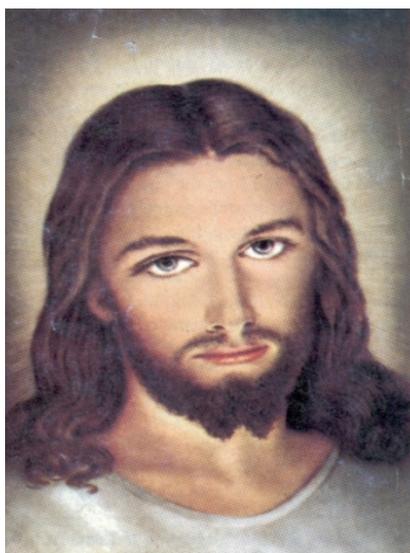




Mary, Mother and Teacher

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



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 Macarena — Our Lady of Hope. Seville, Spain dating back to the 17th Century. Great numbers of penitents in pointed hoods and white robes proceed her statue during the ceremonies of Holy Week.

MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER

12

Title of the original Italian Edition:

“MARIA, MADRE E MAESTRA”

Translation and publication

by arrangement with

ASSOCIAZIONE MAMMA CARMELA

Cenacolo della Divina Misericordia

Viale Lunigiana, 30

20125 MILAN, ITALY

Translated from the Italian

by the Divine Mercy Apostolate, Melbourne

*published on a non-profit basis with the sole aim
of making the writings of Mamma Carmela available
to the English speaking peoples.*

*The intellectual and all other rights of the translator
and publisher, are hereby affirmed and retained.*

Anno Domini MMXI

Melbourne, Australia

THIS ENGLISH EDITION

available from:

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE

PO Box 73

PASCOE VALE SOUTH VIC 3044

AUSTRALIA

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Gerard Diamond MA (Oxon), LSS, D. Theol
Diocesan Censor

Imprimatur: Most Reverend Les Tomlinson DD,
Titular Bishop of Siniti
Vicar General

Date: 3 September 2011

The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that a book or pamphlet is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those who have granted the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions or statements expressed. They do not necessarily signify that the work is approved as a basic text for catechetical instruction.

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, MELBOURNE

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
Viale Lunigiana, 30 — 20125 Milan, Italy

Non-Commercial Edition

CONTENTS

1. What are the people saying about you?	7
2. Do not be rich except for giving	9
3. Be little, be humble	10
4. The Guardian Angels	13
5. Concern yourselves only with loving	15
6. The prayer of the Rosary in order to obtain humility	17
7. The Rosary is the remedy for impending evils	20
8. A lively faith, complete and humble	21
9. Pray with faith and with humility	23
10. What prayer I desire from you	25
11. Prayer and penance to save the world	27
12. To a group of pilgrims	29
13. Be vigilant in waiting for the Bridegroom	30
14. To the young	32
15. To a group of pilgrims	33
16. The thoughts that must guide you to the confessional	34
17. Live by faith	36
18. You must forgive always	38
19. God is the author of every good	40
20. May the devotion to the Child Jesus truly come	42
21. You are called to holiness	44
22. To the young	46
23. The life of man is a meeting with the Lord	47
24. Materialism and immorality	49
25. I give you my tears, my heart, my hands	52
26. Be prudent and be simple	54
27. You must spread light	55
28. The trusting recourse to God	57
29. To a group of pilgrims	59
30. To the young	60
31. Divine goodness governs all	61
32. To the Turin group	64
33. I want you to be fervent	65
34. The example of St. Cecilia	68
35. The Magnificat was my favourite song	69
36. I use you	71
37. To the young	73
38. Do not put off to tomorrow	74
39. Bring the little children here	76
40. The consequences of sin	78
41. Widen your prayer	80

42. Learn to intercede for all	82
43. I would like every home of yours to be a true shrine	83
44. Jesus is the salvation of all	85
45. In preparation for Christmas	87
46. Be adoptive sons of God	89
47. God's plans	91
48. Be precursors	93
49. Draw goodness from my heart	95
50. Try to thank God	96
51. All must welcome the Word	98
52. You must bring peace	100
53. What to love means	102
54. To the young	103
55. Behold, the Lamb of God	104
56. The threefold gift of the Magi	106
57. You must trust God	108
58. Prayer and work	110
59. The commitments of the baptised	112
60. Prayer unites souls to God and to themselves	114
61. Love God and neighbour	117
62. Pray for the unity of the Churches.	118
63. To a group of pilgrims	118
64. To the young	119
65. A threefold fidelity	120
66. Be faithful to your promises	122
67. The Annunciation	124
68. The Visitation	125
69. "Why were you looking for Me?".	126
70. Ask for light	128

WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT YOU?

September 27, 1974

Beloved children, here you are after the summer pause to take up again your beautiful prayer meetings. Yes, be blessed, because every time that you come here to pray at my feet I rejoice immensely. I know that prayer is your only strength and I am certain that you will succeed, in adopting it, to overcome all your difficulties.

Today however, while the Church is gathered together to ask the Holy Spirit to be able to improve and continue in the way of good, it is a great thing that you unite yourselves to the Pope and to the Bishops in supplication. Ask for light, ask for love, ask for constancy in good for the teaching Church and ask for simplicity of heart, humble submission and courage for all the members that constitute the learning Church.

If from this synod new decisions emerge that will bring some human laws that exist in the Church, which is composed of men, up to date, learn to accept them and in obedience order will reign. My Jesus, the divine Teacher, who was the same uncreated wisdom, made himself obedient to men, and God wills that men be subject to the authorities. Every authority comes from God and whoever learns to obey perfects himself, since he leaves the responsibility to those who command.

Children, if you must be prudent and learn to distinguish where the truth is and where error is, you must not however lose your peace but, behaving as true Christians, you must always bear witness to your uprightness. In this moment I want to refer you to a Gospel event. Jesus asks from his apostles: *“Who do the people say I am?”* They reply: *“There are those who say that you are Elijah, John the Baptist, a prophet.”* *“And you”*, Jesus still asks, *“who do you say I am?”* Peter answers: *“You are the Christ, the Son of God.”* Children, Peter had spoken well.

Now I want to address a question to you: who are you? You answer me perhaps that you are part of a prayer group, that you are Catholic Christians. Then I insist and I ask: and the people what do they say about you? I do not intend, with this question, to arouse gossip or perhaps reawaken some slanders. I only want to make you reflect in order to ask you if you are consistent between the life of prayer and your ordinary life, that which you lead in the fulfillment of your duties. I would like exactly for your fellow men to be able to say about you: Here are some real Christians, here are some soldiers of Jesus Christ, here are some children of God.

A true Christian never forgets the law of charity that unites him to God and to the other brethren. A true soldier of Jesus Christ never hesitates before the sacrifice to be done and never lets himself be won by human respect, he shows without fear his faith and practises its precepts. A soldier knows how to defend his own flag and is ready to die for his own king. Your flag is truth and your king is Jesus crucified. You are sons of God and also others must recognize you as such, so that, as you try to live in the grace of God, you are a good example to all through honesty of life and through that uprightness, which distinguishes you. In this way, my children, I who am your Mother, can glory in you because you mirror in yourselves my only begotten Son who was a model for you in everything.

And now, as dearly beloved children, I bless you one by one, starting from those who suffer through illness or suffer morally because they are subjected to the injustices of others. Do always the same as I have done: unite your sufferings to those of Jesus in the Garden, Jesus scourged, Jesus crowned with thorns, Jesus on the Way to Calvary, Jesus crucified, and you will deserve one day to rejoice with us in Heaven that glory which the Father has reserved for his children whom He loves infinitely. See you again, children.

DO NOT BE RICH EXCEPT FOR GIVING

September 29, 1974

Beloved children, who with sacrifice and with the heart full of love and holy desires, have come — who from nearby, who from afar — to honour me, may you be blessed. I am the Virgin of consolations, and consolations and graces I wish to give you.

I am your Mother, the Mother of God, and what will I not want and not be able to grant you? I just desire your faith and your trust. If someone is sick and goes to the doctor already with the certainty that he will not want to make use of the remedies prescribed by him and thinking that the doctor cannot help him, certainly that sick man will not be cured. If a poor man goes to a great lord who possesses every good, but asks for nothing and refuses the gifts that the rich man would like to give him, undoubtedly he will remain poor.

You certainly are not of these two categories. The desire that has made you take the steps towards this house of mine shows it. I am doctor and medicine for you, because my Jesus has granted me to be able to heal souls by leading them to Him, and He gives me his grace to distribute to those who desire it, as healthy medicine of souls. Therefore, you will go to your homes, you will return to your

towns and parishes with a new spirit, whereby you will be strong in mind, strong in spirit, strong in heart and the whole body will feel its benefit.

How great it is to be with you, children! I would like for you to always keep me in your company! I sometimes weep to make my sorrows understood, I weep real tears, tears of blood, but I give so much happiness and joy to those who try to do their best to console me. The whole world is thirsting for happiness, and yet one weeps in the world a lot. My Jesus said one day: *“Blessed are those who weep, because they shall be consoled.”* You also weep often, but if you have faith, even in weeping you find a comfort and, if you unite your tears to mine, you feel a true joy.

The world spends time and life foolishly, and my Jesus says to them: Woe to you who rejoice in false joys and who seek happiness in pleasure and in fleeting things, for these things will be taken away from you and you will be in sadness and for always. In this way, children, my Jesus presented the parable of the rich man Dives. He was enjoying himself and was not aware of Lazarus, who stayed at the door begging for the crumbs that fell from the table. Then both of them died: Lazarus was glorified and the rich man was sent to a place of suffering.

You might say to me: Perhaps we ought to spend our lives like Lazarus in order to merit an eternal reward for ourselves? My children, if it has not been said to you that you must turn your life to beggary, whereby you all and always must beg for everything, there is however, in the figure of Lazarus the figure of the true Christian insatiable for truth, who goes about asking for spiritual help in order to progress in holiness. Yes, be also like Lazarus at the door of Tabernacles, hungry for the Eucharist. Be thirsting for the Blood of Jesus, who offers himself for you in Holy Mass. Be thirsting for mercy at the confessional and let it be again the Blood of Jesus that cleanses your souls. This making yourselves poor before God elevates you and makes you worthy of grace and help.

I look at and see many times, also amongst persons who go to Church, like rich Dives. They are those who perhaps have received endless graces, special gifts. They have had succulent meals, through the abundance of the word of God that is communicated to them in different ways, but they have shut everything up in themselves, ignoring the many Lazarus's. Perhaps they have had some confrontations, they have observed the evil and those who commit it and have been severe judges, moreover, they have not learned to invite to their spiritual table the lapsed and the sufferers. Perhaps the persons of this world have need of a word, a smile, an act of goodness, more than some of your criticisms and your grumblings, but you have not realized it and you have obstinately left Lazarus outside the door and you have denied him the crumbs.

God calls everyone, the rich and the poor. Remember that no one is that rich as to have need of no one and nobody is that poor as to have nothing to give. These things have been said to you at other times. Do not refuse anything to each other, be generous, be good. May the material helps render you the perpetuation of the providential hand of God before the brethren, and the spreading of the divine word and the translation into practice of those spiritual works of mercy which men need, may it make you bearers of the Word, bearers of Jesus amongst the poor. Do not be rich except for giving, and be poor in spirit, so that the humble acceptance of help and prayer on the part of everyone may give birth to true gratitude in your hearts.

And now, children, I embrace you, blessing you again.

To the religious present, especially to those who have great responsibilities, my encouragement to work in great humility and love in the vineyard of the Lord.

To all those who form the prayer group of Pontedera, my praise. You have wished to honour me placing my effigy as at Lourdes, and I will call back many souls and I will grant favours to those who will pray coming to the cenacle.

I bless the picture of my Jesus crowned with thorns: to those who, repenting of their sins, will look at it, I will grant the pardon of their venial sins and the grace to make a good confession of the mortal sins.

Beloved children, thanks to all and to each one. May the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael guide your steps now and always, during the whole course of your lives. See you again, children, always with enthusiasm and fervour.

BE LITTLE, BE HUMBLE

October 1, 1974

My children, so dear to my heart, you start today the month dedicated to my Rosary.

Allow me to renew to you for the nth time the invitation to turn this prayer into a means to sanctify your life, in order to defend yourselves from the assaults of the enemies and to obtain mercy and peace for all humanity. A means of personal sanctification, first of all. Many times you recite that invocation of help for the tremendous hour of death. Well then, the Rosary must teach you to die every day to yourselves, by suffocating self love and pride, fount and cause of every evil, in order to prepare yourselves for a serene death.

It is hard, children, I know, to understand the necessity to deny one's self, but it is the only way to follow the divine Teacher who ascends Calvary carrying the cross. It is not possible on the other hand, to enter into eternal life without making oneself little, since the door is low and narrow, Jesus said so to you. If you do not make yourselves little like children, you will not enter into the Kingdom of the heavens, Jesus said again to you. One day the disciples, disputing amongst themselves, desired to know who would have been the greatest in Paradise. Jesus, who had read their thoughts, having taken a child in his arms, said: *"He is the greatest. He who makes himself little is the greatest."*

I have said all this to you, so that through the recitation of the Rosary, which is the prayer of the humble, you may learn to practise humility. What is the worth, children, for you to have revenge on all things? What is the worth for you to have to lose peace in order to defend yourselves? Is not the Lord your shield and your fortress? Be calm, be humble, the mysteries of the life of the Saviour suggests this to you. Be desirous of living like souls thirsting for love, hidden in the heart of my Jesus and mine, in order to be able to make your lives an offering to the Father. The merciful love of Jesus, our Redeemer, must manifest itself to the world. But how will men be able to become aware of a gift of mercy offered to all, if you who have known it and enjoy its benefits, do not learn to show it with your simple and humble lives, animated solely by charity?

Children, the Rosary must defend you from the enemies of the soul and the body, but how will this powerful weapon be able to distance the external enemies, if you do not make use of good will in order to take away pride, which is the first of the capital vices and which alone is enough to make you brothers of the demons? Know that pride caused the rebel angels to be lost, it made our progenitors sin, and all those who damn themselves, are lost solely because they do not want to humble themselves.

I like speaking to you about the Rosary as a net that can contain the whole of humanity. A net which, cast in the name of the Lord, can haul in fish of every size and quality. But remember to cast with humility this magnificent net which self love could render useless.

I have spoken to you today about littleness and humility, as the Church honours Therese, a great saint, who wanted to be so little as to be the least of all in the community where she lived. So little as to compel Jesus to hold her in his arms. The spiritual infancy that she practised, made her so simple as to ask nothing from Jesus, for she held that her littleness merited nothing, but nothing for herself, while, exactly immolating her nothingness, through this nothingness she asked for all men to return to the loving heart of Jesus and be able to be saved.

How much need there would be still for souls who generously and humbly, sacrificing themselves, would make themselves intermediaries between Heaven and earth! Victim souls who, though in the fulfilment of their daily duties, learned to transfuse so much love as to sublimate even the little things.

What do I desire, children, from you? May this month which recalls with the Rosary a humble offering of perfumed roses, be spent by you in holy fervour. May Therese be a special guide to your steps and show you, with her smile and with the offering of her roses, how it is possible to practise the most heroic virtues even in the monotony of the ordinary duty.

Another thought, children. October is the month in which the must in the vats ferments and, so to say, matures to give men that wine that will be used also for the Mass. May your sacrifices be that precious must and become that wine which, transformed into the Blood of Jesus, give you strength in Communion.

I bless you all, children. Saint Therese with me blesses you.

THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

October 2, 1974 (at Seregno)

Beloved children, so dear to my heart, I have come to you accompanied by a host of angels. I am the Queen of angels and they, as good subjects, accompany me in every trip of mine.

I in Paradise am the delight of the saints, who enjoy seeing me, loving me and uniting their joyful hymns to those of the nine angelic choirs, moreover, through a gift of God's love I can also be on earth with a very special presence. In this way I am near every Tabernacle where the Body of the Lord is kept and, in company with the angels, I make a guard of honour to the divine Prisoner. I am beside the bed of the sick, I assist the Church in every manifestation of hers, whether she speaks to the people of God with the inspired word, as when she administers the Sacraments. Always and everywhere the angels are an escort of honour and strive so that souls, taking advantage of God's gifts, may be sanctified.

The mission of the angels is mysterious, great and important. It is always great, even when their assistance is not known or forgotten. Moreover, there is a delicate task entrusted to a host of numberless angels, called the guardian angels.

Every guardian angel receives in care a soul at its conception, and the charge is

this: to lead it along the streets of the world up to its entrance in Heaven. He will have to render an account of this soul to God. He will have to commit all his goodness, intelligence and protection to preserve it from dangers. The guardian angel will have to inspire all those good thoughts and affections that will lead the soul to perform good actions. He will have to warn it, in a silent and effective way, of what is good to do and what is good to flee, even if the conscience, being the voice of God, is equally valid.

You know all these things, true? Moreover, I want to tell you the exact reason for which every man has, so to say, his assistant. I have said to you that the angels stand with me beside every Tabernacle. But what is the human body? Is it not the temple of God? Is not the soul made in his image and likeness? And is not the Holy Spirit the sweet guest of the soul? What a task, for an angel, more delicate than this: to guard the Lord who dwells in souls in grace? In this way it is a truth of faith that no human creature is ever alone on earth. The companionship of the guardian angels is so consoling and, if it is a delicate task for them, the knowledge of this truth is equally right and proper and the recognition for what they do for you.

What will your duties towards these lofty creatures be, who in the most perfect obedience to the will of God go out of their way for you? First of all a duty ever so elementary. If a teacher speaks, the pupils must listen to him. It would be great tactlessness to let him speak uselessly. The good inspirations come from your angel, but the desire to understand them is needed. You must not be deaf to his calls, rather, imitating my spouse Joseph who protects you, you must be ready to follow their orders which come to them from God himself. You must invoke them often and be helped. How many more great things you would do if you let yourselves be helped by them! The complaint that I hear from the angels is this: men do not call us, they want to go it alone.

Know still that your angels are in continuous adoration before the throne of God, whom they love immensely. You also can stay like the angels in adoration. Every time that, accepting the will of God, you say those words that I replied to the archangel Gabriel: *“Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your will”*, you adore God and show your love to Him. Do not disgust your angels with an unchristian behaviour. Do not let sin enter your souls, so that the devil may not have to take up abode in you instead of the angel of God.

Your angel knows you well, even if you do not see him. He loves you and blesses you every time that you do a good work or, with an act of love, increase the grace of God in you. Say often with great fervour: Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord. And again: Guardian Angels, call all men beside the heart of Mary.

And you mothers, who have children who do not behave as their angels would like, speak to their angels. If your voice finds no resonance in their hearts, the angels will do much more and will be heard. So too, send your angels to console the sick, to sanctify the priests with the insistence of their inspirations and with the desire of salvation communicated through the celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

I bless you, children.

I bless this house, the young here present, the children and all those who desire to do so much good for souls.

CONCERN YOURSELVES ONLY WITH LOVING

October 2, 1974 (at Muggiò)

Beloved children, this is a joyful encounter! I see here all united, as in a flower bed in bloom, many consecrated souls of different congregations. I see two spouses who are celebrating the silver wedding and the presences of their elderly parents makes me think of Joachim and Anne. Consecrated souls are not lacking, even if in secular dress, and the men too are represented by the fathers and by the young. May you all be blessed one by one and with maternal affection.

Remember that, whatever may your past have been, whatever your future will be, you will never be alone.

You will always have at your side your Immaculate Mother ready to help you in all, ready to lift you up again if you fall, ready to understand you and to repair if you make a mistake. I desire that, immersing yourselves into my heart which is also the abode of the heart of my Jesus, you understand and be filled with love, so that the most important thought of your life may be that of loving.

The souls are so few who seek their God in all. More often than not, under an apparent generosity, is hidden the search for their own ego. At least you, who have understood the necessity of living in love and for love, learn to manifest with your life this desire. I teach you how. You are possessors of the present moment, since there is no certainty of tomorrow. The morrow will have its demands, its suffering and its rejoicing, but you do not know if you will be able to live it. The moment which you live, and which passes with the speed of the wind, is yours. And why not transform it into an act of love? An act of love is enough to erase all the mistakes of a life. An act of love is enough to repair for the sins of many sinners. An act of love is enough to make one walk in the way of perfection.

Oh! concern yourselves only with loving. This is your vocation. This is your mission. The duty does not count. Whether you are held in consideration by the world or whether you are forgotten does not count. Whether you are able to realize your desires or whether they will remain desires which perhaps only in Paradise you will be able to realize does not count. The only important thing is to love.

You could tell me that you feel you have a heart of stone and that, in spite of good will, you do not succeed in overcoming yourselves. You feel discouraged, the smile dies on your lips. You would like to make the Lord happy and in the meantime the years go by and you are aware of being always at the same point. And I say to you: do not be discouraged. You cannot measure your spiritual progress. Let Jesus measure it, who must make you grow up to reaching his stature. If you live day to day, repeating what other saints, other good souls said: *“Cover me with your shadow and only for today, for each day has its own problem”*, so much peace will enter into your heart and trust in Providence will obtain for you marvellous gifts from God.

Children, be loving souls. May the young love and seek, in the love of God and neighbour, the realization of an ideal. May the elderly love and seek, in the continuous increase of love, that apostolic fruitfulness which without love would be like a soul without life. Yes, all of you seek love, so that life, which is a trial and which quickly sets like a day that goes from morning to evening, be rich with fruits; fruits of grace, tasty fruits, delicious fruits which you will have to present to the good Father who recompenses all.

Beloved children, I know that some have thorns in the flesh, but is not the heart of my Jesus surrounded by very sharp thorns? And above his heart is there not a devouring flame that burns? Well then, let your thorns be a precious collaboration for Him who suffers for the sins of humanity.

He suffers and loves, you suffer and love. Only in this way, children, does one arrive at that glory that has nothing to be envied by human joys, so fragile and so short-lived.

My children, how I would like personally to respond to all in particular. I would however, say to all the same thing. In the place where you are, with the limited possibilities that you have, love the Lord and love your neighbour. If you would like to do the apostolate of the word and you must keep silent, be silent and let me speak in your place. If it seems to you that, changing house or job, you would do better, remember that the flower that does not blossom where the Lord has sown, will blossom with difficulty elsewhere. Everything is remedied with love.

If I had to ask for a favour from my consecrated souls, I ask this: do not let yourselves be governed by external factors. You have chosen Love: love Him, and forget the things of the world.

If you ask for health for those who are dear to you or for yourselves, do so, adding with humility: *“If this is in the will of God”*, since in the other life one does not remain idle; one works for those who are on earth and especially for those who are a part of your natural and spiritual family.

To all, with the blessing of the holy angels, who are devoted and important guardians of your spiritual life, receive my tender and maternal embrace. See you again, children.

“Ad multos annos”, I will say to the spouses who celebrate the silver wedding and to all the relatives.

Courage and trust to all, today and always.

THE PRAYER OF THE ROSARY TO OBTAIN HUMILITY

October 4, 1974 (in the chapel of an Institute)

Beloved children, be the welcomed ones in the house of my Lord and mine. I welcome you with open arms and I wish to introduce you one by one to my Son. I will introduce you like this: this is a beloved son of mine, or this is a beloved daughter of mine, who, after having known me, wants to deepen the lesson of holiness which you spoke about one day to your disciples. Jesus will welcome you certainly in his heart and will spur you on to walk briskly in the way of virtue.

“Be holy”, Jesus said to you, *“like your Father who is in the heavens is holy.”* But how will you be able to be perfect, children, like Him while you do not know Him? See now Jesus intervenes again: *“Whoever knows Me, knows my Father.”* What therefore, ought you discover in the Father? *“Come and learn from Me, who am meek and humble of heart.”* The first lesson of holiness is a lesson of humility. In a world in which only pride triumphs, and power and arrogance have the upper hand over humility and poverty, it is very important to listen to this lesson. It has to overturn the world, just as the apostles in the early days of the Church, overturned it with their attitude and with their word, which was the echo of that of Jesus.

The Lord is always the same to himself and always the same is his behaviour: He makes use of littleness in order to confound greatness, He makes use of misery in order to confound and destroy the human greatness based on things. The Lord works in the world and communicates his secrets to the ignorant in order to confound the wise. So you, children, who have gathered together here and with me, in the presence of Him who humbled himself up to hiding his person under the species of a little bread, must leave here and say to yourselves: We want to be those to whom the Father reveals his secrets, therefore, we wish to be little.

What glory would come to my Jesus, if from this chapel you were to leave truly determined to practise holy humility. How much harmony there is in the heavens, where the stars, as if obeying an uninterrupted command, show their light in certain moments, exactly when the earth, being immersed in darkness, needs it. And who is in darkness more than the world of men in this moment? Are not many youths deviated up to not recognising not only God, but also those who had given them the life of the body? And the spouses are they not perhaps forgetful of their duties of fidelity and love and do they not go about in search of other loves, forgetting their own children and making their parents suffer? They are in the most complete darkness. They do not know how to distinguish good and evil and, if they notice that they have made a mistake, they find themselves incapable of getting up again and freeing themselves.

See, children, my Church, see those who ought to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth become teachers of error, and go seeking out other loves that are not the cross and the Church as the beloved spouse. See the religious communities — that I willed for or my Jesus formed so that they would be like oases in which He would be able to take delight and which Christians would be able to admire and imitate — become worldly, disunited and loveless. See the grudges and the differences of viewpoints create real divisions. Peace is lost, one is in darkness.

I continue the journey along the streets of the world. Do you want to enter with me into the hospitals and into the prisons? They are places of suffering where, with the suffering offered up, one would be able to expiate for many and the same prisoners and sick would be able to sanctify themselves. But no, one is in complete darkness and, instead of invoking help, one swears, God and neighbour is cursed.

In the same way I could bring you into the factories and into the schools, where work or study ought to elevate the persons, who in the precise fulfilment of their duties ought to find serenity and peace, and in the research for human things they would be able to get closer to God. But no, they are in darkness and everywhere with blasphemy, obscene talk and obscenities of every kind one descends more and more into the vulgarity of life and Heaven is forgotten.

Children, all these evils have one only root: human pride, which consciously rebels against the Law of God. This is why my invitation to sanctity coincides with the invitation to humility and it is a call to use this virtue to convert the world. Therefore, what will you do as consecrated ones, as rings of that beautiful chain of love which, sustained by me, is destined to give glory and consolation to the divine heart of Jesus?

Children, make yourselves more and more little so as to feel yourselves nothing not only before God, but also before your brethren; a nothing that loves the Lord and which desires to bring everyone to love Him. It seems so easy, but it is not so. You need the help from above. I, the Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, put myself at your disposal to help you. I will grant you special graces if you have recourse to me, as you have done today, with the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Perhaps not all are convinced of the necessity for this prayer to overcome the pride that reigns in the world. Try it though.

Have you some grave difficulty in the parish? Priests, call the faithful, as once upon a time, to recite the Rosary with you with all the solemnity possible. The difficulties will disappear. Parents, mothers, children, do you have serious worries in the family and do not know how to resolve them? Recite the Rosary as a family, put yourselves on your knees beside an image of mine. I promise you that everything will be accommodated. Oh, if in the religious communities the meditated Rosary would be said, without haste and with love, how much peace and what spiritual progress they would have!

Beloved children, the Rosary is the perfumed wreath of roses that my devout children offer me, and I in return crown their lives with merits and glory in Heaven. When one recites the prayer of the humble, one obtains the humility that is a basic virtue.

I bless you all, children, squeezing you to my heart. Remain with me now and always.

THE ROSARY IS THE REMEDY FOR IMPENDING EVILS

October 5, 1974

Beloved children, how can I deprive you of my word? Are you not apostles of my Rosary? Do you not do all that depends on you so that this beautiful devotion may be spread, known and practised?

Well then, know that I bless your work and I hold it a wonderful thing for you to number yourselves amongst my friends, that is, among the number of those who, after having understood me, are by me understood in all the difficulties of life, helped in all the necessities and prepared with great love to take part one day in my glory. I do not know, children, of any devotee of the Rosary to be damned and who in his mortal life had been taken in by despair.

Certainly, I do not deprive my devotees of sorrow. And how could I make them understand the sorrowful mysteries, if I did not share them with them making them also taste the bitterness and the sweetness of sorrow? Sorrow is a precious coin, which the good learn to use for the conquest of the eternal Kingdom and for the blossoming of the Kingdom of God on earth. The devotees of my Rosary understand the value of sorrow and learn to transform it into joy. They know how to look the realities of life in the face, and with serenity and optimism they accept them, weigh them and overcome them.

I work in depth those souls who make the Rosary a gift of love. In a world that smells of putrefaction, because the mire attempts to suffocate even the most sacred things, you, my devotees, cast perfumed roses to suffocate the poisonous vapours. May you be blessed again! When beneath the steps of Jesus, who ascends Calvary with all the men of this world, you throw rose petals with your Hail Mary's, you give relief to Him and to me and you bring soothing to the wounds that afflict humanity.

It is thought that the Rosary is only a devotion directed to the Mother of God. No, children, the Rosary is a Gospel in miniature, it is the good news brought to the people of God. That's why I desire so much for it to be loved by all and recited. I desire that in the parishes be repeated what is done at Lourdes and that, exposed, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament be adored and for the Holy Rosary to be recited in this month of October.

In every age the Lord has brought the remedies for the impending evils. If one will not pray much, in this period of history tremendous things will be seen which, if it was given to you to know about, only the thought of it would make you shiver. The Rosary is this remedy, and the rebirth of Christian life and the ceasing of evils will once again be tied to it.

I would exactly like for all you present to feel encouraged to make the Rosary your strength and your defence. When the Rosary is recited in family, I sit amongst you and, as I cement family affections, I render the upbringing of the children efficacious for the parents and I bless the interests that are dear to them. The vocations that bloom from this devotion are the most solid and the most true. The elderly also, who are preparing for their encounter with the Lord, fingering lovingly the Holy Rosary, obtain comfort from their torments and strength to put up with the inevitable illnesses.

Here in brief are the thoughts that you must get out of this encounter with the Queen of the Holy Rosary. Never forget them. Strengthen yourselves in the faith, rekindle hope, and let charity be constantly the bond that unites your hearts. I intercede this for you. Give me as gift your worries and live out your days serenely. I will help you to correct the mistakes that you commit daily and to acquire holiness and grace.

I bless you all, children, one by one.

I bless those families who are all here together. Let Jesus be constantly among you to help you. I bless the young and the old. I bless those who go weekly to the places of apostolate. Thank you, children. This time which others will employ in amusement and in different pastimes, you employ it like this, to spread roses into different parishes. Be certain of my protection.

See you again, children.

A LIVELY FAITH, COMPLETE AND HUMBLE

October 6, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. I am the Queen of Victories and I come to encourage you one more time to use the Rosary in order to be able to be victorious over the powers of evil that go about operating in the world. Never be disheartened, however, and as you make use of the powerful weapon of prayer, ask also like the apostles for faith to be increased for you. Do not be more fearful than necessary of God's chastisements, that is to say be earnest and desirous of loving Him and of making Him loved more than fearing Him or making Him be feared, since God does not abandon men to themselves, but He draws them, converts them and sanctifies them, adopting all the means that in the short human view seem useless, ineffective and harmful.

Ask for a lively faith, that learns to wait even when difficulties, adversities and sorrow visit your soul or your home, country and world. To direct every thing, as centre of history, is my Jesus, in whose name the world was created, through whose blood it was redeemed and who, in the glory of the heavens, awaits all men so that in Him and through Him they be may sanctified.

You might ask me: will all men be saved? Children, not all, even though to all were given and are given the means of salvation. It is only the will of man that hampers the salvation; a rebellious and hostile will that is based on pride. Always ask for a complete faith in the truths revealed by God and preserved by

the Church, and a humble faith, that learns to renounce also its own views in order to accept the truths that the Gospel teaches and which those who have preceded you have testified by sacrificing their lives.

Be supportive among yourselves and united like the beads of the same Rosary. You will be my living Rosary and, while overcoming human respect you will honour me everywhere, I will glory in you before my Son and before the Father. Never let my admonishments go unnoticed, because through them I will make you progress in virtue. This is my oasis of peace where everyone will be able to find help and comfort.

See you again, children. I bless you all one by one.

PRAY WITH FAITH AND WITH HUMILITY

October 6, 1974

Beloved children, who with love and joy wish to honour me remembering that admirable gift that I gave you with the Holy Rosary, be blessed and may abundant graces descend on you, on your families, on the Church and on the world.

Men, under the weight of a cross like a nightmare, anxiously debate about being freed, but do not know who to turn to. They are like those who, with eyes blindfolded, grope about in the dark. But do you not see, I would like to say to them, that the light comes from above? Do you not know that the Lord does not abandon you and that only in Him can you have salvation, only from Him and only through Him can you hope to reach the true good? Oh! do not seek life among the dead, ask for it from Him who can give it to you.

Prayer, children, I will never finish recommending it to you. The Rosary, children. This is the life rope that can let you out of the depth of your misery in order to reascend to the starting point. The Rosary, the little boat in which you put in safety the patrimony of faith that you have inherited from your elderly parents or from your ancestors. The Rosary, which you must recite daily in order to invoke graces. It is the prayer of patience. Persevere, and I and my Jesus listen, then we yield and agree.

If a poor man were to come to the door of your house and with a sweet and compassionate voice were to ask you for charity, what would you do? Perhaps you would refuse it to him? You do likewise, and it is not an humiliation to ask for perseveringly, prayer is not a demeaning of man. One perseveres, one exercises patience and God grants and rewards this constancy in asking. God

has made his promises, especially through his Son Jesus, who has said to you: *“Pray without interruption, pray always.”* He who prays gets and you, by praying, do but obey and put into practice one of his commands.

Prayer is a sign of faith. To whom do you pray, in fact? Do you not address yourselves to the Father how Jesus taught you? Whom do you beseech with all the affection of the heart? Perhaps Him who remains insensitive to your requests, or rather Him who is infinite providence? How many men would be less desperate if with faith they beseeched the Lord to have pity on them.

It is true that many times what you ask for does not arrive punctually according to your desires, but know that God keeps his promises always and will hear you, do not doubt. When you observe the world and see the injustices, the violence, the abuses of power and the evil, you are tempted to say that the Lord stays in Heaven, on his throne of glory, and does not care for men, as a prophet said once. But it is not so. God lets men act with freedom. He knows how to use all the means, He knows how to travel all the roads and knows how to arrive at the realization of his ends even when humanly many difficulties seem insoluble.

Do you think perhaps that God, when, after having promised to Abraham an endless number of children, commanded him to kill the only son he had in old age, did not know what He commanded? He knew the epilogue of the event and He knew that He would have kept his promise. So in the world, God lets the demons and the rebellious to act, then He will recompose every thing; but for the good, for those who desire salvation, perseverance in prayer is required and the exercise of patience. Behold the Rosary. It is of no use to judge and counsel God. It is of no use to criticize and judge men, praying is needed, praying for all and praying with faith.

I remind you of a special characteristic that faith and prayer must have.

The apostles, who had heard Jesus speak of many important truths, like the one that is required to detach oneself from riches and the one that one cannot serve two masters, had asked Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus, however, seems not to agree to increase it, He says that a small grain of mustard seed of faith is enough; a crumb is enough, He wanted to say. But, almost as if changing the subject, He asks: *“What do you say about a master who on the return of his servant from the fields, says to him: Change your clothes and prepare me some food? Do you believe that this master ought to have some gratitude for this servant, or do you think that the servant has only done his duty?”* Well then, — my Son adds — the same it is with you. When you work in the vineyard of the Lord, you must not expect praises of any kind, but you must say: *“We are useless servants.”*

This is the principal quality that you must put in your prayer: holy humility. Even if your faith were worthy of miracles, even if through this faith you were able to reach the remotest points of the earth and command trees and mountains to fall into the sea, you ought to say just the same: *“We are useless servants.”*

It is only through this proof of your nothingness that you are worthy of being heard. Children, you have understood me well, true? Your Rosaries are a floral tribute that you present to me, so that in my turn I give it as gift to the Most Holy Trinity. Do so that they may be given as a living gift through the faith and be presented in the humble attitude of those who, being in the greatest poverty, have nothing else to offer. This humility will obtain for you those graces that you ask for with the Rosary.

I bless you, my children. May the fragrant petals fall on you, at every Hail Mary, in so many divine favours. I bless those who propagate my Rosary, the blessed Rosary, and makes it be recited.

To all my maternal embrace.

WHAT PRAYER I DESIRE FROM YOU

October 8, 1974

Beloved children, joy and peace to your hearts, since your prayer does not remain unheard. It reaches the ends for which you have raised it and it is help for all those persons that you wish to help. The whole Church feels the benefit of a communal prayer made with humility, with faith and with love. When the missionaries who work for the spreading of the Kingdom of God in distant lands, come to lack the strength, and depression and discouragement assails them, your prayer reaches them and it is like a powerful spiritual injection that reinvigorates the whole organism. Also your children and relatives, who many times are indifferent to your voice and to your admonishments, are shaken by the force of prayer, even if the conversions do not come straight away, since they resist grace and the devil increases his ruses in order to hinder their return to God.

Prayer is like a lever that alone would have the force to lift up the world and to change the way of thinking and of behaving of all men. The sorrow which grips the heart, the mind and the body of every human creature, accompanied by prayer, is transformed and you see, as if by magic, sick persons and bedridden, perhaps for years, give consolation to others who are in perfect health, only because prayer has become light and strength for them.

When one prays in a family, it is as if a window were opened and the sun let in. The light and the spiritual health is measured by the rule of prayer, therefore, some saints have felt the duty to say to all: *“Whoever prays is saved and whoever does not pray is damned.”*

As King of creation and Author of life, God only asks his creatures to turn to Him asking for everything. What do I mean to tell you with the word everything? That you must ask for every good be it for the soul as for the body. Therefore, it is not forbidden to you to ask for all those material goods that you need in order to live, but you must do one thing: give your requests an order, putting first what concerns your eternal salvation and the salvation of all souls. You cannot forget before a Sovereign so good, a Father so indulgent, his interests, keeping in mind that phrase of my Jesus: *“Seek in the first place the Kingdom of God and his justice and the rest will be given to you as well.”*

Today I wish to remind you of a little Gospel passage, with which I will tell you what prayer I desire from you. Jesus had entered into the home of Martha and, as she busied herself in order to prepare the table, Mary, her sister, seated at the feet of Jesus stayed to watch and listen to Him. It is pointless to tell you that Martha felt the duty to protest and to ask for Jesus to make Mary help her. You know the answer of the divine Teacher: *“Martha, Martha, you worry over too many things; Mary has chosen the best part.”*

When you come to this place, you choose the best part and many times you leave family commitments, which you will take up again at your return home with more ardour and with less tiredness. I would like however, for when you pray, to act like Mary: to look and to listen. I would like for you to be accustomed, that is, to meditate, to reflect and to make your prayer a means of perfectionment.

If, while you recite the Rosary, it is hard for you to meditate the mysteries that you enunciate, think too about the words that you slowly keep on pronouncing, but you will do well if every morning or every evening before going to bed, you will read some good thought that may accompany you during the day and that gives you peace in sleep.

Learning to meditate means learning to confront the diverse attributes of God with your defects, in order to be able little by little to correct yourselves. To meditate means listening to what Jesus and his Mother say to you, in order to be able to practise those virtues that are indispensable to you. To meditate means again to see what the saints had done during their lives, in order to be able to imitate them.

This, children, is what I desire: your holiness. Mental prayer, that is, reflection, is an excellent means that exceeds vocal prayer. I would like to say to you that vocal prayer is that of the beginners and mental prayer is the one that tends you towards perfection. If then you learn how to unite them, like a marvellous symphony it will become your praying; all of Paradise will be in admiration and the saints will pray for you.

Children, I am the Queen of the Rosary and the Queen of all the Saints, but I am also your Mother and Teacher, and out of my pupils and my children I wish to make some monuments of glory and goodness of God.

I bless you all, starting from my ministers. To all my embrace. To the mothers, to the daughters, to the fathers, to the young, to the healthy and to the sick, my invitation full of love: courage, in the torments of life you are never alone. There is a Mother who loves you more than herself, who protects you and helps you. See you again, children!

PRAYER AND PENANCE TO SAVE THE WORLD

October 13, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. I am the Virgin who, appearing at Fatima, asked three little shepherds to communicate to the world its message of salvation based on prayer and on penance.

Still, as then, my persistent request is based on this twofold thing: prayer and penance. Nothing has changed since then and the world has not understood the message. There are however, some oases where one prays intensely, like here, and many disasters have been spared to men through this devoted and ardent prayer. There are common evils, and communal prayers must be done in order to overcome them. Unity is strength, and this strength that comes from a choir of voices that ascend to Heaven, has the power of disarming the Father and of inducing Him once again to have pity on men.

Oh, yes! may groups of praying souls arise everywhere who, humbly leaning towards Heaven, be like Moses on the mount and intercede for all the people. The love that must unite your hearts, must be the means which, fusing them into one great unity, renders your voice more melodious and more pleasing to God. Yes, you must love one another, because it is not enough to remain seated one next to the other, but you must understand each other in turn in your needs, so that your unbiased prayer merits to be heard. You must love all and go in search of souls without prejudice, for everyone is full of defects before God and you cannot judge if others are more or less evil than you.

The oases of prayer must be like fountains to which you can and must draw faith, hope and charity.

Therefore, you must improve gradually and walk towards perfection. If you do not improve and come here only to ask for favours, you are like that fig tree which produced only leaves. My Jesus, to everyone who says he loves Him, draws near to ask: If you truly love Me, let Me see your fruits.

The penance that I asked for at Fatima, I also ask for today. Your will, so inclined to pride and to evil, must be overcome. It is the most important battle that every man must win, that in which God and one's ego are committed. If with God's help you do not succeed in denying yourselves, how will you be able to say to Him that you love Him and how will you be able to approach the Sacrament of love in which Jesus annihilates himself for you?

Children, if the world does not see your spiritual renewal, how will it be able to change? In the world one lives by imitation. Would you like for everyone to do like you? Do you feel like models? Or do you not have some hidden defects which, if others were to imitate, you would feel it your duty to reproach them? Courage, children, the jubilee year that is now in progress must spur you on to conversion. You who come here are the privileged ones and you have received very great gifts. Therefore, it is up to you to respond and to be beacons of light for others.

You must do penance also for those who refuse to obey a binding law. My Jesus has said: *"If you will not do penance, you will perish in the same way."* You are the ones called who, to those who are about to perish, must stretch out the hand. It is prayer and penance that saves the world. To you, with renewed and great heartache I say: help me! If men little appreciate my tears, even if they are of blood, may you learn to weep tears of true penance also for the sins of the world. If the world does not listen to my loving invitations, may you be attentive to listen to them and to put them into practice.

One more invitation, children. My Jesus on one day healed ten lepers, but out of them only one returned on his footsteps to thank and praise God. You come here and graces of every kind are multiplied. Sometimes they are physical healings, like the healing of leprosy; other times they are spiritual healings, which are much more greater than the healings of the body. I desire for gratitude to be the gentle flower that sprouts on the tree of faith. I desire that in every grace that you receive, even if through my intercession, you give praise to God, like that leper did who returned on his footsteps.

Every grace has always the aim of re-awakening the faith and leading to live well the Christian life. You also know too well how things happen in the world.

After the first exhilaration for what one receives, tepidity is allowed to enter, perhaps doubt also. A human or scientific explanation is preferred to give to every event and so gratitude is overlooked. You must not be among their number. Yes, proclaim loudly the goodness of God and his power also in working miracles, but then continue your life giving your spiritual improvement as gratitude.

Here as at Fatima, as at Lourdes, as in every place of apparition, the graces are like rose petals that come to embellish your lives. Be grateful. Do not be like those who sniff them and then throw them away.

Save them as a sacred thing in your hearts and your lives will be a hymn of thanksgiving to God.

I bless you, children, and I urge you, now and always, prayer and penance. See you again.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

October 15, 1974

My children, be blessed for having come to pay me a visit also in this blessed place. You have called me Rosa Mystica at Montichiari, here you call me Mother of Divine Love, but I am always the Queen of Heaven and earth, I am always the Queen of all Hearts whom you honour.

What do you bring me, children? You bring me fragrant roses by means of your beautiful Rosaries, and I what do I give you? I want to enrich your souls with special gifts so that you may be able to give everywhere a witness of true Christian life. How will you be able to be true Christians while the Christian life is so misunderstood, so combated and badly comprehended? You will bring love everywhere, that true love which unites hearts and which goes out of its way for the needs of all without any distinction.

You are here in Italian country and you speak the language of your land. I however, understand all and I love you. You also do the same. Sometimes you meet up with persons who live near you and yet it seems that they do not understand you. If you speak about God, about faith and love, they call you fanatics and do not listen to you. It does not matter. You must love all, as I do. You must with charity, with sweetness, speak to all and, if they insult you, you must not rebel because many children behave badly with Jesus and with me.

Bring everywhere a ray of love that is like a little sun in the midst of the world's darkness. Also bring hope. Many chastisements have been threatened

you, but salvation is not denied to anyone and, if you pray and do penance also for those who do not believe and do not love, the Father can always be moved to pity for his children. Have the heart always disposed for hope and optimism. The confidence that you must have in the merits of Jesus, in my prayer and in my help must never diminish and be a fount of serenity and peace.

I bless you, children, one by one. Keep the banner of the faith always high and learn to guard it and defend it. I will defend your families, I will save your children and I will be constantly at your side. Be always united to the Supreme Pontiff, offering up for him your prayers and your sacrifices. Whoever helps him, helps the Church and cannot err. I bless your nation and your parishes. May the pardon of the penalty for sins fill you with joy. See you again, children, always fervent and joyful.

BE VIGILANT IN WAITING FOR THE BRIDEGROOM

October 15, 1974

Beloved children, see, I am among you, happy to be like one of you, your elder sister, who desires to make you similar to herself in order to be able to always rejoice with you in Heaven.

Were you to know, children, how beautiful it is to live loving the Lord. Were you to know what a great thing the faith is. All men of earth ought to be leaning towards this ideal: to reach glory. Like the ten virgins of the parable, in fact, humanity goes towards the Bridegroom of souls. But what happens? Observe and you will see that also nowadays the parable corresponds to truth.

There are many who, while they ought to be vigilant in waiting, fall asleep letting the oil for the lamp run out. Overcome by tiredness or by laziness, by inertia or by indolence, they do not care for what awaits them. They prefer to think about the things of here below and to enjoy the passing things that the world offers. Yes, it is truly a lethargic sleep of many, to whom the truths of the faith mean nothing. The future life does not attract them. They think they are doing well here and immersing themselves in the sweet sleep of those who forget and dream.

The Bridegroom is coming for all, because the stage of this world is passing away, and the Bridegroom comes to welcome those who have kept in reserve the oil with which they will light the lamp and enter to celebrate Him. My children, I would like for this oil, which is the sorrow for sins, for you all to

have a good supply. I would like for you to be provident like the ants which, feeling the cold approach, lay good provisions in their little houses for the winter. The cicadas, who love only to sing, ought to die in the wintry season.

The winter of life, children, is when the curtain falls and is opened, beyond it, the gate of eternity. May the oil of sorrow be always with you. Live in this waiting like so. The most careful vigilance could perhaps not prevent death from surprising you, but if you constantly keep in the heart the displeasure of having offended God, you need not fear. From sorrow one passes quickly over to love. This is the lit torch.

What does the Bridegroom desire if not souls, his spouses, to love Him? It is true, you hear many often assert they believe in God, but what is the worth of believing if one does not love? And what does to love mean if not fully observing the Commandments prescribed by Him? Some say that they have faith, but how can they assert this, while from the faith they accept only the truths that are convenient to them and reject those that involve sacrifices and renunciations?

Yes, many say they believe and feel completely at ease, for in their thinking they do not commit big sins. Take good care, my children, that, while they say do not steal, they also know how to steal. Perhaps they do not go to break open safes, but there is also another way of stealing and you know it well. There are those who consider themselves upright because they do not kill, and yet how many persons morally can be killed and to how many one can let the necessary to live be lacking. In this way these believers, who too have received Baptism and the other Sacraments, consider themselves exempted from the Sunday Mass, from the duty of prayer and from all those duties that charity imposes.

You understand well that, if humanity asleep and oil-less is represented by the five foolish virgins, we must aggregate to them not only those who do evil but also those who do not do the good that they ought to do. Oh, how much desolation! And how ought my Jesus complain of many! You however, are the fervent ones, you are those who repair, you are those who welcome the Gospel in all its details and who practise the Commandments entirely, without excuses and without reserve.

What shall I say to you? Perfect yourselves more and more and be those who are always on the go. You have crosses to carry, sorrows that afflict you. I beg you, do not make them bigger than they are, because my Jesus knows his job well: He has measured the cross with your strength and, if He has given it to you, you know that you can carry it. Sorrow is considered as an enemy of those who always accuse the Lord. You know that it is not so. It is a means of

salvation, and just as Jesus has willed to subject his shoulders to the cross in order to save all, so He wants from each one a little contribution to validate his sacrifice.

It is also true that you have been created for happiness and your desire for health is more than justified, especially if you desire in order to be able to perform, besides your duty, a little good; but if you love the cross, it carries you. It is so dear to me, children, to remind you today of Teresa of Avila, who loved sorrow so much, as to say: *“Lord, or to suffer or to die; better to suffer than to die.”* This she said not so much because she feared death, but for the joy that sorrow accepted and offered up out of love gave her. Never be those Christians who turn every little thing into griping and a tragedy. Imitate St. Teresa. Look reality of life in the face with so much certainty that the Lord sees you, loves you and will not abandon you.

Thank you, children, I am sure that you have understood me and that from this little lesson you will draw serious plans. Always have a lively sorrow for past sins and for those of all men.

Look at the destination that you must reach and, filled with true love, live in the observance of the Law in its smallest details.

I bless you putting a hand on your head, so that the truths of the faith may be more and more clear to you.

TO THE YOUNG

October 20, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you. I am here to give you encouragement and help. I am the Queen of the Missions.

I want to arouse in your mind more and more lively thoughts of apostleship. I wish to nourish in you deeper and deeper affections for souls. I want to teach you to translate these thoughts and affections into practice, so that you may be true missionaries, certain that the life of the Christian is summarized in the fulfilment of a grandiose mission which, started on earth, is prolonged into eternity: to establish the Kingdom of God in you in order to spread it in the world and be a part of it, while living on earth, in order to glorify God and to be glorified in Heaven.

You are the living stones that comprise the Church and you are so much more efficient and sure the more your vitality is complete. It is God himself who

vivifies the soul through grace; and the more a soul is rich with this life, the more it grows. So everyone of you, in growing, makes the Church grow.

The Church is like a unique body, in which the members must grow and produce. There are some members detached from the Church: they are like dry branches in which the divine life does not flow. There are members who do not take part in this vitality, because they live in error and in superstition. There are the separated ones who do not accept the truth and there are those who ignore it. You must be apostles of good.

That faith that was given to you in Baptism and which some have let weaken or suffocated, must be rekindled. It is like the precious talent which the Father has given you, which, after having saved you, must be brought to the knowledge of all. That is why I say to you: the first missionary has been Jesus who, sent by the Father, brought the good news into the world. Jesus, in his turn, sent the apostles who like missionaries were to continue his work. Under the impulse of the apostles, there were in the world chosen souls who brought the divine word to all.

But in this moment, I choose you as emissaries of the divine word and even if I will not ask you, except for some, to leave family and country, I say to all: you must be my missionaries. You will go announcing the name of Jesus and my name so that men, attracted by this spiritual force, may be converted and live.

I bless you all. May the grace of God dwell in you.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

October 20, 1974

Beloved children, I always welcome you with much joy in my arms and on my heart. You come here to draw from, and what I give you carry in your heart; then having returned to your homes, to your towns, you spread the precious treasures of faith and love with which you are filled. Be blessed, since in that way you become true missionaries. I rejoice that today is world missionary day and that all Catholics feel the impulse and the need to be apostles and to spread the faith.

That is why I send you as announcers of the good news among the brethren. You must be announcers of peace and you must make all understand that peace comes from within and is had with the grace of God. You will be announcers of peace if you will learn to do everything possible to live in the grace of God and if you will learn, denying yourselves, to maintain charity in order and order in charity.

Pray for everyone, my children, and sow a little good everywhere, besides the prayers, also with good works, so that the Lord does not have to reproach you saying to you that faith without works is dead.

I bless you all one by one, starting from your escort and his family. I bless the sacred images that you have placed on the altar. I bless your thoughts, your intentions and your hearts with all the torments that disturb you. Give them to me as gift and I will transform them and they will become precious pearls for the eternal life.

See you again, children. Be faithful in the fulfilment of your mission. Be perfect witnesses of the faith and of the Christian law everywhere.

THE THOUGHTS THAT MUST GUIDE YOU TO THE CONFESSIOAL

October 22, 1974

Beloved children, here I am among you. I am the Mother of Divine Mercy and I am desirous to speak to you about a sacrament unfortunately today much neglected and badly received: the Sacrament of Mercy or Confession. It is timely to speak to you about it, while the Jubilee is still current, and it is proper to speak to you about it so that you may in your turn be able to clarify the ideas in others, especially to your children or grandchildren or to those whom in some way are entrusted to your care or custody.

I must first of all confirm that Confession is of divine institution. You in fact know that Jesus, after his resurrection, said to the Apostles: *“Go, preach, baptise and forgive sins. To those whom you remit them, they will be pardoned; to those whom you will retain, they shall not be forgiven.”*

Jesus therefore, has entrusted to the Church, besides preaching, the task of rendering men free from every bond of sin and to give back to them the sanctifying grace if they should have lost it. Only God can forgive sin, but the Church acts in the name of God, and ministers of this great sacrament, in which the Lord gives his mercy as gift, are the priests. The priest is necessary as instrument of God, even if there are some indispensable condition to obtain the pardon.

Observe the behaviour of the prodigal son how it is shown to you in the Gospel parable. He reflects and he moves. He goes to meet the father who waits anxiously, and when he arrives before him he prostrates himself at his feet, he acknowledges

himself guilty before God and before him, and he grieves over his sins. Here, children, in brief, is what must be your behaviour and that of all those who desire to be pardoned.

First of all reflection is needed. It must be neither the habit nor the need to have comfort that brings you to the feet of the confessor, and not even mechanical repetition of some sins must be the object of your accusation. You must be convinced that in sinning one offends God and that the consequences of every sin are reflected on the whole human family. You must know and believe that those sins which you accuse yourself of have been the cause of sufferings to Jesus in his passion, even if sometimes you consider them trifles, and which could, if not combated, render the redemption null for you.

Every sin then is examined, so that you may be able to know its root. If from the weeds that sprout in the middle of the garden, you tear off only the leaves or the branches, after a short while you will have a repetition of harmful weeds that will suffocate the good. So, in seeing your defects, you must not give a superficial look, but, if you wish to improve, you must see what the origin is and try to take it away.

There are many persons who get angry and get annoyed over nothing. A soul could accuse itself of anger, but the cause could be pride, which needs to be taken away. In the same way, for those who accuse themselves of many distractions in prayer, the cause could be wanting to be interested in too many things that do not belong to them, or the lack of thought that makes them curious of everything.

Think of sins in this way, one does the second gesture performed by the prodigal son. One goes to the feet of the confessor. The confessor must in that moment represent God, therefore, one needs to go to him with faith. Do not go, therefore, to justify yourself, but to accuse yourself. In the moment of accusation, the sorrow must fill your heart; a sincere sorrow that leads you to establish an intention. How many null or sacrilegious confessions because they lack sorrow, and therefore are like a jingle repeated faintly that does not let God intervene with his mercy.

There are those who say that Confession is no longer necessary, that it is enough to say to the Lord that one has sinned. But children, this is an error that leads one to Protestantism. It is true though that even before telling one's sins to a man, it is necessary to repent before God, but does it not seem to you that, if the law established by Jesus himself requires a specific form, it is best obeyed? It is also true that the Lord, in his infinite goodness, pardons easily those venial sins with which your lives are sown. I however, wish to beg you to use Confession well, especially for taking away that attachment to venial sin which is so displeasing to God and which does not allow you progress in virtue. When

you received Jesus' embrace, who gives back to you if you confess well the baptismal innocence, you receive an immense gift with which you must give and account to Him. Every Confession is a gift of love. The blood of Jesus falls on your soul in order to purify you and reinvigorate you.

Let these be thoughts that guide you to the confessional. I shall be beside you, to illuminate the priest so that he may give wise counsels, and I will help you to do everything with seriousness and compunction.

Children, I bless you all. Invoke me as Mother of Mercy and make my thoughts and desires known. May Confession never be used badly, because it would be a double-edged blade that could do much evil to your souls.

LIVE BY FAITH

October 23, 1974

Beloved children, be welcomed here to pray and to love for those who do not pray and do not love. I welcome you blessing you and promising you always new favours.

He who prays for others lays up treasure for himself, and you, by performing this act of charity of praying in favour of others, compel me to help you, to hear you, to make you happy in your good and lawful desires. Certainly you must also be patient, like the sick for whom you have prayed are patient, but neither hope nor trust must lessen in you, since I am the faithful Virgin and, as I was faithful to God in the whole course of my life, so I am faithful to my promises now, while every power has been given to me in Heaven and on earth.

However, you must see your lives in the light of eternity and as if projected into the infinite. How will you be able to do this, while you are so limited that you can only see up to one span from your eyes? You must let yourselves be helped by faith. What does faith tell you? That God exists, who is infinitely good, who does not abandon men to themselves, but who watches over all and concerns himself with each one as if he were the only one in the world. If you accept this truth, all the rest comes as a consequence and adhesion to the will of God becomes joy and peace.

God is infinite providence and infinite mercy, whereby He never tries his creatures with sufferings superior to their strength. He loves and forgives, He loves and calls back the lapsed, He loves and wants everyone happy also in this life, though permitting sorrow as a means of expiation.

How much I rejoice, my children, to present you one by one to my Jesus and to say to Him: see this soul so dear to me, has accepted the cross and has offered it up with joy for the salvation of many. Behold, here is a mother whose child has been taken away, because he was already full of virtue and merits, and had to gladden Paradise and he also to rejoice, after having loved and suffered. I present this mother, to Jesus and a shower of graces descend upon her and her whole family. Behold again a daughter to whom a sister has been taken away unexpectedly. She also has accepted the sorrow and the sister helps her and prays for her.

Jesus blesses, but He does not bless less those who accept sorrowful family situations and those who learn to transform their toil into prayer. It is all a gift that is validated through faith and in virtue of the passion of Jesus, who has given to work and to sorrow an infinite value. These are the miracles of faith.

If you who love me and love God, wish to be the gems of my crown, you must always turn to me with trust and never doubt of being heard. When your pains attempt to make you close the heart and make you selfish, or attempt to distance you from God taking away the love for prayer from you, give like a flap of wings to your heart. Think about all those who suffer more than you, also because they have no faith, and strengthen your prayer so that it alone is your strength.

One more thing I recommend to you so that you may be able to be always heard in your desires. First of all, have few desires, since you also say that to your children when they ask you for toys or sweets. *“He who grasps all loses all”*, you say, and I too say this to you, if your desires are only for material things. But if you want for the Lord to pour over you the abundance of his gifts, ask Him for what pleases Him. Be certain that you will become truly rich, certainly not those rich ones who out of love for material goods shall be excluded from Paradise, but those rich ones who, by possessing grace, deserve to be introduced into glory.

My Jesus said one day: *“Do not lay up treasures on earth, where thieves can steal them and moths can ruin them.”* And He related the parable of that rich man who having gathered abundant fruits from his lands, thought about knocking down his granaries in order to build new ones; but he felt warned that on this very night his life would have reached its end.

Children, I also give you this invitation: live day to day. Live by faith, by trust and, carrying your cross, do not be like those who never learn how to free themselves from it. If you throw away the cross, with it you throw away Jesus who is on it. Remember it. Overcome your family tribulations with goodness. I am with you to help you.

See you again, children. Peace be with you now and always. I cannot but applaud the work that you do, supporting the priests with your prayer. Yes, I bless you every time that you offer up for them your sorrows and if you do a few hours of adoration in their favour. The holy priest edifies, and those who do not do their duty ruin the Church and bring great suffering to the heart of Jesus and mine. He who helps the priest to sanctify himself, builds up the Church, he makes the mystical body of Christ thriving and helps me in my work of Mother.

I embrace you, children. Your love and fervour by which you are animated touches me.

YOU MUST FORGIVE ALWAYS

October 25, 1974

My children, may the mercy of God be upon you, on your families and on the whole world. This is the invocation that ought to continuously come out of your heart and appear on your lips.

How much need you all have of mercy! The world, covered with miseries and sins, cries vengeance to Heaven, and the souls that do not want to be converted, loudly call for its justice. But also those who go to Church and the sacraments do not adopt the infallible means to obtain pardon and mercy. It has been said to you in fact by my Jesus that he who uses mercy, will obtain it from God, and that the same measure that you use against others will be used against you.

Do you recall the parable of that debtor who owed his master a great sum that he was not able to pay? Well then, his master commanded for him and his family to be sold and the debt to be settled. He asked for pity and the debt was cancelled. But, going out along the street, he met someone who owed him a small sum. Taking him by the neck, he insulted him saying that, if he did not pay up to the last penny, he would have put him in prison and so in reality he did. When the master learned this, he had his debtor summoned and, after having harshly rebuked him, threw him into prison.

Jesus wanted to warn everyone of the duty to forgive always with all the heart, since all men are debtors towards God. If the pardon for offences were not so necessary, you think that Jesus would have put it in the most beautiful prayer that He taught us, and which would have made us say: Forgive us as we forgive our debtors? It is an indispensable condition, I have said to you, and yet how hard it is for one to put the teaching into practice! Every excuse is used to adduce the need to preserve anger. *“He does not deserve it, he is evil, he is continually against me”*, and so many times is denied to him who lives close to

you, that kindness, that charity, that goodness that even the wicked have a right to have. One arrives sometimes at nurturing hatred even with one's own dead, accusing them of injustice and wickedness.

That's why I have spoken to you about this topic in this period of the Jubilee, after Confession had been spoken about to you. That reconciliation with God that you must seek and desire through the sacrament of Confession, cannot subsist if it does not have its completion in that reconciliation with the neighbour that is fundamental. Do not adduce any motive therefore, but seek every means to get back and regain that peace which, coming from the inside, must ripen into a perfect harmony with all.

You could say to me that sometimes you have tried to maintain a good friendship with your fellow man, but it has not been accepted. Well then, on your part try again, at least not denying a greeting to anyone. If then others, on their part, persist in unfriendliness, let your heart be serene and free. *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."* So said Jesus and it was not a counsel but a command.

I beg you, be severe in judging yourselves on this point, so that it may not happen that you find yourselves with great debts, that is, with confessions to which have lacked, on the part of God, absolution. How beautiful it would be if every evening, before going to bed, in examining yourselves you truly felt at peace with all. True Christians do not have and must not have enemies, since, in considering everyone as children of God, they must love all. Some err out of ignorance, others out of wickedness and some think of doing good also by doing evil. How can you give a judgement in this uncertainty, while you see only the external and you cannot judge the intentions? Jesus says well: *"Do not judge and you shall not be judged."*

Do you want to have big problems or big condemnations? Leave to God to plead your cases and do not try to judge. If the factual verifications compel you to truly see the evil, unless they be social evils that you must condemn or evils committed by persons who depend on you, as children for a mother, or the spouse for the other spouse, never make public what you privately come to know. The evil spread is not destroyed, rather it increases. Of the evil that you get to know, speak to God about it, so that He can repair it, cover it and use it according to his omnipotence to draw out good from it.

Children, the Mother of Divine Mercy blesses you and helps you. Love, forget the evil that you might have received and always forgive, so that your hearts may always be disposed to obtain the forgiveness of your sins. To all and to each one my embrace.

GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF EVERY GOOD

October 27, 1974

Beloved children, how great it is to see again your posture before God to praise Him and to ask Him for pardon of sins!

I am the Virgin of the Magnificat and I would like to truly spur you on to raise up every day your hymn of thanksgiving to God for all that He does in the world and in each soul. The work of God is wonderful. He in fact preserves what He has created performing like a continuous creation. It would be enough to raise the eyes towards the heaven during the day or during the night, and to look around oneself a little in order to see the continuous marvels, continuous mysteries that you cannot explain except with the intervention of the power, of the goodness and wisdom of God. If then you were able to see the tireless work of God around souls, to make the redemption effective and valid, a hymn of acknowledgement and gratitude would gush forth out of your heart.

God is truly wonderful in his works, but see how foolish man is: instead of ascending again to God and recognizing Him as author of all good, he attributes to himself merits and virtues. Some act many times, like that donkey which with its braying believed it could make the sun rise, since its braying coincided with the rising of the sun. It is a thing ever so inefficacious and counter productive that of examining the good that one does, since pride can destroy it and render it not pleasing to God. It is Him alone who in the works must be glorified, even if no good action shall be observed, but all shall have its reward.

You have heard the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee related by Jesus. Both of them had gone to the Temple, and the Pharisee even felt the duty to thank the Lord for what he did weekly and for that exterior justice that let him be judged by others as holy. See, children, how one errs when one puts at the centre of life one's ego? The Pharisee would not have erred if, forgetting what he performed also every day, had kept in consideration his own weakness, through which he would have been able, in falling, become worse than others, and if he had remembered that without the Lord's help he would not have been able to do any good.

Pharisaic behaviour is truly deplorable. Sometimes some persons use religion itself and the name of God in order to obtain what they humanly desire. Some seek power, others a position, others honour, and so they go forward and keep their falsehoods hiding them beneath a semblance of good. The Pharisee also behaves in this way and, even though Jesus was able to say of the Pharisees that they were whitened sepulchres, he goes on showing off his merits before God as if He did not see everything, especially consciences.

How beautiful on the contrary it is to see the behaviour of the Publican! He does not dare come forward, he does not dare raise the eyes and he beats the breast declaring himself a sinner. My children, all humanity is a family of sinners, but if each one, beating one's breast, would acknowledge himself such, a great transformation would come about and men would be on the road of justification.

To these sentiments of profound humility of I must direct your thoughts. He who is aware of being miserable, does not dare fling himself against God and swear. Do you know why blasphemy is so easy on the human tongue? Do you know why one insults God so easily and denies his attributes? Because pride, which gives to this miserable creature that lives on earth the presumption of being able to do by himself, gives also the impudence of believing to be able to compete with God and exceed Him.

Poor souls, which any temptation can make fall into an abyss! Poor beings, which the least adversity can render desperate! Poor creatures, which through the most trivial incident can lose the good of the intellect! But who will be able to convince these children of mine who were drawn from the earth and who will return to dust? And who again will be able to say to these children: remember that you are a nothing, but you are a nothing so precious before God, who on the great day of the last resurrection will be recomposed by Him and glorified for all eternity?

So, my children, I would like for all men, established in this knowledge of God who is all, and of themselves who are all equal, a nothing before Him, to love one another and to help each other.

I want to say strong words to you not to frighten you but to correct you. The wars, that afflict nations and society, are due to this pride that makes one forget the King of kings and the Lord of rulers. Well then, woe to those which pride induces to unleash civil and bloody wars. But woe also to those who, with much lack of humility, unleash in families those discords that are the cause of so many tears to the members of the same families.

Beating one's breast before God can be a beginning of conversion, but the reconciliation with one's fellow man is the completion. Do not be embittered, children, for those who destroy the social order. In order, in respect and in humility, re-establish the bonds of affection that must unite you. I am with you to sing my Magnificat. The humility that the parents shall have in the fulfilment of their duties, will call back the children to respect and to solidarity with the brethren.

I bless you all and I love you.

MAY DEVOTION TO THE CHILD JESUS TRULY COME

October 29, 1974

My children so dear to my heart, here I am at the end of this month of October that good folk wished to dedicate to my Rosary; here I am to give you thanks for all that you have done and to invite you to continue on in this offering of love. Continue to offer me wreathes of fragrant roses with the recitation of the Rosary and bring it wherever it is possible for you, in parishes and in families. It will be a perennial spring where my roses sprout and I will make the foul air, that suffocates the souls a little everywhere, light and fragrant.

Today however, I wish also to remind you in a special way what is desired in Heaven. You all have become aware that devotion to my Child Jesus comes warmly supported from us especially in every place and also out of season, that is to say, not only at Christmas time, but in every month of the year. Why so?, you might ask yourselves. In a world where only power and greatness is held in consideration, it is right to present to men the King of Heaven and earth, the Creator of the world, in the humble aspect of a newborn who has need of all and who awaits from all to be surrounded by affection?

Children, it is like an annihilation of human pride this presenting of oneself as little, humble, in the greatest poverty. Almost always, one could say that this Child, the Son of God, wants to defeat all those who consider themselves great and capable of commanding others. It is a scene made up of sweetness and strength at the same time, whereby a child can say with his presence: do not delude yourselves, true greatness is in making oneself little and in reserving to God the place due to Him.

But there is another reason for promoting and spreading devotion to the Child Jesus. While in society and in parliaments laws are proposed that approve homicide, that is, abortion, and while brazenly and with great offence to God, of whom providence and the right to create is denied, beings are destroyed who are waiting to see the light, behold now a Child is presented, the most beautiful and the most good that has ever existed, in order to touch the hearts of faithless and loveless mothers, of homicidal mothers.

Who cares if the priest absolves because plausible reasons for killing are given? Who cares if the law lets these crimes escape unnoticed? No law will ever be able to make licit what is contrary to the Commandments of God. Behold, my Child, who, to escape death, let himself be carried on a very uncomfortable journey to a foreign land. And behold mothers who refuse to let

their own children live; conceived solely through passion, they would perhaps be a reproach for them. In this way my Child wishes to make his appearances in the world and desires once again to be put in safety.

Never as now do children endure wickedness from which they are surrounded and they remain scandalized. You hear children who still do not know how to express themselves well, repeat the blasphemies that father and mother utter with rage or through habit. You see children who know how to talk like adults and do not know how to pray. The parents want to inculcate in their children the thought and the persuasion of having been the authors of all wellbeing, as well as their lives. They want to stand in for God. When then the children are little, these unconscionable parents transform these beings into idols, until, having grown up, they take out their arrogance on those who brought them up badly.

Behold the Child Jesus, in every home, who must teach and guard the little ones like treasures, to spare them not so much those sacrifices that contribute to a healthy upbringing, but those sufferings which they will encounter if they are not taught to live the Christian life, made up of prayer and the fulfilment of one's duty. May this devotion truly come therefore, and bring into every home that faith, that trust, that peace which accompanied every moment of my life.

I am the Mother of infants and I desire to help all, mothers and children. If mothers feel themselves incapable, I instruct and comfort them. It happens sometimes, through lack of help in certain moments, for asphyxiated or dystrophic children to be born. They become the cross of families. It is true that every parent desires to see his own children humanly perfect, but if you knew and saw what I know and see!

Consider that those little creatures grow spiritually in holiness and make the treasure of the communion of saints increase, so that the whole Church benefits from it. They live in the grace of God, whereby their souls gladden all of Paradise. If then the parents go out of their way for these children with love for the glory of God, they sanctify themselves and increase merits and glory for their Paradise. To these mothers who, through nurturing a great sorrow, learn to accept the will of God, my special blessing goes.

And now I bless all the spastic children of the world. Learn to preserve the purity of children, learn to cultivate goodness in them. Make them pray, for their prayer is like that of the angels and goes directly to Heaven. See you again, children. Pray so that children may preserve their innocence and be the lightning rods of society.

YOU ARE CALLED TO HOLINESS

November 1, 1974

Beloved children, peace and joy be to your hearts, and the thought of Paradise and of those who have preceded you and who have reached it, having responded to the grace of God, gladden you.

I am the Queen of all the Saints. I am holy Mary and, as such, I would like to show you the glory which your loved ones enjoy in Heaven and I would like to say to you: let nothing be too heavy or painful for you, for there is no pain, no matter how big, that is able to merit such a reward. You are all heading on this road. You are all called to attain holiness.

What would you say of those persons who, wanting to arrive in a city, went in the opposite direction? You are bound for the eternal city, for the heavenly Jerusalem; you must keep this truth present and you must not forget that, if you are on this earth, you are only here temporarily. Another life awaits you that will never end and which will be like you want it.

While you live here on earth in a mortal body, you are building yourselves either eternal happiness or unhappiness. Those who have preceded you can call themselves fortunate, if they have learned to make their choice, and if they have not adapted themselves to the way of living of the worldly, of those that is, who, living according to the flesh, do not expect neither a judgement, nor a reward, nor a punishment for the good or the evil that they do.

You are called to holiness. But what does it consist of? Perhaps you will have to remain in long and exhausting prayer or have to do great penances that render your body a useless object? No, children. I ask you for a holiness made in the grace of God. I would like for you to realize the gravity of sin and for you to abhor it to the point of preferring death.

There are holy mothers, holy priests, holy children in Paradise who, if you were to consider them in the diverse moments of their lives, you would find them of a simplicity and a sanctity truly ordinary, while in Paradise they are destined to high spheres because they lived in the grace of God, fleeing sin in its every slightest manifestation.

There are persons in Paradise of every category who have learned, in heroic fidelity to their duty, to give witness of true Christian life and have become great saints, even if nobody honours them any longer and even if they have not reached the glory of the altar.

You are called to practise this holiness and to imbue with love every act of

your life. Love is the fount of life, and in Paradise love in essence, God himself, is the reward for those who truly lived, because they loved and fled sin, and did their daily duties out of love. What a great thing to understand this mystery and live practising these truths!

There are many Christians who make life hard for themselves and for others. Oh no, do not make it so difficult for yourselves! God is simple because He is pure spirit and the soul of every man is made to his image and likeness. When my Jesus came to earth and wanted to educate to live according to God, He taught to practise humility, poverty, charity and simplicity; and He taught everything in such a natural way that, to see Him, He seemed one of us, any man. He was holiness personified, justice personified, and his life was spent in such an ordinary way as to be mistaken even with sinners.

Well then, children, have this truth very clear in the mind and repeat it to yourselves: We are called to holiness. Even if our acts shall be the most ordinary, we shall do them with an extraordinary precision and love; even if our prayers shall not have the aspect of great communications with God and shall not be raised to the level of contemplation, they shall be impregnated with love just the same, with that love that shall never fail, which rather, in Paradise will be multiplied and lasts forever.

Remember, children, that you are in the world for a short time and then, at the end of the world, your body shall be reunited to the soul from which it momentarily shall be separated and your life will last forever. To this eternity direct your thought. There you will find again your loved ones, your children, your ancestors. The house of God is there, the royal palace in which the King receives his children to make them sharers of his glory. If life here below has sorrows in store, look at Heaven. There every suffering shall be luminous and be rewarded.

It is not true that with the lure of Paradise one wants to keep the poor, the sick, the troubled, the abandoned, in a quiet life that prevents them from rebelling. No, children, Paradise is a reality that millions of souls have reached and to which you must look at with trust, with faith and with hope. Only in this way are the crosses transformed, and also in sorrow you can find not only the joy for yourselves, but such an abundance as to be able to communicate it also to others.

Now I bless you all and I say to you: see you all again one day in Heaven.

TO THE YOUNG

November 3, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you. I am the Queen of Hearts, and I wish to take on the defence and command of your hearts. Yes, I want to defend you from the dangers that could make your affections deviate. When your God presents to you the Commandment “You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength”, He puts you on your guard against the danger of creating divinities outside of Him and wants first of all to teach you to watch out against that very dangerous attachment to yourselves.

Why were the angels lost? Why were our progenitors lost? Because they wanted to turn themselves into divinities. Therefore, be faithful to God up to rendering to Him ever honour, up to wanting only what He wants, but above all up to not denying Him any affection. It is true though that your desires of good are commendable, but if in them you are aiming at the triumph of your own self-love, you do not gather that reward which the Lord wants to give you.

Be also vigilant, so that every affection that binds you to your neighbour has the supreme God as end. Only in this way will you stay on the right road, and the sanctified affections will give origin to those unions that mature in holy families and in holy communities.

The heart is the propulsion centre of life and it is the muscle that gives the measure of a person’s sensitivity. I desire that, being the guardian of your hearts, for those ideals of perfection and holiness to come from them that makes them beat more strongly and in unison. When a heart remains insensitive to the sufferings of others, you say that it is a heart of stone and unfortunately there are many of them. I desire not just soft and sentimental hearts, which attach themselves to every twig to seek in it a support, but I desire hearts particularly suited to understand others, to take part in the life of others, to bring to all a breath of charity, a little faith and a lot of hope and comfort.

I promise you so: I will mould your hearts so as to render them docile to the voice of God, sensitive to his affection and disposed to his will. I want for you to have a heart like mine, which is fashioned on the one of my Jesus.

I bless you, children, and I urge you: be constant and faithful at these meetings. It does not matter if there is some disagreement; from it then truth springs out, for you are all well-intentioned.

See you again, children. That your desires may be realized.

THE LIFE OF MAN IS A MEETING WITH THE LORD

November 3, 1974

Beloved children, peace be with you and grace and every good. I am with you to strengthen your prayer and to offer it up to the Father.

How beautiful it is to pray with the Mother! Do you remember when you were little and your good mother, holding you against her knees, made you recite those short and beautiful prayers which you remember still? And you, mothers, here present, do you remember when you used to teach your children the same prayers which for years you have repeated? Well then, I am here just like one of you and while, regarding you like children, I keep on repeating the phrases and the ways that I know suitable for you, then I go on gathering from your lips and from your hearts the little desires and the acts of love as fragrant flowers, and I complete your prayer and your offering with that of Jesus and mine.

It is a show worthy of Paradise and know that, if when leaving this house the confident hope is renewed in your heart and you have a lot of joy, it is because in your soul there has been this encounter of the human with the divine, of earth with Heaven, of sinner with Holiness himself.

But, children, today I wish to call you again to a special encounter with the Lord. Every day that passes is a moving towards that blessed day in which, the blindfold having fallen from the eyes, this mortal body having fallen which holds the soul enclosed as in a cage, it will be able to see God. There are some who, guided by fantasy, create some supposed messages in which they speak about the end of the world, which, according to them, ought to be very soon or in a few months. Do not be amazed, because right from the time of the apostle Paul there were these predictions and the end of the world was conjectured.

Jesus had warned that not even the angels knew the date of such events. The chastisements that are threatened and which undoubtedly strike humanity, are a continual call to conversion, to a change of life, and do not suppose the end of times. Everyone however, must become aware of a great truth: even if the world will continue on its way, the life of man is a preparation for death and a meeting with the Lord. God, on his part, hastens this preparation and this meeting, which must begin on earth in order to continue on in Heaven.

The vocation of Paul is not hidden to you, who, thrown from a horse and blinded on the way to Damascus, met Jesus, who indicated his will to him and the mission to which he was invited. Moreover, not even the vocation of Zacchaeus the Publican is hidden to you, who, being little, in order to see the divine Teacher who passed by along the streets of Jericho, climbed up a tree.

Jesus called him and was invited to his house because He wanted to reveal the mystery of the encounter of the soul with the Lord. The revealed mystery was concluded in a general confession, in which Zacchaeus affirmed: If I have stolen, I will return quadrupling what I have stolen and I will do good.

The encounter with the Lord always presupposes a conversion, a mending of one's ways, a beginning to live seriously as Christians. The encounter with the Lord however, must have as ultimate model the neighbour. It might be said that whoever goes towards God must keep Him in sight by stretching out the arms towards the neighbour and in all he must see the same face, that of God humanized. Many murmured against Zacchaeus and also against Jesus, of whom it was said: He eats with publicans and sinners, He is therefore one of them. And with the same coin they will be able to pay you back also, since you must not expect a human reward, but it does not matter. You must always keep present the road you must travel on and the good that you have to do.

All must speak to you about Jesus. You might say that I am mistaken, because it is you who have to speak about Jesus, and yet I persist. Every sick person must speak to you about the sufferings healed by Jesus. Every sinner must speak to you about Jesus, because you know how much He loved them, and how He went in search of them with the anxiety of the shepherd who has lost the sheep, or with that of the woman who lost the drachma. In every priest you hear the voice of God that speaks, and his holiness becomes a desire of yours, for you know that Jesus has said that the priests are dear to Him like the pupil of his eyes. The children and the young also speak to you about Jesus, since every child must remind you of what Jesus used to say about them: *“Woe to those who scandalize them”*, and again: *“If you will not be like children you will not enter the Kingdom of the heavens.”*

Before the continuous call of Jesus, what ought you do? Here, children, I would like for you to be a continuous call in the presence of God. I would like, seeing you, for the faith to be reawakened and for all to feel a desire of goodness and love. In this way, all travelling on the right road in a mutual help, the destination is reached, which is not the end of the world, but the beginning of glorious life and full of love.

Children, I bless you all. From one encounter to the next the journey becomes shorter and shorter, but catching a glimpse of the homeland you have to rejoice over it. To all my embrace and my best wishes.

MATERIALISM AND IMMORALITY

November 5, 1974

Dear and beloved children, here you are for your encounter of love with your heavenly Mother. Does it not seem to you that all your city and your towns ought to hear the call that comes from above and rush to hear the words and the instructions of the Mother? Instead few are those who listen, few are those who, desirous for truth and good, come to quench their thirst at this fount.

The Gospel parable in which the master calls many to participate in the banquet is always current and the same reasons are adduced. I however, want to point out two reasons to you, more common and more grave, which prevent my children from accepting the divine teachings: materialism and immorality.

Materialism, children, is the denial itself of the life of man, which is made up of soul and body. They want to think only about the body, one prefers to assert that after death there is no longer anything, in order to be able to concede to the body all that it asks for and get out of any ties that the divine Law imposes. The soul is separated from the body, provoking a spiritual and moral death, in order to reach the denial itself of the soul with its attributes, its needs and the life that must animate it. With the existence of the soul destroyed, how can one admit the existence of God and of the beyond? How can one think of God's justice and of hell, destined for those who, with his Law, refuse to admit and believe in his goodness?

Children, materialism, which does not allow to look at Heaven and see in it an eternal abode for man, is the most degrading there can be on earth, since it puts man on the level of animals. Violence, crime is justified for those live materialistically; suffering has no value and rebellion against human laws becomes a necessity, after the divine Laws are rejected.

Poor children of mine, who place their hearts solely in what passes and do not raise the gaze to Heaven in order to invoke help in their necessities, since they want to make everything depend on their action; how wrong they are? Moreover, how can they not see that man cannot be satisfied by material things? How can they not see the unhappiness and the insatiability of the human heart which does not find peace and satisfaction except in God? Death itself, which strikes inexorably every man, says nothing to them who live materialistically. The serene death of the just man, who perhaps suffered his whole life, says nothing, nor the forlorn death of him who has navigated in a sea of wealth.

Materialism is like a communal blindness. Yes, they are joined forces that are moved in the defence of their own interests; they fight for capitalism, but do not

keep in mind the real interests of the people, those for which man must live and die. What sadness, children, seeing how brothers fight for the conquest of goods which, barely possessing them, cease to be real goods because they are used badly.

Above the body there are eternal and infinite goods for which it is worth the pain to fight for and to respond to the call. I am not saying by this that you must live like angels, since you do not have spiritual qualities and also the body is a gift of God which will be glorified forever, but it is necessary to give it the place due to it, that is, it is necessary for it to be subjugated to the soul. When order and harmony enters into human life, God enters who, having made man in his image and likeness, desires to have him as collaborator in his works.

Children, materialism is like a monster that, aping the strength and greatness of God, destroys all that which through faith, charity and hope elevate man.

The other danger equally great, that has caused the greatest evils in the world, is immorality. It is not necessary to speak long about it to you, since it is enough for you to open the eyes in order to see all that degrades it.

One begins with the young, who with illicit practices not only make themselves unworthy of having an immortal and spiritual soul, but they destroy their own physical health and prepare themselves for marriage carrying as gift to the future children, diseases and unmentionable defects. Then immorality strikes the families in the betrayals and infidelities, which are considered trifles and which create separations and tears.

Immorality seems to extend itself right before your eyes and eats into every category of human society; immorality of life and behaviour, which goes from the lack of conscience in the fulfilment of one's duties up to appropriating the goods of others, from the performance of impure acts up to actions against nature that scandalize the whole society. It is all one corruption, a consequence of a bad upbringing and lack of recourse to God, who, alone, can appease the human passions and give to men thoughts of Heaven.

How to handle these dangers so grave that they threaten all humanity? It is not enough to see, to listen and to deplore, it is necessary to perform a work of persuasion before your children or before those who live close to you. Everyone has his field of action, in which he must make his word felt after having prayed and beseeched the Lord. Going with the flow cannot be a reason for all to conform to. Children, never let charity be lacking, but with clarity and firmness speak your mind, which is that of God and myself.

I bless you and I help you. Peace be with you.

I GIVE YOU MY TEARS, MY HEART, MY HANDS

November 6, 1974 (at Muggiò)

Beloved children, peace be to you and to all your families and communities. See, I am amongst you. I am your Mother and I rejoice in these encounters and I bless those who, also with sacrifice, are present at this communal prayer that must be an invitation to a personal improvement. I am here, today, and I wish to present my gifts to you; spiritual gifts, great gifts, which must encourage you too to give some gifts to the brethren, the same way as I present them to you.

First of all, I give you my tears. It is an outward sigh of a sorrow that wounds my heart, and it is a sign of love. Whoever weeps, in fact, suffers. Whoever weeps, loves. Moreover, I want to make you sharers of this immense sorrow which from the heart of my Jesus has like a reverberation in my heart. They are the sufferings of all humanity and they are the sins that all men keep on continually committing and of which they give no hint of repenting. If the evils that worsen bodies are numberless, the sins that weigh down consciences have an infinite weight for the person who is offended and have the capacity to make the measure overflow, whereby the evils of humanity, already sorrowful, could worsen.

I offer you my tears and I beg you to present them to the Father, so that his heart may be moved to pity once again for his people. However, I desire that to my tears you join yours. I know that many times you are tormented by illnesses and by spiritual and moral sufferings. But why do you not want to accept them and offer them up, so that your brethren may be healed from the leprosy of sin and rebellion against God and from unbelief? I give you mine, offer them to the Father with yours.

Children, do not distress yourselves over things that pass away, but weep over the ruins of the heavenly Jerusalem, which on earth is represented by the Church militant. He who is on a voyage must encounter sacrifices and must confront a struggle. But how will Christians be able to reach the Church triumphant, if they do not furnish themselves with the necessary means and think that only enjoyment, interest and pleasure are the things to search for during this voyage? Children, your tears are needed and they must become a force that softens hearts.

But here, I give you my heart. I desire that you learn to love. Those that know how to love are few. You must desire, want, seek solely the good of the brethren. If I give you my heart, it is because I want to change it with yours. Why in life are there so many misunderstandings, so many grudges and so much hatred? One does not know how to love. Everything is centred on one's ego and on one's selfishness.

Who will not try for my sake to study the just requirements of those who live beside them? It seems to me that, if everyone were to make a brief examination, they would find a reason for regret, because generosity and love were defective. How many times learning to give a moment of goodness to a sister can be an encouragement to proceed in the way of sacrifice and perfection. Everything seems at times easy until one acts measuring love with words. Try, dear ones, to stand in for others; try and put yourselves in their place and to do the same work, to undergo the same humiliations. You will see how everything changes.

I feel a lively suffering when I see stingy souls and incapable of reacting to their own egoism, their own way of thinking and acting. I want you all, children, with a great heart, and as I accept hosting you all inside me and turning my heart into a nest, in the same way I would like for your hearts to be dilated in order to lodge all your loved ones and all souls, to whom you owe a higher and impartial affection.

Moreover, I wish to give you a third gift. I offer you my hands, so open as to welcome you and luminous through the graces that they enclose. I want to invite you to transform work into prayer, but also to give prayer the first place, that which is due to it. Many, who talk only of wellbeing and materialism, might be able to say that praying is useless. I say to you: children, learn to renounce also many works of secondary importance, learn to renounce a better pay, but give to prayer a great importance. If you accompany vocal prayer with the mind and the heart, it is very dear to God; if you want to meditate on the mysteries of the faith, light from the Holy Spirit will come to you; but never omit going to those colloquies with Heaven that will be like a guide for you to uncover the real values of life.

I give you my hands, learn to use them to benefit the poor. When some souls are taken by fervour, they consider asking Jesus for a sign of his love in order to demonstrate theirs. Therefore, they ask for the stigmata. I give you my hands: they do not bear the stigmata of the Passion, but they are full of graces, those which through you I wish to make come to all those who pass beside you. In everyone learn to see truly a soul to be helped. If you do not give any material goods, it will be my blessing, but that they all may feel at your passing that a divine breath has touched them, which serves to direct them to good.

Children, I bless you. I bless the sisters here present and their communities. I bless this house, its inhabitants so dear to me and each one who enters here.

See you again, children, with always fresh fervour.

BE PRUDENT AND BE SIMPLE

November 8, 1974 (in a cenacle)

Beloved children, with what joy have I sent you my instrument, so that she could give you my word, my blessing and so much comfort.

I am the Mother of God and your Mother, I am glad to tell you that I am very happy with you for your tendency to perfection, to which the Lord invites all his children asking them to do more and more and better and better. Yes, you must progress gradually in virtue and you must grow and multiply in numbers, for all must rejoice with that flame of charity which the Lord has filled you with. I want you many, I want you all good, all happy and all united, like the grape of a bunch of grapes or like the grain of an ear of wheat. You must be all for one and one for all in order to be able to bear real fruits of good.

What was it that distinguished the early Christians from the pagans? It was the affection that united them, whereby they sacrificed themselves willingly for others. And is not, this century, paganising for the materialism and immorality that triumph? You must be real witnesses of true Christian life by your example. You must not put yourselves on a pedestal thinking that you are better than others, but you must, through the goodness that inspires your actions, shine like beacons, through that love of peace that you carry everywhere and through that serenity that renders you disposed to accept dialogue with all. You must practise all these virtues inside your cenacle, inside your families and also outside.

Your motto must be this: to love everyone and to draw all to good without annoying and without imposing your will by force. It is for this reason that I repeat to you the words of my Jesus: be prudent like serpents and be simple like doves. Prudence is a basic virtue, it is one of those pillars that support the edifice of the Christian life. Be therefore, prudent in words. How many times it is enough for one word badly understood or wrongly reported to provoke some real evils or destroy a good. Prudence in your way of acting will give you that equilibrium, that moderation and that common sense on which you will be able to make the works of God flourish more serenely and maintain order.

In order to be prudent I invite you to ask yourselves often: Do these words and these works return to the glory of God? Would the heavenly Mother say and do them in my place?

If you were to know how necessary prudence was in my life! An imprudence would have been enough to ruin the wonderful work of God. You also have a mission to carry out: an individual and collective mission, personal and family, a mission that concerns the Church, society and humanity. Therefore, be full of

zeal and holy desires, but always keeping in mind that the good, exactly because it is prudent, does not make sounds and that sounds do no good.

In this way, in silence, with love and with great simplicity, walk in the way of the Lord. I have told you with simplicity. You must be simple, like children who take refuge willingly in the arms of the mother; simple like doves which, as soon as they see some danger, ascend above and go above the roofs or into their nests. Let your nest be the heart of God and mine and, when unforeseen difficulties or danger for the soul and the body disturb your life, I will welcome you into this nest and I will defend you from the sparrow. Do you know who the sparrow is? The dragon with the seven heads, the devil, who many times makes use also of men, who become his satellites.

And now all that's left is to bless you one by one and wish and give you peace of heart. I bless the priests who address the word of God to you and who follow you in your apostolate. I bless all those who enter this cenacle with desires of good. To all and to each one my embrace. I desire that, if you have spare time in your gatherings, besides the reading of my word, for the whole Rosary to be recited. See you again, children. I love you so much.

YOU MUST SPREAD LIGHT

November 10, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and every good. I am the Virgin of light. What joy for me to be able to illuminate your minds!

There are those who say that I am a gossiping mother because I lengthen my speaking to you, but they do not know that, when I speak by means of this instrument, I give real lessons that must illuminate with special light the journey of life of my children. I speak with clarity and my thought is expounded with the simple words of a mother, so that all can understand. In a world that is like buried in darkness, how necessary it is to have an extraordinary light!

When with your cars you drive along the streets and fog descends so thick that it prevents from seeing even a short distance, you turn on the lights, is that not so?

And if you are able to remedy a thing that could be regrettable and cause harm to men and things, why cannot God generate his beacons of light? I am one of these beacons. I do not shine with my light, but with reflected light, like the moon reflects through that splendour that the sun gives it. That does not mean that I cannot illuminate those who grope in the dark.

It is written: *“A blind man cannot guide another blind man, because both of them will fall into the pit”*, and it is for this that I want my light to be communicated to you. You must illuminate others. When someone wants to mislead others, he shows a fatuous light or shines dazzling lights. You must be illuminated souls, but the illumination that I give through my word, must be meant to make you see the truths of the faith clearly.

My Jesus taught all that you must do, and with the light that I give you, those things that seem complicated to you are simplified. I take you by the hand and I guide you in order to make you avoid deadly falls. I know and understand well your weakness, but exactly because I know everything I want to make your journey easier. I give you a kind of lantern, which you can hold in your hands to illuminate the road that you are travelling on; I show you clearly, that is, what your mission is: you must spread light.

My Jesus has said: The lamp is not lit to be put under the bed, but you put it up high so that all the family may be illuminated by it. You must do the same. The mission that the Lord has given you can be made known by manifesting your faith. A simple faith is always very communicable. *“If you wish to accept — you must say to your loved ones — this is the truth.”* When the truths of the faith have become a necessity for you, when the light has taken your mind and heart, one cannot but imitate you. Do not get distressed therefore, when they want to shut their eyes in order not to see; if you will be consistent, if you will learn that is, to make a beautiful unity between thought, word and deed, between faith and morals, you will be able to proceed unperturbed on your road and you will leave a luminous wake which others will follow.

This is how I want you, my children. Without presumption but with humility, without haughtiness but with calm, and above all with that goodness that is like a light that spreads itself without blinding, illuminate your home, your parish, the Church. Everyone brings his little bit of light and all united you form a sea of light. How beautiful this spiritual union of souls thirsting for truth, thirsting for perfection! Be always like so: docile pupils, obedient children, who come to the Teacher’s lesson to prepare themselves with Christian practice for the encounter with the Lord.

Worthy of every honour and praise is the Holy Spirit, infinite light of love who, proceeding from the Father and from the Son, spreads himself in the Church and into souls. Moreover, worthy of respect too is the soul of every Christian, of every man in whom the Holy Spirit, spreading his light, invites to holiness. A temple of God, the soul in grace is like a spring of light that brings desires of Heaven to other souls. Be always like so in order to please God the Father and ravish his heart. Be like so in order to give consolation to the Son. Be like so in order to respond to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Children, I bless you one by one, embracing you. May your little sufferings serve to demonstrate to all that, when God's light floods the soul, suffering also becomes light.

I bless the representatives of the different congregations here present. Do you want to bring my embrace to your sisters? I will give to all, in that embrace, my peace and my light.

THE TRUSTING RECOURSE TO GOD

November 12, 1974

Beloved children, here you are numerous and devout. I sit amongst you and, as I bless your hearts, I cannot go without saying to you: have faith, have trust and never let the oil for the lamp fail. Never let hope fail in you. If things go badly, if evil multiplies, may the good also be multiplied through you and trust increased. When all seems lost, your cry for help can calm the tempest.

Do you recall that day in which, while Jesus seemed to be sleeping on the boat, the apostles thought they were sinking and perishing? Their cry: "*Lord, save us, we are perishing!*", moved the heart of Jesus to pity, who immediately calmed the tempest. The trusting recourse to God in necessities is not despised by Him but welcomed. Does not the Lord ardently desire to help his children? If you are in joy, turn to Him too to thank Him, since He makes you sharers of his happiness; moreover, if you are in sorrow, with much persistence turn to Him and, as you ask Him for the patience to bear, ask too to be freed from your woes, if that is in conformity to his will.

You can also come to me. Do not the children go to the mother to make her sharers of their joys and woes? I understand you and I share everything. There are some who, when things are going well, rejoice and pray with fervour, but as soon as they are struck by adversities, let themselves be downhearted and no longer pray, as they go asking themselves: What evil have I done in order to deserve these disappointments? There are others who in sorrow turn to God, but as soon as this is gone, they forget about Him as if they had no other need.

No, children, the life of the Christian cannot be lacking the help of God, therefore, filial recourse and prayer must not be lacking. The spontaneous invocation with which you can embellish the whole day is so beautiful. These invocations are like the rings of a chain. I, who am at your side, do you think I wish to absent myself when you invoke me also in order to be helped to do your work more accurately or the household chores?

Your whole life unfolds in the presence of God and under my vigilance. Nothing happens to you that is not foreseen, or willed or permitted. But does it not seem to you that, if you were to call us, many problems would have an immediate solution? When man wants to do by himself, I stand and look and the Lord, who respects the liberty of his children, lets them act. Everything will be sifted by his severe judgement: every thought, every word, every action shall be judged not only in itself, but also towards the neighbour, who can be edified and led to God, or scandalized and distanced from God and from his end.

That's why you have to be vigilant, to feel the scrutinizing eye of God and invoke help in everything, so that, your actions, thoughts and words are conformed to his desires and to his Laws. In this way is realized the invitation that Paul made to all the Christians: Whether you eat or drink or whatever thing you do, do it in the name and for the sake of the Lord.

This thought, which can serve to give value to everything, shall also be the means to make you progress in perfection and to give your works an upright intention. In this way, helped from morning til evening, from evening till morning, you will attribute every merit to God and you will be able to say with sincerity: We are useless servants, since without his help we would not have known or been able to do anything. Paul had understood this truth well, who was able to say: Without the help of God, you would not even be able to utter the name of Jesus.

Come to this place therefore, to beseech Jesus and me for all your needs, but do not forget that God is everywhere and that, being an almighty and good Father, He wishes and can help you. To invoke the name of God with faith means to attract his benevolence and to repair the uttering of his name in vain. It is also a reparation for blasphemy, which wounds his heart directly and which keeps on spreading itself everywhere.

This mode of offending God, which deconsecrates the tongue of Christians, who on the tongue receive the Body of the Lord, deconsecrates families making them abodes of Satan and deconsecrates society, at whose school it accomplishes and gives life to truly satanic works.

Children, I am with you to bless you every time that you make reparation for blasphemy. I embrace you one by one and I urge you: be persevering in good.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

November 16, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to your hearts now and always. How I rejoice in seeing you here at my feet trusting and devout! I love you and I only desire your good.

I want you always victorious over the forces of evil that are presented to you under the triple form of the devil, the world and the flesh. I am the Queen of Victories. I crushed the head of the devil because never did the stain of sin mark my soul. Do you want to be victorious over the devil? Combat sin under whatever form it presents itself to you.

There are personal sins, family sins, social sins. You can distinguish them, because every sin is a disobedience to the Law of God. You know very well the Commandments of God and you know what they command and what they forbid. Repeat them often to yourselves, so that they may be well impressed in your mind and in your heart and above all so that you may be able to practise them and love serving God in this world.

There are many who distinguish and wish to follow a Commandment and overlook the others, but there is only one law that cannot be overlooked, and it is the law of charity, centre and life of the Christian religion, which summarizes all the Commandments. This charity, which is so neglected in the world, will be the code on which my children will be judged on the last day. If you observe charity, you will not be able to sin and the devil will be defeated.

The world also is your enemy; its law is not like that of Jesus. The world says: Blessed the rich, blessed he who enjoys and makes pleasures and amusement his life. The world does not want humility, it loves power, it adopts arrogance in order to overcome and win. All that is contrary to the teachings of Jesus, who chose poverty, mortification and humility for himself and for his followers. Therefore, if you wish to follow Jesus and combat the world, you must follow his teachings. It will be easy for you in that way also to overcome the passions and the evil inclinations, which after the original sin became the sad inheritance of the children of God.

In this moment I will give you a threefold gift, which you will never forget and which will serve you to be victorious over your threefold enemy. I give you a banner: it is your faith, which you will seek to keep intact also before the enemies who try to ruin it and spoil it. I give you a torch, which you will carry everywhere to inflame all with the love of God. Your families, your parishes, your whole country, must feel the benefits of this encounter of yours with me. I give you my Rosary, which you will carry everywhere and which you will never

be ashamed of. You will disseminate the Hail Mary's and I will disseminate the graces. In this way we will always find ourselves together and it will be an encounter with Heaven every time that you invoke me.

And now I bless you all, with your loved ones and your intentions. I bless my ministers who have wished to honour me here and, as I hug them tightly to my heart, I beg them to make me known more and more and better and better, so that all, loving me, can be saved by Jesus and me. I bless him who conducts with so much love these pilgrimages and I promise special graces. I bless the religious and their works: always have candid thoughts like the veils you wear on the head. See you again, children, always victorious and content. I am with you now and always.

TO THE YOUNG

November 17, 1974

Beloved children, I am here as to an encounter of love, to tell you of my pleasure and my joy for the care and desire with which you adhere to the will of God and you propose to do all that good that He desires.

I am the Queen of the Apostles. Just as I taught and guarded the apostles in the early times of the Church, so, along the centuries, I have spent all my graces to benefit and help those who, having voted for the ideal of the apostolate, have sacrificed every affection and every good for this ideal. But, if it has always been urgent to go out of one's way so that men would find the right road, today, it is urgent that in every field the commitments be multiplied to follow up that ideal which responds to the thirst for souls which my Jesus was and is devoured with.

It is not the particular state of life that can hinder or help the apostle. There are no impediments of any kind when a soul loves. That's why I say to you: grow in love to be apostles. Act so that the love of God may make every fibre of your heart vibrate and you will realize marvellous works of good, compared to which the works performed by the geniuses of humanity are a nothing. Give to everything a divine imprint, and the Creator will act in you and will give you marvellous gifts.

Jesus has said to you that a time would come in which false Christs and false prophets would arise. Well then, if I invite you to be prudent like serpents in order to distinguish true doctrines from the false ones, I invite you also to perform that detailed work made of reflection in order to destroy those idols that could insert themselves also in you.

There is a strong temptation that threatens to transform into divinity what ought to be a simple search for good in order to better serve the Lord. It is that creating for necessities of things that could be superfluous and attaching one's heart to them. I invite you to the simple life, to limit your requirements, to be more than ever sober and mortified, because of all that you need to live you do not have to enrich your mind, your heart and your body. You must possess the Christ in you and, since He is the Son of God and He has become man in poverty and in the most absolute humility, you who are his brothers must elevate yourselves and resemble Him in all.

I bless you, children. I am happy with you and I want for you, persevering in good, to be able to reach the stature of my Son. See you again!

THE DIVINE GOODNESS GOVERNS ALL

November 17, 1974

Dear children, I am here with you, I wish to give to your prayer an unusual strength. Through it, I want to persuade the world of the need to turn to God in order to invoke his help, his mercy, his peace. I always desire to unite myself to you to pray. Do so that your recourse to me may put you always in a good light before the Father and make you worthy of being heard. You pray to me, I unite myself to you, and this beautiful unity undoubtedly bears its fruits in you and in the world.

How beautiful the Christian faith is, which, putting all men on the same level, since all are needy of grace and graces, makes the prayer like a choir of imploring voices. How beautiful this team of praying souls, when they are vivified by a same divine force and when they are bound by a unique golden thread, that of love. The more you are united the more this prayer becomes powerful, so as to restrain any evil. Children, be trustful and full of hope. Know that God, infinite providence, watches over the whole world and over every creature, like the most assiduous mother takes an interest of her own children.

You know that I collaborate in the work of redemption. I am the Mother Divine Providence and, as such, I would like to show you the marvellous work that God performs in order to lead his children to salvation. If you see the reverse of an embroidery, you are able to see the knots or the stitches that seem irregular to you; but if at the completion of the work you observe the work, you find it marvellous.

Look, children, as long as you are on earth you cannot see events in their right sense, but when you shall have arrived in the beyond and been freed from the body, all will appear clearly to you. And what will not be your gratitude and your joy in discovering the truth of things and the usefulness of certain sorrows that on earth have hurt you deeply.

God sees from afar, and all that He permits or wants, He directs to one unique end. Even in your good desires — which He arouses, permits and rewards — He places many times obstacles, because in his infinite wisdom He knows that their realization would not bring personal or social benefits. I invite you therefore, to maintain and to spread this peace which is trust and which is a sign of true faith.

What's the point of getting upset, what's the point of destroying the order and multiplying the worries and the thoughts? You have a track on which you must walk: the Creed and the Commandments. You have a certainty on which you must rest, and it is the love of God for you. You have an invisible force that sustains you, which is derived from prayer and the sacraments. Why do you want to doubt?

It is true, certain family and social events disturb you. Many parents see their own children move away from the home and from the Church, from the family affection and from the faith. Would they be able to remain indifferent? No, they will not be able, unless they were of stone, but I assure you that through your prayer and your tears I will save them, you have to believe and on this faith and trust you can remain tranquil. I am not saying that you can spend your days without prayer and without sacrifice, but that you must, also in sorrow, maintain that goodness whereby you learn to forgive, and that serenity whereby dialogue can be easier.

There are many persons who complain about real maladies, but who transform these maladies into a heavy cross for themselves and for others. Perhaps many elderly persons do not realize that the passing of the years brings with it so many difficulties and that the health can gradually be failing. If, leaning on the truths of the faith which assure you of your brief permanence on earth and which speak to you about the stable and true abode in Heaven, you learned to raise yourselves and confide in Providence, every year that passes and every malady that accompanies it would be a motive of joy.

So, when you would like to see the children settled down, when it seems to you that a family affair ought to be settled in a certain way and you see everything go backwards, if you attached yourselves with faith to the thought that God knows better than you what you need, and you sought to persist

strongly through prayer, I assure you that, even if not straight away, you would be heard.

There are persons who have remained far from God for many years, perhaps without spite, but out of carelessness and coldness. When they have found the light, they have demanded an immediate solution for every bad thing and for their desires to be granted straight away. But, children, do you not realize that the Lord for years and years has awaited your return?, I would like to say to them. And is it not by exercising patience that one gives proof of a true conversion?

So, children, while I desire that you look at men and things in the light of that divine goodness who governs all, I desire that, entering inside yourselves, you take away all that is a cause of disturbance. You say: *“No leaf drops that God does not will.”* It is a truth. Learn to live it out moment by moment, leaving to God to rectify all that you see unintentionally on your road. Be certain that from many things that apparently seem evil, God will know how to draw out good.

I bless you, children. May the Divine Providence be generous of his gifts with you all.

TO THE TURIN GROUP

November 18, 1974

Beloved children, your faith and devotion touches me. I am the Mother of holy trust and I cannot let you leave without having given you comfort and help. I want to ask you only to look at every happy or sad event of your lives in the light of faith, in order to discover in every reality, sorrowful also, the will of God. How your crosses would change aspect if your were to look at them like so!

Do you think that my Jesus did not go with enthusiasm to the cross on which He was to be crucified? And does not the Church make you sing “Hail cross, only hope”? If you were able to consider the life of each martyr of the Church, who in Heaven attained the palm of victory, you would find a dominating note that cannot be lacking: the enthusiasm with which they confronted martyrdom in the certainty of their reserved reward. I know that sometimes the daily sacrifice of many becomes a real martyrdom, but it is exactly by accepting these daily sufferings out of love that you are able to be numbered amongst the victorious hosts of saints.

I desire that you have trust and peace. I recall to you the behaviour of Peter so

that it may be an encouragement for you. Jesus had moved away from the crowd and had withdrawn himself on the mountain to pray. He prayed for some hours, then He came down, and the boat where the apostles were was about a mile distant from the shore. Jesus began to go towards them walking on the waters, and the apostles said: *“It is a ghost.”* But Jesus said: *“It is I.”* Peter replied to Him: *“If you are the Teacher, command me to come to you on the waters.”* Jesus said: *“Come”*, and Peter walked on the waters, but, a strong wind blowing, he was afraid and began to sink. Then he cried: *“Lord, save me.”* Jesus stretched out the arm and saved him. All the others said to Him: *“Jesus, you are truly the Son of God.”*

Children, it will perhaps seem useless to you that I have cited a Gospel deed to you that you know well, but it is so beautiful to relive with Jesus and with his elect some special moments. First of all, you have followed the example of Jesus, you have distanced yourselves, even if for a while, from the crowd of your occupations in order to come here and to make contacts with Heaven, and for this I thank you.

Look however, how the similarity continues. Behold Peter who, urged by faith and by enthusiasm, invokes a miracle from the Teacher. Jesus performs it. You also are here to ask first of all, to walk in the way of good; you ask to meet with Jesus, to love Him, to understand his desires. If everything were to go smoothly, you with little effort would become saints, but behold the difficulties that come from every side and blow like a strong wind. It would be the case of strengthening prayer and of replacing oneself with full trust back into the hands of God, but the opposite happens and, pressed by these worries, sometimes faith is lacking to you. And yet I promise you that, if you will learn to raise a loud cry invoking help, not only will you be saved, but all those who will see the constancy of your faith, your trust and your serenity also in sorrow, will have to say full of wonder: Yes, I believe in God!

Many of your children and relatives have lost the faith. Perhaps bad company, dangerous occasions given by surroundings saturated with atheism and immorality, have changed the mind and heart of many. It has been like a brain washing or a bad infection that has provoked the illnesses. Do not fear, children, because must not Jesus say also to you like to Peter: *“People of little faith.”*

Be firm and secure, since who more than God is master of men’s will? It is true that He respects the liberty, but He does not lack the means to attract souls to himself. There is no sinner, no matter how hardened, who can resist his loving calls. Who more than Paul could tell you how strong the Lord is, when He wants to make a persecutor of Christians an apostle of the nations? Do not fear and do not despair, but in prayer and with the daily offering of your tears,

you become those mysterious antennas who call the mercy of God onto your loved ones and onto the world.

I bless you all, starting with my minister. To all and to each one in particular, an affectionate embrace.

See you again, children.

I WANT FOR YOU TO BE FERVENT

November 19, 1974

Dear and beloved children, I am with you and I desire that you be inflamed with love for God and neighbour so that you may be able to communicate also to others, to many others, an infinite desire of good.

I am the Bride of the Holy Spirit and what better can I give you than a fire of love? The Holy Spirit says of those who are lukewarm: *“Since you are neither hot nor cold, I will start to vomit you from my mouth.”*

That’s why I want for you to be fervent: because it is not possible to please God and live a mediocre life. It is great to aspire to Heaven, but who will be the victorious ones that will reach it? Those who will have fought and who, inflamed with that fire that Jesus brought into the world, will have caused a real fire around themselves.

You have done well today to pray for the youth. The young are in fact divided into three great categories. There are those who, dragged by the forces of evil and by the devil, become themselves like diabolical beings who have the power of seduction. There are those who remain indifferent. They see the evil that is propagated, they see the need to do good, but they do not want to overcome their timidity and their laziness, and through the difficulties that they could encounter opposing evil, they remain behind the scenes and let others act. They are few who learn to answer the invitation of Jesus, who calls all and particularly the young to work in his vineyard.

Jesus was able to say: *“The zeal of your house devours Me”*, and every Christian ought to repeat: *“The zeal of your glory devours me.”* The whole of the Christian ought to carry this longing, this anxiety to enlarge the Kingdom of God on earth, so that Heaven may be populated with souls that honour Him eternally. The salvation of souls ought to be therefore, the desire to which the Christian ought to bind every moment of his life.

Many saints have understood Jesus' thirst and the ardour of his heart all slanted towards the realization of the plan of salvation; therefore, they were capable of saying: *"Lord, take away everything from me, but give me souls."* On this trail I wish to bring you, whereby every sacrifice, every prayer and every action may not be mechanically directed to Heaven, but may be an invocation for salvation. If the young were to have this ideal, believe me, they would burn with holy desires and would quickly become fishers of souls.

When a soul is inflamed with the love of God, he has like a power of persuasion, he is like a bait which many swallow. He who truly loves God, cannot keep in the heart his affection; the words blossom on the lips and also from the eyes and from the whole person a light gushes forth that surprises others. A soul who loves becomes a true witness of Him who said: *"Who has a greater love than him who is ready to sacrifice his life for the brother?"*

In this way he who loves knows no measure in his dedication. There is no pain that he does not want to console, there is no evil that he does not want to remove, there is no good that he does not want to do. I want you all like this, because the more these desires are alight in you the more you will have strength to do good, and I will smooth out the road for you. "More and more and better and better" must be your motto. Difficulties or calumnies must not intimidate you. Rather, I must say to you that these are exactly the mark by which you are able to understand that your works are pleasing to God.

What does it matter, children, of what men can say? You know that good is battled by the evil one and when he does not succeed alone in knocking down good, since his malice is uncovered, he makes use of men. Sometimes, it is also practising Catholics who, unbeknown to them, lend themselves to harming the works of God.

Know, children, that the action of the devil is so wide and so strong also because the collaboration of men is so effective. And who can defend you from so many dangers? That is why the necessity for the good to be united and to work out of love and agreement under my guidance.

Children, there are some who, speaking about my apparitions in this age more than ever numerous, smile and write also in a mocking tone even in newspapers who pass themselves off as good. Does not this seem to you a real insult to my maternal goodness? And who is that mother which, being able to reawaken the faith in her children, would not use any means? I am that Mother who, as I verify the grave needs, the great failings and the great dangers from which my children whom I love immensely are surrounded, I give them special gifts. I wake up the faith, I rekindle the hope and I increase the charity.

The careful study of the persons to whom these special gifts are made, and the statement that God and his Mother are not far from the world, but watch over every creature, could give a help and an aspect certainly better to this poor humanity. Let it be considered by you an act of benevolence on the part of Heaven, this contact of the supernatural with earth: it will all return to your benefit.

And now I bless you all, one by one, with a heartfelt outpouring. See you again!

THE EXAMPLE OF ST. CECILIA

November 22, 1974

Beloved children, how much I enjoy seeing your faith and your desire to have light from Heaven in order to be able to do the divine will.

I am your immaculate Mother and I desire for you to give to your lives a direction of real Christians. I would like for you to be constantly like the five wise virgins and who, keeping the torch of faith and love always alight, are able, with your spare oil, to give it as gift to those virgins who are not concerned of the arrival of the bridegroom.

No one can give what he does not possess, but in order to give it is indispensable to possess a good measure. The apostolate is this unceasing giving to the brethren, but if you do not enrich your interior lives, with true love of God and neighbour, it can happen that you might empty yourselves and will no longer possess that abundance of grace with which the Lord wishes to favour you.

Jesus said: *“Whoever thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”* Only by quenching your thirst at his fount will you no longer have thirst and be able to call others to drink. Let the search for God be always in you. Be always desirous for the divine word. Love to talk with Him who is the guest of your soul, since all that is the life that you must spread.

I spoke to you about the wise virgins today, in which the Church honours a wise virgin who conquered the palm of martyrdom. I will outline her behaviour in a few words.

She consecrated herself to her God and would have liked to keep her virginity for her whole life. She was compelled to marriage, but she did not rebel and brought the bridegroom Valerian to her spiritual level, so as to make him not only a Christian, but a martyr. She made use of the human means with which God and nature had provided her. She made use of music, which she loved a lot, and of the skill in playing in order to attract his benevolence, and she made use of that interior harmony that is like a divine music, to conquer him to her ideal of virginity and to the Christian doctrine.

Cecilia today ought to return into the world and invocation to her is more than ever necessary; in today's world one inspires to marriage only as a sensual pleasure. Marriage, an act so solemn that represents the most chaste nuptials of my Jesus with his Church, is profaned, and the preparation for an act so highly blessed by God and useful for human happiness, is transformed into a game ever so dangerous, in which not only is the soul wasted, but also the body as well.

May the example of a human creature, in all similar to the young modern ladies, make known to them the necessity to combat evil and to give the strength to the fiancées, not only to uphold their principles, but also to convince for the need of the practise of virtue also for the fiancés. You are here to represent every category, with the young ladies who aspire to marriage. There are the widows, the consecrated single women, the wives and the young men called to a more perfect consecration. May the example of St. Cecilia help you to value all that you too possess.

I like it when you make the hymn a means to praise the Lord. While in the world musical harmony is ruined, accompanying it also with indecent and lecherous words, you make those wonderful notes which speak of love gush forth from your hearts and may they be an invitation for all to think about the problems of the spirit. *"He who sings, prays twice."* The youth of today sing very little, if by song you mean the elevation of the spirit. Act so that the song may come to sweeten your sorrows under the form of prayer or be the manifestation of your deep joy, and serve to gladden and lift up the many disheartened and depressed spirits who do not seek the joy in God, the only source of happiness.

And now I bless you all, one by one, and I embrace you. May peace and joy be with you.

THE MAGNIFICAT WAS MY FAVOURITE SONG

November 26, 1974

Beloved children, what comfort it is for my heart to see you gathered here in prayer to represent all humanity which, ignorant of the value of life and of the reality of death, lives a life of recklessness in sin. I look at you and I smile, even if I see your imperfections and weaknesses. It is true, I would like to see you more good, less prone to judge, more humble, more perfect in everything, but I look at your efforts and I see that good will is not lacking in you, therefore I am happy.

Truly Christian life has to be a continual ascent, a continual asking for help and lifting oneself up again after every fall, up to the day in which, welcomed into my arms, I will be able to present you to the Father. I am invoked by you as the Refuge of Sinners and I love this invocation very much, since I desire to welcome you all, not only under my mantle, but in my heart as in a nest protected by God, in which I can defend you from the hurricanes that rage everywhere, threatening your spiritual life, the life of grace that is worth more than any created good. Here, in this nest, I give you the beak full of food and I teach you to fly.

If you listen to me, I also want to teach you to sing. When I was expecting the birth of my child, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit filled me with love, I frequently raised my song to God. There was no suffering so great that would shut my lips, since the notes of that music came from the heart and it was of an infinite sweetness. Now I can keep you all and others still here in the heart and I wish to sing with you.

If you knew the value of the serenity and the joy in your life of believers, you would not want to worry yourselves nor ever become sad. That of learning to smile is one of the most effective apostolates. I know that many times the misfortunes multiply and it seems to you exactly that it is necessary to let loose, to raise the voice, to retort to what others affirm, and yet I say to you that the interior serenity and the calmness, shown in good mood, are an effective means to maintain or to make peace and quiet return everywhere.

I would like in this month that separates you from Christmas, for my words to become an invitation to make a preparation of sweetness, of goodness and peace for that solemnity that must have so much importance for your personal improvement. What significance would Christmas have, if you did not bring yourselves to a spiritual rebirth and to certain changes destined to make the Son of God live in you with his grace?

I have said to you that I used to sing in the waiting for Christmas and the Magnificat was my favourite song. I have not told you that the sufferings were lacking to me, as they cannot be lacking to you, but does it not seem to you that you are also continuously made the objects of care on my part and on the part of God? How many graces I scatter over your path! Material and spiritual graces. The Lord not only never loses sight of you, but He worries over each one in every least details.

You are many times like distracted children who do not remember to eat because they think of play, and many times like those careless ones who forget what they have received from the parents and give all the gratitude to a friend who gives them an insignificant toy. How I would like for you to be more reflective, more grateful and full of gratitude towards God, who does not let one moment pass by without loving you and without filling you with his goods. The song of the Magnificat must be the sign of your gratitude, even if in your blindness you do not learn to understand the real values.

You call me the “Miraculous One” and it is a reality, since God has given me this capacity to perform miracles and I wish to perform many in your favour to the point of making you burst out from the heart so much thankful love. However, try not to bind faith and love to miracles, since also the ordinary life of every creature is something great, extraordinary and mysterious in which God acts.

Have faith and love in order to tell to all that God exists and that He has reserved a place for each one in his Kingdom. Speak your faith with that Christian practice that goes from hearing the Holy Mass to approaching the Sacraments, from trust in Providence to the acceptance of God’s will. Speak your love to God with those good works that, if looked at humanly, seem insignificant, while they have a great value before Him, who sees the intentions and measures the love. If you will live by faith and love in my heart, the present life will be beautiful and, just as you will be ready for the Christmas Communion, so you will be prepared for the birth to eternal life.

Children, there are many in the world who do not believe in the hereafter and despise the earthly life, therefore, they think about suppressing it or wasting it, and there are those who, frightened by the thought of death, refuse to think about it, therefore, they arrive there unprepared. May you not be of the one category or the other. Appreciate the gift of life and utilize it to reach the true life, Paradise, where we will sing the glory of the Lord forever.

Children, I bless you all and I promise you special graces.

I USE YOU

November 29, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to your hearts and to your families. See, I am here to help you in all your spiritual and material needs. I am here to give you so much patience, so that by means of this virtue you will attain serenity and peace, and I am here to help you to spend the days of the novena well which prepare you for my feast.

I am the Immaculate Conception. This great mystery was announced straight after the sin of our progenitors, when God said to the serpent: *“I will place enmity between your seed and Her seed”*, that is, of that Woman that would have crushed the head. In this way my feast was foretold. Your Immaculate Mother who, in view of the merits of her Son Jesus, was preserved from original sin and was filled with grace, desires to be honoured by you.

When the Supreme Pontiff proclaimed my Immaculate Conception, he did but adhere to God’s desire and to mine. In confirmation of this desire, there on the Pyrenees I appeared a few years later after the proclamation of the dogma and I confirmed that truth declaring my name to the humble Bernadette: *“I am the Immaculate Conception.”* Just as I ask for faith from the words of the Pontiff, so I ask for what I asked from Bernadette to be also today for you an object of meditation and reflection.

I know that you love to carry lights and flowers before my images, but what would the lights be worth if you did not believe in those privileges that enriched my life? And what would the flowers be worth if they were not the palpable manifestation of the other flowers, those spiritual ones of your virtues, especially mortification which is the indispensable means to flee sin?

You see the world how it forgets the most sacred duties towards God and his Mother, and finds no relief except in pleasure and in sin. If all were aware of the necessity to practise that penance that I asked for so much at Lourdes and recommended to all, humanity would not be going so badly.

Children, I therefore, today wish to adopt you use as means. Just as I made use of a child, so I make use of you and I send you into your families, into your parishes, into the workplaces, everywhere. You must bring this message of salvation and peace. You must say to all: the Immaculate Mother of God and ours wishes for her words to be believed, she wants the Rosary and penance once again to be used in order to save all men.

You will come every day to honour me. You will invoke me with this title that is so dear to my heart, and I promise you that through that innocence which

embellished my soul when I came into the world, I will obtain for you to leave this world without sin. Were you to know children, how painful it is that many unprepared souls and with blasphemy on the lips prepare themselves to meet the eternal Judge! What a terrible moment refusing mercy when justice starts to take effect! If therefore, you will honour my Immaculate Conception, this sad end will not be reserved for you because I will put all my power to work.

Be good, children, good with all and especially with the wicked and with those who make you suffer. Have trust in God and keep my words alive in the memory. You will never regret having loved and having believed.

And now I bless you all, starting from the priest who has celebrated the Divine Mysteries in my honour. I bless each one of you. To those who are in the grace of God I urge to maintain the grace, and to those who do not possess it, I urge a good confession. To all I say, with maternal affection, all the desire that I have of seeing you real practising Christians, committed to acquiring a real, a greater sanctity.

See you again, children.

TO THE YOUNG

December 1, 1974

My children, so dear to my heart and to that of my Jesus, be blessed. I look at you and I see your needs, your desires, your worries and your hopes. Well then, I share with you all that is the object of your attention. Your thoughts are mine and I would exactly like for you to put yourselves serenely into my hands, because regarding your future I desire to think about it myself.

Today the Church starts the Liturgical Year, which recalls the different events of the life of my Son. Today begins Advent, and you remember with it the expectation of mankind who sighed for the coming of the Saviour, so that He would put an end to the evils of humanity and so that there would be, in the midst of so much darkness, a glimmer of light. The prophets came and went, keeping alive the hope of salvation, and of that Jesus who was to come, they made his life known in every little detail, so that one could have been able to write the most perfect biography.

My prerogatives also, given in advance as fruits of the redemption, were made known to men. You, living out this period of preparation for Christmas, do not walk in the dark. The events have come true, but you must make them live again in you. That innocence which embellished my soul, can embellish yours too. Those sighs which my heart were filled with, must accompany your prayer, and you must make the invocations of the prophets yours.

The King of creation, the Lord of the world, must return to live and to direct consciences. The Redeemer continues his work of redemption and men must let themselves be saved. There are sick persons who refuse to be operated on, to be cured and healed in many homes and even in hospitals, and how will they be able to regain health? The world is full of persons who reject the doctor and the medicines and you know who I intend to talk about. If it is urgent for you to entrust yourselves to this attentive care of the Mother, who wants to bring you to Jesus, it is moreover indispensable for you to solicit salvation, spiritual health for all.

Let this time of Advent be, therefore, a time of salvation. Look at the star, look at heaven and, while you pray, rekindle in yourselves the spirit of faith. Whoever believed in the coming of the Saviour, saved himself. Jesus in fact, who after his death descended into the underworld, went to liberate the patriarchs, the prophets and all those who had lived like them and with the same faith.

This faith in salvation must help you to look at every event of life with a confident mind. You must always see the hand of God that strikes in order to raise up again, the providence of God that watches over all, the goodness of God that is addressed to all. Let this virtue of faith help you to be serene and to bring forth your programme. That is to say, let your faith make you practise justice and overcome every difficulty.

I am near to you and, while I desire that the sacraments received well give you that purity whereby the truths of the faith may appear clearer to your eyes, through this purity I will place you alongside my heart in order to guard you better and better.

Children, I bless you all. You are mine. Do not fear, I protect you and I help you. See you again.

DO NOT PUT OFF TO TOMORROW

December 1, 1974

Dear and beloved children, here you are at my school like little children desiring to learn. I teach you to read, to write, to do your sums. You remain little and I continue to be your teacher. Woe to those who believe in being self-sufficient; it would be the case for me to withdraw in good order and to neglect exercising my duty towards them.

You want to learn, and my joy is to see you grow not just in age, but also in that spiritual stature that is equivalent to holiness. Even if growing in grace and holiness is the consequence of my work, to which replies your response, that is, your attention and your will, humility must not be lacking in you, which keeps you little before God and before your neighbour, as well as before yourselves. Who in fact, can boast of having knowledge before Him who is infinite wisdom? And who can boast of being superior to others or declare himself perfect, so as not to be in need of the neighbour?

Behold, my children, in this first week of Advent, you will dispose your souls acknowledging your littleness, your incapacity and your imperfection. What rendered me great, children, before God if not my humility, for which He turned his gaze upon his handmaid? Disposing yourselves in this way, with sentiments of deep humility, you will draw the abundance of God's graces.

When you are here like willing pupils, I give you the possibility of speaking and telling me. You must speak to me about your painful experiences, of what displeases you and of what would please you. If you show me trust and confidence, do not hesitate to tell me also your sins, like little children who with simplicity and sincerity tell the teacher their mischievous pranks; and I am happy to see you repented, while I would not be so if, lying to yourselves and to God, you were to hide your intentions and your bad things.

I would like however, for you to speak to me about everyone, of those who do not want to come to school because they do not believe in my goodness and in the wisdom which I can give. I would like for you to speak to me about those who perhaps have accepted with joy my invitation, then, as if nauseated by this food they have distanced themselves, and also of those who subtly and maliciously go about demolishing the works of God, because they say that it is not possible for Him to use simple and unsuitable instruments.

In short, I want for you to pray and for you to make present to me all the sick in mind, in heart and in will. You must in a certain sense feel yourselves responsible and feel yourselves the mouthpieces of those who reject the gift of God and do not want to listen and do not want to understand.

I am your teacher and today I desire to make you make an account ever so simple and easy. I ask you: children, how many years have you up to now spent on earth? There are those who will answer me twenty, some thirty, some forty, some sixty and also more. And now I ask you: how many years are left to you still? I would be able to answer to each one, but the Lord, in his infinite goodness, wishes to keep hidden the hour of death. I can just tell you that some will have to appear soon before the tribunal of God.

But you might be able to say: Why does our Teacher, who is also Mother, speak to us about death? Perhaps to frighten us? Oh no, children! I desire that you learn to do your sums well while you are alive, in order not to find yourselves badly off at the end. That time that you have at your disposal, you must employ it in the best possible way. You must not even waste one moment of life because, when you shall be called to the account, you will have to answer for everything to Him, to the Supreme Judge. You have to be vigilant and attentive in order not to be robbed by the evil one and by the world of what truly matters.

Remember, children, that knowing how to count is useful. Knowing how to see the days that pass and knowing how to fill them with good works in order to bring them with you, is like a good income on a good capital. With these works, which will be what will validate your faith, I would like for you to turn to a real monument for the eternal life.

I beg you to make these teachings the object of meditation; and if you have to humble yourselves a little more in order to please me, and if you have to be more generous in order to occupy yourselves with others, and if you have to increase your good works, which will be like the bricks with which you will build the monument of your glory, do not put it off to tomorrow, start straight away. It will be the best way to learn to count the time that remains for you to live on earth.

I am always here, dear children. I admonish, I encourage, I give strength and love to all those who ask me for it, and I do not want to see anyone disheartened and depressed.

I bless you hugging your heart. See you again, children.

BRING THE LITTLE CHILDREN HERE

December 3, 1974

My children, children so dear to my heart, may you be blessed! I spread my graces without number over you, over your loved ones and over those whom you commend to me.

I desire however, that you bring to me here many little children. They must be the most beautiful adornment of this place. I will take them under my protection and I will guard them like little perfumed flowers. Would you like to call many of them so that, coming to me, I may be able to prepare them to welcome my

Son? I desire to make them understand the importance of preparing oneself for Christmas in order to make holiness and virtue be born again, with my Jesus, in the world. It is true that children little understand these things, especially if in their homes they are not accustomed to prayer, but I have a special way to make myself understood.

Whoever comes to listen to me cannot ignore the truths that I teach. Let each one do his best. You will fix a day and I will be with you. Were you to know how useful it is to give to little children an exact idea of religion. How useful it is to make one love what is good and make one practise those good works which, also in their simplicity and littleness, serve to embellish the heart and to render it more tender towards those who suffer.

Many times it is the parents themselves who cultivate selfishness in their children, with that exaggerated concern whereby they would not let even the superfluous be lacking to them, while they do not accustom them to see the needs of others. Bring them here, at my feet, the children and do so that they may see my Child and learn that in order to be born He chose a grotto, Him who is the Master of the world.

The Christmas festivities are approaching and everyone will be doing useless and superfluous shopping. I invite you to keep in mind those families where children lack the basics. I would like for the help of your prayer not even to be lacking for the children sick in body and for those who, growing up in unhealthy families, assure for society the dissolute or delinquents. A good foundation is a guarantee of a sound home, and the religious and civil, human and spiritual upbringing of those little creatures so dear to God, is a guarantee of good families as well as true gallant folk. Let it be the most fragrant basket of flowers that you will offer me on these days.

Moreover, I must remind you of another apostolate equally important. There are elderly persons in many families, especially men who, having grown up perhaps between work and bars, have reached old age. They sometimes arrive in homes and in hospitals when their minds no longer respond to the calls of the family. Many times their last word is a curse. How useful it would be, and I would say indispensable, for these old ones to be approached by persons of faith and piety so that they would be able to prepare themselves for the last encounter, the one with God, whom they have thought little of during life.

I leave this task to you: he who discovers more old folk, will be more meritorious. You must not yield to the first repulsions. You ought to present yourselves as angels of goodness. You ought to accept their complaints, to listen a lot, and at the end let fall, like a golden drop, the thought on God, on Paradise, on the goodness of God and his mercy.

Remember what has been promised to you: whoever saves a soul, puts his own in safety. Perhaps those words that you might utter will reawaken the faith. Perhaps your visit will open the door to the priest who will bring the Sacraments, or even your words of goodness will give birth to the desire to make peace with the neighbour.

Children, hell is terrible and no one should go there. You have this responsibility. You must prevent souls, in your families and in the families of your acquaintances, not illuminated by faith and deprived of grace to be directed there. You must do everything that depends on you to prevent an irreparable evil. You must be like the bells that ring incessantly to warn that everyone must be prepared, since death comes like the thief.

Children, I bless you all and I give you my tenderness.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

December 4, 1974 (at Muggiò)

I am the Immaculate One, children, here present to address my word of peace, of love and of encouragement to you. Today I wish to say to you: try in all things to seek the will of God, which coincides with the will of salvation and with the desire and the carrying out of your happiness.

To clarify my thought to you, I must tell you that the benevolent eye of God turned to me, his humble handmaid, and looked at me with so much love as to unite me to himself and to make me Mother of his only-begotten Son, who took his abode in me. What did He do in order to make me capable of sheltering the divinity? He made me be born without original sin, whereby I had no inclination for evil, and He gave me a strength and an exceptional will, whereby the littlest sin never stained my soul.

I would like at this point to speak to you about the beauty of grace, but I prefer to tell you how ugly sin is, so that you might abhor it in the true sense of the word. Sin ought to strike a real terror in souls, since it brings the maximum harm to individuals, to families and to the entire society. What happens in fact when man sins? A rupture between man and God comes about, and that God of goodness and mercy becomes the God of justice, even if impatiently and with great desire He awaits the return of sinners to his heart.

Sin chases out the divine Guest from the soul, who by right inhabits it, in order to give hospitality to the prince of darkness. All that formed the spiritual

patrimony of the soul, becomes so to say destroyed, whereby the voice of the sinner no longer reaches the heart of God and nothing more is left for him to present in order to gain his benevolence. It is true that as soon as the sinner repents and returns to God, he finds his heart disposed for pardon, but as long as pride and attachment to evil persist in his heart, the situation remains that of enmity caused by rebellion.

There is nothing in the life of man worse than sin. Therefore, my Jesus was able to say: *“It is better to lose a foot, an eye or a hand and reach Paradise maimed or blind, rather than go to hell with all the body perfect.”* So, children, if you were to be asked to choose between the goods of this world and the goods of the soul, which derive from the grace of God, you ought to be ready to renounce to all the earthly goods. In the world the opposite happens, fleeting things are appreciated and the life of union with God is not appreciated.

The consequences of sin, are many times also the physical evils and the family arguments, but one does not consider reflecting and putting oneself back in the hands of God to be helped by Him to resolve one’s problems. In this way one walks along the ways of the world thinking of having to live always and of having to resolve problems also difficult ones, all by one’s self, with one’s capacity and without interrogating God in order to learn, through the knowledge of his Law, to judge every event.

It is a personal ruin that is reverberated on families. The individual members can be harmed by the bad behaviour, that is, by the life of sin of one of them. If holiness is the spring of life, sin leads inexorably to ruin. Like an infectious disease also inadvertently propagates itself, so evil passes and is spread, creating like a sewer that drags into its current souls and souls.

What shall you do, dear children, before this sad description of what can lead many of your brethren to eternal damnation? If you are souls consecrated to God, live out this consecration in the most perfect way. I demand a lot from those who are consecrated to me and my Jesus demands perfection. Mediocre souls who lead a life without fervour, are like those spouses who betray the husband and cannot say they love him. The spouses of my Jesus must always be on the breach, always ready to sacrifice themselves for sinners, while the vigilance more than assiduous on all that concerns their lives, will distance them more and more not only from sin, but from the same trivialities or imperfections which, to the eyes of those who live in the world, might seem a mere nothing and futility.

And the mothers what should they do? And the spouses, perhaps betrayed and abandoned, what will they do? Daughters, you must look at your life in the light

of God, and consider your children and husbands as souls whom the Lord has entrusted to you and of whom you have a responsibility. If your religious education regarding the children was lacking, if you have not thought of bringing your husbands to God from the first day of your marriage, backtrack and repair with prayer and with penance those sins which your family members have sown life with. What counts is not the closeness and not even the affection that your loved ones have for you, but the life of grace that they must live. They could be surprised by death and be separated from you for all eternity. I beg you, mothers and spouses, love the souls of your loved ones and do not hesitate to offer up also your most painful renunciations. Learn to seek their true good above the satisfaction of your requirements, even if humanly justified.

I bless everyone. I bless those daughters who will renew their vows on the day dedicated to me. Yes, I will keep you in my heart and I will give you holy perseverance. I bless this house so dear to me and all your houses. I will come to pay you a visit. Recite the Rosary. I am with you. See you again!

WIDEN YOUR PRAYER

December 5, 1974 (at Muggiò)

My beloved children, peace be to you and may you be blessed for the gift of love that you are presenting me. I look at you, I love you and I fill you with graces.

You do not see anything, it is true, but you trust me and I assure you that I embellish your souls more and more every time that you pray to me with love. It is an increase of grace and virtue that I obtain for you. That faith which you already possess, is increased and helps you to carry the cross of life, the one that will make you worthy of eternal reward.

He who has no faith does not pray, he therefore lacks in strength and trust. You pray because you believe and love. I also have confidence in you, my children, and I assure you that I make use of everything that you give me to do good to all. For what you give me, I bless and help your families, relatives, friends and all those who are dear to you and whom you commend to me. Those persons will not be lost whom you entrust to me. Therefore, widen more and more the circle of your entrustments. To limit your requests is to limit trust in my power. I am the Treasurer of Graces and I am the Co-Redemptrix of the human race.

You see how many persons groan in the world because suffering in body and in spirit. You can help them. Do not shut your hearts and do not reduce your

intentions. Look at the world and widen your prayer, so that it may become like two protective arms stretched out towards humanity.

Then look at the souls. My children, what great sorrow to see them reject salvation! The neglected sacraments, the word of God rejected, the virtues trampled on. Even my chosen ones, those whom I choose so that they may serve the Lord at the altar and in souls, waste the marvellous gift of the vocation. If then the youth is lost, it is many times because the young are like sheep without a shepherd. In this way the parents distance themselves from God because they do not want to do his will, and the children distance themselves away from families. It is a general ruin.

You pray and I exercise my mission of Co-Redemptrix. You give me a hand, as I go about the world in search of souls to save. Your prayer is made of love, of faith, of humility and adoration, therefore, it becomes an act of charity that can become heroic if, forgetting yourselves, you go out of your way for others and if to prayer you unite sacrifice.

When at Holy Mass you unite yourselves to me, our hearts are fused in one unique hope, and our offering becomes that true offering which saves because it is done in Jesus the Saviour, and the sacrifice becomes immolation, it becomes heroism. Continue therefore, in this way. I am happy with you.

I bless you again and I love you.

LEARN TO INTERCEDE FOR ALL

December 7, 1974

Dear children, may you be blessed, and the peace and the joy be in your hearts. You have come to pray with me. Oh! Yes, this is the best way to make your prayer effective. You are poor and I possess the riches of God. Place your poverty in my heart and I will place the true riches in your hearts, to whose comparison the things of the world are nothing.

What do I want to give you as Mother? I give you my love, a great and deep love which the Lord has filled me with. I give you my sorrow, great as the sea.

What shall you do with my love? You will bring it along the streets of the world and you will speak to all about this Mother of God and men who loves all, good and bad. You will have to therefore, make me known and make me be loved by all, since the Mother suffers having children who do not know her and do not love her.

I give you also my sorrow, that sorrow that accompanied my whole life, that enormous suffering that I felt when my Son, the most beautiful and the most good of all the sons of earth, sacrificed himself on the cross to save humanity. And I offer you the sorrow that ties me to you and to all men of earth, through those sufferings which being yours are also mine, but above all through those sufferings which sin provokes in the world and to the heart of my Jesus.

I give you this immense sorrow so that you can present it to the Father and to men. To the heavenly Father, so that through this sorrow He may have pity for all; to men, so that all may know how sorrowful and dangerous it is to make one's Mother suffer. Oh! Children, if you love me you understand me. It is from ungrateful sons that my love is misunderstood. My pardon reaches them, but I desire their conversion.

Am I not the Refuge of Sinners? Bring me children! Bring them close to me, so that I can bring them to God and they are able to save their souls. Were you to know, children, the value of a soul. Know that my Jesus would again give his body to the executioners in order to save one alone, if the redemption were not a deed that continues and which will continue until the end of the world.

My children, learn to intercede for all, especially for those dearly beloved children who betray their vocation. Do not criticize them, do not judge them, but learn to present to the Father the love and the sorrow of my Jesus and mine for their conversion and salvation.

I rejoice that you have come to this place today, as the Church recalls a holy bishop who edified the Christian people with his life. To him, to Ambrose, commend your bishops, the priests and the consecrated souls, so that his intercession may obtain conversions and holy intentions.

I bless you, children. I bless your nations, your parishes and your families. Learn to treasure my words and bring, everywhere you go, a ray of goodness and faith that makes one hope for better times. I bless the priests present. To all and to each one an embrace.

I WOULD LIKE FOR EVERY HOME OF YOURS TO BE A TRUE SHRINE

December 10, 1974

My children, children of predilection who, anxious for my word, come regardless of sacrifices of any kind to this place, may you be blessed. May the divine light illuminate your mind, the fire of the Holy Spirit warm up your hearts, and the fervour of the apostolate be for you that zeal that makes you work tirelessly for the advent of the Kingdom of God. May every desire and wish of mine find in you a well prepared soil whereby the word may produce the most abundant fruits.

What joy for a mother to see that her words are accepted with humility and love! There is no mother, no matter how ignorant, who cannot and does not know how to say good words to her children. It is a natural law for those affections to gush forth from the heart of the mother that are translated into wise counsels for her loved ones, by which the suggestions become a protection from the dangers, an encouragement to virtue and to good and a help for the conquest of all those goods that are necessary to human living.

I am the heavenly Mother, but this does not prevent me from being extremely human and from having devoted and affectionate children, docile to my teachings. When in the house of Nazareth — which by the will of God was carried by angels in my Italy and yours — I exercised my mission of Mother, I spoke to a Son who certainly did not have need of my instructions. But since the divinity was hidden to my eyes and Jesus had to be in all similar to other children, I instructed Him, I helped Him, I comforted Him, and with work and with all those cares that every mother uses for her family members, I went out of my way so that Jesus would grow up well.

The shrine was a place dedicated to God right from the Old Testament, but after the death of my Jesus, shrines became those places in which his Body and his Blood are kept, hidden under the Eucharistic species. But what better shrine than the house of Nazareth where my Jesus, the Man-God, united himself unceasingly to us, performing those actions so common as to divinize them?

The Lord reigned in our home, and by this reason reigned peace, harmony, trust, faith and holiness. Supreme authority would be due to Jesus, does it not seem to you? To Him who was the incarnate Wisdom, but He, author of the Commandments, knew that it is necessary to honour the father and the mother, therefore, He let Joseph and I to decide over everything. He left us the primacy, while, as a loving and respectful child, He obeyed us in all.

When in families order is respected, it is difficult for serious clashes to come about. My children, you also, everyone of you have your own home. I would like for everyone of them to be a real shrine, not so much by the sacred images that can adorn it, but by the presence of the Lord who must enliven it. If the Lord dwells in your hearts, you bring Him everywhere. It is up to mothers in a special way to keep the flame of the faith alive and to maintain the memory of the presence of God in her loved ones.

The ancient peoples loved to make the sacred fire be guarded by young women who, more often unwillingly, sacrificed their lives and in solitude had to adore the pagan divinities. You are called to be God's collaborators. The sacred fire of love is a sign of life and is mixed with the fulfilment of the will of God and of his Law.

And what will the most faithful and most wise mother be who will want to turn her home not just into a convent, but a place in which the Lord can reign and have his throne? If then one observes the order in your homes, what devotion and what affection will you bring to him who represents the authority of God? You might say to me that many husbands are unworthy of care or affection, and yet I dare still insist and assure you that only with goodness, with understanding and learning to overcome the different conflicts, shall you be victorious.

When you think about an unfaithful and bad husband, you are tempted to rebel and to say: "Either you go, or I go." But my daughters, and what will happen if you throw the cross far away from you? Will you not perhaps place the husband in near occasions of sin? And will you not deprive your children of the father that God has given them? And what will you answer to God as judge, when He will ask you for the reason why you have broken the law that united you? Remember, my daughters, that the Lord knows no limits to his goodness. If prayer will make you more persistent, more humble and more trusting, He, your God, will yield. I promise you. On your part you have only to ask for the salvation of your loved ones and yours. What is the value for you to have an affectionate husband near you if you were to be lost?

And what I say to you for the husband, I repeat it to you for the children. If your home is a shrine, whereby you will seek to communicate to all the members of the family those spiritual riches that the Lord has given you, if you seek to take away from your home all that makes it ugly, the hearts of your loved ones shall be your delight and the family shall be blessed by God like a beautiful flower garden in which the most beautiful flowers will blossom. You might say to me that you are not listened to, you are not obeyed, and I again say to you: persevere in prayer and keep the flame of love in your heart. It shall

always be a call and you shall be happy.

I bless you, children, one by one. May the feast of my house of Loreto have a resonance in all the places of earth and in all religious communities, which better than any family mirror the idea of the domestic shrine.

See you again! I embrace you.

JESUS IS THE SALVATION OF ALL

December 15, 1974

Beloved children, may joy and peace fill your hearts. I am the Mother of Jesus and your Mother, desirous to make you live these few days that separate you from Christmas in holy cheerfulness, not so much for that joy that distributing or receiving special gifts can give you, but for that deep desire of salvation that you must realize with your contribution to the redemption.

If therefore, the ancient patriarchs and prophets were able to rejoice in seeing the coming of the Messiah take shape on the horizon, you who know everything about Him, are able to rejoice most and you must hope that his birth, renewed in mind, renewed in the celebration of the Divine Mysteries and renewed in a mystical birth but real in the hearts of men, can truly perform the total rebirth of humanity.

To tell you how I spent these days of waiting, I who had to give Him to the world, is not so easy. The sweetness and the infinite love of God had taken hold of me completely, so that I was able truly to say that I lived loving in every moment, and in every instant I offered myself to my soon-to-be born baby, ready to accept every sorrow in order to spare him any pain, while, already knowing how He would be dead for all, I made his thoughts and desires mine.

Children, whoever understands the value of the redemption and recognizes in that child the Son of God, shall find nothing superfluous, he shall never find exaggerated the preparation for the festivity that renews his birth. You must understand this thought of mine well.

Jesus is God and, as such, before Him time does not exist. What happened two thousand years ago can be renewed moment by moment. And is not the redemption perhaps, an event that is perpetuated through the centuries? Just as the redemption is perpetuated, the coming of the Saviour on earth is perpetuated. Jesus is the salvation of all, He is your salvation and that of the brethren. There is no other mediator between God and men but Him, who, making himself man, was able to pay the debt contracted by men with God. My Son wants everyone saved, and his birth must continue to operate in the world

that regeneration to the life of grace, indispensable for eternal salvation.

Beloved children, but how are men able to be so blind as to not know how to distinguish good from evil? Is it not the only true good to preserve the soul united to God through that sonship that reserves Paradise for you? How can one forget that the only true good is to possess that spiritual light whereby one believes, one accepts and one puts into practice those revealed virtues that Jesus has made known and practised first?

But, as I invite you to make your heart into a little hut where Jesus can be reborn daily, and to rekindle your faith in the Divine Mysteries that are daily performed on your altars, permit me to remind you how the sufferings of the journey undertaken and the refusals of hospitality received had strengthened the love for poverty and for the poor in my heart. Was it not perhaps the ambition of a ruler that called us for the census to Bethlehem? And was it not the more well off Bethlehemites who refused us hospitality?

Well then, let the desire to help the poor on these days be constant in you. It is true that many times you cannot distinguish the true needy, but your intentions, constantly adjusted, give value to all that you do as if they were kindnesses given to Jesus who must be born. Sometimes the hardness of your hearts makes your Mother suffer, who sees lapsed children to whom you could make her voice reach with a serene word and with an act of goodness.

Charity is that powerful force that breaks the barriers placed between souls by the enemy. Charity is that mysterious warmth which, uniting hearts between them, makes the faith be born in the coldest and renews the mystery of salvation. Do not be blind, whereby, taken in by your selfishness, you do not learn to see the needs of others. Do not be deaf to the laments that are raised from every part of the world, invoking help. There are spiritual, moral and material helps which everyone has need of, moreover, he who lends a hand to others finds in himself a new strength that makes him happy.

If then you wish to use that light that God gives you for a greater perfection, look deep into your soul and uncover all those defects that are like hidden insects that go about ruining the work of God at your expense. No one is deprived of defects no matter how much good will he may have. May a general cleaning, a doing again for the nth time of old intentions, bring you to prepare with renewed love that birth that will be accomplished perfectly in Heaven.

And now I bless you all one by one.

I bless the image of my Child destined for a religious house. It will speak to all about humility, poverty, simplicity and love. In the same way I bless those

luminous images of the Child Jesus that will reawaken the faith in homes and invite the little ones to prayer.

See you again, children, and be full of charity and joy.

IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

December 16, 1974

My children, how grateful I am to you for having come to visit me today, while few days separate you from Christmas! I desire to prepare your hearts so that my Jesus can be reborn in them, not just as in the grotto of Bethlehem, but with the splendour of his grace and his divinity. See therefore, I give a suggestion to you ever so timely.

My heart, in the last days of waiting for the birth of my Son, was burning with pure love, so that this warmth would have been enough to make one forget the coldness of all men of earth. I ask you to purify your hearts, so that your affections may be truly as God wants them and be able to fill in for that lack of true love towards God, which also makes you suffer, on the part of your loved ones, relatives and friends.

How ought you love? God's command is this: *"You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength."* This love therefore, must go directly to God and be total.

No personal interest must enter in. You must love God because He is love, because He deserves to be loved and because He was the first to love you.

If an earthly king were to command you to love him, you would remain surprised and would recognize in this condescendence his goodness. It is the King of creation, it is the Lord of the world who deigns to ask for your love, not just because He benefits from it, but for that benefit that is derived for you who, in loving Him, can find every good in Him.

To love God for himself and so that He can make use of your love in order to attract all souls to himself, is what I desire that you do on these days. If you will love in this way, God will sanctify every human affection of yours. You will learn to want the true good of your loved ones. How many mothers grieve, how many spouses are afflicted because their children and husbands have distanced themselves from them! You must grieve over your sins, which distance you from God, and over those of your loved ones, for by sinning they become enemies of God. This is the only true evil, sin. This is the true love that makes you fear that they may be lost forever.

Love everyone, my children, love them in God. Love the living and love your dead, who in God see you and love you, desiring for the Kingdom of God to be accomplished on earth and for the coming of the Saviour to be still real and effective. The redemption has been executed for all through the incarnation, the birth and the passion of Jesus, but all that can remain a dead letter for those who, not loving God, do not incorporate themselves into the tree of salvation. Live out these days of waiting by multiplying your acts of love; I will fill your lives with sanctified sorrow and with the most pure joys. It shall be like so, your life, an offering pleasing to me; and I, uniting it to mine and to that of my Jesus, will render with you to the Most Holy Trinity an infinite glory.

And now I bless you all with a special affection. Be serene and never feel alone. I am near you to console you and to give you strength. Remember that serenity is the practical demonstration of your faith. Rejoice, because the Lord has seen your misery and has covered it with his mercy. Never be inactive, but occupy your free time in all those works that are the practice of love of neighbour. Live out your spiritual life making prayer the breath of your soul, and learn to be patient in waiting for the graces that you desire, since God is always patient and good with all. Learn to understand these words. I have responded to all your questions.

See you again, my children, and happy Christmas.

BE ADOPTIVE SONS OF GOD

December 17, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good.

See, I am here with you, and even if you do not see me with bodily eyes, the faith exercised by you renders you worthy of uncommon graces. Graces are signs of God's goodness, but they are also a reward for him who believes. Therefore, always have this virtue alive that is a gift of God, and try to exercise it more and more in order to be able to make it grow. You are accustomed to saying that you believe what you see. You would like to be also yourselves a little like the apostle Thomas, but you would run the risk of receiving the same rebuke that he received. If instead you believed in my word, you make me happy and your merits increase more and more. I say to you therefore: blessed are you, because you have believed without seeing. Now let us continue again our short lessons.

You have heard many times read in the Gospel the genealogy of Jesus and you have learned that He is of royal race, since our ancestor was the king David.

You have enjoyed that, since you desire for Jesus to be honoured as King. Well then, children, many persons in this world set out to know their ancestors and are filled with ambition when they can say they come from noble families and of high lineage.

I say to you that your provenance and your family is of a degree much more elevated than any human greatness. You are adopted sons of God, whereupon my Jesus, my firstborn Son, is your brother. What dignity, what honour, what greatness adorns your soul, your forehead! If however you are adoptive sons of God, you have contracted some duties towards Him, duties from which you cannot exempt yourselves without offending your Father.

When a person is brought up in a royal palace, he must know all the rules that are in conformity to the etiquette and to the regulations imposed by the king. Whoever calls himself son of God, must try to be pleasing to Him in all up to seeking to identify his desires, besides obeying his laws. You know that in order to live according to God it is necessary to believe in the truths revealed by Him. When were these truths revealed to you? Right from the creation of the world the Lord made some truths known to men, then with the prophets his promises were kept alive, and with the coming of Jesus on earth those truths were confirmed.

With Jesus, God took on a face and his Word, the Word of God, was sanctioned with his life. The Commandments, which God had infused in the souls of early men and which He infuses in every child who comes to birth, were confirmed by Jesus and gathered together in the two precepts of charity: love of God and of neighbour.

What ought the children of God do? To observe, to practise, to live out these Commandments. To observe them, because they are the Law of the King and because one cannot do otherwise if one wants to be faithful and love the King. When man sins, He commits a double action: he distances himself from God, to whom he says *“I do not want to serve You”*, and he turns towards creatures, in whom he seeks his happiness, and says *“I want to be your slave.”* In creatures, transformed into idols, he seeks the satisfaction of himself, while his heart, made for God, only in Him can enjoy peace and happiness.

God however, loves his children infinitely, and through Jesus He gave to men, who tend to go astray and who fall into sin, the means to be rehabilitated and to re-enter into sonship and friendship with Him. He gave, through the Church, the Sacraments, which through sensible signs produce grace and give the strength to tend to sanctity and to reach the destination. God has given through Jesus, his Son, the command to pray, binding to prayer every help whether material or spiritual.

If the birth certificate of an illustrious personage can be held in consideration by men, your birth certificate of Christians merits greater esteem. Your life must carry a divine imprint to which faith, hope and charity add an ever new splendour. You must therefore, be worthy of esteem before your brethren, who must see reproduced in Christians that goodness which is infinite in God. They must see in you that serenity which cannot fail in God, who is happiness without end. They must see in you that precision, that goodwill in the fulfilment of any work, also ordinary, which can recall the perfection of God.

So, children, gradually, but with ever renewed desire, you will be able to grow up to reaching that sanctity which the Lord wants from you. If God is thrice holy, you shall be so a little, but you must all aspire to holiness and follow the road that I have pointed out to you.

And now, as I assure you of my protection, I bless you all wishing you a Holy Christmas. See you again, dear children of God, May the Lord be always with you.

GOD'S PLANS

December 22, 1974

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace and every good. See, we are here before this altar that welcomes, as in a greenhouse, so many flowers and so many children. You are the flowers, but under the image of my Child Jesus I see you still, always you, who must resemble Him more and more and better and better.

And must you not also perhaps have your arms opened to point out your willingness to welcome the Lord in your hearts, and the desire to accomplish in all his divine will? Oh no, never let yourselves be frightened by what remains for you to do! I know that many times the thought of your future disturbs you, I know that you love to make your plans, but do you not see how many times they are not only not realized, but all the opposite of what you have established happens?

How much it will be more useful, therefore, to be prudent in acting and to let the divine will be manifested to you day by day. How beautiful it will be and efficacious for your sanctification, even if establishing your programmes, for you to give to them a certain elasticity, whereupon, by some changes occurring unexpectedly, you do not get distressed. You would learn in that way to rejoice when, not seeing your will accomplished, you can consider that the Lord himself has upset your plans.

This language of mine may seem strange to you at such a short distance from the birth of my Son. But tell me, did I not have an infinite desire to be all God's and that no human creature were to ever enter into my life? It was a desire of mine and a plan of mine, which God upset also if only apparently. And consider the surprise of Joseph, at his sorrow and at the conflict that was created in his heart. Even when the angel had assured him of the miracle that was performed in my house and his, he did not succeed in understanding completely the mystery of love enclosed in my maternity and in my silence.

God works continuously in the world and especially in souls. He works for the perfectionment and salvation of all and uses human means to arrive at fulfilling his plans, which are not always in keeping to those that man uses to reach his ends. In this way many times the most beautiful dreams vanish.

Also in good and in works of the apostolate this can happen. If you do not wish to be victims of despondency and sadness, and if you do not wish for disappointments to make you deflect from the way of truth and of good, submit your views to God, compare your projects with his Law and have so much serenity in waiting that through the events the divine will may be manifested.

Children do likewise, who, opening the arms towards this altar on which my image is enthroned, say with love: *“Mother, teach us to do the Father's will, take us into your arms and do so that we may never act thoughtlessly seeking the realization of things that God does not want.”* Moreover, the open arms must tell me also that your heart is open to welcome all the earth's needy. At the cradle of my Child came the shepherds and the humble, the poor and those who sought in the King of kings true riches, wisdom and light.

You also fill yourselves with grace, fill yourselves with God, so that you may be able to give something of yourselves to all and above all something of the divine: true riches, true wisdom, true charity, true light. Children, live day by day confident and serene. Live by prayer and by work. Live spreading goodness and faith everywhere. When at Christmas you will come like this, with open arms, with open heart to welcome the Eucharistic Jesus, it shall be I myself who will welcome you and I will give you that Son who, if for many was a sign of contradiction, shall be for you a pledge of salvation.

And now I bless you all one by one. Bring into your homes the good perfume of Christ, as living flowers. Be generous more than ever and forget moment by moment every offence that could wound your heart, in order to be able to give joy and peace to all.

There are some who persistently ask for a word. I speak many to you, my

children, and I promise you protection and help. Do not be alarmed by certain evils to which one can apply a remedy with ease. If a burning desire must fill your soul, it is this: that those who, covered by the leprosy of sin, risk being lost, amend themselves and taste the beauty of the faith.

See you again, children! See you again.

BE PRECURSORS

December 24, 1974

Beloved children, how would you like to spend the Christmas of my Jesus and what wish shall I want to give you today that can last forever? I am Mary of Nazareth, the spouse of Joseph, and I can only invite you to imitate us, so that Christmas day may be a fount of joy for you and the start of a new life made of love and goodness.

The night of waiting was very sorrowful externally, but only in appearance since our hearts, burning with love, were such that for that Child whom I held in the womb did not lack for anything. On this night of the world, which wants to persist in not believing and which does not want to welcome the Saviour, you must be beacons of light, and you must console Jesus with the ardour of your prayer and the intensity of your love that leads you to work incessantly for the good of all.

Today however, my most persistent invitation is summarized in two words: be precursors! John in the desert, living by prayer and penance, was able with authority and with strength to announce the coming of the Messiah. The Birth that you celebrate is continually renewed in the world. Now and always salvation is expected. That's why continuously you ought to be precursors.

But to whom in a special way shall I address this invitation? To the mothers and the fathers. Yes, children, since you are preparing the future not only for your family, but for the entire society. Your children tomorrow will realize the birth of the Saviour with their testimony of faith, if you shall have edified, that is, if you shall have built in them a building not based on sand, but on rock. Your faith lived out shall be like absorbed in their minds, through which it shall not be difficult to welcome the Christ.

Moreover, I again turn to parents so that, being aware of their responsibility, may have the courage of their actions. What does it mean to have courage if not to live out wholly the Law of God, so that your children can read in your life, as on a book, the faithfulness of your duties and Christian practice? There are

certain defects that are handed down from father to son and from mother to daughter, as a consequence of that natural law that governs bodies. But the defects and the vices, if combated, shall not be hereditary marks for the children; they shall be trophies of victory.

In order to educate, it is necessary above all to make a common work between parents and children. A work of perfection which, aiming at taking away the defects, may build at the same time the virtues in everyone. Sometimes little defects, left unobserved, generate those vices that are a very sad inheritance for all. From here the necessity of perfection by the father and the mother, since it will be of no use to hide one's defects. They will appear, even if not straight away, given again in children with the irreparable aggravating circumstances.

You are all called to be precursors in this age of history in which the complaints for the evil that is spreading more and more, truly make the Liberator sigh. Each one of you must be such in Christian practice and in that gradual conversion, but constant, which must interest anyone. Men grope in the dark because they no longer believe in the words of Scripture; they want for these words to be translated into practice in order to be able to believe that the eternal Word, the eternal Word of the Father, still becomes flesh in order to nourish, to help, to elevate and to save all.

May you all be like the Precursor. May your body be considered by you as an instrument of God, submissive to the soul. In mortification, with moderation and with work, chastise this body so that it may not have too many demands and not get the upper hand over the powers of the soul. Act so that your contact with the Lord through grace may be constant. Then only, you will have before men that authority whereby it will not be possible not to obey you.

It is true that many good souls who have witnessed and witness their faith, get no response on the part of the children. But your good doing is assured to you by peace of heart and the constancy that does not let you cease from believing. There is certainty that also John was not listened to by all and that some, though listening to him, were not converted. It is hard to discover the secrets of God. In spite of that, believe me that the fruits that you will gather up for having borne witness to my Jesus always and everywhere, shall be so abundant as to amaze you. The saints of Heaven could speak to you about them with knowledge. Your children, those who live near to you and whom you shall have edified with your example, will thank you forever.

I bless you, children, one by one. May tomorrow's Christmas be for you the most beautiful of your lives. Invite me to your homes. I shall sit at your table and I will preserve joy and peace amongst the diners. Do not forget that, if you

wish, every day of your life can be Christmas for you and that I can always be near to you. Best wishes, children, and see you again.

DRAW GOODNESS FROM MY HEART

December 27, 1974

Dear and beloved children, how beautiful it is to relive with you that moment of great joy that was the birth of my Jesus, here, before an altar on which shortly will be renewed the incarnation of the Word; before this altar, on which is enthroned my image with the divine Child on the knees in the act of giving me a flower. Do you know what that flowers represents? Your heart, and it represents the goodness that must perfume your hearts. How much goodness is seen among friends on these days, how much generosity in gifts even if not all selfless! Well then, goodness must continue to gladden your souls, your families, the Church and the world.

In the grotto of Bethlehem, Jesus wanted for the humble, the simple, the good to bring joy and comfort to his heart, and above the hut the angels announced their message of goodness and peace to all men that wish to accept it with goodwill. Yes, my children, it is necessary to want to be good at all costs so that Christmas can continue on.

Are there misunderstandings and difficulties to be smoothed out? It is necessary to commit oneself deeply, overlooking, if it is necessary, the material side in order to arrive at understanding, respecting and loving each other. There do not exist unsurmountable things when the Lord is on your side and when you are animated by goodwill. If you wish to be understood, begin by understanding others, begin by loving all, also the less good; you will see that light will be made and dialogue, forgiveness and mutual giving of something that the other lacks will be possible.

Children, remember that goodness is a divine virtue which encloses many others. To those who called my Son good, Jesus would ask: *“Why do you call Me good? Only God is good.”* In fact, he who is good cannot boast of a superiority over others, since goodness can also be a natural gift, but whoever desires to be qualified as good, must in a certain sense resemble God, who makes the sun rise on the good and on the bad; he must therefore, be good with all.

If you are good to those who do you good, what merit do you have? Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you. This is heroism in goodness. If

then you wish to ask me where to draw goodness from, behold, I present to you St. John the Apostle, who was able to say of being loved by Jesus. He had rested his head on his heart and, at that contact, he had understood that being good meant to love. Therefore, he was able to repeat to the early Christians: *“Love one another, my little children, love one another.”* And to those who made him observe that he always repeated the same thing, he would say: *“Yes, because if you love, you observe the whole Law.”* This John was able to say who, absorbed in the greatest contemplation, could penetrate into the secrets of God. Well then, children, Jesus entrusted this son to me in the tragic moment of his death and he received me as Mother and loved me with a most tender affection.

What do I ask of you in this moment? That you, who have consecrated yourselves to me and who entrust yourselves to my care, draw from my heart that goodness which I have received from God. How I would like for the youth, imitating me, to learn to practise goodness towards their parents and especially towards their mother. Goodness is a gift that does not go lost, because it leaves an indelible trail on its way and, as it is exercised, it fills hearts with joy.

When you will arrive at your final encounter with God, blessed are you if the Father will be able to say of you: They have not done extraordinary things, but they have been extraordinarily good: like my Jesus made himself into bread to make himself eaten, in the same way may you be good like bread, so that the Lord may serve himself of you to change the world.

I bless you all, children. May peace and joy, fruit of goodness, dwell in your hearts now and always.

TRY TO THANK GOD

December 31, 1974

Beloved children and so dear to my heart, how much I enjoy spending with you these last hours of the year and how much I like your prayer which focuses on the needs of all.

Truly you were very privileged ones during this year, since the Lord has poured over each one of you his abundant favours. You perhaps have not realized having been especially benefitted, but I, who am the Mediatrix of every grace, can tell you that truly a hymn of thanksgiving must burst forth from your heart for so many benefits. It is true, tribulations have not been lacking to you, but what strength! Temptations have not been lacking to you, but what protection! Doubts have not been lacking to you, but what light! Oh, try to thank with all the heart our good God for all those helps and spiritual, moral and

material graces with which He has willed to accompany your existence.

Remember that every moment of life is a gift to which eternity is tied. Every moment therefore, is a precious talent that God gives you in preference to others, whom He takes away from this earth. Perhaps you might have died when a grave sin stained your soul and held you slaves of the devil. God has had mercy and goodness and has granted you the time for you to amend, to convert and to sanctify yourselves.

Today you see another year pass by, which will be added to the others elapsed. Like any good businessman or like any good housewife, you ought to make a little inventory of the passing days. You could examine yourselves, even if not at length, in order to see, after God's graces, the way with which you have responded. Therefore, you ought to see your defects that lead you to sin. You ought to see whether the good that you have done you have done it well, if you were able to walk more briskly and if you were able to do a greater good, leaving aside that laziness to which all men are naturally led.

I do not say to you that you will be able to remove all that is defective in your life, since certain defects, which are like a trademark, only after very many efforts will you succeed in overcoming them; but I invite you to commit yourselves seriously, so that the perfection to which my Jesus has invited you may not remain a dead letter. If for all that you have received in the course of this year you must thank God, for the evil that each does, it is necessary to make reparation to God.

You might say to me that you do not know how to make your hymn of thanksgiving and your "miserere" reach Heaven. But I want to point out to you a superabundant means which the Father accepts and with which you can thank and repair, not only for yourselves, but for all. There is a sacrifice which, substituting for the ancient sacrifices, has an infinite value. There is no private or liturgical prayer that can substitute it, even if every prayer made with humility and with purity of heart is pleasing to God. It is the Sacrifice of the Mass. When a person has to communicate with others who speak a language unknown to him, he calls the interpreter in order to be able to make himself understood. Man speaks a tongue which God cannot understand if it is not presented by the Son, his only intermediary, who, as He pleads the case of man, He pays for him.

But in what way does this spiritual communion between Father and man come about, if not in the Holy Mass? Do you want to make your lives a hymn of thanksgiving? Make use of the Mass, and if every day you have the fortune of being able to assist at it, do not put it off to tomorrow or to Sunday. If you place in my hands this Eucharistic gift, I myself make the offering to God and with it I

thank for the benefits that He grants not only to you, but to all humanity. If you feel miserable, if often times your intentions in doing are not upright, if being weak you are aware of not being able to react to the evil, offer me a Holy Mass.

It is my Jesus who places himself at your side and fights your battle. Your commitment, my protection and the Blood of Jesus will perform the miracle. You will be unbeatable, I promise you. If the evil that you see in your families and in the world grieves you, immerse it in the heart of my Jesus, who continuously immolates himself for all, and make with my help a perfect reparation.

When on wintry days the snow covers abundantly the grain sown in autumn, it seems to you that nothing more can come out of that soil; but in spring you realize that the snow has preserved the seed and has made the insects die or rendered harmless what could have damaged it, and the new buds sprout forth that will become ears.

Well then, children, if you see the ice of human hearts in respect to the duties that each one has towards God, you are tempted to doubt all, even in the mercy of God and the amendment of souls. No, children. You have the Mass which, like a continuous spring, serves to de-ice hearts. May the fire of the love of my Jesus, placed at the service of humanity, be used unceasingly and the mercy of God cover souls continuously. If the evil done and detested disturbs you, if the good done badly becomes unmeritorious of recompense, if you feel as if chained when you would like to do a greater good, offer up the Holy Masses that at every moment are celebrated in the world; you will feel as if covered by a mantle of protection and the fervour of the Christian life will be renewed in you.

Best wishes to all, children, and see you again!

ALL MUST WELCOME THE WORD

December 31, 1974

Beloved children, be blessed now and always.

I am here to pray with you and like you I desire to repair the sins, the ingratitude, the coldness and the lack of faith of men. I rejoice seeing your persistence and your faith, in spite of the reticence of your spiritual mother. You behave like those who, chased away at the door, enter by the window. Well done! Continue this way and learn to understand that it is not bad will, but human weakness that many times makes one act in one way rather than the other.

Now I want to recall to you a phrase reported in the Gospel of St. John, referring to Jesus, Word of God. *“He came among his own, but they did not want to welcome Him; they did not know Him.”* This phrase is enough to compile a programme for you for the new year that you will begin shortly. He came, moreover, still now He comes and He is the sweet Guest of your soul.

If the spiritual life of a Christian must grow and acquire vigour and strength like the life of the body, I ask you on your part, who are a chosen portion of this beautiful spiritual family, to try to put a whole commitment in order to grow. You must conduct a spiritual life conscious of your greatness. A life flourishing with solid virtues. An interior life which, without doing away with your daily commitments, may give to all your actions a divine imprint.

This divine life that you must cultivate, must be your guide in everything. Everyone of you has chosen or must choose one's road and this Being by essence, who must make your soul his heaven, shall be light for your steps so that, in whatever state you live and to whatever mission you may be called to, you are able to behave in a way not only correct but perfect. You must be able to say: *“He, the Son of God, came to me and I knew Him and I welcomed Him.”*

You are however, members of a family, and all those who live with you and who are a part of your kin, must welcome and know the incarnate Word. Your testimony will be a continual call. There is no use in speaking much, but in living out intensely this truth: God is with you.

If conflicts of whatever kind come to weaken the fervour in you and make you think that your apostolic action among your loved ones may be useless, remember what is said still in the Gospel: *“No one is a prophet at home.”* Learning how to take a rebuke, putting up with an insult and smiling at certain misunderstandings that have all the flavour of irony and derision, is usually the money that the good must pay in order to be able to make that God known who, making himself man, had nothing but sufferings and betrayals not only by the wicked, but also by the friends.

If your action is divine, since Jesus acts in you, you will pass from infancy to adolescence and from that to his youth, up to reaching the spiritual crucifixion, since Jesus, those who live for Him, unites them to himself in sorrow. Society needs this divine action, which believes it is able to reduce human and divine laws to something that is imposed with force and with violence.

Jesus, the Son of God, must come into the world and all must know Him. He is King, but his dominion concerns souls, even if bodies too were created by Him and like the soul will have to one day undergo reward or punishment. He comes

and He wants to draw all to himself with love and goodness and you, following Him, will not be able to act in a way different from his. When one walks in the light, the light is spread, and all remain illuminated and attracted by this light. The light that I give you in this moment, must light up your days always.

You have, in the majority, assumed a commitment. In your city, putrid and nauseating smells suffocate the spiritual life of its inhabitants, you go about homes sowing perfumed rose petals. May you be blessed! Even if the greater part were to laugh at this simple apostolate and throw away all that you give with sacrifice, the merit remains to you. Many souls will reawaken, with my word and prayer, their faith. They will understand that Jesus, the Word of the Father, is still among men and that He desires to find a place in their hearts. A night spent in riots or useless protests, is wasted and can harm society and the world. Your prayer, offered up with so much love, shall not remain unheard and will leave in your heart burning desires of good and goodness.

Goodnight, children, and thanks be to you.

YOU MUST BRING LIGHT

January 1, 1975

Beloved children, here I am with you on this first day of the year. I am the Mother of God and of the Church, I am your Mother, and it is right for me to present my best wishes to you like all mothers do towards their children. I am here also to receive your tributes and your good wishes. Together we shall seek to realize in the best way possible your aspirations and your hopes.

Jesus said to you one day: *“Blessed the peaceful, because they shall possess the earth.”* I truly wish that the peaceful are you and I already rejoice in seeing you possessors of that blessed earth, the heavenly Jerusalem, where peace shall no longer have a pause, since it will be already the place of peace, there not being either rivalries or fights and where every desire shall be fully satisfied.

I desire, my children, and I wish for you that the peace, fruit of the Holy Spirit, may dwell in your hearts through the grace of God. There is a saying that says: *“If you want peace, prepare for war.”* If therefore, you want to enjoy this gift of God, you ought to make war against sin. With sin enters anxiety and remorse into the heart of man and the faith grows dim, which is the bearer of trust and joy. Peace, children, is that serenity which comes from a right conscience and which is refreshed at the clear waters of sincerity and goodness.

To be peaceful is a duty and a need of man, who, sailing in the tempestuous

sea of life, must keep the destination to be reached fixed, the polar star, and to keep his boat firm and secure. I would like to fix well in your memory this idea of certainty and firmness and I desire to give you a reference point ever so important, so that you can keep the peace.

There are fickle types who with extreme ease change idea, change mood and pass from the fine to the bad weather for futile things. Dominion and correction of one's character is an indispensable thing, even if it presents grave difficulties. How will one be able to enjoy a divine peace, when one does not take care to keep the nerves in check or let words escape that alter or disturb the heart of others? That's how this desire of mine, which can also be yours, shall have its fulfilment in a special study on yourselves.

Character equalisation shall be like that calm waterway on which boats do not run the risk of being capsized. Family peace will be the consequence of this certitude and mastery of yourselves. How many family fights and arguments are avoided by that constant serenity from which all the members of the family feel dominated!

There is another danger that disturbs and takes away peace. It is the selfishness of the members of the family whereby no one takes into consideration the needs of the others. The spirit of charity that you draw at this fount, must make you heroic in practising that generosity which can make others happy. If then I ask you for forbearance for certain difficult types, worried only for themselves, I can assure you that your example and your sacrifice will open the eyes and the heart to those who live selfishly and who on your example will become charitable.

It is sad but true that the world, which only speaks of peace, only knows how to promote and unleash wars. It is the pride of power, it is the arrogance and the greediness of the strong who would like to annihilate the poor, and it is the lack of love that destroys every human sentiment in hearts up to committing violence and slaughter. Every fratricidal war is the triumph of Satan in the world. It is a renewal of the killing of Abel on the part Cain the brother. And the blood flows and men who, though seeking peace, maul each other like beasts.

Well then, children, today more than ever it is necessary for you to invoke me as Queen of Peace. My intercession, my work, your prayer, united to mine, must put pressure on the Father's heart. I have told you that I am Mother of the Church and of her you are the living stones. Every stone that does not respond to his task is a rebel, not only against God but also against his Mother; not only against the Church but also against me, who takes care of the Church like my Son. To be bearers of peace is a duty for all, even if it requires a sacrifice more or less great from each one.

My Jesus, who was called and is the Prince of Peace, is presented to you today in his first shedding of blood. It was the circumcision, which incorporated the firstborn among chosen people. Well then, the circumcision was a figure of the Baptism that you have received. As baptised, incorporated into the body of Christ, you assume like Him a task and a duty. Like Him, you must bring peace and pay your contribution of blood, so that this peace, a gift of God, may have its fulfilment in you, in your families and in the world.

The Queen of Peace blesses you and assures you that, if you will learn to be peaceful, not only will you conquer Paradise, but the earth. You will have around you faithful souls, affectionate children, persons desirous for your word, in which they will find light and rest.

I bless you, children. May the Holy Year that you have begun, be bearer of divine peace through that good will with which you shall have filled it. See you again, children.

WHAT TO LOVE MEANS

January 3, 1975

Beloved children, how dear this gift of love is to my heart! Thank you, children! I promise you a shower of spiritual roses.

I know your intentions, your desires, your worries and hopes. I strengthen for you and for others your prayers and I promise you that you will be heard in all those things that, being in conformity to the will of God, are a good for you.

Continue to love me and to make me loved. What greater thing is there in the world than to live loving the Mother in order to be able to be brought by She herself into Heaven? Were you to know, children, what to love means! Sacrifices are unknown, there is no respite for loving souls! Love gives wings and one flies along the paths of the world like angels announcers of goodness and of peace, when one loves. Even death is beautiful when one loves! Everything is seen in the light of God, and the desire to reach the Homeland makes one forget and despise the vanities of the world and earthly goods.

Love, children, love souls with true love. Have pity and compassion on those who live in sin, because they are the true sick ones. Have pity and love the lapsed from God, who do not want to accept with humility the truths revealed by himself and do not want to welcome the Church as the mother of the living.

Love, as I love, the priests, the dearly beloved ones, those whose holiness must shine before men and be the call to conversion. Love them up to learning to offer up yourselves as victims for them. I want you, children, worthy of that Rosary that you go about propagating. The Rosary is the Gospel in miniature; may you be little testimonies of that Gospel that you practise. Gospel and Rosary, Rosary and the word of God lived out: this is the programme for the year that you have begun. I bless you and I help you. See you again and best wishes to all.

TO THE YOUNG

January 1975

Children so dear to the heart of Jesus and mine, peace be with you now and always.

See, I am your Teacher and I have a great desire in your regard: that you try to know my Son better and better, so that you may be able to love Him more and more intensely and make Him be loved also by others. Unfortunately many believe that the knowledge of Jesus has to be a rational thing, they delude themselves in knowing and are presumptuous, because of Jesus, of his life and his teachings, they know many things. But this is only a superficial way of knowing and they will never be able to build their own sanctification, since it will be like a house built on sand.

The knowledge of Jesus must be very much deeper. It must aim at the identification with Him up to living out his life, carrying out moment by moment his doctrine. When then you speak about the doctrine of Christ, you only have to programme it in the two commandments of charity, “love of God and neighbour”, whereupon all is transformed to his light and every action, thought and word, vivified by love, become light that clears out the darkness and illuminates the world.

Oh, children, do not worry over many things! Learn to love, since the Law is all here. If the early Christians, though performing the sacred rites in the catacombs and without being able to express their sentiments externally, were able to attract many pagans to their faith, it was only because that love of God of which they had a full heart, was translated into the most sincere love for the brethren.

The world is God's, even if the Prince of darkness tries to make it his by

sowing evil. Moreover, the conquest of the world is entrusted to all those souls who, desiring to live in love, that is, in God, can become light that indicates to the errant the right path of truth and light.

I love you so much, children, and I promise you that you shall be repaid for the sacrifice that you offer me. Do not be dismayed for not being able to prevent all the evil, especially that which by means of the media is spread about. Better times will come, but in the meantime pray for the writers without conscience and without modesty who dare blemish with their insults and dirty thoughts the holiness of my Son. Your prayer shall not be useless and they will understand their errors.

To all my maternal blessing. May the joy that you give me fall upon you again in abundant graces. I bless your intentions and desires. See you again, children.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

January 5, 1975

Dear and beloved children, how much I enjoy obtaining for you the most beautiful graces and above all the gifts of the Holy Spirit!

I am the Bride of the Holy Spirit, and the light that floods my heart and which lights up my mind I desire for it to be given also to you, so that you may get to know better and better Jesus, the Christ, who came to save what was lost. I wish that, by knowing Him, you try to point Him out to others like John did on the banks of the Jordan. He in fact, seeing Jesus from a distance, pointed Him out to his disciples saying: *“Behold, the Lamb of God.”* At these words two of the disciples joined the Teacher and followed Him.

It must happen in this way also for you. You must discover in Jesus his principal characteristic and, under the title that most suits Him, make Him known to others. Jesus is the Lamb. Meekness, sweetness, and amiability, are the characteristics of lambs and Jesus truly, through these virtues that distinguish Him, was able to say: *“Come and learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart.”*

The lamb that was offered in the Old Testament as victim to placate God and to obtain pardon, was simply a figure and its sacrifice was worth nothing except to represent the sacrifice of the New Testament, that of the Lord of Heaven and earth made Man. Moreover, the Lamb that presently immolates himself, has every power and his immolation placates the offence to God and repairs.

Under these two forms, I would like for you to be able to understand my Son in order to make it a model for your life: Jesus humble, Jesus victim. When you will have known Him like so, you ought to completely transform your life. Then you will do like the two disciples of John who followed the Teacher.

Now I continue on the Gospel narrative. Jesus asked: *“What do you want?”* And they replied, asking: *“Where do you live, Teacher?”* *“Come and you will see.”* So Jesus conducted the two disciples to his Mother’s house, who remained with Him all day. I make you notice this very important thing. When a soul knows Jesus, He brings him to the door of his Mother and permits him to communicate for a long time with her. Mary is the means through whom Jesus came down to earth and is still the means of union between souls and Jesus. In fact, Jesus made use of me in order to introduce souls into perfection and to bring them to Heaven.

When you come here, you come home and our dialogues and talks have only one purpose: that of elevating souls. If you are instructed at my school, yours cannot be a superficial knowledge and instruction. You must learn to live from our life and our desires must be yours.

Now follow me in the Gospel account. One of the two disciples was Andrew, the brother of Simon. He went in search of him and said to him: *“We have found the Messiah, come and you will see.”* Simon went and Jesus, looking at him, said: *“Simon, you shall be called Peter”*, which means Rock.

See how the Gospel is always topical. You come here, you are instructed, then you go in search of souls and you bring them here where the gaze of Jesus strikes them, so to say, and many completely change life, like Simon changed the name.

The most important thing is to be ready for the call and to have a burning desire to know the Teacher, to follow Him and to imitate Him. *“Many are the called, few the chosen”*, Jesus said. So in fact, in spite of many lessons imparted, some remain still cold and indifferent. Still it is being done like the one who receives the seed among the stones, among the weeds and on the road. What surprise then if the word remains ineffective for others?

John said in his Gospel: *“The light came among the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it.”* But to whoever welcomed the light, which is like saying the Word, it gave the power to become a son of God. In this way you pass from a first act, that of welcoming the Word made flesh, to that of becoming children of God. You pass from the darkness to the light and you help every one to become light.

How joyful and interesting it must be for you living out this Christmas time in discovering the virtues of the divine Lamb and presenting yourselves to Him as little docile, lovable and humble lambs, in order to share with Him those sufferings that save. This is how I want you, my little lambs, and I desire to hold you in my arms to caress you and to make your souls more and more refined, more and more innocent, up to forming the joy of my Child.

I bless you one by one, children, with so much divine charity.

To all a word of encouragement and hope. What does a mother do when she has so many children? She calls so many in order to nominate one, or she stretches out the arms and says: “My children, my children...”, and would like to nominate them all. Be happy, be good and always forgive one another everything. Keep yourselves always ready to receive the visit of the Bridegroom, like the wise virgins.

See you again, dear ones, see you again!

THE THREEFOLD GIFT OF THE MAGI

January 6, 1975

Beloved children and so dear, here you are before my altar on which my Child lovingly holds out the arms to you. Also to the holy Magi kings who came to visit Him at Bethlehem, He showed himself thus, joyful and benevolent. I want to fill your hearts with those spiritual and divine graces with which the hearts of those individuals were filled, and I desire that this great feast that signifies manifestation, be truly the manifestation of God’s immense goodness towards you.

Children, when the Magi came, they brought their gifts: gold, incense and myrrh. Those gifts did not have much importance in themselves, but their symbol was important. The gold stood for demonstrating that in that Child they recognized the King of their souls, the King of Israel and the King of the universe. The incense stood to indicate the divinity of Jesus. They in fact prostrated themselves on their knees before Him and adored Him. The myrrh was a prophetic gift with which they made me understand and remember what and how many sufferings my Jesus would encounter as man for the salvation of humanity. With perfumes, aromas and myrrh his body would be embalmed after his death.

In this way, like the Magi — who were capable of understanding God’s revelations even though they were pagans — my Jesus desires to manifest himself to all men. There are many in the world still who repeat the cry of the Jews before Jesus, exposed with Barabbas to the people: *“We do not want Him*

to reign over us!” There are many who distance Him by sin from their heart and their family, turning it into like a den of thieves or a den of unclean animals. The nations are many that do not want to recognize his sovereignty, fearing their interests might be compromised.

In this way there are those who, though recognizing in Jesus a special philosophy or even welcoming Him as a great man who defended the poor, deny Him his true greatness, that is, that of being the Son of God. But what guarantee can a man give of his doctrine and the truth that he communicates if there is not the stamp of divinity sanctioned with miracles? Whoever denies the divinity of Jesus, denies his whole mission, since, if Jesus had been a simple man, his immolation would have been in vain, even if holiness had been glowing in his conduct.

Jesus is God. The Magi recognized it, and every man must bow the head before this reality. Jesus is God, and it is for this that you can trust Him and that you can say that you see the face of God. If Jesus were not God, He would not have risen by his power and his greatness would be very limited. In spite of that, Jesus is true man and exactly because of this He made himself in all similar to us except in sin. And it is for this reason that He was able to suffer, only because He took on human flesh, since as God He would not have been able neither to suffer nor to die.

The threefold gift of the Magi is nothing else than the expression of sentiments that ought to animate all men. If Jesus is King, allow Him to reign. *“My Kingdom is not of this world”*, Jesus had said. He does not desire the things of the world, they are his by right, but He wants for men to freely elect Him as their Sovereign and to serve Him in the fulfilment of his Law and in obedience to the Church, instituted by Him with those characteristics of unity, holiness, catholicity and apostolicity that He gave it.

Jesus desires for you to love Him as God. There are many who turn every person or thing into an idol, and they forget that men and things have only the task of being like steps that help to ascend to God. *“Sad is that man who entrusts himself to another man.”* So says the Holy Spirit, since the affections that tie creatures together, must be strengthened and maintained by that absolute love that unites God to men and men to God.

It is necessary, children, to acknowledge the presence of God in the world, a presence which is also manifested by means of the brethren. Through that immensity that God possesses, his love embraces the whole universe.

Moreover, there is a deep sentiment of gratitude which must lead men to the

crib, alongside my Child Jesus. It is the wanting to say thank you to Him for having willed to understand your weaknesses and your imperfections, by living in the world like anyone, needy of the help of men.

If the Epiphany of the Lord is rich with fruits for each one of you, thank the Lord; and you also, returning to your homes by another road like the Magi, that is, changing the way of life, of thinking, of speaking and of acting, you will be like them the means for making known the royalty, the divinity and the true humanity of Jesus, always present in history, in the world and in the hearts that desire Him.

I bless you, my children.

Before leaving here, send a warm kiss to the Child Jesus and consecrate to Him, with your hearts, the hearts of all men.

See you again, children. I kiss you all in the Lord.

YOU MUST TRUST GOD

January 7, 1975

Beloved children, I am with you and I desire to tell you what is especially in my heart.

In this Christmas period, in which my Jesus with more tenderness invites you to honour Him and to love Him, I desire for you to become more and more little beside Him in order to imitate Him and for you to make the spiritual infancy your daily task. I desire for you to behave like the Child Jesus, how He behaved with me. Therefore, you must have a great abandonment and a great trust in God.

It is true that you who have reached a certain age, you feel loaded with worries and responsibilities, but what is the value for you to torment your minds and your hearts, when *“no man with all his thinking can add one millimetre to his height?”* This is in fact, what Jesus said to you. Therefore, be trusting and do not put limits to your confidence.

How pleasing is to the Lord that spontaneous prayer with which you make present to God your necessities! It is certainly all present to God, but like a good father listens with interest and with joy his own children who speak about themselves and the problems that concern them, so God is listening every time men turn to Him and tell Him everything, exposing their needs and what afflicts them or gladdens them. Not for nothing did Jesus teach you the prayer of the

“Our Father” in which one even asks for the daily bread, just like the little children do who are hungry.

You must trust God like Jesus trusted in his infancy, up to the point of letting himself be brought into exile in order to escape Herod’s persecution. When the Lord sees that you trust Him, He acts in you with full freedom and transforms you, and the difficulties are overcome with great ease.

Infancy is the happiest period of the life of man, since the little children are protected by the parents and cannot realize the dangers by which they are surrounded. The protection which they enjoy makes them strong, so they are not frightened by the storms that they will meet during life. Children live day to day. They do not take their future into account, except at a short distance, and they forget the past even if near.

I desire you thus. You must have filial love towards God that gives you certainty and serenity and which takes away from you all those anxieties that disturb you. I desire to have you thus in my arms, trustful and full of hope. When I hugged my Little One to my heart and said the sweetest words to Him and sang the most beautiful and sweetest prayers to Him, I also thought of you. I thought of those children who, keeping their hearts simple and pure like the ones of little children, would have allowed me to exercise my maternal cares towards them.

When my Child wept, it seemed that I wiped away, with his, your tears. Tears of sorrow and of love, offered to the Father so that they could be a cleansing for souls. And when my Jesus with his caresses and his kisses and with his sparkling laughs of a good child cheered me up, I saw along the centuries devout souls practising the divine will, and I saw you who in every sad or glad occasion learn to say: Yes, Father!”

I have loved you therefore, even before you were. From all eternity the Father loves you. Will it be perhaps painful for you to abandon yourselves like little children into our arms? This is how I want you and, in competition with the Holy Child Jesus, I desire to see you grow in age, wisdom and grace, up to reaching his stature.

I bless you, children, and I embrace you. See you all again .

PRAYER AND WORK

January 8, 1975 (at Muggiò)

Children so dear to my heart, be blessed, because, by renouncing your activities and rest, perhaps necessary, you have wished to come here to offer me a bunch of roses. I gather these roses from your hearts, and I offer them to my Child so that He may turn them into many graces.

On these first days of the year, all go about exchanging best wishes and congratulations. I wish to imitate you and I too want to wish you a year rich with every good, be it in the natural as well as the spiritual order. I desire to see you happy, the same way as mothers desire every good for their children. So that my best wishes can be turned into a reality, I invite you to act so that in your lives prayer and work may never be lacking.

The bond that unites you to God and to me is that of prayer, which, parting from the heart and the mind, makes you capable of obtaining from Heaven all those helps that are indispensable for you. You know that the Christian no matter how good or willing, cannot keep himself in grace for a long time if the Lord does not help him. Prayer is necessary in order to be able to flee sin, in order to overcome the difficulties that Christian life presents, and in order to overcome the temptations that come not only from the outside, from the world, but also from inside you.

There are temptations which many times you can consent to also inadvertently. When distrust takes you and attempts to distance you from good, when a sense of boredom tries to introduce itself in your practises of piety, when doubt wants to make headway and make you believe praying and making sacrifices useless, it is the best moment to stick more strongly to prayer and to beseech the Lord so that He give you perseverance and a sure faith.

Moreover, who could be able to think they are self-sufficient and be able to reach Paradise with their own strength? Have not the cedars of Lebanon fallen, that is, those characters who boasted wisdom and strength before God? Who will be able to be so audacious and so proud as to consider himself wiser than God, who has assured the salvation of man by binding it to prayer? Did not Jesus perhaps say: *“Pray without stopping?”* And did He not assure of the efficacy of praying saying: *“All that you shall ask the Father in my name He will grant it?”*

It is necessary, it is indispensable for you that you never put off prayer. It has to be for you like oxygen for your soul. If you will pray and you will pray well, you will have patience, you will have goodness, you will have strength, you will

have humility and charity, because God gives all these virtues to his children who ask Him for them. Pray in the morning to offer up to God the day that you are about to begin, but learn also to transform your work into prayer with those invocations so precious which ascend to God moment by moment.

Observe what little children do when they study, or read or play under the gaze of the father or the mother. How many times they call them to have help or to have an explanation! And are you not perhaps God's little children, and will you not want to turn to Him at least as much as your children turn to you?

Work is a means of sanctification and penance. Work is a punishment and a prize. If it is done in the grace of God and offered up to God, it becomes a means to convert and redeem the world. I worked in this way, in company with Jesus and Joseph in the house of Nazareth, and our work gave glory to God and prepared the redemption. When your hands will no longer move with agility, because the years have rendered them unsuitable for ordinary works, there will remain to you an easy work to do, that of running the beads of the Rosary between your fingers; but in the meantime, not neglecting the recitation, let it never be grievous for you to be active and laborious.

Work is money that can be very precious, when with it you can give consolation and help to those who are perhaps forced into inactivity by infirmities or sickness. Give joy to all through your activity. The more you give joy to others the more your heart rejoices. Just as you must be available towards the Lord, that He can use you as best He thinks for his works, so you must be available towards the neighbour, never denying your help to whoever is desirous of it. Wipe away the tears of whoever suffers and never make anyone weep.

I desire this year to pass for you in great serenity and harmony with your neighbour. If you will learn to put into practise my teachings, you will walk along the way of the Lord as a held on a single rope. I see that many of you are already in old age. I see those who cannot see, those who hear less, those who have aches and pains. If I were to ask you to climb a mountain, perhaps you all would refuse, therefore, the roped party would be impossible in a human sense. However, if you carry all the difficulties on a spiritual level and call them crosses, a mutual help is absolutely indispensable. You must give each other a hand. He who has a cross, let him find prayer and the affection of others. He who thinks he can no longer continue on, let him feel the support of others. Remember that you all have need of something and you all have something to give.

Let your programme therefore, be conceived in this way: I want with prayer to find the strength to do my duty. I want with work to glorify God and give help

to my neighbour. I want to be always available to God so that He may do with me what He wills, and available to all so as to wipe away many tears.

I bless you, children, one by one. See you again!

THE COMMITMENTS OF THE BAPTISED

January 12, 1975

Beloved children, I am with you. I am the Mother of the Church. I desire to give you a few counsels, so that you may be able to be more and more living stones and members of the mystical body of my Jesus.

When God condemned our progenitors after the sin and promised the Redeemer, He took on so to say a commitment with all men, which could be formulated thus: I will not leave anything unattempted, so that men can be freed from the dominion of the devil, under whom they have fallen by sinning, and so that they can be saved.

The means of salvation was Jesus, the Son of God, who freely accepted to cover himself with all the evils of humanity in order to be able to destroy them with his blood. Jesus came, and before beginning the great work of social healing and before offering himself as victim on the cross, He willed, by the hand of John the Baptist, to receive baptism in the river Jordan. It was on that day that, the heavens having opened, the word of the Father was heard which confirmed Jesus to be his Son and Messiah. It was on that day that the Holy Spirit, taking up a visible form and resting on the head of Jesus, made Him known as Priest of God and as Prophet. Jesus began his public life with an exterior sign of purification, which put Him in perfect justice before the Father and in perfect equality with men.

But why have I made this reference to you? Have you not also received Baptism? You also on that day have appeared before the Father with all the splendour of grace, attained for you by Jesus Christ. On that day, you also have taken on some commitments with the Father, with Jesus and with the brethren. The redemption is willed by God, but man cannot remain inactive before what God wills. The will of salvation must be translated into collaboration and, if the Father was able to say and repeats for all: *“I want to save them at any cost”*, it is expected from the baptised in a very special way to respond: I want to be saved at any cost.

The spirit of Christianity must be the animator of your lives, and the continual effort to resemble in all the divine Teacher, the Son of God made man, must lead you to that holiness that the Father desires from you. It does not count that

you see the evil in the world and that you deplore it, rather it counts for everyone to work in himself that gradual conversion, patient but real, which is the tangible manifestation that you live a Christian life. Everyone of you is imperfect, and you all can call yourselves sinners with all sincerity, by that capability that you have of sinning and because, as soon as the Lord moves away from you with his grace, you would fall miserably into sin. Well then, sin is erased and Jesus offers you his blood so that you are able to be purified, but your contribution of penance and sacrifice cannot be lacking.

No one can receive if he does not ask, no one can be saved with his own strength; but with the will, with recourse to God and with that little offering of sorrow that Jesus asks from all, it is possible to attain salvation. I say little offering of sorrow, since your sufferings are always little in comparison to those of the Man-God. You suffer at times for a moral suffering that torments your heart, and it seems to you of not being able to resist and of having to yield under the weight of this cross. Well then, children, consider what the pain of my Jesus was, He who was sanctity by essence, the thrice holy God, finding himself covered with all the iniquities which from the beginning of the world up to the end would have sullied the earth. The immense sea of pain, to which is added the sight of the uselessness of his sufferings for a great part of souls who would be damned just the same, was the price of the redemption.

Now I want to make you reflect and I want to invite you to value your Baptism. You with it are like incorporated into the tree of life. Like you, all men ought to enjoy this privilege. What is imposed on you by this great gift of Baptism, which is like the door that, introducing you into the Church, gives you the way to receive that spiritual life in overabundance whereby you are able to be sanctified? It imposes on you the duty of the apostolate, because you cannot remain indifferent before those who do not have what you have. If you see those who die of hunger and your heart remains cold, you can say that you are heartless. So, if you see souls who are being lost and forever because they live badly, you cannot remain cold.

You can call the apostolate a sacrosanct duty, since that faith that was given to you in Baptism is not a talent to shut away in a drawer, but a light with which you must illuminate others. That charity that was given to you in Baptism must be expressed above all in this way: trying to indicate to all that road which leads to the source of love, Paradise. That hope that already makes you rejoice in advance for what you will attain, must not be suffocated by materialism or annihilated by atheism.

May the memory of the Baptism that you have received give you joy, because it has admitted you to be a part of the communion of saints, which is like the safe to which you are able to draw and bring your spiritual treasures. How much

they grieve me those parents who refuse the gift of Baptism to their children or delay it, as if it were not a very beautiful thing to which one ought to get the quickest possible. I bless those parents who, after having had their children baptised, consecrate them to me, almost to preserve them from every danger. What a marvellous thing celebrating the anniversary of your Baptism, whether to thank the Lord or to see at what point you are in responding to this beautiful grace!

I bless you all. See you again!

PRAYER UNITES SOULS TO GOD AND TO THEMSELVES

January 14, 1975

My children, dear to my heart more than myself, peace be to you and grace.

My presence here is in a particular way an approval for what you do and an encouragement to continue to give to prayer that importance it deserves. It does not matter that many despise prayer and may call it a waste of time. It does not matter if many overvalue action because they consider it indispensable. You know that he who prays performs not only the most important action of life, but performs also towards all humanity a true act of charity and goodness that will be repaid in Heaven.

Certainly he who has no faith wants to act independently, and thinks of doing great works only because he knows how to say some word in favour of workers or the poor; but they are mistaken, and if good words can have their usefulness when they are uttered in time and place and when they serve to build up, certainly they are not everything.

Who is it who governs the world? Who can prevent evil? Who can give comfort to the suffering? Who can help and support the weak in life? It is God, who sees all and who always intervenes according to need. God only resists the proud, and before the man who wants to do everything by himself, He remains as if to observe. God respects the liberty of all, and where He is not desired He does not make his presence felt.

What does the man who does not pray do? He excludes God, and He remains as if absent, even if his same immensity does not permit Him to be absented. If then He is excluded by lack of faith or by hatred considering Him as an enemy, He is grieved. His grief is great but it concerns you, his creatures, since He would like to benefit all and He feels alienated.

There can be some among you who assert of having prayed much and of not having had a response from God. It happens many times that you ask for healings and settlement of things that seem urgent and indispensable to you, but they are not so for us, whereby either a grace is denied or is delayed. However, know that every prayer has its immediate response and, if what you ask for is not granted to you, what is most necessary is given to you in that moment.

Prayer is a marvellous gift, it serves to unite souls to God and to themselves in a mutual charity. The families which pray are like the flower beds of a garden; with the perfume of their flowers Paradise is gladdened. Prayer serves to maintain that perfect physical, moral and spiritual union, which makes the family a beautiful unity. When parents united to their children pray, they give each other in turn an example of faith.

Also in the house of Nazareth we prayed and the singing of the psalms was alternated with the recitation of the Our Father. Spontaneous prayers also were recited and many hours of the night were spent in adoration of God. Jesus often withdrew to the mountain or to a solitary place to pray and to talk to his Father. There was a bond of faith that united our hearts and it is that which must unite yours. When the truths of the faith are the food of your mind, when family members are all leaning towards the only spring, they lean to a unique destination, the Christian family becomes a Paradise in advance.

Moreover, there is another bond that must unite the members of a family: it is love, which passes like a spark to feed the torch of each one; it is that mutual giving and that sacrificing oneself for others in a selflessness without measure. If you learn to forget yourselves in order to alleviate the needs of others, you, almost unconsciously, feel yourselves with an overabundance of strength whereby the sacrifice is no longer a burden. This is how my family was and, while my very faithful spouse did not have but concerns for Jesus and for me, Jesus gave us his infinite good so as to make our hearts overflow with love. I went out of my way so that they would not lack anything, exactly anything, also when extreme poverty made us lack even the necessary.

I explain to you, children, and I speak especially to mothers. When your willingness in meeting all halfway and your serenity is not lacking, even if you have to renounce your will, is it not true that you succeed in maintaining the harmony and the peace which are so dear to all? In this way, in so many kindnesses made to one or to the other member of the family, is it not true that you can manifest your tenderness and prevent so many breakdowns occurring?

Children, have as aim the spiritual and loving union of your family. It will be after this example given by you that you will be able to admonish with caution

and with tact. If your presence in the family is indispensable, do not hesitate to leave also these encounters with Heaven, for it shall be I myself who will come to pray with you.

You are a part of a beautiful spiritual family, which I myself direct, instruct and feed with my teachings; but when true necessities keep you away, I come to pay you a visit and I communicate my gifts to you. Here also you must keep that rectitude and that order, that discipline and that correctness that let you relish each other's company. If it happens that you do not understand each other, go to your spiritual mother and reconcile the parties. I repeat to you, all must be harmony, since whoever harms this beautiful family which I have built, makes my heart suffer.

Here, all is explained to you, because today, Jesus, Joseph and I, have given blessings and graces to you. Yes, wish each other well and do not let yourselves be deceived by the false theories that are spread about. Learn to discern and defend yourselves.

I embrace you all. See you again!

LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBOUR

January 17, 1975

Children most beloved, here you are, fervent and good, around your heavenly Mother. How can I not express my joy and my gratitude to you? You love me and I love you with a love without measure.

I want your salvation and your sanctity. To the young man who, approaching Jesus, asked Him: "*What must I do in order to be saved?*", Jesus replied: "*Love God and neighbour.*" You are here, and like flowers that open up their corollas, you open up your hearts to the call of grace. It seems to me that I must question you one by one and ask of you: what do you want from me? and of hearing myself answered with another question: "*What must I do in order to be saved and to help others to be saved?*" And I reply to you like Jesus to the young man: love God and neighbour; and I add: be serene and bring to a conclusion that work which in my name you have begun.

In a world that is divided as in two great halves: he who presumes to be saved without practising the Commandments and without believing in the revealed truths, and he who despairs and thinks it impossible to be saved, since he does not admit infinite love and mercy in Jesus, may you be those who mark a balancing axis and, admitting that you are weak, trust in Him who is strength.

You will be called deluded and mad just because the world, having excluded faith and morals, cannot admit that there can be a conscience, goodness and balance in those who follow the Teacher. But it does not matter. You are under my mantle like the dearly beloved ones of Our Lady.

What did the faithful do one time when the Eucharistic Jesus passed along the streets? They preceded Him with little children who, casting rose petals, prepared the way for Him. You cast your petals and I pass by converting, healing and sanctifying souls.

May you be blessed and peace be always with you. I watch over you and I protect you.

PRAY FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCHES

January 18, 1975

My beloved children, I am the Mother of the Church. The Church is my Jesus, the Christ Son of the living God, and the Church are all those who united to Him live out his same life. How dear it is to me to tell you in this meeting: pray for the Church! Pray for the unity of the Churches, not so that truth and error may be united, but so that all nations, all the separated, may feel alive the desire to have a guide who may give them certitude and guarantee of truth and so that in all Christians the desire may be reawakened to live a good life, all aimed at the glorification of God and the good of the brethren. May that security that the child in the arms of the mother has, be yours as faithful and consistent Christians.

Work with the Church and for the Church, since only in this way you give joy to me who am the Mother. Let no sacrifice displease you, do not let the apostolate be painful for you, even if you encounter some difficulties. Working in the Lord's vineyard is a great honour, a great privilege, and you will never be able to thank God sufficiently for having permitted you to collaborate with Christ for the good of souls. Each one at his post, performing with fidelity his own duty and accompanying every action with that love that transforms all and makes everything divine, you will be sanctified.

Peace be to you and may heavenly favours flood your souls. I bless you with all my heart and I love you.

TO A GROUP OF PILGRIMS

January 19, 1975

My children, I am with you. I am your Mother.

The language that you speak does not matter, you are all mine. Have you come to give me consolation? I thank you and I too give you consolation. Do you want to make me happy? Be more and more the living Church and work with the Pope, so that all nations may form around him that beautiful unity which Jesus already desired and hoped for on that evening of Holy Thursday, when He instituted the Most Holy Eucharist.

Start by being yourselves united like the grains of an ear of wheat or like the grapes of a bunch of grapes. Remove from your families, from your parishes, all that divides and put peace and concord everywhere. Peace is like a tree that must grow and propagate its offshoots in order to embrace the whole world. The root of this tree is in your hearts and it is Jesus who makes the tree grow, but with your good will, which is indispensable like the manure and like the soil.

I am near to you and I see your difficulties. But who has encountered more difficulties in life, than the family of Nazareth? With faith, trust, the grace of God and the good will to understand others, all is possible. I desire for you to place, here at my feet, all that disturbs and grieves you. Depart from here with my blessing. Be certain that I will never abandon you until I see you happy in Heaven.

I bless your families and your nations. I increase your grace, embracing you.

TO THE YOUNG

January 19, 1975

Beloved children, I embrace you tenderly and I want to give you, in this act of maternal goodness, an increase of faith, of hope and of charity.

Yes, dear children, continue to do good works with love and with fervour. Do not act however, haphazardly, churning out all those initiatives that seem good to you. Give an ordered programme to your life, so as to not neglect those duties that are a part of those pressing necessities that regulate family and society.

What would be the worth for you to be assiduous in all those meetings that are said good, when you were to be lacking towards the duties that concern the fourth Commandment? Or even for you to waste your time in external works that can give you consolation, and you neglected that duty that you have of

cultivating the spirit of piety and the interior life? I help you in all. Be calm and reflect on what you have to do, so that everything may bear these two divine imprints of cheerfulness and sacrifice.

Peace of heart, then, is derived from grace, and the more you are strong with the life of God the more you will be serene and spread joy. Also sacrifice cannot be lacking in your works. It is in fact only with the renunciation to what the body desires and which your will caresses, that you can realize the Kingdom of God in you; that Kingdom of God which suffers violence and which only the violent, that is, those who learn to deny themselves, possess or reach.

I bless your good sentiments. To all those who work in order to make me loved, my gratitude. One by one I kiss you.

A THREEFOLD FIDELITY

January 19, 1975

Beloved children, may that peace that derives from the faith be in you. A living faith in this truth: God is infinitely good and loves you.

I am the faithful Virgin: faithful to God, faithful to my duties, faithful up to learning to sacrifice myself for each one of you. My quality as Co-Redemptrix of the human race renders me responsible for your lives and your deaths, since everything must converge to assure you of an eternity of joy. I am faithful to this mission of mine, and my personal assistance to each one of you, even if invisible, is certainly efficacious.

How I would like for each one of you to be able to realize this threefold fidelity, to ensure for oneself tranquillity in this life and an imperishable crown for eternity. First of all fidelity to God. You know what was the first act that gushed forth from his omnipotence: the creation of the world. There are many who want to give to all things a material origin and a scientific definition. I say to you that no being can give from itself life and, if it had origin from others, it is through that chain derivation that cannot be separated from the work of God, who, being uncreated Being, was able to give origin to all beings.

Moreover, do you not see the wonderful order that reigns in the universe? Or perhaps that a perfect clock does not make you think of the clockmaker who built it?

You must be faithful to this God who has created out of love, and from your

heart must gush forth the most lively gratitude, since everything was created for the joy of man. If you are not slow witted and do not have a heart of stone, you will easily be able to lift up your thought to God, the good and merciful Father who watches over this world, in which he has placed special laws that maintain it and which direct all beings according to their nature, so that they may exalt Him who created them.

Do not be, my children, blind or deaf. Open your hearts, and know that just as God is faithful to his promises and does not abandon man, so this superior being which is gifted with intelligence and will, must freely choose to be faithful to God. I have called man a superior being since all of creation is inferior to him and it is at his service. Observe however, what happens in the world. While the stars of heaven and all the creatures, animate and inanimate, obey the laws established by God, only man rebels against Him and does not want either to love or serve Him.

God is good, infinitely good. That's why, knowing human pride and weakness, He willed to give to man a means of salvation. In the redemption, God took on a human figure, He took on a body like ours, and He gave to all authentic proof of his infinite love by immolating himself on a cross.

To be faithful to Jesus Christ is to realize the plan of salvation and love established by God. There is a phrase in the Gospel that points out how one can be faithful to Jesus Christ: *"Whoever wants to come after Me, let him take up his cross and follow Me."* It is sad to think of walking behind a person who invites, as He does, to carry a cross. But sorrow is the legacy of humanity; it is the consequence of sin, even if, sanctified by Jesus, it can become for true Christians, a fount of happiness.

But how can one exclude sorrow, while in the world more than ever sin continues? Or perhaps is it not true that also humanly sin harms the physical health? Ask the young who drug themselves if their minds have opened up greatly and if their bodies have been reinvigorated with the use of drugs. In this way the many sick persons of the asylums would be able to narrate many times a story of sin. And you cannot exclude that, the human race being a family, the woes of some fall again onto others with great ease.

To be faithful to Jesus, the Son of God, means to accept that part of sorrow that saves and collaborates with the work of salvation. After all, children, do you not see that in the world, if you do not suffer out of love despair enters and the sorrow is doubled? Faithful to this law all must be, and if everyone knows to bear the weight that life reserves, he finds serenity, since no one is tried above his own strength.

It is necessary to be faithful to one's duty. How many woes happen in so many families because this fidelity is lacking! There are those who live selfishly and are concerned for themselves only; those who claim to realize in everything their own liberty without taking into account that they must also see the rights of others; those who think of using the family for board and lodging and only for material necessities, are certainly not faithful to their duty and will not sow and will not reap other than disorder.

Fidelity to one's thought, which is a duty and an aspiration for every Christian, is that hope that makes one see that with death not everything is destroyed, but like a new curtain is opened up that lets one glimpse the new life. Faithful to this thought, to this hope, you must all be; since from this fidelity depends the strength to react against evil and to perform well all that good that God desires from you. So, in my steps, in Jesus' retinue, everyone of you can reach that homeland to which I have arrived and where I wait for you all.

Now I generously bless this beautiful congregation.

Remember, my children, that still, as at the end of the world too, the Church draws its guarantee and its greatness from the infallibility of the Pope, which is timeless. Whoever throws stones against the Chair of Peter, receives the rebound of the stones he throws as a result. There is nothing left for me except to wish you perfect unity, harmony and peace, may it be among you as with the Church, of which I am the Mother.

See you again, children, and be good.

BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR PROMISES

January 21, 1975

My children, so dear to my Jesus and to me, may you be blessed. I open up my jewel box to you, I open up my heart to you and I put at your disposal the treasures of graces enclosed in it. I must and want to help you, so that you are able to persevere in good right to the end.

Did you see Agnes's behaviour? She was exactly the wise virgin who learnt to keep the flame of faith and love alive until the Bridegroom arrived. She learned to renounce all the worldly joys, all the riches, all the honours. She chose martyrdom, she chose faithfulness, and now in Paradise she is at the head of an endless host of souls who have imitated and followed her, if not in martyrdom of the body, in that of the spirit.

What shall I ask from you today on the example of Agnes? Be constant in faith, be faithful to your promises. *“If anyone puts his hand to the plough and then looks back, he is not worthy of Me”*, Jesus said. Learn to persevere the whole life in the observance of the duties that your vocation as Christians requires, since you are all called to be holy.

How many Christians let themselves become dejected by the difficulties and, after having followed for many years the right road, suddenly give in under the persistent insinuations of the evil one. How many of my children, after having tasted the delights of a consistent life between faith and morals, go astray and, neglecting the practices of piety, allow that ardour to be lacking to faith and to morals that necessary strength to conquer. So you see, in every state of life, traitors.

You see many betrayed religious vocations. What was lacking to many who had embraced the priestly and religious life with enthusiasm? Why were they disappointed, disheartened and have decided to change, to leave, to betray? They have not learned to persevere in a life of renunciation and sacrifice, because they have not asked, with constant and humble prayer, this gift from God.

You see families which seemed to be envied, such was the perfect harmony. There comes a lack of forbearance, with no thought of finding a meeting point in a loving dialogue, but division and divorce as the anchor of salvation. But how can one speak of true love, if the courage and the will to persevere is lacking? The result is not true love, does it not seem to you? Love goes beyond death. *“Nothing”*, Paul used to say, *“can separate me from the love of Christ.”* Does it not seem to you that the spouses ought to be able to repeat the same statement in regard to their union? It is necessary to take off like so, embark into marriage with the will determined to persevere up to the end. If the grace of God does not help you, all becomes impossible.

How would Agnes have been able to keep faith to the heavenly Bridegroom, if she had not implored for an extraordinary help from God while the stake was prepared for her and the executioners would have decapitated her? But tell me, why are oaths made to God so easily broken, alleging reasons that are certainly trifles in comparison to martyrdom?

It is true that sometimes, or many times, on the part of one of the spouses there is no will to be separated. But perhaps was recourse to God from the first day of the marriage not lacking, so that one could persevere?

So you see young people, up to yesterday good and practising, leave every

religious practice and become the cross and the despair of the family. I would like to say to these young people whom I love so much: children, return to the heart of God and mine. And to those who are still good, I would like to say: be afraid a lot of yourselves, since that certainty that you put in yourselves, could be tried by God's abandonment. What will become of you then? Pray, children, and be faithful to your promises with the help of God. Be not among those who go forward like robots, or like beings without a destination. It is true that youth is the best part of life, but that does not mean that one cannot die also young, and how will you be able to render an account to God of these best years, if you do not try to trade your talents?

Children, I desire for all to entrust themselves to my care, and those consecrations that you make, commit me in an extraordinary way to bring you to salvation; but on your part, put a commitment of docility and obedience out of the ordinary. Agnes was truly the little lamb of my Jesus and mine. I beg you, imitate her, because the world is full of mad sheep. Be docile, be good. Do not presume on your strength. Count on the merits of the saints who have pointed out the road to you and on the merits of Jesus and mine, so that your faith may never fail, may the Law of God be always observed by you and may you arrive victorious at the destination.

I bless you all with great affection. See you again, children. The peace of your Mother and Queen be with you.

THE ANNUNCIATION

January 22, 1975

Beloved children, graces be to you and so much grace, whereby you may be able to be truly the object of deference on the part of God.

Look, I want to make you the Rosary more and more and I promise you that every time that you gather here together, I will speak to you about the mysteries of our life, adapting them to your needs.

I start with the Annunciation.

I invite you to repeat with all the enthusiasm that you can: "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord.*" Yes, you must make yourselves more and more little so that the Lord may be able to make better and better use of you.

Whoever is at the service of a personality, must adapt himself to the mentality and to the desires of him who commands. If you make yourselves little servants of the King, only then can you add: "*Do with me according to your will.*"

It is a marvellous decision, yours, of committing yourselves in the humble and great service of bringing into every home the sign of my protection and my love, as well as trust and hope, and the weapon of defence in the present dangers. But if you do not make and keep yourselves little, the service will not have the results that I desire. You will meet repulsions and perhaps also outrages, but you will have to learn to say with equal joy and assertiveness: *“I am the servant of the Lord, let your will be done.”* I promise you, after that, an increase of grace.

Jesus, God made man who dwells in your hearts, will grow a little more and you will be capable of giving Him better and better.

I bless you, children. Goodnight!

THE VISITATION

January 24, 1975

Beloved children, peace be to you. I am the Virgin of the Visitation and I desire to instruct you on the second mystery having happened after the angel's announcement.

Knowing about the state of necessity of the cousin Elizabeth, I went with all haste to her, so as to help her. I make you observe two moments of our encounter. Elizabeth sings praises to me and to my Son and prophesies in few words what would have come about through the centuries: *“Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”* At these words her child is sanctified, while from my heart a hymn of thanksgiving and joy breaks out: *“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit exults in God, my Saviour. Behold, all nations shall called me blessed.”*

I confine myself to these brief phrases, in which I would like for all your love and your intelligence to be summed up in order to understand my desires. I entered Elizabeth's house and I brought joy. Everyone of you is called to bring the heavenly Mother into the place where duty calls him. For some it is the school, for others the office or the workplace. You must represent me and be for those who welcome you like a ray of the sun. I am not saying to you that you ought to recite Rosaries, but you ought to mirror my humility, my goodness and charity.

That pressing care to do your duty, must reawaken the faith in those who are near to you, so that they may feel obliged to review their principles and feel proud of you who communicate serenity and joy to them. Your Magnificat shall

be ever so much a reality, since the Kingdom of God is spread this way, by giving testimony that God is in you.

Moreover, there is another place, besides those of external duties, that must recall you to the encounter with my Elizabeth. It is that of your loved ones, who desire to enjoy those spiritual gifts that you receive. Be generous and be good with all, and do not forget that the first neighbour is the one who lives with you.

Every family is blessed by God. Every Christian family is entrusted to my care, since I am Mother of the Christ and Mother of the Church, his mystical body. In this way, every time that you, as members of the family and the Church give consolation to your family members, you give joy to me as Mother.

I bless you, children. Learn to see clearly, in the light of faith, your duties and to communicate to all with the enthusiasm of faith, the human love, that has its source in brotherhood and its reference and its point of arrival in God.

Goodnight. I embrace you.

“WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?”

January 26, 1975

Beloved children, I am among you. I am Mary of Nazareth, Mother of Jesus and yours.

I am here, but I desire to be always with you and in your homes, and I desire not only for you to live a good life, but for you to live my life of intense love of God and of intense sanctified sorrow. Many things seem incomprehensible to you, and yet in God's dispositions they are very clear and beautiful. That's why I say to you: look at me in the diverse moments of my life and do like me.

Today I present to you a picture that was for me at the same time a great joy and a great sorrow. For three days we had sought Jesus, and with all the distress of the heart and with all the voice that I was able to emit, I had shouted out his name loudly. Finally, in the Temple we found Him. A delicate rebuke, a question I put to Him: Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I, grieving sought you.

It seems that I hear a choir of voices raising up from many families. They are fathers and mothers who do not succeed in agreeing with the behaviour of their children, and they raise the voice and let go their harshest rebukes, accusing them more than often unjustly and using unsuitable means to make them see reason.

My example must work some transformation in all those who wish to act on the hearts of their subordinates or their fellow man. Sweetness will always be an unbeatable means. Have you perhaps noticed sometimes for the summer rainstorms to bring benefit for agriculture or to the flowers of your garden? Or rather have you not noticed a destruction or a complete disaster? As beneficial, on the contrary, falls that misty rain which, penetrating into the ground, gives vigour and life to the thirsty plants!

So it is, and always will be, for those who wish to do good. Even if you might have to speak the truth and express your disgust or your disapproval, you always ought to use so much goodness and serenity so that the reproach is accepted and meditated on. *“Why did you do this to us?”*, you can say to your children. *“Grieving we looked for you.”* Yes, you must show your sorrow. A sorrow that is not for the material things, that could get lost, but which derives from not being understood in what there is of the best, that is, in that affection which, binding creatures together, prevents making others suffer.

But let us hear Jesus’ reply: *“Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s business?”* In that moment, neither Joseph nor I understood what Jesus wanted to mean. Then we understood that above every event there is God the Father, who watches over his creatures and over their interests. Jesus would have told us then in his preaching, more clearly: *“Seek in the first place the Kingdom of God and his justice, all the rest will be given to you as well.”*

See, my children, what must be the daily intention of each one: to seek the Kingdom of God and to progress in virtue in order to render Him glory. Remember the song of the angels over the grotto of Bethlehem: *“Glory to God and peace on earth.”* If one learned to seek God and work for his glory, how much more peace in souls, in family and in society. God ought to be the point of departure, that is, from Him every action ought to be inspired; and He ought to be the point of arrival, because everything ought to be done for Him.

There are those who say that wanting all for yourself is selfishness, but in God that cannot be. He wants all in order to give all, to reward all, to provide for all the necessities of each one. How beautiful it would be for me to always live with this concern: I pray, I work, I spend the hours, the days and the years, keeping only in sight this very truly important thing: to enlarge the Kingdom of God, to increase his glory through my witness as a true Christian.

When Jesus, serenely and calmly, gave us his reply: *“Why were you looking for Me?”*, the greatest joy entered into our hearts. I desire for each one of you to possess this joy, that of having found again Jesus. Jesus does not always make

himself reachable along the streets of the world. It is all disorder and sin in the world! Offices, places of work and study, even homes and hospitals, where there ought to be an intense desire to meet Him, are many times transformed into places of religious indifference, of blasphemies and sin. But those who wish to find Him, Jesus is there and He repeats to all: *“Why were you looking for Me?”* He is in your heart, which can be the Temple of God; He is in the Church, the house of God. You only have to call Him with the same anxiety, with the same sweetness and with the same love with which I called Him on those three days of very intense sorrow.

I see many mothers here and I know their family problems of great suffering. Oh, those children! Truly they are a cross and delight of their loved ones. Well then, dear mothers, do like me and, if you want to find them again, attach yourselves to prayer like to the anchor of salvation. Have faith, have constancy in prayer. I am on your side and I obtain everything for you. If you lose trust and let your arms fall, you will lose the battle. Remember that Moses who, praying on the mountain with arms raised, helped the people of God to win. You do likewise and never doubt. Always put in the first place the conversion of souls, then the health of the body. First the spiritual gifts, then the material ones.

I bless you all and I embrace you one by one.

ASK FOR LIGHT

January 28, 1975

Children so dear to me, let there be light to your minds and peace and joy to your hearts. I am here with you and I desire for this communal prayer to become the fount of light for many souls which sin blinds.

Light comes from above and your prayer, ascending, can open like a window on the world so that it may glimpse from whom salvation comes. How much light is needed! If the sun were not to illuminate the earth, there would be no life, since only the light and the heat are able to fertilize it. In the same way the soul needs to be illuminated, so that from this light the heat of love then may be unleashed.

Light is knowledge that permits one to take in the truths. The doctors of the Church, who by a special gift of the Holy Spirit went inside the secrets of God, lived a holy life, since in them knowledge became pure love and they were capable of making the men of their time know, and those of future times, those truths that would have remained unknown for many.

In the preceding lessons, you have been invited to ask God for the virtue of fidelity and of perseverance in good; today I invite you to ask persistently for light. The darkness of the intellect is the most tremendous, and through it one can truly repeat the phrase that John spoke in the Gospel: *“The light came, but the darkness did not welcome Him.”*

There are persons who suddenly find themselves in the dark because the eyes lose the sight, and it is very painful not seeing. But these persons can enjoy an interior light that comes from the Holy Spirit, whereby their life is precious for all. Before God and men they are worthy of pity and love. But there are those who renounce seeing spiritually. They no longer want to believe, it is like they were to ask to live in a hole. They do not want to see the sun, they do not want to gaze at the wonderful works of God performed in favour of men.

The most terrible trouble however, is this: though being blind, they claim to guide others and conduct the brethren along dangerous and mistaken paths. How much pain this blindness causes me, and how I would like to say: a blind man cannot lead another blind man otherwise both of them will fall into the precipice.

The prince of darkness is the devil and, if my Son came into the world to bring light, he works tirelessly to make men the children of darkness.

Very strong temptations, grave dangers put these children in doubt and in uncertainty, until the falls in sin complete the noxious work of Satan. The souls struck by this blindness only have to turn their cry invoking help from God and from me, who, as I crushed the head of the serpent, so I am always victorious in all the battles that he launches. Unfortunately, many times with the light also love for prayer disappears, whereby in the darkness also the oxygen comes to be lacking.

For all the blind of whatever category, raise up fervently your prayer. For the blind in body, that they may be resigned to their cross and find, in the spiritual light, that strength and that hope that is necessary like the air to live; for the unwillingly blind in the spiritual life, for those that is, who in moments of tribulation find themselves like lost and have need of the help of many to lift themselves up from their state of spiritual and moral despondency; for the willing blind who, without the help of God, will continue to love the darkness and perhaps, not wanting to know and to accept salvation, will renounce it forever.

May you be a help to all, moreover, invoke everyday light also for yourselves. Do not forget that in order to let the light enter into a room you must open the

windows. Well then, with much willingness and humility, subject your minds and your hearts to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Every teaching that you receive here, may it be well accepted by you and humbly meditated on, so that you may be able to translate it into practice. However, do not let any opportunity to welcome the word of God elude you. It is light. When in your churches you read the Gospel passages and the letters of the Apostles, and when the ministers of God address enlightening words to you, welcome them with love. Do not try to think about the form, which can be imperfect like all that is human. Halt your thought also only on a phrase, that which invites you to correct a defect of yours or to give a better test of love of God and neighbour. It is light, children! Remember that the Holy Spirit works tirelessly in the Church and in souls, even if, seeing all that accumulation of errors that are spread everywhere, you might have doubts.

I bless you, children. I bless my ministers. I multiply graces on those parishes whose parish priests come humbly to pray in this place. I bless the Pope and the whole Church. I bless your souls, so that, illuminated with divine light, they can shine in the darkness and be beacons for many.

See you again, children. All united, always pressed to my heart, do not fear anything. The Mother will always be your protection and salvation.

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, published 2011.
- 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, published 2011.
Volume XII - 27 September 1974 to 28 January 1975, published 2011.
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

4. THE SAINTS, OUR INTERCESSORS

One Volume - *Including St. Agnes, St. Faustina, St. Pio, and many others. Published in 2011.*

5. PILGRIMAGES AND SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

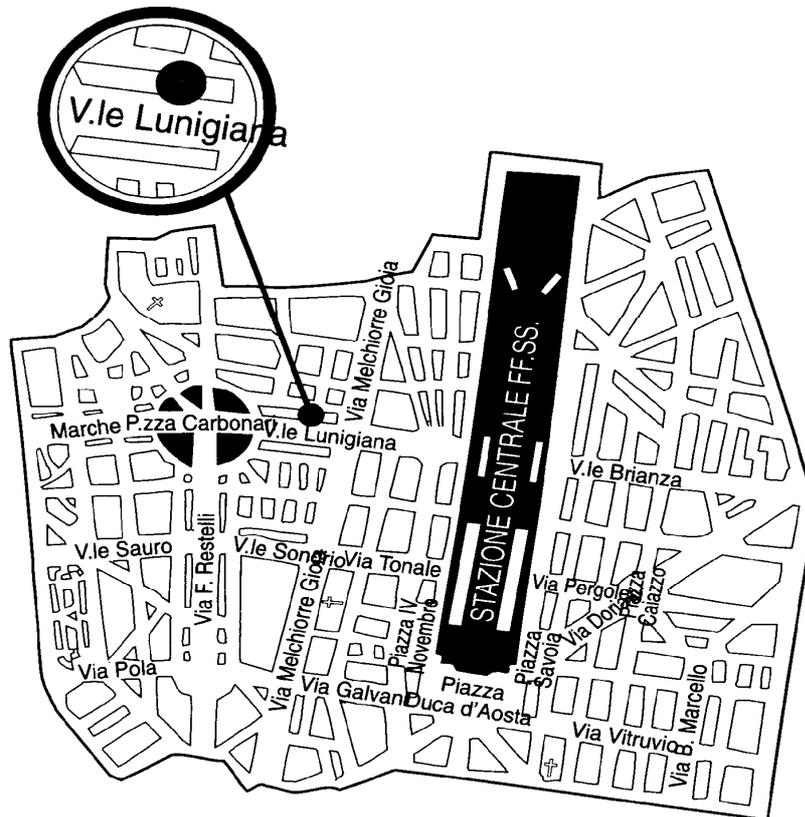
One Volume – *Pilgrimages to various places and Shrines from 1968 to 1978.*



**Cenacle of the
Divine Mercy
Milan, Italy**

How to get there

Viale Lunigiana, 30 - 20125 Milano - Tel. 02-66.71.06.25
Tram: 2 - Autobus: 42, 43 - MM3 (linea gialla)



MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER 12

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 who wish to seek and find God.

**“MARY MOTHER AND TEACHER” TWELFTH IN THE SERIES
COVERING THE PERIOD FROM
27 September 1974 to 28 January 1975**