A PROGRAMME FOR YOU

May 24, 1974

My children, peace be to you and grace! I enjoy being here with you, who unite my name with that of St. Rita's, as you want to learn from us what your behaviours must be in order to please God.

I am the Help of the Christian people and to all my children I wish to be lavish in help. The saints are the emissaries of God and also mine, since the sanctity of their lives, mirroring, though in an infinitesimal way, the holiness of God, makes them worthy of being models and helpers.

What shone in St. Rita? The promptness to do the will of God. Just as I uttered my fiat with those words which you often repeat: "Behold, the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word", so Rita committed herself as a humble servant of God to do the will of God always and in everything.

What ought you do at our school? I know that there is an incurable conflict between the demands of the body and those of the spirit. There is a continuous struggle between the good that one would like to do and the evil that drags one down and would like to make souls fall. But if the saints have succeeded in overcoming these difficulties, all my children have sufficient help to be victorious.

I know that the Law of God is in conflict with the law of the world, but with good will one can be faithful to one's Christian vocation, one can practise virtue and observe the Commandments. A good will, never disconnected from prayer, you understand, since alone you can do nothing. If you invoke the help of God and of the saints, who have given you marvellous examples, you become capable also of heroism practising with perfection those duties that are the reflection of the divine will.

But I wish to speak to you more about me. When I learned that Elisabeth, my relative, was in need of my help, I ran and confronted great sacrifices to help her. The exercise of charity is always in first place if one wants to please God. St. Rita had understood and did this very well, who, forgetting her rights as spouse and mother, thought only of exercising her duties and of giving herself to her neighbour with great love.

If you were to imitate these examples, your cross would be less heavy, because it would always be coupled with the joy of going out of your way for others. Try it and you will agree with me.

If then you wished to recall a passage of the Gospel that refers to you the way with which I welcomed the word of God, the instructions that came to me through my Jesus, here it is: *“Mary kept all these things in her heart.”*

You — not less fortunate than Rita, who was able to communicate with Heaven, and not less than me — who can listen to the divine word, have only to welcome it inside you as a precious seed or as delicious nourishment, and act so that it may bear fruit in this life and ripen in that precious grain that will be harvested into the eternal granaries. Ripen that is, in many merits for the eternal glory, just as it was for Rita, who from Heaven in a sea of joy can give consolation to those who live on earth.

So I have outlined a programme for you which you can summarize in three small points: to do the will of God, to exercise charity towards your neighbour and to live out interiorly the teachings of God, in order to be able to translate them into practice and attain Paradise.

And now I bless you and I invite you to call many people to take part in this collective prayer. You have often the fortune also of uniting to these beautiful Rosaries the liturgical prayer of the Mass. Learn to appreciate one and the other, sure that the celestial favours will not be lacking.

I gave you a special sign last month in order to encourage you and now I expect a sign of love from you: your apostolate which calls many to prayer.

I bless you again and with you, your families and your parishes.

I INVITE YOU TO ASK FOR THE GIFT OF FORTITUDE

May 26, 1974

My children, so dear to my heart of Mother, peace be to you and to your families.

I am the Virgin who, appearing at Caravaggio to Blessed Giannetta, comforted her and entrusted her with a task ever so great and superior to her capabilities: that of building a shrine where many sufferers would get relief from their sorrows. Today in that shrine thousands of pilgrims go and I lavish graces on them.

Your prayer, united to the most intense faith, brings me here with you and, if you do not see me with the eyes of the body, I however, let you feel my presence with that joy that I put in your heart and I give you special signs whereupon you cannot doubt that I am here.

Well then, here also there will be a shrine, which will be the place of my encounters with souls in order to help them find the right road and so that they can with my help, not just free themselves from all evils, but to have the strength to put up with them. However, as of now my work in this humble chapel has already started. If you have trust in me, we will work together and all shall be brought to completion.

Now, while you are spending the novena in preparation for the feast of Pentecost, I invite you to ask with persistence for the gift of fortitude.

When one speaks of a soldier's fortress, one thinks of a place in which a group of soldiers can defend themselves from the enemy given the position in which they find themselves, usually on a height, and where the walls of a little fort or of a castle lend themselves to defence. If you speak to the young about fortitude, they will speak to you about boxing and they will tell you who is the strongest. But for you the virtue of fortitude is that marvellous gift of the Holy Spirit whereby you learn to manifest your faith without fear and, overcoming your inclinations, defeating the temptations and the passions, you learn to maintain yourselves as true Christians.

Human respect currently causes the massacre of many souls. Ask many men why they do not go to Mass; perhaps they will laugh you in the face, but the truth is that they are ashamed. If then you wish to ask many why they put up with obscene talk and why they blaspheme, they will answer you that they all do it and it is because they are ashamed of being different from the others.

Human respect is denying one's faith out of timidity, out of fear, it is acting like Peter who perjured himself three times of not knowing Jesus the Nazarene.

The punishment for these Christians who do not have the courage to expose their ideas is, from this earth, an intimate sorrow; they are not esteemed by their brethren and they are certainly not considered as gentlemen.

Jesus however, has been very severe with this category of persons and He said these words that form a judgement and a condemnation: "Since you were ashamed of Me before men, I will be ashamed of you before my Father."

Fortitude gives to the faith a splendour whereby the martyrs shine with beauty. Fortitude makes the weak virile and turns ignorant persons into teachers. You have had a proof of it in that nucleus of apostles who learned to confute errors, condemn the error committed in killing Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, and exposing his body to the most severe and terrible scourging and sufferings.

Fortitude gives to hope a certainty and a serenity whereby the cross becomes truly a triumph. Whoever is strong hopes and whoever hopes accepts the cross, the pledge of salvation. When a soul ceases to hope, despair enters that is like a spiritual death. The dying man who hopes sees Paradise as an embryo looming and, amidst the pains that torment him, he knows how to invoke God and his saints so that future happiness smiles at him.

The strong man, according to the Holy Spirit, knows how to forgive and love deep down. Among men, it is held a sign of strength of character knowing how to be obstinate, and candid, able to compromise in order to make peace and remove the reasons for friction. But the really strong man knows how to control his will, overcomes himself, knowing well that humbling oneself is worth much more than maintaining one's role.

If the Holy Spirit gives you fortitude, which is like one of the luminous rays of the sweet Guest of souls in grace, He will increase in you the desire to do great works, which the Lord considers as done by you who desire them.

Fortitude must make you invincible against the powers of the evil one. At Caravaggio, like here, the souls disturbed by evil crafts find and will find help, but this gift of the Holy Spirit is required by you through which I was able to crush the head of the infernal serpent.

"Who is like God?", cried Michael, expelling the rebels from Paradise. God was with him and victory was his. *"Who like God?"*, you can and must cry out against the powers of evil, and you will be victorious if God will be with you with his strength, if God will dwell in you with his grace and with his spirit.

So, while with humility you ask for help from She who can give it to you, you will launch a tremendous battle against the author of sin and worker of iniquity.

Children, be strong and remember well that it does not mean to be imprudent and not even bad. Be strong, have that is, clear thoughts, good sentiments and let your works be those that go against the current also at the cost of great sacrifice.

I bless you all, in particular the religious present. To all, my maternal embrace.

REPAIR THE SINS OF MEN

May 27, 1974 (at Ravenna)

My beloved children, I thank you for having come to console me. You give me consolation and I give you graces.

The Mother never weeps in vain. I weep over the ruins caused by sin in souls, which have cost the blood of my Jesus. I weep over their irreparable loss. I weep over the ruins of the world and of the Church.

When I see consecrated souls desirous of perfection at my feet, I am moved, but at the sight of others who live wastefully, thinking about material interests and worldly entertainments, my heart feels an immense pain.

Do you wish to console me? Thank you, children. Live out your Christian perfection each one according to his state in the best way. Repair the sins of men with prayer and penance. The world goes mad in the immorality of life, may you be mad with love and make your life an offering to God for the brethren.

I bless you, children. I am waiting for you still.
I am the Immaculate Mother of Jesus and your Mother.

YOU MUST SAVE EACH OTHER AT ANY COST

May 28, 1974

My children so dear to my heart, peace be to you and to your families. Behold, I am the Sorrowful Mother of Jesus and your Mother. My suffering is as great as the sea, since it extends to all the creatures of earth, whom I love intensely. I would like to speak to the heart of every man and tell each one how great is my love and my sorrow, in order to call everyone to good.

If I had not seen with my eyes and did not know how great is the joy of the blessed of Heaven, you could say to me that I want to mislead you. It is also true that my Jesus spoke to you about eternal glory and He said to you that in order to reach the Kingdom of the heavens you must be ready to renounce everything. But I too want to confirm his words to you and I cannot do less than point out Heaven to you and invite you to look for those riches of eternal and infinite values.

Is it perhaps hard to aim at the heights, is it perhaps impossible to be saved? No, it is neither difficult nor impossible, but you must keep in mind the end of your life and to set off using the means that God puts at your disposal. You must want to be saved at any cost. You must say, looking at the host of the saints who have preceded you: If these or the others have succeeded in the challenge although arduous, why should I not succeed?

When a sensible person must make an important trip, he studies the route well, he looks at what means he must adopt and what he must make provision for. If you go by car, you keep an eye on the petrol. If you go on foot, you put on comfortable shoes. For everything that you must accomplish, courage, trust and goodwill is needed.

The journey of life is ever so demanding: Obstacles, dangers, traps and difficulties, are presented before you also unknown to you. There are dangers that you can foresee, others unforeseen created by the devil and by human wickedness. You must therefore, have your eyes open in order to foil the hidden dangers. But what will you be able to do with your strength alone? If in order to make a motor move petrol is needed, the spiritual motor that must sustain the soul in its journey is prayer. I shall never tire of telling you: Make prayer become, like the breath of your life, a real necessity. Vocal prayer also has its usefulness, but let there be above all in you a continual recourse to God. It is He who gives strength to his faithful so that they can persevere in good.

Pray with the words united to the affection of the heart and pray also with the offering of your works, but never let works substitute for prayer, let prayer sustain the action so as to render it divine.

Without prayer the Christian cannot preserve himself in grace for long, he will fall into sin. What will come about therefore, in the life of man? There will be a deviation from the right path, there will be a headlong fall, a fall that can be deadly.

Children, do not say that the worst day of your life could be when thieves have robbed you, or when you have lost your health or when death has deprived you of your loved ones. No, the worst day is the one in which, in sinning, the soul loses grace, it breaks its bonds with God and becomes friend of the demons, which sin has sowed in the world. That's why I beseech you: Children, live in the grace of God, cost what it may.

I see the world covered with blood and death that makes a carnage everywhere. Fire here, weapons over there, water here, sudden disasters over there, earthquakes and scourges of every kind. Nobody can know when his hour comes. God in his goodness decided to keep hidden the hour of death to men. However, the certainty that you ought to die must keep you watchful and thoughtful.

Each one has the vocation for love and is destined for death. The vocation for love is common for all men, who, loving God and their brethren, even if they do not know the true faith, can be saved and, destined to perish momentarily, they will all find a new life in the beyond. Every soul will be reunited to his own body on the day of the final resurrection in order to take part in the eternal reward or punishment. There will be no reincarnation that

will allow to be reborn in other bodies in the life of the world, but it will be a rebirth for the eternal life of glory or damnation. Responding to one's vocation loving God and the brethren, preparing oneself for certain death for a life of glory is what you must do.

The violence, the crimes, the destructions and the chastisements of God, if you live in grace, will not harm you, but they will be the means for reaching the Kingdom. The martyrs went cheerful and happy, singing the praises of the Lord, towards their executions. Perhaps you think that they saw in the executioner an enemy, or cursed against the beast that was to devour them, or the fire that was to burn them? No, they sang and saw already in Heaven the crowns of glory destined for them.

Be strong in the faith. Trusting in God, live out his life and attend with serenity and love to the fulfilment of your daily duties.

I bless you all, children, one by one. I enjoy seeing so much youth among you. May you all be young at least in heart, and good will flourish in you and beside you.

See you again, children. Grow in holiness and grace more everyday before God and men.

TO THE TRIESTE GROUP

June 6, 1974

My children, you have returned here and I rejoice with you. We left together from that shrine that must be the boast of your city and of all Italy, and you have come to this humble chapel that is destined for great things. You have come with faith and with love, and I have welcomed you with maternal tenderness and with the desire to help you in all.

What does a mother do when her children arrive from afar? She embraces them, caresses them, then she looks at them and asks: *"Have you eaten? Are you thirsty?"* And she says: *"You seem covered in dust to me, you seem very tired to me. Rest yourselves a little."* And after having seen to all the needs of the moment, she wants the children to sit next to her; she listens to their tales and she also speaks, she says good things in order to gladden them and she also relates her sorrows in order to hear words of comfort.

You will not believe it, but all that I have declared to you is true. I am a true Mother, just as you are truly my children.

I look at you and I do not wait for your answers because I know them all. I see you needy of care, of affection, of tenderness. I see your scratches and the wounds that make your heart bleed and I also suffer over it. I see you worried and concerned for those children who do not leave you the help of a smile or a good word even. I see also your hunger and thirst for things of God. There is a bit of everything in you. There are good things and also something that should be best taken away.

How great it would be if you were to entrust yourselves completely to me and to let me work! The physical evils you also know them, is that not true? And those I help you to cure them, but your spiritual health and your sanctity is very dear to me. What's the worth of a long life if one does not grow in sanctity?

When a person eats, sees, hears, walks also, but does nothing for himself and for others, it is said that he vegetates. It is like an apparent life, for true life according to nature is to think, to work, to love, to rejoice and to weep. The same way in the spiritual life one can live and one can vegetate. One lives an exuberant life when one loves God and neighbour, when grace brings you, as sweet Guest of the soul, God and when your heart vibrates in the desire to serve the Lord, doing your duties. This must be your life, the one that will gain you an eternal life. A day without sunset awaits you, without storms, without worries, without sorrows. Do you wish to reach this life?

You have come from a distance and you have all had your cross on the shoulders. You all would have a book to write of all the misadventures that have accompanied you from birth up to here.

But this is not all, here you have made a stop. You refresh your spirit beside me, then you have to continue on, regain courage and journey on.

The more the years pass by the more the cross weighs: it changes name, it changes aspect, but it is always a cross, for you are among the followers of Jesus and mine, and He has said one day to all those who wished to follow Him: *“Deny yourselves and take up your cross.”* I also was on the road to Calvary. All must pass there, willing or not. One thing alone differentiates the willing from the rebellious: that the willing walk along the paths of Heaven with much joy, and the rebellious have despair in the heart and do not aspire to Heaven.

My children, if you were to know the value of tears, you would learn to say only a *“yes, Father”* when sorrow is presented to you, because you would find in sorrow and in weeping the way of presenting your most beautiful gift.

And now listen to me well. You have done well to have gone to the shrine of Mary Queen and to call me to your appointment, but know that every time that you gather together in prayer in your beautiful cenacle, under the gaze of the Merciful Jesus, I am truly there to be as Mother and Teacher for you. If it is not permitted for you to read those beautiful lessons that I go about doing for all, read a passage of the Gospel or a tract of the life of some saint. I will give you sufficient light in order to understand well and I shall be glad to interpret for you the desires of the Lord with my love.

I bless you all, my children. I bless you with all my heart. Let your example be so edifying as to invite all to imitate you.

Your special mission, which I have entrusted to you at other times, is that of praying for the priests and to help them. I wish that through your prayer many may be converted and understand the greatness of their ministry.

See you again, children, and a happy trip. I will accompany you to your homes, blessing your families.

THE THREE DIVINE PERSONS

June 9, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and to your loved ones. May your holy desires be satisfied, as you have sought and seek to satisfy mine. You are embellishing and enlarging my chapel. I thank you, I will embellish the temple of God, which is your heart, so that He may truly be able to be comfortable with you.

When you observe a panorama from the top of a mountain that presents itself wonderful before your eyes or when on a beach you admire the immensity of the sea, this thought must come spontaneously to you: Here is the temple of the Lord! And it is truly so, for God in his immensity fills the universe. But you forget that the most important work, come out of the hands of God; is not the sea or the sun, or the trees or the flowers, or the birds or the fish. Even if these things are very beautiful, they are nothing in comparison to man. Made in the image and likeness of God, man possesses an immortal and spiritual soul, which God willed so beautiful and of a value so great as to will to redeem it through the blood of the Man-God.

If therefore, the world is the temple of God, man is the king of the creatures that dwell therein, for everything that is in the world was created for the happiness and for the joy of man himself. Therefore, when you wish to do a pleasing thing for the Father, raise your hymn of thanksgiving blessing Him.

The most important thing is the soul, which is the temple of God; and all that you do to embellish it is pleasing to the Son, who lifted up souls again from the state of sin and, through his sacrifice, rehabilitated them.

If the soul is the temple of God, the Spirit of the Father and the Son is the sweet Guest who works through grace and brings souls to holiness.

In the light of the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, admire the goodness of God and let yourselves be immersed in his heart as fish in the water, for in this God, one and triune, you will find all that your soul can desire.

The divine Persons always work in conjunction in the work of redemption. United by an eternal and infinite love, they are inseparable, just as you cannot separate in the sun, though distinguishing them, those qualities that are proper to it, that is, light, heat and fertility.

Well then, in God there are attributes and qualities that you must recognize, which every divine Person possesses and which form the joy and the happiness of all. If you wish to attain Christian perfection, you cannot forget anyone of the three divine Persons. Each one must enter into your life with all his love, with all his wisdom, with all his power.

There are many Christians who occupy themselves little over the Trinitarian mystery and are indifferent as to whether these divine Persons are two or even three. They do not know God, and even less the relationships that pass between the Father and the Son and between them and the Holy Spirit and what they perform in favour of each one.

You are blessed, who knowing this divine mystery — even if it is impossible for you to go into more depth — rejoice over it. You will never be able to understand in depth the great mysteries of God, for they are superior to the capacity of understanding of human reason; but there are never in the mysteries contradictions or absurdities. In Paradise you will understand better and you will rejoice over everything that will be unveiled to you. As of now however, thank God the Father who through Jesus Christ has revealed to you the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.

Jesus spoke many times about the Father and said: *“He who sees me, sees my Father.”* He spoke of the Consoler, the Spirit of truth, who would have come to illuminate minds and to clarify what He had taught.

The spreading of the revealed truths of faith, the spreading of Christianity, is the work of the Most Holy Trinity, and Jesus willed to entrust it to the apostles saying: *“Go, preach and baptize in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19).”* Every

Christian must therefore, take up his own responsibility, to live out this faith and spread it just as Jesus has commanded in the name of the blessed Triad, because every Christian must be an apostle. To live out one's day from the rising of the sun to its setting with the spirit of adoration, of gratitude and of love towards God is to sanctify one's life.

When the apostles by command of Jesus had to separate themselves in order to go, one in one place, one in another, to preach the Gospel to every creature, they got together in a great gathering and, according to the teachings that they had received, established those twelve articles of the Creed that had to be as the code of faith.

I presided over that meeting just as today I preside over yours. I was content to receive and to give that infallible code. In this moment I give it to you and, as I invite you to recite it often, as I did also after the Ascension to Heaven of my Jesus, I urge you to not forget that all the things of the world will pass away, but not even a word of these truth will be lost.

Recite too singing that Gloria that is sung in Heaven: Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; I will make you rejoice as on a great feast every time that you sing it. Recite often the Creed, or Apostolic Symbol; I will increase your faith and I will make you true apostles.

I bless you all in the name of the Most Holy Trinity and I promise you special graces. I bless the children present and those whom you commend to me.

In the name of the Most Holy Trinity, one day the priest, administering the Sacrament of the Sick to you, will say to you: *“Depart, Christian soul, from this world ... May your dwelling today be in the peace of holy Jerusalem.”* Well then, in that moment I will be close to you and as well-beloved of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit I will be your advocate and your defence.

See you again!

JESUS NEEDS YOU

June 11, 1974

My children, I am with you. I am your sorrowful Mother. I am again here to ask for help and consolation from your prayers and from your works. I cannot hide from you the message of my heart and I cannot keep silent from you the sorrow of my Jesus, who sees an endless number of souls lost irreparably.

Faith is rejected, grace is rejected, eternal life is rejected. The faith that has given strength and happiness to millions of souls, is now repudiated. A plate of lentils is still preferred over the birthright. One prefers to live for the time that passes away, rejecting revelation and divine doctrine. One prefers to live for the earth and one does not want to think about his Creator. One would like for God to not exist, in order not to have duties towards Him and in order not to have to obey his Law.

Oh, my poor children, who in the tempestuous sea of life do not have the anchor to grab on to! What will they do when the billows will surge so high and threatening? One does not want to accept that faith for which millions of martyrs have offered their lives and one accepts fables and lives off fantasies.

If there were a better means in order to be saved beyond that of believing in God, of loving Him and of serving Him, do you think that I, who am your Mother, concerned more than you for your salvation, would not have let you know about it?

One does not want to believe in the goodness of God and his goodness is measured with the human measure, or even comparing it with the wickedness of men. It is said: If God was good, if He really was there, He would not permit this or that thing; while these things are crimes willed and perpetrated by the malice of man, who calls the devil as collaborator. One does not want to believe even in the justice of God, who reserves to himself the reward and the punishment and who, being infinite as mercy, demands reparation.

One no longer believes, children, in the sublimeness of the grace of God, who allows simple creatures to live out a divine life; in the grace that sublimates every action and makes every prayer omnipotent. One no longer believes in sin and one sins with impunity, turning it into a need and a law. In the same way scandal is given to the innocent, in the same way one blasphemes, in the same way one considers life as a property, which, according to one's will, one can get rid of. And if one wants to legalize homicide, one believes that it is not right to suffer or to make someone suffer, and it is better to destroy the body and the life rather than put up with the pain.

Beloved children, I do not wish to upset you with gloomy talk, moreover, your personal experience is enough for you. How many times have you heard these expressions: "*Better to die than to live like that ... Better to take one's life ... What am I doing in the world?*" It is enough for a failure at times, or an adversity to let oneself become disheartened, to let go prayer and the Sacraments and go into a life of sin.

What sorrow, children, do mothers have when they do not succeed in being obeyed and when they would like to open up their hearts to their loved ones and they are not listened to.

I also am a real mother and how I would like to be understood by thousands and thousands of persons, children like you bought back by the Sacrifice of the Cross. And yet they are deaf to my voice, deaf to the calls of God. Insensitive, they leave God to follow Satan, the prince of this world. They think of crowning themselves with roses, but very quickly become aware only of thorns and sin throws them into despair.

Are there true Christians, who love God and neighbour, who wish to make their life an offering of love? May you be these, and know that Jesus on the Way to Calvary needed besides his Mother, also the Cyrenian and the pious women. My Jesus and I need you. You are young, perhaps you have the right desire of starting a family and the opportunity is lacking for you. Be patient, do not complain. Know that the divine Bridegroom of souls loves you infinitely and desires to rely on you in order to heal so much youth again.

Be mothers. The illness or the perversion of those children whom you have brought up with so much love is like a wound to your heart. Do not complain, Jesus needs you: You will be his sorrowful mothers who will give Him help with your tears. Let Him do it, Jesus is God and can, while you seek to soothe your sufferings, change the thoughts and the hearts of your loved ones.

And you, generous souls, who would like to do a lot more and would like to immolate your life like a pure host, be content. The Lord has chosen for you a cloistered convent: it is his heart. With Him you must live out your present moment sanctifying it. Jesus needs you very much. Your love is like an ointment that gives relief to his wounds. It is like that sip of water that He needs, and it is above all that effective means which, united to his suffering, touches the hearts of sinners.

My children, before a multitude of souls who reject faith and grace, may you be the thirsty and hungry ones insatiable for the word of God, ready to die rather than sin. The life of this world is like a theatrical scene that unfolds before others. Everyone must do his part. It is said that an actor is very good when he knows how to represent his character. Christians must not and cannot represent anyone else but Jesus, their divine Teacher. Learn to imitate Him so well, children, that all your neighbours may be touched and be converted.

One final word, children. You aspire to Heaven and you know that Christian hope will not be disappointed. Do not let your minds be confused by anyone. You live only once, you live for a trial and eternal Paradise awaits you. Let my children, however, not be deluded. Hell is not the scarecrow of children, but a place of eternal punishment, created by the love and the justice of God. No one has been created for hell, but one needs to earn Paradise.

I bless you all embracing you.

May the feast of the Body of the Lord renew in you the desire for a Eucharistic life.

An embrace to my daughters who come from Lyons. That cenacle will be called “Our Lady of the Most Holy Sacrament.”

THE EUCHARIST, A GIFT OF LOVE

JUNE 12, 1974

Beloved children and so dear to my heart, peace be to you. I am your immaculate Mother and I rejoice, on this vigil that prepares you for a great feast, to address good words to you to predispose your hearts to welcome the Body of the Lord.

First of all I invite you to rekindle your faith. Yes, children, under the appearance of a little bread, of a white host, is hidden from your gaze, but is really present my Jesus, soul and body, Man and God. It is the same Jesus to whom I gave human life, that Jesus to whom I supplied the flesh and the blood. It is that Jesus who immolated himself on the cross for the redemption of the world and who, not wishing to leave his children orphans on earth, found the way by means of a continuous miracle to make his presence in the world permanent.

It is the Son of God therefore, who, presenting himself to the eyes of men as covered by a white clothing, invites all to practise that purity, that chastity that must distinguish the Christian from the carnal man. He also wishes to warn that in order to approach Him in the Sacrament and receive Him in one's heart, that cleanliness of heart is needed that was so well represented by Jesus himself, when on Holy Thursday, before instituting the holy Eucharist, He wished to wash the feet of the apostles who were to sit down with Him at table.

The Eucharist is a gift of love, and no one must forget that the mark of love is exactly that of rendering oneself similar and of communicating with the loved person.

Therefore, increase your desires of approaching Communion and act so that from one moment to the next love may increase in your heart, whereby you are able to respond to so much giving and so much goodness.

The Eucharist is the food of the soul. It is a supernatural food intended to make one grow, to fortify in virtue and to make one overcome every difficulty. In the Old Testament this divine and delicious food was represented by the manna. It was the manna that had to help the Hebrew people on the hard journey that they had to travel in order to reach the promised land.

Unfortunately that people got sick of a food that carried in itself every taste and preferred the onions of Egypt. But let it not be so of you, beloved children. Be anxious and have a living desire to be fed with Jesus, for, just as natural food brings no benefit if one feels no appetite, so Communions made coldly and out of habit do not bring that spiritual benefit that Jesus hoped for by instituting the Eucharist.

And now I pass onto a much more sorrowful note. How many sacrilegious Communions, how many sacrilegious Masses, how much this Sacrament of love is hated! Consider the lack of faith that many times let the great Mysteries be celebrated as if they were just any common action. I am not about to relate to you the infinite obscenities to which the body of my Jesus, flesh of my flesh and blood of my blood is subjected.

If a corpse were in your house and you wanted to put some bread in its mouth, you would have to overcome yourselves and you would feel a great repugnance. Well then, my Jesus, life of souls, is continuously in contact with dead bodies, with putrid souls. Yes, dead bodies even, because they are suffocated by the slime of the earth.

What shall you do, you who love my Jesus and me? Repair. This is the password. Repair the betrayals, the obscenities, the sacrileges. Repair with fervent Communions, well prepared, and feel the duty to thank after having received it. If a very important guest comes to visit you in your home, is it not true that you concern yourself to welcome him with special solemnity and you lower yourself with thankfulness when he leaves you?

Children, it is the Most High Almighty good Lord who, making himself little just in order not to put so many difficulties before you, comes to you. Be appreciative and thankful, do not be like those who receive a gift and forget to thank. Many words are not required. You only have to, after Communion, promise to correct yourselves from your defects in order to please Him. You ought to say to Him that you are ready so that He may make use of you to do all that good that He wants for you to do.

If you have persons to commend, name them, but always put first those who make you suffer, those who do not love you, your enemies. It is a small act of kindness that obtains for you so much mercy on the Lord's part, and which makes him forget your defects and your imperfections.

And last of all I beg you: never receive my Jesus without invoking my help. I am next to the altar just as I was at Bethlehem and just as I was next to the Cross on Calvary. Do not forget me. It will be I who will see to putting in what is lacking and to take away what is defective. Through Mary you go to Jesus. Remember it and have confidence. Even for the

graces that you need it will be by I who will ask for them. No one like a mother knows the weak side of her children. I am Mother and I know how to command the heart of my Son.

And now I bless you all.

A great blessing to this house that one day will lodge the Most Holy Sacrament and where the Holy Mass will be celebrated.

I will see you all again, accompanied by many graces.

YOUR WAY OF ASKING

June 16, 1974

Beloved children, I enjoy addressing my word to you before you start to talk to each other about your experiences. My word predisposes your mind to draw benefit from all that must form the common patrimony.

I know that many things are dear to you and that you would like to realize them in doing those works that are a manifestation of your faith; and I know that you have some projects that you are unable to bring to completion because doubt torments you and you do not know how to distinguish the will of God in your regard. And yet it is all so simple, if you observe the truth of that proverb that says: *“Man proposes and God disposes.”* It is necessary therefore, that, guided by common sense, by equilibrium and by faith, you live out your days in the light of God, accepting also to seeing your projects changed because you know that the Lord is there directing your steps.

I know also that you desire special favours from Heaven to help you realize your mission. Well then, I want to teach you the secret to move the heart of God

When man proudly presents himself before Him boasting rights, he finds neither justification nor compassion before God. If instead he presents himself like the publican beating his breast, the Lord grants not only the pardon requested, but also necessary and superfluous graces.

Let this be your way of asking: that of the child who turns to the Father, that of the sinner who turns to Him who alone can have compassion on all the miserable. Try it out and you will say I am right. Your prayer will be in this way, not an unjust demand, but an act of love towards the Creator.

When in the world comparisons are made between persons who enjoy the same gifts of faith and have the same call, it is easy to put oneself on a pedestal and look down on others. You learn to keep yourselves always on the same level and to look at each other in proportion to the graces received. It will be only in this way that you will feel the need not only to respond to God's graces, but also to work, to pray and to suffer for those who are lapsed. This will be the second means that you will use in order to obtain graces.

It has been said to you: "*He who prays for others lays treasures for himself.*", and again: "*He who saves a soul ensures his own.*" The prayer and the word that you are called to carry out for the conversion of sinners, will give you that serenity and that certainty that will make you face the realities and the vicissitudes of life with a strong mind, certain that nothing of what you do is lost. And now I remain with you, I listen to you, I bless you, I encourage you to continue in good. You are here as at a fount to draw out that spirituality, which must not be purely an enjoyment. You must draw up reserves so that you can and must disseminate it everywhere. Your parishes are your family, where the good perfume of Christ that you will spread must animate others to do good.

If when you come here or go to my shrines, I can say to you: I bless you, because you show me your faith, when you translate your faith into practice through the apostolate and the good works, I can say to you: Truly you have understood what it means to be Christians and I can through this promise you eternal life. Meanwhile I embrace you maternally one by one. You will see my words come true in numerous spiritual and material graces.

I DESIRE EVERYONE SAVED

June 16, 1974

Beloved children, I am with you and I bless you. I am the Immaculate One, who, appearing at Fatima to three lowly shepherd children, made them instruments of God and used them to call men back to an upright Christian life, of faith and of love. I am your Mother, desirous of using you, who have desires for sanctity and good, in order to call sinners back on to the right path.

I show you my open hands as if to welcome you and I give you the weapon that for centuries served to win all battles: the Rosary.

Yes, I call you close to my saddened heart, surmounted by flames, —which serves to indicate my love — and surrounded by thorns, those which sinners keep on plunging in this sorrowful and immaculate heart.

What should you do? Do not tell me that they are always the same things. As long as the world lasts and there is a son on earth needing my help, I will keep on repeating my invitation and I will call him back to me, showing the most obvious marks.

Some children who do not love me, say that one must not depict my face and my person in order not to run the risk of falling into idolatry. But I show in the most obvious way that the devotion given to me in special places or beside my altars, where particular pictures or statues are venerated, is very pleasing to me and I grant special graces. It is true also that you must not stop at the statue or at the image, but you must ascend up to me and see me alive, with the eyes of faith, just as when, before a photograph of your mother according to the flesh, you pause taken over by tenderness and by compassion, if she were to be far away from you. I therefore, desire to be among you and, whatever may be the title with which you invoke me, I am the heavenly Mother who watches over you.

I rejoice also, children, when in the Rosary you call yourselves “sinners”, because I am the Refuge of sinners and I call everyone with infinite sweetness and I ask the Father for mercy for everyone.

Do you recall king David, whom God had called right from his infancy and whom He had consecrated for his service. With a simple slingshot, a child’s game, he had beaten and killed the giant Goliath. Truly brave and strong because he was with God. But what happened afterwards? He did not learn to control his heart and he became an adulterer and murderer.

Good for him, that, acknowledging his sin, he asked for mercy humbling himself.

The same can be for everyone of you; even if you have been called like David from the first hour, you could fall. That’s why you must always acknowledge yourselves as sinners, out of that weakness that makes you fall. Of sins, all men commit some as long as they live. Penance is necessary therefore, which consists in a deep sorrow of one’s sins that makes one decide not to want to sin again.

God is ready to welcome the repentant sinner. You have read that page of the Gospel that shows you the sinner, who, having entered the house of a Pharisee where Jesus was invited to dine, prostrated on the ground, she washes with tears, weeping over her sins, the feet of my Jesus and kisses them and wipes them with her hair. Everyone of you could put yourselves in this attitude and feel sorry for having received so many graces and responded badly.

What grace there would be for each one if Jesus were to say the beautiful words uttered on that occasion: *“Woman, go, your faith has saved you.”* It is true that there also always will

be around you evil tongues who will say like the Pharisee said: *“If Jesus knew what that soul has done, He would not let her be so near him.”* But Jesus knows everything, and out of the love that you show him He pardons and forgets everything.

This teaching that ought to enlighten you on truth and grace, must serve you to call back others. *“If you do not convert, how will the Lord be able to use mercy?”* Let this be your warning. Be the echo of my voice. The bell that rings is the voice of God, do not stop ringing. The words that you say are good; but say them with the same sweetness and charity that I would say them.

When evening comes, the good housewives call their chickens, so that they may go into the hen-house and be defended against the enemies that could catch them. Are you not my chicks whom I desire to save from the storm? And not only you. I desire everyone saved, all under the shelter of my mantle, inside my heart, in safety. The tempest of evil makes one suffer and calls up lightning. Your good, your beautiful rosaries, may they be the means to smother and destroy the evil, and to hold back the justice of God.

I bless you again and I assure you all those graces that are useful for your sanctity and salvation.

You are getting close to the feast of the Sacred Heart. Let your task be this: to love the Heart of Jesus in such a way as to make Him forget the rebellions of many.

Let Jesus be the propelling centre that gives to your spiritual life that vitality which only He can give.

I send a fragrance of graces on those whom you commend to me. If the penance that I have asked from you is the first step for your conversion and others, do not forget that the offering of your physical ailments assumes a very great value. I go around the world with these spiritual riches, I move hearts and save souls. Courage therefore, and forward, all bound by one only thought: the advent of the Kingdom of God everywhere.

TRUST IN GOD, IN NEIGHBOUR AND IN ONESELF

June 18, 1974

Beloved children so dear to my heart, how much I enjoy being here amongst you, of gathering your prayers and receiving you exactly as my possession, through that consecration, which in its simplicity expresses all your trust.

I am the Mother of Holy Trust, and it is for this that I wish to encourage you to walk in the way of the Lord and to be trusting in God, in your neighbour and also in yourselves, in order for each one to be able to bring to completion their mission in the field assigned by God himself.

To be trusting in God means to have confidence in Him, in his mercy, in his goodness and in his providence. It means to abandon oneself in his hands as children in the arms of the father. It means also to live day to day, knowing that the present moment is that which you must sanctify.

If one lives with trust in God, the observance of his Law no longer becomes an oppression, it is not a weight; just as a good son does not find it difficult to obey the father, so every good soul finds it a very simple and logical thing to do the will of Him who directs the world with infinite wisdom, goodness and justice.

Trust in God is the consequence of that knowledge that allows one to discover his marvellous and infinite attributes and it is like a fruit that ripens on the tree of love. Trust in God gives strength on all of life's sorrowful occasions and makes one raise a song of joy and gratitude when some particular gift comes to gladden life. It is also that serenity, which makes one discover in every event the will of God and makes one accept it willingly. Oh, my children, if I were able to infuse in your hearts that certainty that you are never alone, but that you are assisted and guided in everything!

You admire the course of the stars in the sky and the peace and order of the firmament enrapture you. If the stars or the moon were to rebel and no longer wanted to follow those pre-established laws, a great chaos would eventuate. Well then, this chaos is created by men who not only do not have trust in their Creator and Redeemer, but rebel against Him. Why so much disorder in the world? Why so much evil and many woes? Man wants to do by himself and does not want to recognize the supreme Authority.

I have said to you, children, that you must have trust also in your fellow men. And what is that wickedness that distinguishes one from the other if not distrust? I know that you are all defective, but this conviction ought to lead to patience. Why that wanting to criticize and that wanting to command when your own job is that of obeying? One needs to have trust in one's family members and help them to overcome those difficulties that life in common brings. One needs to have trust also in those who do not act well, so that this act of trust can help them to come to their senses.

There are many disheartened in life who only complain. Perhaps the example of a confident optimism would give respite to them and would be of help to continue on well.

When the world abandons, there is always someone close to you who notes everything, who lifts you up, who understands you, who helps you. You have a Father, you have God. You have a Mother, and it is I, and you have your good angel who notes every effort of yours and blesses you supporting you.

Never let this trusting hope and this strength lessen in you, which derives from your faith. If I had not gone through many circumstances so similar to yours, I would not be able to encourage you.

I have said to you that you must trust also in yourselves. Take good care therefore, that this must not become an overvaluation of your merits, but that strength of will that you must put in every good work through which a good outcome can be assured. Trusting oneself does not mean despising others, but putting one's capacity at the service of the community and the neighbour. To have trust in oneself, that is, in one's possibilities of success, does not mean doing it all by yourself, but to ask for help from God and allowing all others to give their work in charity and harmony.

Trust in God after having established your own limitations, trust in neighbour in order to accept and value his help, will give to the trust in oneself that pleasing sense of duty that will not make one's will a weight on anyone.

To be trustful is also to be good, up to thinking that living in family or in community or in society is an exercise of patience from which spiritual and material benefits derive.

And now I bless you all, and I desire for this blessing to bring you the conviction that no one is sufficient to himself and that you all have need one of the other.

In mutual understanding and trust help each other and forgive each other, each one holding that place and that responsibility that is his.

To all those who thank me for graces received, my tender kiss. Gratitude is a virtue so dear to the heart of God and mine. To those mothers who have restless children, my promise that bringing them here they will become more good.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

June 20, 1974

Beloved children, I am with you. I am the Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I desire to predispose your hearts for tomorrow's feast, a feast willed by Jesus himself, in which He wishes to pour out over his devotees copious graces and blessings. There is no thermometer that can measure the warmth that emanates from his most Sacred Heart and with which He wishes to make live all those who entrust themselves to Him.

But listen to me well. I want to teach you the secret to become masters of that divine Heart, so as to obtain what you desire from Him. My power of command is due to my authority as Mother, which I exercise also in Paradise. But you too must be, for my Jesus, mother, sisters and brothers. One day Jesus wished to clarify this thought and said: Who is my mother and my brother, if not he who does the will of God? I would like that just in you there were to be this anxiety to become related to Jesus in the most intimate way as to be able to command Him.

It is necessary to do what He desires. He who does the will of God becomes as a force in his hands. To do the will of God seems so hard, but it is only a keeping of those commandments that you have impressed in your hearts, it is only a living a normal life attending to one's duties, it is only a realizing of that command: "Do unto others what you would like to be done to you." If these simple things, which even the pagans can put into practice, are done with love like our divine Teacher taught us, you become holy and you have the power of command over the Heart of Jesus.

Moreover, I also want to enunciate to you some virtues that have attracted right from the beginning of the world the Father's pleasure, whereupon He did not disdain to let his divine Son descend into my womb.

The purity which, translated into other words, could be called immaculate conception or virginity, was not limited to the candour of the soul and the body, but it comprised the purity of intentions and affections so that every action became like a ray of the sun which, leaving my heart, went directly to God.

Children, you also can make your beautiful intentions and your efforts so that all in you may be pure.

Chastity according to your state, the purity of intentions must attract a look of pleasure on the part of the Heart of Jesus, which truly can find delight and consolation in you.

Another virtue that I will never tire of preaching and teaching to you is humility. There is no other virtue that merits more benevolence than this, for it is the one that makes one more similar to Jesus. I learned at his school, and how much I could tell you that humility is useful for keeping charity and peace!

Tomorrow therefore, you will present your intentions in this way. If you feel miserable and incapable, I will be of help to you and fill in for you. We will say to the Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints, that you wish to be, in the perfect fulfilment of his will, his mother and brothers. You will say to him that you wish to exercise the virtue of purity and humility and that through these virtues you would like to ask for the greatest favours, the most beautiful graces.

There are souls troubled by the devil: the Heart of Jesus must triumph in them. There are souls always anxious and in sorrow: Jesus, the Prince of Peace, must have his Kingdom in them. There are souls always unsure over the pardon of their sins and always fearful that their loved ones may not be saved: well then, my Jesus, infinite Mercy, will have to grant them certainty and confidence. There are souls in sorrow over their sick or sinful relatives: the Heart of my Jesus, who knows how to work miracles, must increase their faith so as to have to grant it for them. There are souls desirous of doing a lot of good in the workplace where they are, and the Heart of Jesus, fount of life and holiness, must give to them the strength to learn to surpass themselves, overcome the difficulties and human respect.

Every category of persons represented here has a contribution to make with purity of intention and in humility. Everyone has something to receive also through the merits of others. It is a spiritual family, this, in which devotion and love to the heavenly Mother is in communion with devotion and love to the Heart of Jesus, and the bond is one. He who loves more is richer and therefore, capable of giving more. He who is more selfish is poorer, therefore, he has less to give and to receive. He who makes himself little and accepts the humiliations as proof of love, gets in more quickly and makes himself master of the infinite riches of the Heart of Jesus, where every treasure of wisdom and knowledge resides.

Tomorrow, beside the altar, where you will offer up your life in the chalice and on the paten at the moment of consecration, I also will be present to unite my offering to yours.

I bless you all, children, and I urge you: wish each other well and do not forget that what you do for this chapel you do for my house, what you do for my instrument you do for me.

I ASK FOR YOUR COLLABORATION

June 22, 1974

My children, how pleasing are your lengthy prayers to me, made with so much faith and so much love. You have wanted to honour my Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, and I thank you. My Heart, which God wanted modelled on the Heart of my Jesus, was truly so far away from any stain of sin whereupon it was truly immaculate; moreover, it was also united

perfectly to the Heart of God, and so no affection ever came to disturb this perfect union and my will was always in a perfect adhesion of love with Him.

How I would like to teach you to live your interior life like this, in the Heart of Jesus, in a way so that no human event, no affection and no fault ought to disturb its perfect order.

I am the Immaculate One, children, and the most burning desire of my Heart is that of working in the world, by means of the blood of my Jesus, of his passion and of my suffering, that purification that the Father desires. I ask you to collaborate so that it may come about.

Every body is formed of thousands of cells and organs joined together, each one has its function, with a special task. Every community and society is formed of individuals who must bring in and receive vitality and help. The Church also, this society of true Christians, gives and receives. You can be living or dead cells, you can purify or harm this mystical body of Christ.

If you will imitate me and in a search for special goodwill, commitment and grace, you will behave in a way as to keep your heart from sin and make it a burning forge that sends its acts of love continuously towards God and towards the brethren, you will combine to bring about your sanctification and the Church's.

My Heart is also extremely sorrowful, as to be able to say to you: Friends, my brothers, see if there is a sorrow equal to mine! I suffer because of the sins of the world, because I see so many souls get lost irretrievably and I suffer because of the sufferings which all humanity is burdened with. This is the heavy cross that weighs on my Heart, for which I can truly call myself the Sorrowful Virgin.

I have asked you for collaboration in a personal purification, now I ask you: Prevent sin, remove sin in the limit of your possibilities. How many times a serious and reserved behaviour could prevent blasphemies and obscene talk. How many times your goodness could put limits on human wickedness. How many times your faith lived out could bring forward thoughts of faith in those who have lost it. Behave so that no one can pass by indifferently beside you. Be the spring that drives the mechanism, be the motor that makes hearts vibrate and gives to all desires and thoughts of goodness and good.

And last of all, listen to me. If you have a sensitive heart for the troubles of others, do not suffocate its sighs. Before the crudeness of the spiritual, moral and physical evils that afflict men, do not be insensitive. If you wipe away a tear, you console my Heart. Let no one be able to say that he had made somebody weep and suffer.

There are unavoidable crosses, created by age and character differences, but everywhere and always may you be the means to cushion those hostilities that from small can become big.

There are persons everywhere who suffer. Be angels of consolation. Perhaps you too one day will have to receive words of comfort because the cross will seem unbearable to you. Act so that the consolation that you will receive may be a reward for that which you have given.

Are we in agreement, children? Let my Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart be your refuge in which you can learn that divine lesson that teaches you to be what I desire for you to be.

See you again, children, and peace be with you.

PUT THE DIVINE LESSONS INTO PRACTICE

June 23, 1974

Beloved children, here I am with you.

I am your Teacher, and I would like to always say words of praise to you because you follow my lessons with so much love. However, I would like that the homework that I assign you every time be put into practice. Unfortunately you are also like those children who, attracted to games and to the thousand distractions of life, forget to execute those duties that are assigned to them. Yes, you also, after having listened attentively, forget the good suggestions and counsels to the point of continuing to live with your defects, to the point of falling into usual imperfections and faults, which grieve the heart of my Jesus and mine.

What ought I do in order to get some good results? Should I use the cane or a punishment or a heavy hand? Oh, no! I cannot act like that, I assure you, because I desire for my Son to be loved and served with love and because you too must imitate me in your behaviour. I will always be a good Teacher, indulgent, merciful, however, I will always require from you a minimum of good will so that the lessons may bring benefit and for those desired transformations to come about in you.

What's the value of you knowing the Decalogue and the Two Commandments of Charity by heart, when in you were to be lacking the practice of this virtue without which one does not enter Paradise. What's the value of you knowing what the theological virtues are — faith, hope and charity —, which you received in Baptism, if you neglected to cultivate them, to make them grow and to spread them? What's the value of you knowing the cardinal

virtues so necessary to live a Christian life, if you were imprudent, unjust with your neighbour, full of human respect and made gluttony your aim?

In this way you might know the Gospel by heart and all of Christian asceticism, but you will never be able to say that you have learned my lessons if you do not learn to imitate Jesus Christ so well as to become an almost perfect copy of him. It is true that it is hard to ascend directly up to Him and to reach his stature, but it is exactly in order to make the way easy for you that the Divine Teacher gave you me as Teacher.

I speak like you, I pray like you, I work like you, I study, love and live like you, if you wish to reproduce me! What a great thing when my instrument says to you: We are all equal. I also want to say it to you, but I desire that you make me equal to you by imitating me. Therefore, whatever you do, interrogate me and ask yourselves: "How does our Teacher want us to behave? What does she want from us?". Perhaps I might want you punctilious and haughty? Perhaps quarrellers and fault finders? Perhaps so taken in by your ego as to always seek yourselves?

What pain they give me those who always want to find a justification for their actions or accusations they receive, always ready to put the blame on others. They resemble those little children who, having soiled their little garment and interrogated so: "*Who made you dirty?*", promptly reply: "*Mummy*". How useful silence would be for personal perfection and family peace! To accept a rebuke and a humiliation for God's sake is like taking refuge in the heart of Jesus in order to be helped and defended by Him.

So, if every time that you listen to some thought that can seem to do you good, you grasp it and with joy you make it your own in order to draw some benefit, you will make this Mother and Teacher of yours happy, who has your good as her aim. It is true that you must communicate to others the beautiful divine lessons that you receive, but how will you be able to make those truths fully understood if you do not translate them into practice?

The men of this world, so carried away by materialism, do not believe in the extraordinary. Many put into doubt not only the miracles worked by Jesus during his mortal life, but also those that continually occur at Lourdes and in the other places of apparitions. If however, you present to them a man who lives holily, then they will be lead more to believe.

You have your role to carry out, and by your way of living your brethren must verify in you the highest consistency between what you say and what you do, between your faith and morals.

Never forget this lesson, its practice will have a great effect on the heart of God and on his brethren.

I bless you, dear children. To all and to each one I offer my arm as a support and my heart as a refuge.

See you again, children. Peace and grace.

ZEAL FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD

June 25, 1974

My children so dear to my heart, peace and grace and every good be to you. You are here to spend in prayer and in the encounter with God a period of time. In this world everything comes to an end and after the prayer you will return to your homes.

I would like for your face to be luminous like the face of Moses when on the mountain he spoke with God and I would like for your hearts to be full of joy like that of the pious women who, after having seen the empty tomb, for Jesus had risen, met Him on the way and went to announce the good news to the apostles: "We have seen the Lord." Yes, make this encounter with Heaven more and more lively, more and more desired, so that the fruits may be more and more visible and abundant.

Today I wish to give you a little reference to a Gospel passage. Jesus with his apostles had gone to the house of his friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Lazarus was among the table companions, Martha was serving and Mary, having taken a big vase of precious ointment, poured it over Jesus' feet perfuming his whole body. Judas, who was present, pointed out the waste and said that that ointment could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. In reality it was only the egoism that was speaking in him, for he was stingy and a thief. Well then, Jesus approved that gesture of the Magdalene and let her do it remembering in that moment his burial.

I know that some, rather many amongst my children who come not only to this chapel but also to the Church, find sometimes superfluous what is done in order to make my house and the house of God attractive and adorned with valuable things. Permit me that I may act like my Jesus and give my approval to those who care for the decorum of the house of God.

Of every temple of Christendom one ought to be able to say that it is the gate of Heaven, for in it resides He who from all eternity lives and who in Paradise forms the delight of the

saints, while in the Tabernacle He dwells as the divine Guest in order to be for his children, food, companion and victim.

If my Jesus took up the rod in order to chase out of the Temple those who profaned it, with the same authority He could chase out from the numerous churches, where the Most Holy Sacrament is kept, those who with a bad behaviour lack in devotion and in respect for the holy place.

I would like to beg you to always mark every place of prayer from those others places through that cleanliness and through that devotion that you bring with you. Allow me to invite you, each one as much as possible, to take care of all that becomes common use, considering every object as a thing that the Lord puts at your disposal.

In a few days a great number of you will leave the city to go some to the mountains others to the sea. Perhaps where you will go you might find poor churches, where the indispensable for the divine worship might be lacking. Perhaps soiled towels, torn laces. The lamp that must burn before the Most Holy might be replaced by a little lamp that expresses the constant love poorly, the dust on the benches and on the altars might denote a general neglectfulness. I would like for all of you to transform yourselves into so many Martha's and to be truly Mary, who, not begrudging work and not even some expense, were to make the Lord happy.

I give you another suggestion. I see that here you behave well in the manner of dressing and I see with regret that when you go somewhere else to get some fresh air, more than often you forget to be Christians. Well then, I will give it to you as homework and I promise you health in return: guard your body, maintaining that modesty that is so pleasing to my Jesus.

I see my altar constantly adorned with flowers, which testify your love to me and I am sure that you know how to do a lot in order to make me happy.

Order and personal cleanliness must mirror the interior order. The order and the cleanliness of your churches must mirror your faith and your love. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Church is the house of God and the place of encounter of the people of God with Him. All must be dear to you. You must not save your perfumes for the day of burial, but with the good odour of Christ you must perfume his tabernacles, in view of the final encounter with Him in the eternal tabernacles.

And now I bless you all embracing you and saying to each one: may the zeal for the house of God devour you. I will be pleased for all that you will do up to holding dear and precious

the small bunch of field flowers that you will bring to some little chapel that you might encounter on the way. Do not deny me anything, I will repay you in a royal way.

BRING EVERYWHERE GOOD FRUITS

June 26, 1974

Dear and beloved children, I am so happy to be at this encounter of love and of parting. An encounter of love, because you will continue to honour me with the recitation of the Rosary and you will continue to call souls around you; of parting, because several of you will move away from this parish to go to places of rest.

I want to remind you of a Gospel passage in which there is divine wisdom, so that you may have a holy fear of God wherever you go and so that you bring everywhere good fruits. "Be on your guard against false prophets, who present themselves to you as lambs and are ravenous wolves." Perhaps in the hours that you spend in the company of other persons, discourses might be tabled not always good and devoid of errors. Learn to keep the Law of God in sight, and those teachings so precious that were given to you in these encounters, make them return to your mind so that you do not become victims of the evil one.

Reserve some time to prayer and to good reading, so that Jesus, who must live constantly in your heart through grace, can find that even in the rest of your body you produce fruits of eternal life.

Remember that deed so meaningful of the life of my Son. He was walking with the apostles along a country road and was hungry. He approached a fig-tree and sought a fruit. But He found only leaves. Then He cursed that tree, which withered immediately.

Jesus is always hungry for good fruits, and at any hour, in any day, He can approach souls and ask for some. Never let it occur for you to be like that tree rich only with leaves. They are leaves those prayers that do not mature into a true conversion that leads to perfection. They are leaves those works that do not have the glory of God and the good of souls in sight. Behave so that Jesus does not have to repeat that tremendous phrase, which is a reality for many: *"Every tree that does not produce fruit shall be broken up and be burnt in the eternal fire."*

With my wishes so that you may have truly good holidays, accept my invitation: Wherever you go, bring the example of an ardent, sincere and constant faith. Wherever you go, exercise charity towards all those whom you approach. Wherever you go, make yourselves felt that you are souls headed towards Heaven, in which your hope resides.

I bless you all, whoever leaves and whoever remains.

If one cannot leave, what does it matter? Health or sickness is in the hands of God.

ON THE FEAST OF THE HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

June 29, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you. I enjoy seeing you still here in order to celebrate two great saints who have given prestige to the Church of God. And since the saints are like shining stars that sparkle in the sky to illuminate the way of those who are wayfarers on earth, I want to point out to you a moment of their life so that the teaching that comes to you from them be a help to you.

I remind you of Peter's bitter tears of sorrow after his perjury, in order to tell everyone how necessary and useful sorrow for one's sins is, which sometimes gives back baptismal innocence to the soul. So wept Peter, so the Magdalene.

Even if Confession is necessary as means to obtain the remission of sins, weeping over them and feeling a true compunction is the best preparation to obtain a total pardon that can concern also the penalty. It is a jubilee for the repented soul who detests his sins, which can be renewed many times also.

If the falling again into sin is a mark of weakness, truly repenting oneself is a mark of trust in the goodness of God, above all if you turn to Him with a firm intention. Always have this determination to change life, to start again after every fall your ascent, in order to be able to find my welcoming arm that it may support you and help you.

Moreover, I want to recall to you another episode of Peter's life. He had been jailed and chained at Jerusalem and around him had been placed a good four pickets of four persons each. Peter was praying, and the community that he had left was ardently beseeching God so that he could be freed. God granted these fervent prayers and sent an angel who, having loosened the chains and opened the doors, allowed Peter to go out.

Children, the Supreme Pontiff is the successor of Peter. He however, finds himself many times chained by the multiple difficulties that his Magisterium demands. How will you be able to help this new Peter? Only fervent and communal prayer, only your fidelity and your encouragement, which comes from your obedience, will be of a help to him.

Peter was amazed at what was happening and did not know how to believe in a reality that seemed a vision to him. The present Pontiff also must feel himself helped extraordinarily by the prayers of all Christianity faithful to him. You are a part of the Pope's militia. Renew your intentions, so that, carrying out that programme that has been fixed for you from above, you can truly be militant soldiers in the Church of Christ.

And now I recall to you a phrase that Paul, the apostle of the nations, was able to give as testament in a letter that he wrote to Timothy when he felt that his own life was at the end: "*I have fought my battle, I have finished the race, I have preserved the faith.*" So said Paul, but it seems to me that each one of you ought to be able to assert these truths in order to be able to present yourself joyfully before the Supreme Judge.

"I fought." Truly life is a battle. The forces of evil assail from every side and whoever wishes to be victorious cannot be lazy or take life superficially. One always needs to be strong, always attentive. In fact, Jesus said: "*Watch, because you do not know neither the hour nor the day.*" "*Watch and pray in order not to fall into temptation.*"

"I have finished the race", you also will say. The life of man is a competition, which must be carried out with courage between good and evil, between good and best. Many obstacles are interposed, which would like to hinder good, but one needs to have courage. One needs to keep the destination present and want to get there at any cost. He who falls by the way and sits down is a coward.

One has to have trust in God, in neighbour and in oneself in order to continue on promptly and surely. Never say that your life has been or is a failure. What apparent failure and more resounding than that of Jesus and his apostles? Every defeat must reinvigorate the hope of getting there and of being able to succeed in that good that you propose yourselves to do. Many times from the defeats blossoms that humility which assures final victory, the most important one.

And finally: "*I have kept the faith.*" Many attack it and play at manipulating the Commandments and the Creed as they please. No, children, keep your faith intact. It is the precious pearl that Jesus taught you to acquire and to preserve at the price of losing all the rest. Learn to increase it by exercising it. Learn to spread it, by showing its practise in your everyday life. When one has a true faith all is bearable, sacrifice is not heavy and the cross becomes truly a gift.

If the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul are well understood by you, it will bring fruits of grace to you and to others.

I bless you all one by one. I bless your loved ones, your priests and your sick. See you again, children, and every good to you.

CALL TO THE FAITH, CALL TO GRACE

June 30, 1974

Dear and beloved children, I am constantly with you, desirous of doing you some good and to help you in all.

I am the Virgin of Vocations and I go about calling souls so that they may become followers of my Jesus. I call them to the faith, to the life of grace and perfection.

To the faith I call also by means of some of your brethren, who, leaving family and country, sail the oceans in order to bring the announcement of the good news to other nations.

For you the call to the faith has been the gift of the first hour. Some have persevered in the faith, they have responded to the call. Others, at a dangerous turning-point, that is, when they ran into some difficulties either in boyhood or even in middle age, perhaps after marriage, have neglected the incomparable gift of the faith and at a certain point became aware that they no longer believe. It is sometimes a scandal seen or undergone, other times it is a process of things that drag so to say along a slope. One begins first by neglecting prayer, then the Mass, then one does not think about Christian practice as to a duty of love but as to a restriction that takes away freedom, and a repugnance occurs in souls that is transmuted very quickly into rebellion. Some of you also have passed along this way; but my Jesus continues with his persistent calls, which I accompany with motherly tenderness, and behold the returns to the faith.

If he who does not believe because he has not known the truth, the revelation, above all the Gospel, were to reflect, even alone by reason he could ascend up to the existence of God. It would be enough to look at the sun or the greening of the plants in spring or the admirable mechanism of the human body to be persuaded that things so perfect could not subsist without an almighty Creator who, having given life, preserves everything. But for whoever possessed this precious pearl that is the faith and has lost it through neglectfulness, or because living without the thought of God is more convenient, behold again the most diligent work of grace. Our Jesus, truly the Good Shepherd, goes in search of the lost sheep.

Every person here present has his own story of faith, of sorrow, of doubt and of despondency to tell. From the moment in which you have come here, you have had a special call to rebuild what you had lost, to be strengthened and to continue on confidently making

the faith your strength. There are mothers and fathers who grieve over their children who have lost the faith. Perhaps not all have had the care to deepen the principles of the faith so that it would not be purely superficial and external. What ought you do now? You ought to regain the lost ground and with goodness, with serenity and with charity you ought to bring your issues on to the religious field, after having asked God for help with prayer.

If a mother has to give life to her children, she must not forget that life is a union of soul and body. In the same way with which she worries over nourishing the body of her child, she ought to nourish also the soul and her words must be the means. It is indispensable that he who must give must possess. What will a mother give who does not live on faith, on prayer, on Christian practise?

Unfortunately many families are disunited, others are heading towards divorce, others still have a hell ahead. One grieves but too late, for, if the religion, the thought of God and his love had united the two spouses right from the first day of marriage, the devil would not have entered into so many homes. But the young are usually preoccupied with preserving passion and beauty. These are fleeting things since, being human, they pass away; that's how it comes about that one lacks fidelity, courage and one is inconstant.

Faith is a fortress, it is a rock that gives resistance in the struggles of life and in the dangerous diverse encounters. As long as there is life one can retrace one's steps and re-establish the order between the creature and his Creator. This is the second call, that of grace. Sin seems an act that gives liberty and joy, while it makes one slave of oneself and of others. To place one's miseries in the heart of God and start a regular life in the fulfilment of God's Commandments and the duties of one's state, is responding to the call of Him who said: "I have a water, the drinking of which one no longer has thirst forever."

To you who come here at my feet to weep and to pray, I persistently make the call of God felt, of which I am the echo: Be converted, leave those miseries to which you attach the mind, the heart, the body. Here you will quench your thirst and grace will flood your soul with joy so as to make you feel happy. One cannot be happy living in sin, because it leaves a bitterness in the mouth that with difficulty can be taken out. Sin brings dissatisfaction and sadness, when it does not bring incurable physical illnesses.

You are here, children, and it seems to me I hear from your mouths numerous complaints. You are husbands, children, wives, mother in-laws or daughter in-laws. You all groan and sigh because you see your desires unrealized and you see yourselves as immersed in a sea of woes. And yet you are all called to happiness. Happiness per essence is Him who knows no shadow of sadness. Children, fill yourselves up with God if you wish to be happy. All your misfortunes, try to see them with the eyes of faith, bear with them in the grace of God, offer

them to Him out of love, and joy will fill your days. I know that many persons present have had this experience and rejoice over it like over a marvellous discovery. Try it all of you. I am near you and I help you blessing you.

HAVE FAITH, HAVE TRUST

July 2, 1974

Beloved children, I give you a brief thought that is to be an encouragement and help to you in the tormented events of your lives. I am the Mother of Holy Hope.

I want to recall to you a Gospel passage that suits you also. Jesus had climbed aboard a boat with some apostles. Jesus was sleeping and the boat had gone far out, when a great storm arose and the waves threatened to capsize it. The apostles called the Teacher because they were afraid. Jesus got up, commanded the wind and the waves and a great calm came about. The apostles, even though they knew Him, said amongst themselves: Who is this man whom all things obey? But Jesus had told them: *“People of little faith, what are you afraid of?”*

Look, it seems to me that for many of you the same event is repeated. It is said that one believes, one knows that, living in the grace of God, the Lord is the guest of the soul, one knows that directing the fate of the world and of souls is the Lord, and yet at the first setback one no longer believes, one doubts; you worry yourselves like those who are submerged by the worries and by the things of the world, up to losing peace and being afraid of everything. But where is your trust? Where is your strength? Where are the intentions that you have made a short time ago, of wanting to be all mine and of Jesus? Does it not seem to you that one ought to foresee the tempests, prepare oneself for them and arm oneself with prayer? The sea cannot always be calm, but also its agitations are an image of the fluctuations of life. However great they are, your trials never exceed your strength. If you abandon yourselves in God, it is He who defends you and who brings you to salvation.

Sometimes your complaints become blasphemous. While you forget all the benefits with which He has filled you and with which He surrounds you every day, you weep and you despair over that thing that is denied to you and you do not think that the far-seeing wisdom of God denies you that grace only because it is not advantageous for you.

Know that God is always attentive, always vigilant, always leaning towards souls in order to help them in all the necessities, even when you say that He sleeps. Have faith, have patience, have trust. Learn to keep grace and, even if the difficulties are stormy and

treacherous like the rough sea, a word or an act of the will of God will be enough to resolve them.

I am the Star of the Sea. I have passed through all the woes which you complain of, because I have felt your sorrows reverberate in my heart. If you turn to me, I act as your anchor of salvation. It is true that many of you only ask for graces of conversion and of salvation. But does it not seem to you that these things, more than anything else, are dear to me? Let us ask for them together therefore, without doubting and without losing hope and calm.

I bless you all, one by one. You are and will be mine forever.

THE HOLY FEAR OF GOD

July 10, 1974 (in a private house)

My children, while it is given to you to admire the beauty of creation and to see through it the marvellous wisdom and goodness of God, do not forget to raise up your hymn of thanksgiving to Him who gave rise to everything. Do not even forget to thank for the healthy air that He gives you and for the sun that makes the earth fruitful and warm, giving with his light splendour and gaiety to everything.

But let it not seem out place to you that, as I invite you to sing praises to God the Creator, I show Him to you also as a harsh Judge, whereby the fear of Him may have a deep root in your hearts.

Too much frivolity reigns everywhere, and I am not talking about the wickedness and the slime that fills homes, cities, beaches and all places of the world. I am talking about the frivolity in which many practising Christians live whereby nothing is done in the service of God with that thoroughness, with that promptness and with that love that He desires. They spend days and years in coldness and, mixing good and evil, turn their life into a very miserable offering for God, while they are not an edification for the brethren.

That holy fear, which I desire to infuse into my children, must be like the fuse that, giving fire and strength to the mine, makes the masses of indifference and incredulity fall that are interposed between a lacklustre life and a fervent life. These masses having fallen, the vision of Heaven that awaits you will be more open. If one looks up above, it is true, one can only see a Father full of tenderness for his children, moreover, a holy fear of God will take over the soul and the desire to serve Him in the best way will make enthusiasts of one's faith.

Neither cold nor hot, are many practising Christians, ready to excuse their short-comings and to see false lights. If the masses will fall, one will see better how much the redemption has cost my divine Son and with sentiments of true piety and great fear, use will be made of the sacraments, of those prodigious seven channels of grace that are destined to sanctify men.

With joy, with love and with trembling every Christian ought to take part at every act of worship.

It is the Lord who presents himself to you veiled by the sacramental species. They are his words that are communicated to the people of God; his words that are Spirit and life. My Jesus says in the Gospel: "Not one iota of what I have said to you will be lost." No, they will not be lost in the centuries, but how many words listened to with indifference, without respect and not practised by these children who call themselves Christians! Fear, therefore, God who passes by. He knocks at the door of your heart and He desires to turn you into fervent souls in search of the supernatural, in search of the truth.

How much I rejoice when simple and fearing souls learn to gather the loving invitation and, as they re-awaken the faith, propose to employ their lives better! Everything changes in these souls! It is like discovering new lands, new stars in the sky, new atoms in the air and in the water. It is a joy that grows out of all proportion and makes one fly in the way of good, makes one progress in virtue. The fear of offending God becomes a brake in the rush, a return to oneself in order to humble oneself before God and to ask for help to persevere.

Holy and blessed is that house where souls enthusiastic for good, for the beautiful and the holy, make relive again in an atmosphere of serenity and of joy the peace of the family of Nazareth. Blessed are those mothers who like living lamps know how to keep the flame of faith alive and communicate it to others. Blessed are those families in which, in a contest of unselfishness and generosity all go out of their way for the happiness and wellbeing of others. The fear of God will be the means to obtain the good base, the firm and solid foundation of that Christianity that like rock must resist the fury of the winds and the tempests.

I bless this house and this building. Preserve the peace in each family and between all families. Edify by example those who are lapsed. May love unite you and make you humble in accepting those admonitions that each one can give to others as long as they are always based on charity. The delight of my Jesus, who preferred the company of men to that of the angels of Heaven, is to dwell with them. Make your home a place of my delights and of my Jesus, to the glory of the Father. May the Spirit of the Lord be always upon you!

THE GIFT OF SPEECH

July 11, 1974

My children, amongst the miracles performed by Jesus during his earthly life, there are those of giving speech to the mute, and I take advantage of it in order to draw out for you a practical teaching that may be useful and a guide to you.

If you are mothers, you have the joy of seeing your children learn the first words and you rejoice in making them repeat the sweet name of mummy or that of daddy, which you consider proper and easy to learn. Do not forget however, that above the natural paternity and maternity stands the spiritual one, stands that of God who has care of souls and who has the management of bodies, for everything comes from Him.

Therefore, let the mothers and fathers learn to make their children understand the existence of a superior Being to whom all must and to whom they must direct with their words the first acts of love. What sorrow mute children bring to their mothers! What sorrow those little creatures bring to my heart who do not know how to pray, to love, to direct their thought to God because no one has taught them to do these little duties!

Language is not a thing that one learns in an instant; but it is a continuous exercise, the repeating many times the same expressions, the same words, hastens this capacity to speak. If the children were to grow up in surroundings without sounds, with mute persons, they would not learn to speak, at the most only guttural sounds would come out of their mouths. What sorrow it would be to live in such a surrounding!

Children, imagine the world with its inhabitants. Close your eyes and ears for a moment and imagine the Father who, stretching out towards humanity, were to understand only the insignificant sounds because all his children do not know how to call Him, how to invoke Him. If the heart of a mother or of a father can suffer through that missing communication that comes from speech, consider what God's sorrow can be, who would like to be invoked in order to run to the aid of all, and sees his children forgetful of Him and mute, so as not to know how to pray.

The healing of the mute by Jesus must suggest thoughts of gratitude for the gift of speech. It must also propose a question to you ever so simple and it must be an encouragement to you to make some intention. How do I use this wonderful gift of God that makes me different from all other creatures?

Every creature has his language and, alongside the canary that sings and the nightingale that warbles, also the horse that neighs and the donkey that brays all express in their language a praise to God and a hymn to his magnificence.

And man, how does he use the word, the song? Does he not perhaps resemble that spider which, forgetting that its life is attached to a thread that descends from the branch, gets entangled in it and perishes? Speech is the human expression of intelligence, and why not make use of it to thank, to sing, to praise God? It is great ingratitude not to do so, but it is even worse to make use of the tongue to offend God and neighbour. Certainly, it would be better to be mute rather to make use of a gift of God to offend Him.

Children, may every day arise from your lips, the hymn of praise to the Creator of everything; and for your speech to be used to gladden his heart and the hearts of all the brethren, in the hope that, having become a hymn of praise, it may be protracted in Heaven for eternity.

I AM LAVISH WITH MEANS

July 16, 1974

Beloved children and so dear to me, peace and joy be to your hearts. I am the Queen of Heaven who, appearing on Mount Carmel to the holy monk Simon, gave a pledge of holiness and salvation in that little blessed habit that I desired to be worn by all the faithful Christians.

You have come to honour me and you have wanted to congratulate yourselves for the name day of your spiritual mother, and I rejoice with you and I join with you in presenting wishes of holiness, happiness and health to her. I desire however, to extend these wishes to all those who, being particularly devoted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, like to carry on their persons a distinctive sign of that devotion.

Mothers are always thoughtful of giving to their children something that serves to remember them, and that is a precious sign that serves to keep them from the dangers. I am a real Mother, that's why through the centuries I went about always giving to my children some object that was to be a call to the truths of the faith, or even to serve to remind them of my power and the desire that I have to favour them with divine graces.

And what are you thinking about when you see me with open arms and with hands that emanate luminous rays if not that I am waiting for you beside me to fill you with graces? And when I offer you a crown, what are you thinking about if not that I am waiting for you

in Heaven to crown you with glory? If then you want to know what I wanted to mean with that little habit that I gave to Simon Stock, look, I will explain it to you: I wanted for all men, to practice chastity according to their state and to clothe their person with the habit of penance, so as to be able to preserve grace, and with my protection arrive happily in Paradise.

It is the anxiety to see you all saved that makes me lavish with means, which seem puerile to the wise of the earth, but which in my mind and through the grace of God have a phenomenal power so as to be the effective means of salvation. Now men reject almost completely these gifts, and I intervene again and give out others. I use other means, other instruments and I make myself personally present to address my word to you. This must be my call.

What would be the worth for a mother to make some precious gifts if they were to be relegated to a drawer? What would be the worth for the Mother to offer the gifts of love of her heart if the children were to reject them? This is why I rejoice in you coming here, whatever the motive may be that brings you here, I address my teachings to you, which ought to be like the precious pearls which the mother adorns her daughter with.

You are souls dear to me, whom I keep on bringing up day by day in order to prepare you for the encounter with the King. Be proud of letting yourselves be adorned and guided. Act so that none of these pearls be lost. Just as I promised to Simon that whoever would have worn the little habit would be saved, just as I promised to Dominic many graces with the recitation of the Rosary and to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco eternal salvation through the recitation of the Rosary, so I promise to you that, if you will treasure my teachings, you will reach perfection and great sanctity.

Be faithful to your gatherings and do not distance yourselves except for real necessity. To whoever assiduously and faithfully prays to me in this place, I promise also physical health especially to the men who, after putting themselves in the grace of God, will come here to honour me.

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and now I bless you all and I promise you to give much relief to the souls of your loved ones who are still in Purgatory. The Queen of Carmel is like that white little cloud that, breaking up into refreshing rain, goes to relieve the holy souls who await to soar towards the Heaven of glory, and I enjoy performing this liberation.

I would like to give to all a flower to signify my gratitude for what you do here and elsewhere; it is enough that I fill your hearts with love, so as to make it a white and warm cradle for my Child Jesus.

See you again, children! May Mount Carmel be a call for you to raise thoughts and affections up to reaching the most unheard of heights.

IN THE HEART OF GOD PERFECT PEACE

July 17, 1974

Beloved children, here you are, full of faith and love, to receive my word and my blessing. I am your Mother and what can I desire except to bless you and to counsel you? One day Jesus said: *“No one comes to the Father unless the Father calls him.”* You are the lucky ones who have received this call. You have received the gift of faith and, with it, you have understood the ugliness of sin and the nothingness of the things of this world.

I rejoice with you and I say to you: love your faith. Let it always be simple, limpid, pure like the water that descends from the glaciers and flows amongst the stones. The stones of life you also know them. Oh, if you know them! They are the difficulties more and more numerous that are being created everywhere. They are the conflicts, the disorders, the wicked actions. But just as the waters that descend from the mountains overcome the stones, so you with the help of faith overcome all that could hamper your journey as Christians towards perfection. There will come a day in which you will no longer need to believe, because all will be reality and you will see. Well then, act so that as of now with the eyes of faith you are able to see.

The world sails in a sea of mud. Sin is, so to say, legalised and whoever does not commit it is classified as mad and ignorant like those who do not know how to live. Take no notice of what the world says. Keep grace in your heart. Who does it seem to you can live well? He who sins or he who lives in the grace of God? He who enjoys himself or he who lives a Christian life?

Children, another small thing I want to tell you. Most of the crosses are fabricated by men themselves. It is sometimes the loss of things that embitter them, the loss of persons, of affections. They are the disappointments that afflict their hearts, because they discover defects and selfishness in those who are around them.

Well then, children, act so that your heart may find peace only in the heart of my Jesus, and all the rest will leave you indifferent because Jesus will have wonderful gifts to give you, gifts that will fill you with joy and satisfy you with everything. The heart of man is made for God and only in Him finds perfect peace. There will come a day that you will have to leave by force; act so that this parting does not come about unexpectedly on that day, but prepare yourselves gradually, day by day and out of love.

Children, I bless you all, also those of your group who are absent and whom I would have so desired to see here. I bless your priests and all the priest, for whom you pray and will pray for more and more intensely in your gatherings. Love each other, make allowances, help each other and make my word your joy. When you arrive in your city, you will greet my presence in that immense shrine which I would like always bubbling over with souls. Be calm, I love you and I am near to you even when you do not feel me.

See you again, children.

I WANT YOU BEARERS OF PEACE

July 21, 1974

Children, peace be to your hearts now and always; and may you be able to bring this precious gift everywhere, which is not the fruit of indifferent or apathetic characters, is not remaining in idleness, but is the fruit of that harmony that must direct your interior life. In fact, you will be able to enjoy a great serenity and interior peace even if on the outside a turbulent world will come to take away that silence and that quiet that ought to be seen to contribute to the realization of peace.

The peace that I give you is the fruit of the good conscience and it is also the fruit of the continuous struggle against him who wants to annihilate it in souls and in the word.

There is like a sanctuary inside you that you must defend from enemy assaults and from those who want to deconsecrate it. Therefore, when you feel that the thoughts turn your intimate abode into a market place, stop for a moment, turn to me. I will dissipate, like a wonderful miracle, the fog and the disorder and I will bring you serenity and light.

I want you bearers of peace, but no one can give what he does not possess. The world is formed by souls in torment, anxious to have something that is impossible to reach, and families are like shattered by a tempest that tends to disunite and to destroy, with the most sacred affections, that harmony that is its consequence. You bring peace everywhere. Learn to communicate it, preserving your serenity.

One reads in the Gospel that Jesus, being the guest of Martha and of Mary, had to give a sweet rebuke to Martha who wanted to take Mary away from her attentive attitude to the divine word and prayer; but in how many homes ought He to make the same rebuke to many persons who, all occupied in human things, even if good, forget the important task of listening to the Lord and of speaking with Him.

To you who, in this hospitable house, come to draw the strength that comes to you from prayer, this task. I do not say to you that you must exempt yourselves from the work and the actions that are a part of your activity, but that you try to make understood to all those who surround you that, to endorse the action, prayer is needed and that to Jesus, who experiences his delight in dwelling amongst the sons of men, one must make room in families, granting Him that hospitality that He desires, and listening to his word.

Bearers of peace, be therefore: in workplaces, in offices and where the situations of life bring you to be present. *“Be witnesses of that peace that I came to bring into the world”*, says Jesus. No compromises, no smiles of approval, no open acceptance of evil, but that delicate disapproval of evil that derives from uprightness in the way of doing.

Children, I bless you and I help you. Do not take my words as things to forget quickly; make a commitment and it will be my concern to hear you in your desires.

Have a good time, happy holidays to all. Do good everywhere, since he who wishes to do evil does not measure the sacrifices.

WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD

July 23, 1974

Beloved children, I am with you. I am the Queen of the divine will. I desire to make you know better and better what the will of God is in your regard, so that by observing it you may be able to become more and more perfect and thus reach Paradise, which is your real homeland.

The Lord, in his infinite goodness and in his infinite love, for He is love by essence, after having created man, who was to enjoy the wonders of creation as king, submitted him to a test. Unfortunately pride led him to disobedience and to impurity whereby it was no longer possible to preserve that order, that harmony, that peace of which man ought to have enjoyed, and that was the will of God.

Having ruptured the relationship with his Creator, the creature had to undergo the consequences of sin; consequences that are perpetuated throughout the centuries, even if the redemption performed by the Son of God made man has given to men the means to be rehabilitated. The life of man remains however, a trial to be overcome by responding to God's love, by observing his Law in order to reach his beatific vision.

If there had been no sin, men, after having lived on earth for a period of time conversing with God and loving Him, even if it had not been possible for them to be able to see Him visibly, God being pure spirit and they, being clothed with a body of flesh, would have reached Him as eternal reward, after having enjoyed ineffable joys even in the world, which ought to have been a terrestrial paradise. Like a cloudburst, falling upon a garden in flower, having the capacity to destroy everything, so that everything may be formed from a pile of dry twigs, sin ruined God's plan and destroyed the eternal and human happiness for which man had been created.

Man was not, however, abandoned by God, who, sending his Son, re-established that bond of love and gave to men the means to rebuild those precious virtues that had already been sown like flowers in the vineyards that He himself would have cultivated. He restored the lost powers and gave to men the possibility to hope, to believe and to reach the destination.

The terrestrial garden was to be the house of love; love of God and mutual love. The redemption was to be the means to redo this earthly paradise in the love of God and neighbour. This, and nothing else, is the will of God. All must converge to the attainment of this aim that must make God live again in the midst of men through charity.

How will I explain to you, children, in simple words what you have to do in order to be saved? How must you collaborate to the restoration of the Kingdom of God on earth? There is no other way than this: to re-establish order, to bring back love through the observance of the Law.

When I see each one of you in the exercise of your duties and I see the most varied consequences, I admire the wisdom of God who, through the study and the inclination of each one, gives to all a way to make themselves useful to their brethren. No one can be sufficient to himself, and nobody is useless on this earth, for there are mysteries hidden in human life, whereby even persons who in appearance seem to vegetate, insensitive to life or unconscious, have an importance in the life of the world through that soul that they possess, which grows continually in grace and gives its greatness as a gift also to others.

When with love a person performs his duty, assigned to him by a mission or by a particular state of life, or goes out of his way for the strangers whom he accepts as brethren, then he realizes the will of the Father, who so wanted to be called exactly so that the children, considering themselves brethren, were to love each other. When you therefore, ask yourselves: "What is the will of God in my regard?", I reply to you: God desires for you be his mouthpieces in the world and for you, in the fulfilment of your duties, to sow charity.

How much I rejoice thinking over that Gospel event in which my Jesus, called by some because his mother and his brethren were seeking Him, turning to his disciples who were listening to Him, answered: *“Who are my mother, my brother and my sister?”*, and hinting at them: *“Here is my mother, my brother and my sister: they are those who do the will of God.”*

I would like for everyone here present to ask themselves in what way they observe the divine will, in what way they lean to perfection and to salvation. The will of God is synonymous with happiness. Having lost earthly happiness with sin, one can regain the peace of heart and the serenity through the sacraments, which are a pledge of the future happiness. Whoever lives with these thoughts will not be disturbed much by the loss of what is human.

The life of grace, which brings the Lord in you as a sweet guest, makes one enjoy everything as if all were a great good. Even the trials of life, sickness and death, take on a divine aspect; everything in the will of God assumes a delicious aspect, like the firmament which, if looked at during the night, ravishes the heart in the magnificence of the stars and the planets that illuminate it.

Children, let there be only one desire in you, that of loving God, of serving Him in creatures and of reaching Him in order to sing his glory forever.

I bless you all and I love you.

BE ANGELS OF GOODNESS

July 28, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. See, I am with you. I am your Mother, Queen of the Angels, and what do I desire from you, what do I want to give you? I desire from you a determined will to be good and I want to see you as angels amongst men.

You are going through the month dedicated to the most precious Blood and you are preparing to spend that month that recalls some of my great feasts. Well then, if the Precious Blood of Jesus was the means to open the gates of Heaven shut by sin, I wish to be your guide so that living holily you may be able to reach Heaven. The angels are on my orders, after the orders of God, and I desire that they more than ever be at your service. I am your Mother and their Queen, and a common action must guide your souls.

How hard it is to exercise goodness in the midst of so much selfishness, which the hearts of men are full of! And yet goodness must triumph. Generosity must overcome meanness, pride

must be overcome by humility, conflicts must be settled and the wicked must yield before the meekness, the sweetness and the charity of the good.

Do you wish to follow me in these desires of mine? It does not matter that you are few. I look at you one by one, I love you all and I want to fill your heart with goodness. Goodness is like that continual and silent drop that has the capacity to dig out the stone. One cannot resist and put barriers before the true good man for long.

You, mother, believe that all is useless; you have tried all means to touch the hearts of your children and you see them without faith and without love. No, do not doubt. Be good, persevere in prayer and in offering up your tears. When least you expect it the grace arrives. Do not be afraid of having wasted time and sacrifices. Nothing is lost.

You, father, who after having mistaken everything have amended and would like for your family to be sorted out again be good, continue to pray, to hope and to love; I promise you that you will have your family back. You must be patient. Just as you have made God and your loved ones suffer, it is fair that you also pay something, at least in much patience and goodness.

And you, son, who have had so much haste and let yourself be guided by the senses and by feeling, not taking into account your responsibilities and the Law of God, weep also over your failure and let your mistake serve for the future. Learn to be good with that real goodness that comes from God and is justice, observance of the Law and fidelity to one's duties.

How many unwanted creatures, children of sin, who will not be able to look the father and the mother in the eyes and who will be a continuous remorse for them!

So you, daughter, who selfishly seek only yourself and forget the needs of your family members. They are your first neighbour, even if they do not give you those satisfactions that you go seeking elsewhere.

Be good, children, good like angels. In the midst of a world that only understands carnal pleasures and does not ask God — if even they turn to Him — except to be well, ask to live detached from everything, and so longing for the things of the spirit as to no longer feel the weight of the flesh. I send you my angels, listen to them!

It is true that sometimes your body, weighed down by the aches and pains of age and by bad circulation, makes serenity hard for you. This however, does not prevent you from being good. If you do not make your sufferings a burden for others and learn to offer them up, you

will feel them less. I will help you. How many times I have cured persons that sickness truly made repugnant.

Be good with everyone, especially with the sick of your house. If you were to understand the utility of a good word, of a smile or of a service rendered to a sick person, you would go in search of them as for precious pearls. How many times souls lapsed from the faith have made a good death through that loving assistance with which they were surrounded. Be angels of goodness and you will be happy in your heart, since for every act of goodness, made in the grace of God, a transfusion of divine blood comes about in you that increases your faith, grace and strength.

I love you, children, and I desire from you to be able to say to the Father what Abraham said to the Lord. It dealt with saving a city and Abraham went on submitting his question to God: *“If there were to be fifty good, will You pardon?”* *“Yes, I will pardon.”* *“And if there were to be forty five, would You for the sake of those five wicked ones not pardon?”* *“I will pardon.”* *“And if there were to be thirty, or twenty or ten, Lord, will You pardon?”* *“Yes, I will pardon.”*

Well then, children, I would like for your prayer group to be that nucleus of good ones to be able to present to the Father for Him to have mercy on the world. Do not disappoint me, start from today. Let your goodness show through your face as to make one think of angels.

I bless you all and I embrace you one by one. I thank those who wanted to illuminate my face; I will be light to their minds and fire to their hearts.

See you again, children!

HOW WILL YOU BEHAVE IN ORDER TO PLEASE ME?

July 31, 1974

Beloved children, be the welcomed ones in my house. I look at you, I understand you, I bless you. I am the Mother of Jesus who, having welcomed you as children at the foot of the cross, desires to carry out my maternal action before you. *“Behold, your Mother”*, said my Jesus to John. And to me: *“Behold, your son”*, He said pointing out John to me. And what did John do? From that moment He took me in.

Listen to me well, children. If I have some duties to perform towards you, how will you have to behave towards me? You will have to take me with you. You are here to greet one

another and to take your leave from me, but I desire to come with you. I desire for you to be affectionate children with me, in order to be in my turn a loving mother.

How will you behave in order to please me? First of all I desire for your behaviour to be what you demonstrate when you are here in my presence and that you try to maintain that modesty in dress that is certainly a call for others, even if you might become a rarity.

Then you will have to carry out that apostolate of prayer that is the most important part in the life of man. You will make the daily Mass your commitment. *“He who prays is saved”*, it has been said to you and it is true, but when your prayer is the offering of the sacrifice of the cross, then it assumes an infinite and universal value that reaches and joins Heaven with earth. Your apostolate shall be made an example and also some words of encouragement, so that others also may understand the great duty and the great gift of being able to communicate with God.

The rest that you will take on these days absolutely must not give the devil the means to perform his work of destruction. Idleness is the father of vice, you are used to saying, and your rest cannot be idleness. Your spirit must find a way to be reinvigorated in reflection, in the spiritual enjoyment that derives from good reading and from those good works that in every place on earth can and must be done.

At times, in places of rest, are formed and discovered those friendships which, if they are good, are those treasures which the Holy Spirit speaks about. May you be for others the real friends who learn to give the best of themselves and do not let yourselves be deceived and attracted by those false friendships that can give nothing because they are based on the void that is inside.

Be serene and joyful, ready for sacrifice, and never let yourselves be separated from Jesus by sin, for I will have to show you my sorrow and my disappointment. Be good with all, watch and open your eyes to see where the work of the evil one could be introduced, but be also simple in all your way of doing, so that the simplicity may render you pleasing to all and you can do a little good to all. I will be close to you to counsel you.

I bless you all, children. The water that you bring into your homes is a gift of Heaven. Act so, drinking it, you are able to have thoughts of gratitude to my Jesus and to your Mother.

I bless your families, your intentions, your good thoughts. Everywhere you go, bring the good odour of Christ with your faith and your goodness.

YOU SHALL ALL BE WITH ME...

August 14, 1974

Beloved children, how much gratitude I nourish for you, who with sacrifice, renouncing also a just rest, have wanted to come in this place to spend some time with me. Mine is true gratitude, since your prayer can make me forget in part the ingratitude of millions of other children who do not remember at all my Assumption into Heaven; they have preferred even to change the name of this feast and transform it into a day or more days of unrestrained enjoyments.

I speak to you as a mother who has her heart broken by sorrow and full of gratitude for you; but I do not want to grieve you with sad thoughts, instead I want to let you know what you can do and must know. My assumption to Heaven, preceded by a sleep similar to death, was but a powerful means willed by God to confirm all men in the great truth of the resurrection of the body.

I was carried soul and body into Heaven after an apparent death. Moreover, you also are destined to live eternally soul and body in Heaven. Death must not frighten you, which is nothing else than the door that opens up onto eternity, nor should human events and things bother you more than necessary, since you know for certain that no one is destined to live on earth forever.

Look up above and let yourselves be guided by me, who in the midst of the world only points out the road to Heaven, and let yourselves be guided by your good angels, who continually inspire you and suggest good thoughts to you and make you meet God-fearing souls. They, just as they had the task of transporting me from earth to Heaven, so next to each one of you they operate in this sense, even if at the moment of passing you must undergo the punishment of death and bodily corruption.

Children, I ascended before you, but I know that you will all be with me, as long as you will to accept and keep that faith that is like the anchor of salvation, as long as you will to behave according to the dictates of the divine Law, which are not impossible to follow, for no one is compelled to observe commandments that man cannot accept.

There are persons who think that Christian life is synonymous with martyrdom and that there cannot be joy in it for those who believe. Many of you could say exactly the opposite, for you have tasted the true joy only after having encountered the Lord and putting yourselves on his retinue.

There are other persons who think that only in sin, pleasing their passions and their senses, they can be happy. But to them I can say that it is not so, since the dissatisfaction and the bitterness that the ugly things of life leave in the heart, are such as to make disappear even the shadow not only of happiness, but also of the necessary serenity to live. Try to ask so many young people who, after having lived a good life, have willed to savour a life of sin, if they have been happy.

I love you all, children, and I want you happy with true happiness. Whoever follows me does not walk in darkness and, walking in light, finds it all more simple and more beautiful. Never be afraid of doing too much and do with joy all that you do. If in every human action, even a little one, you put in a pinch of love of God and neighbour, it becomes impossible for you to sin and you journey singing in this world, as you head towards the promised land.

I know that you are surrounded by much evil. There are the demons who play havoc with souls and use them as instruments to draw other souls to themselves. Evil is like legalised and it has a special force. It is like an impetuous torrent that, rupturing the dams, overwhelms everything it finds in its path. But you are my protected ones and I want to help you. Do not be afraid, invoke me. What mother would not run to the help of her children, if she were able to do it? I can do all. There are souls in Paradise who invoked me at the last moment of their life and I have saved them, moreover, you invoke me when the presence of some physical, spiritual and moral evil terrifies you. So much peace, so much help will come to you.

To all and to each one — and I would like for all to hear me utter your name — a gentle caress and well-wishes. We will all certainly see each other in Paradise.

BE LIKE A CENTRE OF ATTRACTION

August 16, 1974

My daughters, be blessed for these prayers that you have offered me with so much love. I bless you and your families.

I am your Mother and I ardently desire for your families to be oases of peace, where the faith is kept and where fidelity to one's duties and the duties that everyone has towards their neighbour, creates that harmony that is indispensable in order to be able to edify with a conduct of an admirable life.

I am happy with you and I desire for you to be like a centre of attraction, so that children and husbands, united to you, can come to me and go to God. I beg you to hear me well. I

know no other means for attracting hearts than that of loving them intensely as I love them, in spite of all their defects. Rather, I beg you that you try to discover virtues in all, in order for you to be able to rejoice with them and in that way give the courage to continue on. I will help you.

The special job of the devil presently is that of destroying families; breaking them up, separating them and sowing hatred. The cell of society is debunked and made sick. What will be the consequence? General ruin.

There is another wound to be healed and you must help me. All men, as if mad, seek happiness where it does not exist. In this way they leave God, the faith, the sacraments and seek an easy and sinful life.

May you be the bell that rings merrily and make understood, through your serenity, that your attachment to God produces true joy in you, strength to forgive and grace to understand the needs of others and to meet all halfway with the charity of Christ.

I bless you, my daughters. Bring love and peace to your homes, united to my special blessing.

KEEP AND SOW PEACE

August 18, 1974

Beloved children, I am the Queen of Peace and I come to instruct you on a very important truth.

My Jesus, who accompanied his birth with the announcement of peace given by the angels and prophesized as the prince of peace, in a Gospel passage He says that He came to bring division and not peace. How can we put in agreement two things that seem in sharp contrast? This is how you have to account for this great truth. Jesus wishes for all men to be continuously in peace with themselves, with the neighbour and with God.

This peace must be the fruit of good will, that is, fruit of a deep effort that makes you follow in your life the law of humility, whereby, acknowledging yourselves in all submissive to God, you must consider yourselves obligated to obey Him as father, as master and as teacher. If in everyone of you there was this persuasion, nothing would disturb your interior peace.

Then there is the duty to maintain peace with the neighbour, which more than often is broken by pride and by selfishness. One needs to watch carefully over one's actions and over one's thoughts, in order not to offend charity with those two defects that generate disorder not only in families but also in society and, on a wide scale, in the world, provoking violence and war everywhere.

Not much is demanded in order to live the Christian life and to maintain peace with all. It would be enough to carry out that which is a principle of wisdom: *“Do not do to others what you would not like to be done to you.”* From loyal behaviour, true and good with the neighbour, it is easy to ascend to God, for the whole Law is summarized in the two commandments of charity: love of God and of neighbour.

But why, you might say, does Jesus speak of division and says that it is He himself who wants love? Observe for a moment how the prophets were treated and how Jesus was treated in the world. Around his person death was plotted, He was insulted, He was mocked and He became a victim because He said the truth and because He announced a Law that confounded the proud. So, just as for the prophets there was persecution and martyrdom because they announced the coming of the Saviour, just as for Jesus there was the most ignominious death, for those that wish to be true Christians and who imitate the divine Teacher, contradiction, misunderstanding, criticism and calumny cannot be lacking.

There will be this collision, as long as the world is not changed, between good and evil, between truth and error, between justice and injustice, between the good and the bad, because there will always be the true followers of Jesus — those who, overcoming themselves and evil, accept to undergo the most painful consequences — and the hypocrites.

So, children, as I, your Mother, invite you to be sowers of forgiveness and peace everywhere, I invite you to reflect and not to be amazed at the adversities. There are also amongst you persons who cannot come to this place without having recourse to those pitiful lies that save you from quarrels, sometimes tremendous ones. There are persons to whom the freedom to express their thoughts and show their feelings is taken away. There are daughters who must act secretly in doing good, as if it were still the time of the catacombs. There are mothers who, as they weep over the bad conduct of their children, are not even able to have the comfort of the faith without being insulted and called the most improper nicknames.

To all I say: look at Jesus the Teacher and look also at me, who closely followed his way up to being called the mother of the evildoer. Always act with humility and charity in order to maintain peace in you and with others and do not be amazed at being persecuted. Bring the word of God everywhere serenely, without wanting to make yourselves out as teachers and with simplicity. Do not be concerned about the consequences that your apostolate can have.

There will be those who sow and gather fruits, but there will also be many who will sow and others who will gather. It does not matter, for before God goodwill and a good intention counts. If after having done your duty, it seems that you have only reaped humiliations, know that this is the most prized reward.

And now I bless all the present and the absent who have joined us in prayer.

HOW MUCH TENDERNESS FOR MY DEVOTEES!

August 20, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. I am Mary of Nazareth, I am your immaculate Mother, and I want to encourage you to continue on and to progress in devotion to me, so that you may be able to find in it all those helps that are indispensable for you to fight evil, to defend yourselves from the dangers that surround you, to carry the cross everyday and become saints.

All these helps the saints of Paradise obtained from me, especially those who defined themselves in life as great devotees of mine. I am not speaking to you about Dominic, who made my Rosary the means to overcome the heresies; I am not even citing the names of the holy founders of religious orders who in devotion to me found the strength to overcome difficulties without number; but I speak to you about holy mothers, about holy fathers and children who, loving me and imitating me, found the strength to do their daily duties and in this way were able to reach me in glory.

Were you to know how much tenderness I nurture for those children who are truly devoted to me; those children, that is, who try to combat their defects and imitate my virtues and who make their lives a true offering of love to God. I know that many times you lack the strength to carry the cross, but if you truly love me you feel me close and I go out of my way for you.

Sometimes I grant the feeling of reciprocating the affection and even the greeting. Remember my son Bernard, who used to greet an effigy of mine, painted on the wall, with a cordial salute. "Hail Mary", he used to say to me; to whose greeting I responded deep down: Hail Bernard!

If you were able to know with what generosity and with what love I repay every little thoughtfulness even, which I receive from you! How much reward for so many little things that you do at times, believing they end up wasted. I forget nothing, and especially in the moments in which you have the most need, I am there as if to pay some debts I have towards you for the acts of kindness received.

What touches my heart the most is the thoughtfulness of the parents who try to make me enter into the hearts of their children. When I enter them, I become their mistress and I ensure their eternal salvation. Oh, if one learnt to speak about me to the children! To speak not like a strange person who has nothing to do with them, to look at only like a statue, but like a good and living person, like a mother. I attract little children and the young to my heart and I grant them special graces. I guide them in their growth and in the choice of their vocation. The more they love me the more I refine their souls and cultivate in them those virtues that are pleasing to God.

I bless, I protect and I help the families, in which I preserve conjugal fidelity and domestic virtues, so as to make wellbeing and harmony reign in them. And the elderly who love me and who are devoted to me, what do they receive? Patience in their infirmities and crosses, and the grace of not being excessively a burden to their loved ones. How many holy old ones, closing their eyes to the light of the world, encounter my gaze full of mercy and of divine light and my smile full of goodness, as they clasp the Rosary in their hands, not just because it is put in their hands, but because it has been the inseparable companion in the sad and happy hours of life.

Children, if you want for your friendships to be firm, observe if in your discourses the name of Mary enters easily. Yes, this name blessed by God brings serenity to whoever utters it with faith. If you want for your works, your jobs, your undertakings to flourish in your hands, start them with my name. I will bring your desires up to the throne of God and I will be happy to help you bring all to completion.

Beloved children, devotion to me is like a door that is opened and whoever enters it can no longer elude my hands. Whoever finds me finds Jesus, finds salvation. Courage therefore, be docile. Come here many times, all the times that your occupations will permit you. Bring me your loved ones, those lapsed ones with some little stratagem, those whom you love; bring them in the name of that love that I nourish for them. Bring me your friends and those whom you desire to help. Do not feel sorry if someone who was your friend has abandoned you; commend him to me and I will call him back close to your heart after having made him mine.

The world is a seed pot of evil, but when you discover some souls devoted to me, rejoice; there is an oasis where the spring that quenches thirst comes from the heart of Jesus and mine, and that most pure water can detoxify many souls, poisoned by the polluted waters of the world.

Children, I bless you all with special affection and I reply to you for those numerous Hail Mary's that you have said to me: hail daughters, hail sons. In my name and through my name be happy.

I FILL YOU WITH LOVE

August 23, 1974

Beloved children, how not to thank you and bless you for having come here, in the house of Divine Love, to draw light, strength and grace in order to continue to carry the cross and do some apostolate sowing everywhere a little love? Yes, it is to you that I repeat the lament that came out of the heart of my Jesus one day: *“Love the Love who is not loved.”* Truly He was able to say: *“Behold that heart, which has so loved men, but men respond badly to his love.”*

I bless you and I fill you with love, with that very pure love that was burning in my heart during my mortal life and which burns still for Jesus, my beloved Son. The first Commandment is this, He said to you: love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. If sometimes you feel cold and insensitive to God's calls, do not be frightened; come to the Mother of Divine Love and I will fill you with good desires, with good will. I will shake your minds, I will animate your will and I will warm up your hearts.

Without God's love nothing is worthwhile, nothing is done. Even were you to shake the world, if in the action you do you do not seek the glory of God, you have done very little. Give me a soul who truly loves, and my Jesus and I will multiply its good so as to render it marvellous. An act of love for God is the flame that can destroy evil, touch the heart of God and work miracles in the world. Augustine said to you: “Love and do what you like”, since, for he who loves, the great transformation of human actions into the divine come about, which is like saying, from objects without value into precious ones of immense value.

Let love animate and vivify your life, your actions, your days. But do not forget what Jesus says to you: The second Commandment is similar to the first: *“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”* They are like the two facets of a unique diamond. This, children, is what I desire from you: if the torch of the faith must constantly illuminate your way, you must sow that same way with good works. It has been said to you that faith without works is dead, and it is a reality. That's why the work of the cenacles must not be limited to prayer in common, but must unite hearts among them, so that it can be said that you are all for one and one for all.

What did the early Christians do? Perhaps you think that they went about preaching along the streets? Oh, no! They had to live in the catacombs their life of piety, and on the outside they showed themselves so good one with the other, as to form an object of admiration and distinction. It was said of them: *“They must be Christians, don’t you see how they love each other?”*

With this I do not want to say that you must avoid every discussion, rather, your problems put clearly can be sifted in common; but one must avoid obstinacy in one’s own ideas and one must maintain that equilibrium whereby one learns to obey and accept the idea of others avoiding frictions. The community always requires some sacrifices because in it exists different ages, conditions and tastes, but it must be like a well led family in which one meets the other halfway in order to maintain order.

When then the purpose that brings you close together is of a supernatural order, it is not very difficult to maintain agreement. However, you will not limit yourselves to this, but you will take active part in the sorrows and the joys of all those who comprise these beautiful spiritual families, the cenacles. Then you will do what the apostles and the good women did who with me had prayed in the cenacle. After the communal prayer and getting together, you will go out of your way for all those whom circumstances and the will of God will make you encounter in the neighbourhood, in the parish and even along the streets, without however, neglecting your family duties that require the first place.

How much good you can do, children, in this world so full of egoisms and people who would like to be the centre and who do not recall the words of my Jesus: “I have come to serve and not to be served.” I want you always available; I want your works always to be luminous, so that men, seeing them may praise your Father who is in the heavens.

And now, while a renewed intention will animate you to continue on the way of good with ever greater perfection, I bless you.

See you again, children. You give me consolation every time you come here.

THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS UNDERGOES VIOLENCE

August 25, 1974

Beloved children and so dear to my heart, I hug you to me more than ever. I wish you all good, I want to help and defend you. Be docile, do not distance yourselves from me! I love you so much and I want your salvation. Do you not see, children, how tirelessly the devil

works to ruin souls which my Jesus reconquered with his passion and death? He wants to ruin everything. Jesus wants everyone saved. Who will win this great battle?

Children, the Kingdom of the Heavens is the point of attraction; the great banquet will be there to which all those who will have preserved their faith and put on the nuptial garment will take part. The Lord wants you all saved and He gives you sufficient and abundant means for you to be saved. He uses sweetness sometimes, other times rebukes, and sometimes chastisements. Just like good parents do towards their children, so that they stay on the right road.

But what must man do? Oh, it is not so easy to be saved, for salvation is not a gift that is cast on the shoulders of everyone, but it is a gift that one must ask for, that one must accept, and to which one must respond with good will and sacrifice.

When you offer some sweets to little children, you do not struggle to keep them good, but when they grow up and become young men, you have to of necessity restrain them in different ways and sometimes you must impose your will by force. If however, these children are docile, they are persuaded that they must grow up and, becoming men, must accept work, the obligations of their state and perhaps also many sufferings, and meanwhile with these means they mature for society.

Human life is made up of this and to rebel against its laws means not being normal, being deserters, not acting as gentlemen. The spiritual life too has its birth with the sacrament of Baptism and its growth is gradually progressive like the human life. Whoever wishes to grow, must not cut off the life of grace with sin. Reacting against temptations, evil inclinations and the bad example that comes from all directions, is very hard, but man has the help of God and that of his Mother. He has the help of the Sacraments, which give to him an ever new strength, with which it is not impossible to overcome evil.

The Christian must then grow in virtue, get up again after every fall, and in this work of growth is assisted by the example of the Saints who have travelled on the same road and have arrived happily. However, a lot of humility and determination is needed.

“The Kingdom of the heavens suffers violence and only the violent can get there.” You might say to me that perhaps there is too much violence in this world and the value of life is not understood, so violently is it destroyed in the self and in others. But the violence which the Lord demands for the conquest of the Kingdom is that which, giving death to every evil inclination, renders one strong with one’s self. It is suffering accepted and offered up, and it is that form of sacrifice, so pleasing to God, that makes of your days your Mass in the correct fulfilment of your duties.

So, while you are heading towards the Kingdom and countless obstacles appear before you, while you are tempted sometimes to let go all the good and to end it all, see, I encourage you and I say to you: remember that your predestination for Paradise is not fate; it is a race that you freely accept to run, sure that with the help of God and through the merits of Jesus Christ, you will receive the reward prepared for you.

I beseech you therefore, do not be like the easy-goers who see everyone saved. Do not be distrustful of God's mercy, but have the certainty that, if you wish to use the means that God has put at your disposal, certainly you will be saved. I remind you that many saints who had lived a life of penance and prayer, trembled at the thought of death and the judgement that awaited them. That's why I said to you at the start: I press you to me. I want to always keep alive in you the desire for Paradise and give you the strength to find until the end.

You do well to reflect when you say: *"Pray for us now and at the hour of death."* Children, how many persons, in this moment also, dying suddenly, find themselves unprepared before the Supreme Judge. Believe me, one of the most tremendous punishments for whoever has rejected the grace of God in life is sudden death. Be vigilant, be strong, be persevering in faith.

I bless you all.

TO THE SISTERS

August 25, 1974

My dearly beloved daughters, brides of my Jesus, be the welcomed ones in this oasis of peace where we go on pouring out our graces.

I am pleased that the sons and daughters come in the evening to offer up the fruits of their day and to ask for pardon of the negligence and the defects that have accompanied it.

I look at you one by one and, as I smile at your desires for sanctity and good, I am delighted with you who, having overcome those difficulties that can be derived from human respect, have come here at my feet. Now I will not let you leave without having encouraged you to continue on the good road in which you walk, so as to make me always happy.

You have made three vows: poverty, chastity and obedience, which ought to be like the three nails that nail you to the cross of my Jesus, in his company.

Well then, you know how to be truly poor, not only in the privation of those things that have little value, but in the complete detachment from yourselves, from your self-love that sometimes makes you desire to do good not so much for the glory of God, but for a personal satisfaction.

Be truly chaste, my daughters, learning to renounce all those affections which, even if they are not dangerous or sinful, are little wrongs towards your Bridegroom who is jealous for each one of you. Act so as to grow in love, so as to make your hearts a real golden casket where my Jesus can take delight.

Be obedient even in the littlest things. Have the delicacy of obedience so that every action of yours may assume an inestimable value. He who obeys never errs, remember it; and behave so that your obedience may be like that of Jesus', who made himself obedient unto death. Never argue against a command, but, run. I will run with you, and to the perfume of our virtues we will drag communities and persons to whom you have to give the best of yourselves.

Last of all, love each other. Love your superior and see me in her. You will never regret it, my daughters, and this late visit will have brought its fruits.

I bless you, daughters. See you again!

YOU MUST HAVE PATIENCE

August 27, 1974

Dear and beloved children, I am among you to give you consolation and help. I am the Star of the Sea: do you not often invoke me as such? In the treacherous sea of life, I am truly the Star that points out the direction for you to take in order to reach the port.

Oh, it is also true that in your necessities, when the storms are threatening, you must look at the Star, invoke Mary! I am your Mother and my help, my light cannot be lacking to you. However, I desire for you to exercise the virtue of patience, just like the mariner who sails the oceans has to exercise it. One cannot follow any road, one cannot get there when one wants. All is done with order and with patience, because you know that God is at the helm, who guides everything.

Patience is the virtue of the strong, even if the patient man seems sometimes before his neighbour a dead loss. Patience, so much patience is needed in order to put up with all those sacrifices that every journey brings with it. The discomforts and the necessities of life are not

the same for all, but the more they are accepted with love the less they are felt. If you keep counting your sorrows, you get to a point where long-suffering and strength is lacking to you. If you travel on the section of road in which are comprised the sufferings of your day without thinking about the past and without worrying about the future, you find the cross suitable for your shoulders and you walk more briskly.

You must have patience and learn to wait for God's hour in everything. You know his will of salvation well, but you do not know along which roads He will lead you. God's designs are inscrutable, even if you know that He knows how to draw good also from evil and does everything well. Learn to wait loving and praying, because only in this way can you be certain of the result.

Have confidence in God, who knows how to work miracles. He makes water gush forth from the rock. He knows how to transform sticks into snakes, so that the ever new Pharaohs who want to harm his people be frightened. He knows how to multiply the loaves, how to make manna rain down from the sky. He knows how to raise up the dead and cure the blind, the lame and the crippled. All this and other things God knows how to do, and you don't think He knows how to guide your families, soften hearts hardened by sin and give health back to your sick? Let courage and trust be the good handmaids that accompany your patience.

And what will be your behaviour towards your neighbour? More patience! Just as the doctor uses medicines sparingly and cannot let one swallow an overabundant measure to obtain a quick result, which rather would damage the organism of his patients, so you, if you wish to cure your loved ones of certain grave spiritual illnesses, you have to be patient and prudent. Not everything you want to say or do can be appropriate in time and place. One needs to measure the words, the actions and make patience the dearly beloved virtue. What would happen if the builders of houses were to build without laying the base and the foundations of their buildings? And if they were to be raised without keeping in mind what is needed, only thinking of speeding up?

Well then, in this world everyone has his own mind and own problems, there is a problem that is common to all and which no one can bring to completion alone. It is the attainment of eternal life. It is the only truly important thing, which requires one's will and a lot of patience. Seeing however, no one can go to Paradise thinking of himself alone, it is necessary for that commitment which you take on for your salvation, become a help also for others who are defective and slow in walking with you.

In this way, the holy patience, which my Jesus practised in his whole life and which I learned at his school, becomes a school also for you and a ladder that lets you ascend all united in love and harmony. This is the holy will of God.

Unfortunately one is not always disposed to accept these teachings and to put them into practise. What happens then? The gravest disorder and the most incomprehensible despair. One does not want to wait and one despairs, believing to find in despair a definitive result. One arrives at taking away the life of the body, rebelling against the Law of God, and one does not think about the great woes that one meets in the eternal life, which can become eternal death.

If patience is not exercised in the family, one runs the risk of transforming it into a hellish bedlam. If at the work that you must do for your perfection, patience is lacking, you will never arrive at sanctity, but you will remain deluded or demoralized souls who see failure in everything.

Children, God used slowness in bringing his works to completion right from the creation of the world, and He always continues to work in the world, and in all creatures He performs marvellous works with patience and with love. When you are tempted to be impatient, think about God, think about Jesus, think about me and say to yourselves: I want to possess myself with patience, and I want to make a gift of this virtue to God.

I bless you with all my heart, children, because I love you so much. See you again always!

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

August 31, 1974

My children, be welcomed in this house where I go about spreading the most beautiful graces. Some have returned to me, others for the first time have come to honour me. I thank and bless everyone, while I say to you: children, I need your prayers, I need your tears, I greatly need your love. These offerings of yours have to smother the evil, which sends its blasphemous cries towards Heaven and loudly calls the justice of God.

I know that, if you move from your homeland to come to this blessed land, you do so because you want to ask for mercy for the whole world. Well then, let your prayer be truly universal and serve to touch the heart of the Father. May you be those few for whom He uses mercy. Let your prayer always be like this: a cry of faith that invokes the resurrection for your many dead and buried brethren, like Lazarus, in the mire of sin and putrefied by spiritual death.

I need, children, your tears, your suffering which, united to mine and to the passion of my Son, must continue to save those souls who reject the redemption. Do not complain about your crosses, accept them with love. I will sweeten them for you, and I will heal again your children and your relatives sick in spirit. Oh, children! Know that, if in Paradise there could be a regret, one would regret not having suffered more. Sorrow is the money for the ransom of sin, but it is also the testimony of your love. Sorrow is not willed by God for its sake, since God wants the happiness of his children, but as means to heal again and to conquer eternal happiness.

Again, children, I repeat to you: I need your love. If you love, all will seem easy and beautiful to you. Do you not find, mothers, that sacrifice does not exist when you sacrifice yourselves for your children, because you love them? Love me, because from this love I want to draw out your holiness. Love each other amongst yourselves learning to forget, understand, forgive your neighbour. The Law is all here, children: to love God and to love the neighbour, and on this charity that must have neither a limit nor a boundary, the final judgement will be based and the eternal reward.

Children, I embrace you one by one, calling you by name and repeating to each one: give me your prayer, your tears, your love. I bless those who conduct, under the aegis of the Virgin of Fatima, these pilgrimages. I bless my favourite son, your families, your countries, your parishes. I kiss you on the forehead. See you again!

TO THE YOUNG

September 1, 1974

My children, how grateful I am to you for this lengthy meeting with me!

I have for you some marvellous plans and I wish to prepare you gradually, like the birds prepare the nest for their brood and mothers prepare the cradle for their newborn. I desire great things from you and I will give to you all some special capabilities. You must go along with these desires of mine and collaborate with your good will.

Apply yourselves to exercise humility, without which it is not possible to build any work for the purpose of the good of souls. Be humble in your thoughts and in your words. Be humble with God, with your neighbour and with yourselves. On other occasions I will explain to you how you must exercise this basic virtue. Dispose your heart to love all without distinction, good and bad, for it is this flame that must nourish your apostolate. A love which, if it is manifested humanly, must however, aim at uniting souls and at bringing

them on to the way of God. To love means to want the good of the loved person, and the only true good is the eternal salvation to which you all must aspire.

And in order to be true witness of the truth, witnesses of God, to be able to effectively exercise your apostolate, live in the grace of God. If sin enters into a soul, it destroys everything good in it, like a storm destroys every good fruit and everything that has been sown with toil. Live in the grace of God in order to allow Him to act in you and to do his will. Live in the grace of God in order to be happy, for God, who is happiness itself, can only bring joy into souls.

Let every prayer made well, every act of love, every desire of goodness increase grace in you so that you are able to form the delight of the Father who is in the Heavens.

I bless you all one by one. See you again, children. The Mother of Heaven loves you and protects you.

THE GREATEST SORROWS OF MY LIFE

September 1, 1974

Children, peace be to you and to the whole world. See, I am with you, I am the Sorrowful Virgin.

You want to know what were the seven swords, that is, the greatest seven sorrows of my life. However, you will not be able to understand the immensity of these sorrows, for many factors combined to make them such. First of all, my call to be the co-Redemptrix of the human race, whereby my sorrow had to border on that of my Son. But also the capacity to suffer, given to me by God, contributed to its extension.

I explain myself, children. If you have a little receptacle, you can gather in it little water; if it is a big one, you can put more in. My heart was the receptacle in which God was able to pour forth his love and, as a consequence, the greatest sorrow. Men then fixed the stages of my sorrow, even if it began from birth, the Lord having granted the use of reason to me right from the first instant.

According to these stages, the first lance that wounded my heart was that of the prophecy of the holy old Simeon. He lived in expectation of the Messiah and, when he saw me cross the threshold of the Temple, he came towards me and exalting the Lord predicted to me that my Son would have been a sign of contradiction, a salvation and a perdition for many. In

that moment there appeared before my eyes all of humanity and the many who, rejecting the salvation, would be lost forever.

My capacity and my task as Mother had been well defined. I had conceived my firstborn, but, after Him, all men expected from me the generation to the life of grace. It was in that instant as if it had been predicted to me the deaths of an enormous number of real children whom I loved immensely.

Then came the second sword and it was the enforced flight into Egypt. To leave home, country, relatives, finding oneself in an unknown land without means, it would have already been a sorrowful thing, but it was not the greatest sorrow. I had to flee with my Child and many children had to pay for his flight with blood. Many mothers would have wept over a terrible carnage.

Then the Child grew and, having returned to Nazareth — where Joseph and I dedicated ourselves with all our love to this young boy — in order to obey the Law we brought our Jesus to the Temple, He having accomplished the twelve years. He had, so to say, to become man and enter into society. On our return, we lost Him. No one can imagine how cutting this sword was, which pierced my heart. Perhaps some mother who has had a good son lost could understand something, but not all, for in that moment my humanity and my faith was put strongly to the test. Remember that Jesus was God and I had to consider Him such in every moment of joy and of sorrow.

How can I speak to you about that sword which transfixed me when I encountered Jesus on the way to Calvary, reduced to a repugnant being by the way they had torn off and bloodied his face and his body? How can I speak to you about my sorrow when I saw that He was nailed to the cross? When, raised upon it, he let out the cry “I thirst!” and I was not able to quench his thirst? When I saw Him amongst two evildoers? When I heard Him commending his spirit to the Father?

Children, there is no sorrow that can be compared to that of a mother who sees her own son die and is rendered incapable of helping him. But when I saw Him in my arms, dead, then I would have liked to point Him out to all those who were the cause of this cruel killing.

If with his death all had ended and men had realized the great evil done and had still now realized it, I would have some pause in my sorrow, but the seven swords are still now nailed to my heart.

Many still reject the salvation, for which the contradiction continues. The Master of the world still, as from his birth, must many times seek refuge in foreign lands. He is taken away

from his Tabernacles. He is expelled from entire lands and nations. If you consider that the body of man is the temple of the Holy Spirit, from how many temples is he removed only because the things of the world are preferred to Him. But does it not seem to you that my heart must suffer now as then also for the massacre of the innocents, that is, for the spiritual death caused by scandal, and for the many homicides and much violence done to the body of so many innocent?

The way to Calvary continues, and I see along the streets of the world my dearly beloved Son depicted in the priests who have betrayed their vocation, in so many good who refuse to carry the cross and do the will of God.

I see my Son still crucified in all those youths and those peoples to whom the freedom to believe and to love God is denied. Still, the cry invoking the salvation of souls comes out of the heart of my Jesus and echoes in my heart. Still continuously, my Jesus offers to the Father his life and I offer it to all, so that they may finally accept and humble themselves before Him who wants everyone saved.

This is my sorrow, expressed in very short and hasty words. If your sorrows seem unbearable to you, know that, besides your sorrow, I suffer for that of all men. Yes, dear ones, your sufferings are mine, and you make your own my concern to take away from the world so much sorrow for all: sin. We will rejoice together, after having pooled out tears.

I bless you, children, and I love you so much. I promise to console you and to help you always.

I DESIRE FOR YOU TO BE SIMPLE

September 2, 1974

My beloved children, peace be to your hearts and to your families. I am glad to see you here today, as you prepare yourselves to celebrate my nativity and my most holy name.

I desire truly that, like little children, you celebrate the name day and the birthday of the Mother with much simplicity. You will bring me some spiritual flowers, fruit of the patience of your sacrifices, of your crosses, of your moral and physical sufferings. You will bring me your perfumed incense, and they will be your prayers. You will bring me your hearts full of love. And I, like the best of mothers, will be pleased with your gifts and I will recompense you with innumerable graces.

But I want a very special gift from you, from which could depend your peace. Look: I desire for you to be simple, very simple, in thoughts, in words and in works.

Simplicity in thoughts will not permit you to criticize or to judge your neighbour, of whom you only see the appearances. This simplicity will give to your intentions an uprightness whereupon it will be almost impossible for you to make a mistake.

Simplicity in words will see to it that your way of speaking may be truly in conformity to the teachings of Jesus, who said: "Let your speech be yes, yes, no, no." How many imperfections you will be able to avoid in your behaviour when you learn to moderate your language, how much less lack of charity, how much more humility.

Then you ought to be simple in actions. That is, you ought to do good only for the glory of God and for the good of souls. No action must be made mechanically or for ulterior aims, but solely with simplicity of heart. So, whoever wishes to obtain the conversion of their children or their husbands, will present their request with simplicity to the Lord, entrusting themselves to his will. Whoever wishes to act holily and with justice, has only to submit himself to the guidance of Him who is sanctity and justice personified.

Children, look up above and, in the light that comes to you from the Holy Spirit, make your life resplendent, so that your example may drag others to good and move all to live in the grace of God, the only really important thing.

To all and to each one my maternal embrace.

CHARITY MUST UNITE YOU AS ONE ONLY FAMILY

September 3, 1974

Beloved children, how much joy your presence gives me here! You come here to pray for yourselves and the brethren of the whole world. You come to ask for help in your difficulties and to ask for light, in order to be able to behave as living rocks in the Church and in that way bear witness to the presence of Christ in the world. Well then, be blessed, and through this communal prayer may the whole Church feel it flow again like a new life.

I am the Mother of the Church, and every member of it is dear to me like your eyes, your hands and the members of your body are dear to you. Be blessed therefore, because you are my children. However, in this moment I want to make a very important reference and give you some suggestions about it.

Observe the tuberose which, illuminated by a reflector, towers over my altar displaying itself, and seeming to sparkle with its own light. You observe its efflorescent bloom and smell its perfume: they are many buds all united, all perfumed, illuminated by one only light. Well then, you must be my tuberose. Charity must unite you like one only flower, like one only family all leaning to realize the good odour of Christ in the world.

What would be the worth of you receiving five talents, and speaking of them I mean those spiritual and natural gifts with which God has enriched you, if you did not learn to trade them in humility and charity? What's the worth, children, that one learns to speak when one does not learn to keep silent for the sake of peace, when one does not learn to accept an humiliation for the sake of God and charity is not spread.

If you are my perfumed tuberoses, you are illuminated by the same Spirit and it is not difficult to overcome the wickedness of the world. The perfume of a flower is enough to cancel out and to smother putrid and unhealthy smells.

Children, be good, be united. Love everyone, good and bad, for the Law of universal love comes from God. Do not create barriers of any kind. Never say: We are the good, they the bad. Never say: They are our enemies. Always say this: We are all children of God and his light, which must be reflected in our minds and in our hearts, will serve to illuminate those who the different life situations have done so that they remain in the dark. You are the favoured ones, but do not forget that every privilege is a responsibility before God, to whom you will have to render an account, and before your neighbour, for whom you must make your gifts bear fruit.

Many complain about not knowing how to pray, but whoever loves prays in the best way because love reaches God's heart much more quickly. But for those who do not know how to love, do not want to love everyone, this yes is sorrowful, since he who does not love creates a division and performs a diabolical work also unknown to him. Love, children, and be united in faith.

You hear many announcements of new things and you are tempted to see and to believe. Many accept superstitions as truth and detach themselves from the true Church. They delude themselves in forming new churches with other leaders who are not the successor of Peter. You be prudent, be watchful, continue to believe and to have trust in him who has the responsibility for the Church and who the Holy Spirit illumines.

Children, let your example of consistent Christians, who think, pray, love and act according to the law of the conscience, draw the world towards a real and effective conversion.

I bless you, children, one by one.

I BRING SOULS TO SANCTITY IN THIS WAY...

September 10, 1974

Beloved children, here you are as flowers of one same garden. I look at you and I am pleased with you for the good desires that you have. I am holy Mary, children, and, as I look at you, I think about your sanctity, that is, I think about your features, one different from the other, I think about your fragrance, I think that you have to go a long way with me, at my school, under my care of gardener and mother.

Everyone of you through different roads, in different conditions, must arrive at possessing a spiritual stature that renders you similar to Jesus. Just as a flower could not desire to be another flower, and one cannot say that one is more beautiful than the other because each one with its characteristic has its unmistakable beauty, in the same way in the garden of the Lord you all have to be beautiful and grow in sanctity using what God has put in your human nature. Each one of you must be himself and must sanctify himself with his own character, with his own personality, in his own family or community, in the parish, in the nation that the Lord, calling him to life, has indicated to him as homeland, or even where the Lord, having called him by means of a special vocation, willed that he be transplanted.

Every soul is dear to God and is equipped with all that it needs. However, one needs to humbly turn to Him and to ask. It is true that God knows everything that you need, but, just as Jesus in his mortal life cured the sick who presented themselves to Him, instructed those who followed Him and through them worked the most astounding miracles, so also today He benefits and gives his favours out to those who ask Him for them and who submit their needs to Him.

The greatest wounds to be healed are those that concern the spirit. They are the defects, which sometimes, being cherished and not combated, become like those cancerous wounds that gradually spread themselves throughout the whole being.

When you come here, you have a heavy heart and you would like all those sorrows to disappear that weigh it down and sadden it; but perhaps they are not justified sorrows or are the consequence of a lack of fulfilment of your duties, whereby they serve as expiation. When however, you succeed in realizing the goodness of God, which makes you suffer for your good, you start to love the cross; then you become great before God, since you begin to appreciate the words of Jesus: *“He who wishes to come after Me, let him take up his cross and follow Me.”*

In this way, having destroyed the negative parts that are in you, you become like the tree that produces good fruits. Having destroyed the defects, you grow in grace. I know that

many times you promise and then you fall again into the same faults in a short space of time, but, if you repent over them and try straight away to make amends, you find my heart open to make you dwell with me, beside me and to make you enjoy my maternal tenderness.

Along the centuries, right from the beginning of the Church, I was alongside the apostles to make them capable of doing good according to the desires of Jesus. I always behaved and behave in this way: I work the souls at my school. I warn them of their deficiencies and imperfections, I gladden them with my gifts, then I try them, that is, I measure their faith and their love putting them to the test. If they persevere, if they continue to be faithful to me and above all faithful to the Law of God, I fill them with fire and with zeal, whereby they no longer know limits to their operations, and with desire they walk throughout the world and make their days a continual offering. In this way, I bring souls to sanctity. I need these simple souls who, abandoning themselves to my direction, become beacons of light also for others.

Here amongst you there ought to be a competition for good. Without envy, without jealousies, without superiorities. All united, all leaning towards taking away evil and spreading good.

Perhaps that lonely mother believes she has nothing more to do in life. She has lost her husband, has married off the children and feels in her heart the bitterness of solitude. No, daughter, you still have work to do with me in order to make the flower of your life fragrant. With prayer you must feel yourself in company of all, and with sacrifice and with goodness you will reach many hearts, who will receive and give to you the joy of living.

And that son and that daughter who feel, in the tribulation of sickness and indisposition of the whole person, a disablement of their happiness, no, do not let themselves be disturbed by these sad thoughts; let them believe that the more youth is pure, the dearer it is to God's heart. It is not health and wellbeing that are the founts of joy, but the humble acceptance of the reality that one must live moment by moment.

You, son, who exercise a mission ever so delicate that resembles that of the priest and you let yourself sometimes be influenced by all that evil that others sow in which they would like you to get involved, have courage, continue on your way. When you are caring for people, think about being of help also to their souls. Throw in some word of faith, it will descend into the heart of the sick and do them some good.

You, daughter, who in school always hopes to do some good and finds a thousand obstacles to stop you, have courage, sow; it does not matter if in appearance you see nothing, God sees all and will help you.

You, mother, who weeps over having sown good and are gathering evil, have courage: every tear shines for you in Heaven like a star. Have faith and trust. Love, pray and suffer. God sees all and rewards all.

I would like to continue on for every person and every category of persons. I say only to everyone of you: just as you are today, learn that you must sanctify yourselves. Holy Mary prays for you.

VISITS TO THE SICK

September 16, 1974

My children, I give you a short instruction that may be of encouragement and help to you. Were you to know, children, the value of suffering! And how pleasing it is to my heart all that you do for the sick and needy! Amongst the works of mercy the most delicate and efficacious one is that of curing the infirm. Jesus gave you an example of it when, passing along the roads of Palestine, He healed the sick and was moved by the physical pains of whatever kind.

Visits to the sick are like a moral relief that you give to my heart. I in fact, suffer in them and, even though every physical evil can be cured with material or natural or chemical remedies, pain always assumes a double aspect and the moral despondency aggravates the physical evils. I am there to console one and the other evils alongside those who suffer, but if some good soul helps me in this task, he represents me physically and personally. Every sick person ought to be able to say after a visit of yours: Our Lady has visited me.

The words of comfort that you can say, must reflect mine and must bring serenity and peace. Much time is wasted at times in useless gossip, but how useful it would be for the free time to be employed on these delicate works of mercy. Perhaps the loneliness and the misery render the infirmity and life even heavier, and your presence is awaited as a sunray that illuminates minds also and warms up hearts. Do not let this comfort lack to my dear sick ones. Their seeming inactivity can become a strength, if supported by faith, and their apostolate can be that which gives efficacy to yours.

You walk, and their suffering gives you energy; you speak, and the sick who live in grace give to your word that efficacy which obtains conversions. It is an exchange of gifts, an exchange of love whereupon the sick also do not feel useless to the world. You must make these things understood to those who do not know them, while others, who already feel the fervour of Christian life, will be capable of being teachers to you. The sermon that comes

from a bed of pain is like the one that comes from the altar where the priest celebrates the Holy Sacrifice.

I would like to tell you to learn to choose and, if it happens that you must renounce prayer in order to go to the sick, do not hesitate to run to them, because better than in other places you find the aching body of my Jesus, whose wounds you must soothe. If you can combine the things, do the one and the other good work. Pray, yes, but do not neglect those who suffer. My Jesus considers done to himself what you do for them, He who rewards also one glass water alone given for his sake.

And I, what shall I give to those who give me comfort and consolation? The moment of suffering and pain comes to everyone in life. I will pay you back in person, as a duty, for what you have given me. The crucial and decisive moment of life is that of death. Well then, I will be close to you in that moment. I will gather your last invocations, your last tears, your offerings and, uniting them to my sorrows, I will offer them up to the Father as a royal gift.

Children, I bless you. Behave so that mutual charity may never be lacking in your groups, especially when some are struck by illnesses.

“Work and pray” was the programme of many saints who have honoured the Church. Let it be also for you a programme. Pray and complete the prayer with charitable action towards the sick.

See you again, children, at the next gathering and not uncommon graces be for you.

YOU NEED TO BE TRANSFORMED

September 20, 1974

Beloved children, I am here with you, I am your Mother who comes from Heaven and I want to point out Heaven to you. I want to point it out to you saying to you: your homeland is there. Here where you live is the kingdom of the dead, the kingdom of the living is there. And yet you have to walk on earth not as dead, but as risen ones. It is an indispensable condition that of leaving the old habits, the defects that constantly accompany the life of man, to reclothe oneself with virtue and with merits and in this way be able to attain eternal life.

The world does not understand this truth and, living for the earth, seeks happiness in fleeting things. Men however, realize that happiness does not exist and that they walk inexorably towards death. Oh, true happiness for the Christians who, dying, live and living

in time through grace, prolong this life into eternity! May this thought hearten you and help you to hope and to love. May it help you also to trust in the mercy of God in order to be able accomplish your mission in the best way.

To explain it better to you, I remind you of the Gospel passage. Jesus travelled the roads of Palestine proclaiming the good news and teaching the way to live in order to be pleasing to God. There were in his following the apostles and some women who had been liberated from evil spirits and who had converted to Him. Amongst them was also the Magdalene, from whom seven demons had come out.

See, children, no one is excluded from following the divine Teacher. There are the apostles and all those who, fleeing evil, are determined to lead a new life. Therefore, whatever may have been your past life, believe that the Lord in his infinite goodness can forgive everything, but He wants the wills determined to do good. Perhaps you might say to me that you have never done a great evil, that rather you have sought to practise the faith and go to Church. I agree that it is so, but you still have not reached sanctity and perhaps you go forward leading a life not of fervent Christians but of tepidity.

At this point I must tell you therefore, that you need to be truly transformed and to give your life a new imprint. At the wedding of Cana, I begged my Son to change the water into wine in order to make the two spouses and the guests happy. Well then, also now, also today, I want to change your tepidity into fervour, the water into wine. Perhaps the Communion that you make also daily, does not bring those fruits that Jesus desires because the desire and the flight from venial sin is lacking. Promise today greater fervour.

Perhaps you perform your daily duties, but without that love that transforms them and makes them a living prayer: you will try to put in a grain of love in every action and you will become fervent. Perhaps the charity towards your neighbour leaves a little to be desired: you will seek to deeply commit yourself and try to meet halfway the needs of others just as you would like others to see yours. If it should happen then that you know lapsed persons who live with death in body, you must go to meet them halfway and you must say that Our Lady loves them and wants them with her and with you as followers of her Jesus.

Children, I love you so much and I bless you deep down. Bring a life-giving yeast everywhere. Bring it with the grace that ought to dwell in you, with the word, with prayer. Let families be roused and live the life of risen ones. Let the whole world be roused and let there be a new spring that brings back faith and morality to the world that keeps on ruining itself in sin. I help you and I await you always.

IT IS NECESSARY TO BE CONSISTENT

September 22, 1974

Beloved children, I am here amongst you as in the cenacle and I invoke the Holy Spirit over you all so that He may illuminate you, heat you up, that He may give you the strength whereby you are able to be truly living members of the Church of Christ.

I am the Mother of the Church, since, as Mother of divine grace, I give the spiritual life to every creature who, receiving Baptism, becomes a part of the Church. Moreover, I am also Mother of all those children who, belonging to other religions, do not have the gift of Baptism, for as Co-Redemptrix of the human race, I pray, work and offer continuously the Blood of Jesus to the Father for their salvation. Also among the infidels there are beautiful souls who love God and would not harm any creature, observing the Law that God has impressed in their hearts. They are united to the soul of the Church and will be saved, and perhaps many Christians, Catholics and baptized, will not be able to reach their glory.

I help everyone, but I desire to put you on your guard on the abuse of graces, since it is a great ingratitude towards God. What merit do you have for being born in a Catholic land, in a Catholic family? And yet, how many times, children, you are not up to your call. You lead a life that resembles that of the blind who do not wish to see and to that of the deaf who do not wish to hear.

There are many Christians who live like pagans, turning their belly into an idol and maintaining an indecent behaviour contrary to the Law of God. There are many who know how to be angels or devils on the occasion and keep, exactly as the Gospel says, the foot in two shoes; but Jesus has said that one cannot serve two masters. One cannot put God and the devil on the same level, it is also a very grave risk that can put eternal life in danger.

This is why it is necessary that from the morning you say to yourselves: Today I must be a true follower of Jesus Christ, the true Son of Mary. If this thought will be like a light which you were to glance at, your life will be all illuminated. It is necessary to be consistent in order to be able to bear witness for one's faith. There are some truths that are not enough to be known, one needs to translate them into practise if one does not want to be like cymbals that do not play.

Harmony between words and action generates perfection. The example of a committed Christian, who does not waver before the duty to be done and who does his actions with precision, without worry and with love, is the best sermon that he can make. If I speak of actions, I mean those that concern God, as prayer, and those that concern the family, the

community, society. “To be praying souls” is not a complete expression, if you do not add the other expression also: “To be working souls.”

Today you have entrusted the sick to me. How necessary it is to pray for them, so that the light of faith may give them the capacity to bear with, after having understood the value of pain. All the sick ask to be healed, and it is human, since human nature rebels against suffering. Man was created for happiness, not for sorrow. And yet, if every sick person were to think of serving God, though being in a bed, and making their pain an offering for the brethren, how much would the pains be alleviated and what witness of faith they would give.

Beside the sick, your lesson ought to be this: to utilize the minute that passes for the conquest of an infinite good. How many curses, how many blasphemies, how many rebellions rise to Heaven just in the most crucial moment of their lives! It is good to pray for the sick, and for that communion of saints which forms the riches of the baptized, may you learn also to accept and to offer up those sufferings that many times come to give you a visit, so that the seriously sick and the dying may have light and comfort.

You are the living rocks that comprise the Church and you must be a support one to the other. Everyone must commit himself to help others to carry the burden of life, which is not light for anyone. A mother suffers when one of her children is sick, and I, who am the Mother of all, feel reverberate in my heart all the pains of my children, be they good or bad. By giving comfort to them, you comfort me also and you contribute to make the Church more vital and more flourishing.

I am not speaking to you today about the illnesses that sin provoke in the soul, I speak to you only about the physical evils that make a great part of society groan.

I bless you, children. I bless those who by vocation or by mission, or because drawn by the goodness of their heart, look after the sick. I assure to them special spiritual comforts in their illnesses.

See you again, children. At the bed of the sick you will find also me.

MAY THE WORK AND THE GOOD DONE BE WORTHY OF A REWARD

September 24, 1874

Beloved children, here we are again as for an encounter of love. There are good children among you who love me more than themselves, and there are also some who, in certain moments, forget they are my children and offend my Jesus with sin and wound my heart. To all however, I give a maternal embrace, while to those who do not live in the grace of God, I whisper with special goodness: my children, do you not fear God's anger? Do you not believe that He could take you away from this life from one moment to the next and that He would have to judge you harshly?

What is that ungrateful child who, as he receives from his own father unending favours, rebels against him, insults him, curses and wishes harm on the hand that feeds him? Humanly also he ought to be condemned and you all would blame the behaviour of such a son. What shall one say therefore, of him who, after having received from God a soul to be saved to whom a glory and infinite reward is reserved, neglects to live in a way of meriting it for himself, who rather despises the promise and the gift? How much the Lord must be disgusted with these degenerate children, who do not follow the road that God himself indicated in the Commandments and which Jesus travelled on as first giving to his followers like a line or footsteps on which to follow?

Look, children, my encouragement today is more than ever persistent and heartfelt: you are on earth to do the will of God and, by carrying out his divine will, you will merit a wage, that of the worker who worked in his vineyard. I am the Virgin of Ransom, and I must teach you to work and to do good in such a way that is worthy of a reward.

The great majority of men work in the world for the money. At the end of the day or the week or the month they expect the pay. They work for themselves and do not let a thought of Heaven enter into their work. It is a manual or mental work that can bring benefits also to humanity, but which dies with them. To them who, like all those who in work seek their own glory, their own satisfaction, the Lord will be able to say: You have received your pay.

There are others, also Christians, who do good for themselves. They are perhaps philanthropic enough to judge that certain works are to be done, but these also are not raised above what is human. They are drawn to give help to those who suffer, to help the needy, but always and only on a human level. To all those, of whom one can admire the mind and the heart, I say: it is too little. A celestial wage demands works that have Heaven as the aim. Therefore, while the works must be performed in the grace of God, they must have as aim

the true good of the brethren, that is, their eternal salvation. This is what St. Paul wanted to explain when he said to the early Christians: Even if I were to distribute all my goods to the poor and I had no charity, my good would be nothing, because it would not be true love.

Keeping in mind the end of your actions is a useful thing, it is an indispensable thing. The ox that pulls the plough gets tired and will receive food as its reward, but it cannot give a meaning to its work. He who performs great works but human ones, receives a human reward that passes. Only he who acts for the highest Good and directs to Him even the smallest actions is the true rich one.

I look at the world thirsting for riches, power and goods and I pity those who, following its false theories, seek happiness in these things, and I hear the words of the Teacher addressed to these rich ones: *“It is easier for a camel to enter into the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of the Heavens.”* Moreover, I see also so much waste of grace and of merits. I see mothers busy from morning to evening, who know no pause in their work; I see persons who, if they were to sanctify their daily life in the fulfilment of their duty for the sake of God, they would reach the highest summits of sanctity. All are invited in this way to live in order not to find themselves on the deathbed empty-handed, after having made innumerable sacrifices.

Sanctify work, which I daily remunerate as Virgin of Ransom, granting that interior peace, which is satisfaction of the duty performed for God’s sake. Yes, dear children, a daily wage I give you, for, in doing as I teach you, you put yourselves voluntarily at God’s service, who becomes for you infinite providence. It is not to be excluded that you can receive a wage as it is fixed by human rules, but your eyes are fixed above, where a glass of water also, given out of love has its reward. So your good has an immediate resonance in your heart, and it is the joy that I give you; it has a family and social resonance, for God has worked with you and in you, to make your action effective, and this joy of the good done, which expands as far as the world is spread, is prolonged into eternity.

Children, I bless you all one by one. See you again, and always with much serenity and faith.

IN SEARCH OF TRUTH, UNITED TO THE POPE

September 26, 1974

Beloved children, dear to my heart more than myself, peace be to you. I am the Mother of the Church and I want to thank you for this fervent prayer raised up for the Roman Pontiff on his birthday.

Truly you must put this attention above every personal interest of yours. Rather, if you have worries that torment your soul and bother you a lot, you must cast them into the heart of my Jesus and mine so that, making use also of them besides your prayers, help and comfort can be given to him who bears the weight of the Church.

Children, I am close to you and I accompany you in every tribulation of yours, but it is necessary that you learn to suffer, it is necessary that you prepare yourselves for greater sufferings. If you are accustomed to comforts and to satisfying every demand of your body, how will you be able to confront what awaits you? My children, the world continuously walks in the dark and men do not go in search of the truth. How will they be able to be converted and find the light, find God? The extraordinary keeps on multiplying and the devil also works in this way to create confusion, error and disorder. But who will be the willing children who, returning to the genuine study of the Gospel, seek to meet Jesus in those pages?

During his mortal life, Jesus drew the crowds around Him and they were many who desired to discover the truth.

There were many, it is true, who followed Him because they knew that Jesus worked miracles, multiplied loaves and fishes, changed water into wine, cured every kind of evils, but many loved Him and wanted to hear his word and understand his teachings.

Herod also had heard about Jesus and was told the marvellous works that He did. Someone had reported to him that John had risen, others said to him that Elijah had returned to earth, and others still that He was a new prophet. Herod however, remained in error and certified boldly and coldly: "*I had John decapitated.*" Perhaps, if he had listened to God's call that came through his subjects, he could have converted and would have known the divine Teacher.

Even in your days it is the same. One combats who is not known or one remains in indifference and in sin, rather than go in search of Jesus and of truth. This grieves the Pope. This grieves my Jesus and me. If there was the desire for good, light would be found and Christian doctrine would appear so beautiful, and its dogmas and its hope so consoling.

Obstinacy in sin is a grave rebellion that renders one similar to the demons. What in fact, did the rebel angels do after having attempted to become like God? They remained deluded, but did not change and their obstinacy will last forever.

How much I rejoice when I see my children desirous of truth! It is true that many times, by reason alone, you cannot explain the great mysteries of the faith, just as many things that

happen in the world are clear to your mind, but the need that you feel to learn the truth gives you honour. Mysteries are never things contrary to reason, but only superior, and to study them, in order to explain them in the best way for you and to accept them and to love them, is a great thing.

The Catholic religion is like a gold mine which the more you fathom it the more you are enriched and the more you enjoy these spiritual riches.

Naturally you cannot study and interpret the Scriptures like you wish. There are the Doctors of the Church. Their wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit and passes, through the infallibility of the Pontiff, up to the most simple and humble souls.

You might ask me that you lack the capacity and time to study and understand the teachings of these scholars of the Church. That's why, by using the words of mothers, religious, priests, who become like simple instruments in our hands, we give to truth that simple form whereby it becomes accessible to all minds.

Oh, if hearts were to understand these gifts of love and be so humble as to accept them, how the spreading of good would be facilitated! It is also true that at present communities are formed which under a religious aspect conceal the wiles of the evil one, but I have told you at other times that you can have the requisites for distinguishing. Attachment to the Supreme Pontiff is the best guarantee, whereby I do not hesitate to say to you: distrust those groups who do not love the Pope. Distance yourselves from those priests who do not acknowledge in the Pope the characteristic that makes him great: he is the infallible, sweet Christ on earth. If they should speak to you about the errors committed by some Popes along the centuries, do not hesitate to accept the truth, but say also with certainty that, if the Pope as man can make a mistake, faith and morals remain defended in him and through him, which never fell short. The Decalogue, the Law of love, and the Creed, the apostolic symbol, did not undergo and never will undergo any variation because they come from God.

And now, children, to you who are a part of the Pope's militia, my approval and my encouragement. Never forget your duties towards him who is the father of Christianity and never let him lack the help that may sustain him in these delicate and tremendous moments.

I bless all one by one and I embrace you repeating to you: be trusting in God, always go in search of truth and stay united to him who is its depository.

MAMMA CARMELA'S PUBLISHED WRITINGS

Titles in the original Italian editions:

Pensieri e Riflessioni	— published in 6 volumes
Gesù nostro Maestro	— published in 10 volumes
Maria, Madre e Maestra	— published in 25 volumes
I Santi, nostri intercessori	— one volume
Pellegrinaggi ed esercizi spirituali	— one volume

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

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 III	- 29 May 1972 to 23 March 1973, published 2005.
Volume IV	- 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, 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.
Volume X	- 14 April 1978 to 26 October 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:

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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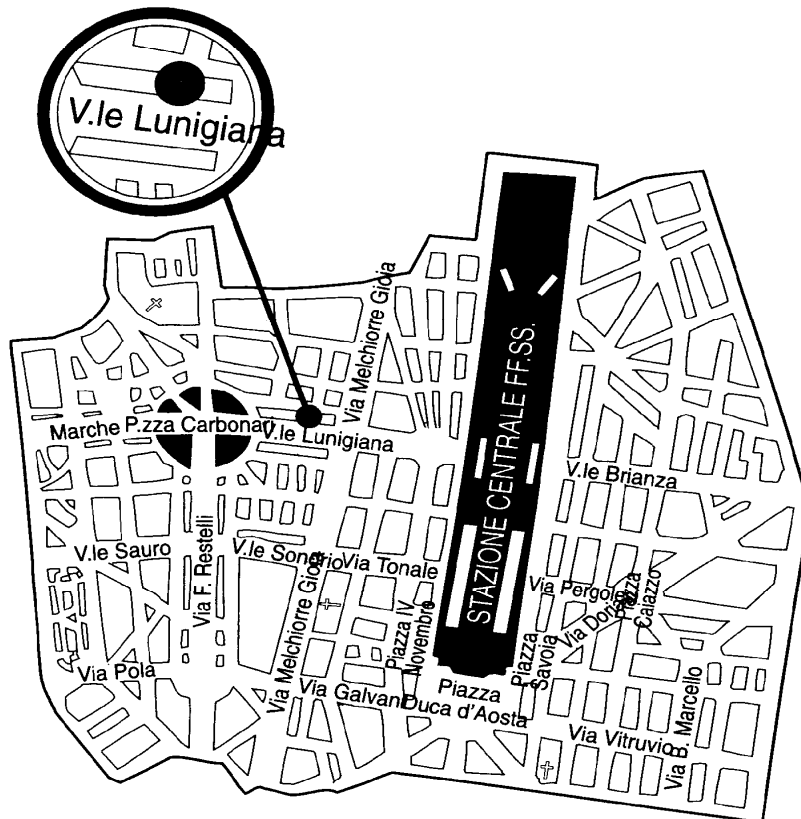
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MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER 11

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” ELEVENTH IN THE SERIES
COVERING THE PERIOD FROM
23 April 1974 to 26 September 1974**