

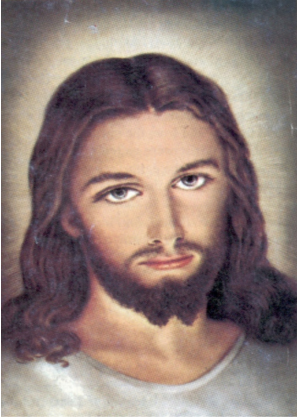


Mary, Mother and Teacher - Volume 9

9

Mary, Mother and Teacher

from the writings of Mamma Carmela
Volume IX



THE IMAGE OF THE MERCIFUL JESUS

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

**‘Merciful Jesus, we trust in You:
have mercy on us
and on the whole world.’ ”**

Milan, April 20, 1968.

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

Milan, September 5, 1968.

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

Milan, January 25, 1972.

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

Milan, May 4, 1972

*Front cover: **Our Lady of Fatima — the Immaculate Heart.** Venerated in the Church of St. Oliver Plunkett, Pascoe Vale, Australia. On the 10th December 1925, Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucy with her Immaculate Heart regarding the promises of the Five First Saturday devotions, and again on the 13th June 1929, at Tuy in Spain, concerning the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.*

MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER

9

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.*

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Anno Domini MMIX

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 Sinito, Vicar General

Date: 21st December 2009

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

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BRING ME SOULS

September 5, 1973 (at Seregno)

Beloved children, peace be to your hearts and grace and light. Behold, I am here to speak a word of encouragement to you and to give you help.

I am the Mother of Holy Perseverance and I only desire to invite you to continue on increasing more and more in number and in fervour. Union is strength and you must be a living strength of the Church and you must, after having drawn at the fount an increase of spirituality, bring it into your homes and into your parishes.

Unfortunately the spirit of the world keeps on penetrating a little everywhere, destroying the spirit of faith, and error with so much ease makes headway in hearts destroying truth.

May these encounters and instructions that you receive serve to make you love your faith more and more and to make you strong like a rock in order to learn to annihilate the adverse forces of evil.

I am always near you and I help you. So too with much diligence my spouse Joseph watches over you, to whom you must have recourse with greater and greater trust.

The universal consecration that you have done has been very pleasing to me. If this consecration gives me a task, it is your faith and your prayer that give me the power in discharging it. Give me souls! The task of salvation is reserved to my Jesus and me, but Joseph is a powerful intermediary. Have faith that your recourse to us and your desires can be granted.

And now permit me, children, to make a small reference to the words that yesterday I addressed to other people, but which are valid for you also. I invited to be missionaries of Our Lady and to make the Marian apostolate a true commitment. Do you want to be my missionaries, disposed to put yourselves at my service? This is what I ask you with special insistence. I know that every day you recite the Rosary. I say to you therefore: continue, and act so that it may become the prayer that unites many people around you every day, in order to bring me into the midst of families and into hearts. Moreover, there is another special task I want to entrust to you.

I know that amongst you there are teachers, to whom mothers entrust their children like second mothers. I know that there are mothers who are worried for the salvation of their children. Well then, behave so that this consecration that you have made for everyone, may become a personal act of the will. Act so that the pupils, the children, in union with their loved ones may have the desire to put their soul in safety, entrusting themselves consciously and personally to me.

Yes, bring me souls! Don't you see how they twist the Commandments and forget them with ease? Do you see how the world keeps getting worse and immorality arrives at corrupting every category of persons? Yes, entrust the souls to me, especially the children. Speak to them about the beauty of Paradise, but have no fear of frightening them in speaking clearly that hell exists and that after death another life starts, the true one that will never have an end. Having grown in age, they will hear blasphemies and errors, but the maternal teachings and those which you will have given with simplicity and sincerity will remain indelible in their mind.

Make everyone understand, after you yourselves too have become aware, that to be consecrated to me is a commitment that demands the respect of one's own body and the care of the soul. Just as one must have respect for all sacred things, so one must consider oneself as temples of God; tabernacles of the Most Holy Trinity.

In this way, my children, I want you all good, all holy, all missionaries. When a soldier at the service of the sovereign takes on an investiture, he increases his honour and his value and renders greater glory to his king.

I am your Queen and I wish to give you the honour of a special task. Do not disappoint me! I am always with you.

I bless you, my children, and I embrace you one by one. Behave so that harmony may always reign among you and in your associations and families, by renouncing even to what would please you the most.

Goodbye and have a good September month.

I AM THE MOTHER OF MOTHERS

September 5, 1973 (at Muggiò)

Most dear children, let joy be in your hearts, for truly I am among you and I make your sorrows mine, your worries mine and to all I wish to give something of myself.

If you ask me today who I am, I respond to you: "*I am the Mother of mothers.*" And in order to explain to you the reason for why I wish to call myself in such a way, I respond to you by citing to you a fact that happened during the public life of my Son that is related in the Gospel.

Jesus had gone to Peter's house. Peter's mother-in-law being sick, He cured her, so that she, getting up out of the bed, set about to serve all those who were in the house. Does not this reference seem strange to you. The conflict that exists in the world between mother-in-laws and daughter-in-laws, between the old and the young, requires a particular attention. The family charity that ought to contribute also to the well-being and to the happiness of all, is dispensed with the lack of respect the one for the other.

When an elderly person reaches the purpose of marriage and believes that he has given fulfilment to his mission by settling down his own children, he feels more than often put aside, because the demands of the young are many and the elderly cannot be accepted.

The hardest suffering on the part of the elderly comes about like this, whose experience and whose tenderness are despised, while the young feel a right and a duty to make a heart suffer that is already tired by the passed ups and downs and the many sorrows.

It seems that the life of the elderly is useless and that their counsels are outdated and do not interest.

The young forget that life is a succession of years and of events the same for all and that at the same age they will find themselves in the same condition of those whom they presently despise.

What a sorrowful result in families so messed up, how many tears and how much suffering! It is also true that the elderly have to realize that they are no longer perhaps efficient in everything and they must have the humility to move aside in order to let the young better perform their talents. But how much mutual help, if the young were to benevolently

ask for help and counsel even when they feel self-sufficient.

And what I say for the elderly parents, I say for the single, who have spent the best part of their life perhaps to help raise their nephews or their brothers, even renouncing their own ideals of embracing the religious life or matrimony. In this way the elderly aunts and uncles are sometimes abandoned, insulted and slandered.

Children, the Lord will be very harsh with those who make the elderly suffer.

What is said for the families is also true for the convents and for the parishes, where a dispute and a conflict sometimes subtle, pits the different sisters against each other or the priests in the same parish.

Keeping in mind the grave scandal that is derived from it, for the lack of concord is usually evident even if one seeks to keep it hidden beneath the eyes of men, it is so clear that the Lord cannot dwell where there is no love.

How desirable it is for this bond of love to unite hearts! But it will not be possible without mutual respect, understanding and forbearance of the defects of others. Meeting each other halfway, there would be a collaboration that, though permitting an updating, would not neglect those wise teachings that have enriched the mind and the heart of the elderly, so as to keep it a reserve of wisdom.

I desire that you be missionaries of Our Lady; with that you will bring harmony and peace everywhere.

Returning to the teaching that comes from the example of my life, I recall to you Anna the prophetess, who at the time of my youth was more than eighty years old. And yet with what respect I turned to her, so that she could instruct me and be my teacher in all those activities that is good for a young girl to know and to learn.

On my example, may the young present learn to have a lot of deference for those who are superior in age and certainly also in experience and sanctity. And may the elderly be generous in pardoning those outbursts that many times are not the fruit of wickedness, but only of that youthful exuberance whereby one is anxious to act and to be first past the post.

Let the young be helped by prayer and by the offering of many sacrifices. Let the elderly be helped to prepare themselves with serenity to

that final encounter that for them seems much closer, even if death does not respect age.

May one take care in a special way not to hold grudges of any kind. Resentment sometimes leads to hatred and serves to poison the life of him who keeps it in his heart, while it can harm those who are its object.

I bless you all and, as the feast of myself as Child approaches, I invite you once again to preserve in your heart that spiritual infancy which, keeping you childlike, renders you pleasing to God. I bless the religious sisters present. Make yourselves bearers of my word everywhere and know that your Congregations and Communities are totally blessed because of this gesture of love that you give me by taking part in these meetings. One day you will understand the importance of my words.

BE SERENE

September 8, 1973

Beloved children, peace and grace be to your hearts!

You have wanted to honour my birth by offering me roses and rosaries and I thank you, as I pour out over you a profusion of blessings.

When I was born in my modest house, my parents and relatives and all of Paradise rejoiced, where the angels thanked God for having made me be born so full of grace. Moreover, today I wish to make you cheerful again.

Every day you must celebrate the birth of my divine Son in your heart through grace, and where there is grace I am there as Mother of divine grace. Every day therefore, with simplicity and humility, you feel flow back in you with the mystery of the Incarnation also that of my maternity.

Rejoice and exult, because the faith that you possess is not vain. You understand the duty to live out your Christian life and your heart aches in seeing many who do not accept the will of God and who blaspheme Him by word and offend Him by their works.

I repeat to you: be serene! And if the thought of my birth can be a great consolation for all, let it be especially so for you whom I love with a most tender affection.

In a few days you will celebrate my glorious name, but I as of now wish to assure you that your name also will be glorified in Heaven, if you make the effort, by imitating my infancy, to keep serenity and peace.

I bless you all, children, and I love you.

REJOICE OVER MY BIRTH

September 8, 1973

Beloved children, say with me: “*My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Saviour.*” Yes, it is a day of exultation, it is a day of joy. Finally, after years of waiting, a glimmer of light opened up before men. It was like the break of the dawn that announced salvation.

Children and brethren, rejoice over my birth, for God too rejoiced, because finally a human creature was born on earth without the imprint of the work of the evil one and without sin.

All rejoice, for Paradise is in celebration for having had in their midst a miraculous birth, a gift even more grandiose. Every Saint, for having accepted me as the Immaculate Mother of God and his, was able to reach that marvellous place in which he relives the greatest miracle of grace.

Exult, children, for with my birth a door opens that gives rise to hope. When my children honour me so, little, defenceless, like a luminous point which the angels court, I let myself be taken and pampered and I give these souls the gifts of little souls. Then goodness becomes the consequence of their devotion and like a many-sided irradiation of many other virtues. The devotees of me a Child are good and they call around themselves, as in a beehive, many souls that must draw a very sweet honey from them.

There is nothing more attractive than a child of tender age. Well then, whoever loves me truly as a Child, becomes little so that his companionship is desired, his smile becomes like a blessing and every work of his takes off like a dart that goes directly to God, whose approval and praise he craves for.

Come, simple, little and humble souls, who have no desires for great-

ness. Come, there is an elevator for you, it shall be my cradle, they shall be my arms. You want to give glory to God? I speak for you. You want to be holy? I cover you with my sanctity.

The halo that surrounds my face is formed by twelve stars; they are the virtues that I practised and which I keep on teaching to you. All shall be done in silence and with a lot of joy.

Every virtue is a step that one goes up, but when one is little the steps are taken two at a time, one runs.

Children, love the simple things and rejoice over everything like good little children do. I want you all little, all saints and all happy.

You hear the storms that hit the world from every side, but do not forget that when I was born, the world groaned under the nightmare of God's justice and the heart of men was broken by the misery and brutalized by sin. Therefore, I invite you to rejoice and, in your recourse to me, to increase your trust, confidence and faith in the mercy of God.

As the new Eve, I am destined to combat evil and you have to help me. Yours is an oasis in the desert, but many here can rest and quench their thirst. Then, they will continue on their journey, but when one comes here everything changes. Here one prays well and one learns, with the simple and deep truth, all those teachings that turn weak persons into strong ones, capable of sacrificing themselves and to die for others.

How many oases I would have like this and how much living water I would make spurt out so that men would not have to die of thirst in the desert!

You are here around my cradle like little buds of a rose-garden, I look at you and I bless you one by one. Your perfume inebriates me, it gives me comfort. May many follow your example and turn the rose-garden into a flower bed, a garden, an immense expanse of flowers.

In Paradise every day a grandiose and joyful spectacle is renewed at the same time. Every Saint sees his life as in a film repeated as a miracle of providence and love. Of all the graces which everyone has been enriched with and of the work of grace in each one, all thank the Trinity. There is also a continual exchange of thanks between souls who mutually have contributed to give help.

These encounters of yours that seem trifles and which are limited here on this earth to a prayer more prolonged or to some invocation or hymn,

shall ripen into an exchange of infinite happiness.

To this I invite you to turn your gaze and your heart in a more and more growing yearning. You are the little songbirds that, enclosed in a golden cage, await the day in which, the door being opened to you, you will finally gain your freedom. As of now you can possess in grace the freedom of the children of God, but the body holds you back. When the blessed day of death comes, the laces will be loosened and you will spread your wings. May all be able to fly like you and find refuge next to my heart, which is in the heart of God.

Children, this evening's one is a gift of love. I cannot remain indifferent. I come between your arms as a Child and I accompany you home. You have only to see me with the eyes of faith. I give you graces upon graces, I cannot let myself be beaten in generosity.

Be blessed and be all happy.

“LORD, I AM DEAF, I AM MUTE”

September 9, 1973

Beloved children, peace and grace be to you, to your families and to all those people who are a part of your little world in everyday life.

I am with you, Mother, Teacher and Queen, and you are here as children, as pupils and as subjects. I know that you love me and that you rejoice much when, speaking the name of someone, I make some special references. But if I cannot name you all it is through the fault of my instrument.

Everyone of you is present in my heart with all your Calvary, with all your difficulties and problems. You have only to believe and when you speak to me, you have only to pray to me to help you.

When you hear read in the Gospel of certain miracles performed by my Jesus, whereby the deaf heard, the blind saw, the crippled walked and the poor were evangelized, you have only to make a reference to what happens still and to what happens here also. It is always the omnipotence of God that works, even if He makes use of me. I therefore, desire only that you let me use through your recourse, that power that God has given to me.

This is a place of grace. Are there perhaps deaf ones to my presence? Are there people who understand the voice of God, the good inspirations? Believe me, some more some less you are or you have been deaf. Well then, I want to cure you of your deafness. I want to make you attentive and vigilant in order to understand what the will of God may be in your regard.

If physical deafness is an illness ever so annoying, spiritual deafness is even more so. At times it seems to you that you even do too much and you say so to yourselves in order to convince yourself, and yet you do not do everything and that continual call to better yourself seems a useless voice to you, because you think that many are worse than you. You prefer to be deaf.

The examples of other persons more fervent and more generous remain for many without an answer.

The graces that the Lord keeps on sowing on your way, are they not at times pearls thrown away? Other persons less blessed have reached a degree of sanctity much elevated.

"Fear the Lord who passes by!", many saints could repeat to those who possess a voluntary deafness.

Sometimes the call of an illness or some catastrophe is but an invitation to a life of greater sacrifice, offered out of love. One remains deaf and one complains of many little things, without having recourse persistently to Him who can cure from that lukewarmness that is the consequence of deafness.

So in this short reflection you can understand that, if you are good, you must become better; if you are bad you must become good; and if you were already saints, you must ascend continuously up to reaching the perfection of the Father who is in the heavens.

Moreover, I want also to point out to you the other deaf, those that is, who do not listen, not only to the good inspiration, but not even the voice of God who speaks through the numberless events of life and who are obstinate in wanting to deny the existence of God, his goodness and his justice.

When one is attentive to the voice of God, its echo can be heard far away. And the most unheard of conversions take place.

Moreover, if you bring these deaf ones here, I catch them and I assure

you that they do not escape from me. I make them mine.

Alongside the deaf are the mute who do not learn to say thanks, who do not learn to give a word of love to their brethren, who do not learn to discover the gift of speech, that precious instrument that can work great things in the world to the glory of God and to the benefit of all.

It is true also that for many men of earth it would be a great advantage to be mute. So many blasphemies would not be raised up to Heaven, obscene talk, slander and murmurings would not exist. But on the part of the good how much mutism, when instead a word could prevent an evil, or be an encouragement to do good!

There is a warning in the Gospel that sounds like this: *“Do not be dumb dogs.”* May this terrible recall never be for you. Even if you have to use all your charity and prudence, never let your silence be able to give a free hand to evil and to bad actions.

In this way, if you have the goodness to present yourselves before Jesus and to me with your identity card and if you have the courage to say: *“Lord, I am deaf, I am dumb”*, and you can also say that you are lame in the Christian life or that you are blind in the spirit, you will always find my motherly hand ready to help you to be cured and to strengthen you in your faith. Your manifested poverty will be your wealth, for where humility abounds grace abounds. Before God you are all equal, all loved by Him infinitely. The help that He can and wishes to give you is great, but it depends on you to receive it.

Children, my pupils, my subjects, I bless you with a mother’s tenderness. Always listen to the divine teachings, in order to treasure them. You will be cured from your deafness and your voice will resound in the air as a call to good.

Goodbye, children, and much light and much sanctity.

MARY, A BLESSED NAME

September 11, 1973

Children, I am here with you. I present myself again as a Child as on the day in which, to the great joy of everyone, the name “Mary” was imposed on me.

Mary means sea and it means bitter. So was my life outlined: a sea of bitterness, a sea of sorrow. This is how my elderly parents received me in their arms and my relatives: they kissed me, they blessed me and they asked each other unknowingly: “*What will become of this baby so stupendously beautiful?*”.

A persons name serves to qualify him. So John meant to signify “sent by God.” Every name ought to express the desire that he or she who carries it to accomplish the mission assigned by God himself. So was my mission outlined, that of collaborating by sorrow and by suffering for the salvation of the world.

My infancy, like that of all children, claimed joy and happiness, but the perfect use of reason and the grace that had been given to me beforehand through the merits of my divine Son, gave me the capacity to understand the value of suffering, to accept it and to desire it as if it were a precious treasure and to bless the Lord who was asking for my conscious adhesion to his salvific will.

My name sounded straight away therefore, like a divine music before the throne of the Most High and the power and the wisdom of God gave to this name a special greatness.

A blessed name, which my parents uttered with delicate tenderness and which had the capacity to infuse so much serenity in their hearts; a blessed name, which the saints of the Old Testament gazed fondly at and which they would have liked to surround with honour and glory; a blessed name, “Mary”, which Jesus, my divine Child, uttered with love and with great grace as if to surround it with a halo of holiness; a blessed name, “Mary”, which Joseph uttered with ineffable joy and with great respect up to considering himself unworthy to pronounce it; “Mary”, a blessed name which the angels and the saints keep on repeating with ever renewed harmony and ever timeless enthusiasm; a blessed name of Mary, which the faithful of the whole world called Blessed and to which, as anchor of salvation, the sinners of all times have recourse, returns to blossom on the lips of all the faithful. After the one of Jesus there is no name more powerful and more glorious.

Yes, call me, children, in all places and in all times. Through this name that God has given me, may all be helped. In every weakness my name will give you strength, in your illnesses my name will give you patience,

in every wickedness my name will be an invitation and a spur for you to be good and to practise virtue. Invoke me when the storms seem to submerge the barque of Peter and your little boat under the terrible rocking of the furious waves of evil. Invoke me, children, when you feel incapable of continuing to fulfil with heroism and constancy your family and social duties.

Invoke me when calamities strike your cities. I do not want to sow panic and terror, but you must turn to God, you must come to the Mother so that she may help you in your necessities. You are very right to ask for help, for who among you is so strong as to overcome death? You might say: "*The doctors and the medicines are the means to overcome it.*" But are you truly convinced? Do you not consider that above them there is the heavenly Doctor and the heavenly Nurse, who come to control and to cure when their will is in motion?

Yes, use all those human means also, but invoke above all the Lord, invoke my name. You will see that there will be a great calm, for God commands the forces of nature and my supplicating will before his throne is powerful.

In Purgatory souls groan and your recourse to me obtains relief for them. In my name and through the power that God has given me, miracles are multiplied on the earth. It is not only the extraordinary that surrounds and in which you are immersed, but it is the portentous work of God that also by means of my name is continually being carried out. Every shrine speaks to you about it, every image of mine can be a means of recall, of blessing and of extraordinary help.

Children, do not let this extolling of my name seem pride to you, for He who can do everything made me great and the praise and glory go to Him.

Learn to seek me with humility of heart, with the affection of children, with the anxiety of the shipwrecked, with the desire that the pilgrim has to reach his homeland. You will always find me beside you, to suffer with you and to make you sharers of my glory and my joy.

I bless you, children, one by one, in the name of Jesus and mine and I fill your heart with light and goodness.

I WANT YOU APOSTLES

September 12, 1973

Beloved children, what joy, what comfort you give me! If your voluntary sacrifices have a meaning, this evening's one indicates a real love. You have stolen some time away from sleep and rest, while tomorrow your jobs await you.

Children, be blessed and know that the serenity which I will give you leaving here, will be so great and the few hours of rest that you will take shall be so beneficial that you will not even realize of having stayed awake.

See, children, when devotion is real, it is but a means in order to progress in virtue and holiness.

Piety is a virtue so dear to my heart that it is not to be confused with pietism. Piety is equivalent to the love of God and this love knows how to find all the roads and all the means in order to reach it, but above all prayer, for those who love God, becomes a necessity and a need. It is for this need of prayer that you are here. You might say to me that you need some graces and I know it, but if you had not the love to animate the prayer, what's the value of praying?

I know, many times you do not reflect and you turn the prayer into a sound so off-key. But if you go out of the house in order to offer your nocturnal hours to God and to your Mother, it is because a flame burns in the depth of your heart.

Children, now I will speak to you as Jesus spoke to those who had followed him for many days with a burning desire for his word. You are the chosen ones, you are the privileged ones, and I call you my missionaries, my little apostles. Do you want to follow me? Do you want to bring me with you? It is the feast of my name, what better means than my name to call souls to conversion?

I address an invitation to you and I give you a notice: the apostle is a chalice overflowing with love, or even he is a monstrance that renders Jesus whom he has inside manifest.

There are some who look at life from a too human side. There are some who are not persuaded that they must make an end with the prince of this world, Satan.

To those I address a word of tenderness and full of holy fear: children, do you know who He is to whom you turn your backs and whose words and invitations you do not accept?

Do you know that this life so short and so precious will cease as soon as possible also for you and of every moment spent you will be called to give an account?

Do you want to be the workers of the last hour? There are things to be done also by you. Perhaps that good which seemed so difficult to do, shall be so rich with satisfaction that you will regret the time wasted in other things without value, when you do it. Do not wait any longer. Your heavenly Mother calls you, she wants you as workers in her vineyard. Your soul also is the vineyard of the Lord and mine and there is the first job to be done.

I want you missionaries, therefore apostles. The soul of the apostolate is the grace of God. If you possess grace, everything changes in you and around you. God works your soul up to making it luminous and resplendent. Your life is no longer that of a simple human creature, but it becomes that of children of God. Every action even insignificant assumes an infinite value. The soul in grace is like a central diffuser of light and of energy. The drawing of others, the strength to lead them to good, comes from that supernatural help that grace carries in you.

It is a powerful charge, grace, and it can be in continual increase. When the desire to love and to purify the soul becomes irresistible, grace increases up to reaching the splendour of the most clear crystals or the solar rays or the splendour of the angelic natures. There is no limit that can hold back the soul that loves, and the desire for God and for holiness fuses as in a unique fire the Creator and the creature.

There are the means to communicate grace. They are those mysterious channels that, parting from the heart of Jesus, are given to men so that they may use them. They are the sacraments.

But permit me to point out to you a sacrament ever so neglected in these times. I want to speak to you about Confession. Children, it is the sacrament of mercy, do not try to abuse it and not even neglect it! When a soul uses this sacrament well, it acquires that delicacy of conscience that renders it so simple and so cautious whereby it will fall with difficulty into mortal sin.

Children, enrich yourselves with grace, so that my choice may bring those copious fruits that I wish for. Be holy, be full of grace and you will have the Lord as Teacher and Sovereign in your heart. Will you correspond to the call?

My children, I would like for you to be formed like a flock of fervent souls and truly religious with that religiosity that does not put difficulties when there is a danger to be confronted, a derision or an insult, but with serenity makes you say what you think and what you want. This is the way I desire you, all united for the good of all, through a more heartfelt faith, through a more complete morality, through a more certain holiness, through a more secure glory.

I bless you, children, and I love you. With my heart of Mother I embrace you, while to all as a greeting and as a promise I say: see you again soon with much grace of God.

I WANT TO TEACH YOU TO ACCEPT THE CROSS

September 14, 1973

My dear children, may you be welcomed back to this house for your usual meetings. I welcome you with open arms. You are mine and I rejoice so much to be able to benefit, instruct and help you.

I am your sorrowful Mother who, showing you my heart wounded by the lance of sorrow, can say to you: see if there is a sorrow equal to mine in the world. I am a sea of sorrow, and it is for this that I wish to teach you to accept the cross, to accept suffering.

Today the cross is exalted in the liturgy and its greatness is celebrated since, dying on it, my divine Son redeemed the world and gave to all the way to be saved.

But every cross, if carried well, becomes for you a means of salvation.

There are many crosses in the life of each one, which you can distinguish in three categories.

There are crosses that you create yourselves. They are those excessive worries not only of the present but also of the future, as if you were certain of them and were to never die.

There are those crosses that derive from your defects, which like ene-

mies combat you if you do not combat them. There are the evil inclinations that make you suffer and which embitter your life. But they all are a part of the first category.

Then there are the crosses that are placed on your shoulders by those who live close to you. They are the misunderstandings, nastinesses and all that complex of things that man must put up with in family and social life: the intrigues, the selfishness, the injustices, the humiliations, the poverty, the unemployment and the illnesses.

There are finally the crosses constituted by the moral and spiritual sorrows, which are sometimes the deepest sufferings.

But I desire that of the first crosses, of those that is, which come from your defects or from your character, for you to be anxious to free yourselves from.

What shall I say to you about the rest? All that can happen to you without your fault or without you procuring it, you have to look at it serenely without consuming yourselves, without complaining. All is permitted by the Lord, does it not seem to you? What ought I to have said about those wicked children who had nailed my Son to the cross?

My behaviour must be for you an example and an encouragement. Reflect over what was said of me when I assisted at the death of my Son: Mary was standing at the foot of the cross. Does it not seem to you to see in my attitude a lot of strength? I stood standing in order to teach to all to accept suffering with patience, with perseverance, with love and with strength. What's the point of rebelling, what's the point of complaining? In my sorrow there is a depth of love that transforms it: the same should be yours.

If you listen to the words of my Son, you immediately receive a profound teaching: "*Woman, here is your son*", He said, and then: "*Here is your Mother*", addressing John, who represented all of humanity. In that moment my sorrow of mother took on a universal importance. All men were covered by my love and by my suffering.

Your cross must have a name, and the more you wish to embellish it the more you must extend your intentions.

Do you know why the saints loved sorrow so much? Because they used it as golden money in order to buy souls. "*Oh, cross, hail, only hope!*" the Church sings. Yes, children, one does not enter into Paradise

except by passing through the road of Calvary. If you learn to accept the every day cross with the love with which Jesus went to meet it and with the love with which I offered my sorrow, you will see your tears blossom not only like stars in the sky, but as precious gems that save your families.

Perhaps you might say to me: sorrow is always spoken about, Mother! It is true though. But what will become of you if you do not dispose yourselves to suffer, while life is all a succession of difficulties and uncertainties? If sorrow accepted in a Christian way is a fount of joy, it becomes hard and leads to despair those who do not have faith.

I have had pleasure speaking to you as Our Lady of Sorrows, knowing that you are a part of that Third Order which desires to console and corroborate my tears. Tomorrow you will give me company and you will console my sorrows hearing with fervour the Holy Mass. I shall be near the altar and gathering your tears and your sufferings, I will place them in the chalice at the Consecration. You will place your most beautiful and universal intentions, I will be your Mediatrix before the throne of God and the most beautiful graces shall be for you.

Bring my blessings to your sick.

To your children far away say and write that Our Lady of Sorrows is near them.

I bless you all and I love you.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CONSISTENT

September 16, 1973

Dear children, peace be to you now and always. I greet you like this and my greeting is to be an omen and a reality, for nothing in the world has a greater value than this peace that I give you. It is a fruit of the divine grace that must dwell in your souls and of which I am Mother.

Let there be to you, to your hearts, to your minds, much peace. Let your hearts be pure that is, your minds lit and every work of yours reflect this light and this purity.

Today I have a great joy. A first group of my missionaries who come from afar receive from me a special blessing. What shall I do with

them? I shall make them pioneers. I will bless their hearts, their families, their footsteps, their words, so that they may be able to do an immense good in their towns.

Now I address myself to everyone and I want to encourage everybody to be fervent apostles. One thing can render your work fruitless and it is the lack of consistency between your way of speaking and your behaviour, whereby it can be said of you that you preach well, but scratch about badly. I beg you therefore to take very good care, not only to what you say, that could be inspired to you by your good angel or by me, but to what you do, which must reflect your thought and your word.

Jesus, my Son, has been very severe with those who showed themselves good on the outside, while inside they had wicked thoughts and desires. But you who come here, come just in order to compare your life with the divine word, with my teachings, whereby your encounter with Heaven should only be but a continual improving of yours.

I have said to you at other times that you must be models on which others must base their own conduct. I begin by speaking to you about the cross. How do you bear and how do you offer up your everyday sorrows? There are some people who, making a novena or sometimes coming here to pray, demand to be immediately heard in their requests. And if they do not obtain, they say that they lose the faith.

Doesn't this seem a reprehensible action to you? Had not my Jesus perhaps, waited for many years for the return of certain lost sheep? Perhaps those same persons who solicit material graces have remained for a long time far from God.

Many pray and desire graces, but do they think of putting themselves at peace with God with a good Confession and Communion? Do they think of changing life? You can continue on in this way. There are many people who say they are good, who recite Rosaries, but who do not keep into account the morality of life and do not keep into account that faith without works is dead.

If your consistency is not such that others cannot find in you the practice of the Gospel, your word and your example will lack in efficacy.

There is a way of discovering God in your life that must not be forgotten: to discover Him in the brethren that live near you, not less than what you discover Him in Holy Communion.

And why are you so ready to see the defects in everyone so as to accuse them sometimes of wickedness, of falsehood, of pride? Is it not perhaps because your heart and your mind are not in harmony with what my Jesus desires and what I keep on teaching you? To be consistent means to learn to translate into practice the precept of charity and to live it out wholly in thoughts, in words and in works.

I remind you of a Gospel deed. Jesus asked his disciples: "*Whom do you say I am?*". Peter answered: "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" He had said a truth, to which my Jesus gave his applause. But when Jesus started to speak to Peter and to the disciples about the death to which He was about to undergo, Peter started to dissuade and reproach Him, whereupon Jesus said to him: "*Go away, Satan.*"

Many Christians behave exactly like Peter. As long as everything goes well, they believe in God and in his Son and they profess their faith and their love, but when sorrow is outlined to their gaze, then they want to convince themselves and others that God is not just, that God does not exist; in a word, they acquire Satan's own language.

Consistency, children! Go back up and look at how those who have lived, being innocent, have paid with their blood the wickedness of others.

I could continue and illustrate to you one by one the Commandments of God, the words of Scripture, the teachings of the Church and make you do some comparisons in order to see what you must correct and what you must improve in. We will do this in the next meetings. For now imprint well in your mind all that I've told you in order to render yourselves more and more and better and better missionaries of Our Lady.

The world continues to get worse and with big steps the divine calls are prepared. Be the light, be the salt of the earth, be the beacons that indicate the Harbour. I promise you my protection and my help.

I bless you all, my children. I give you peace and every good.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMIES

September 18, 1973

Beloved children, to you my greeting and my grace. See, I am here, the Mother of divine grace, in order to show you the dangers to which you must be aware of, so that you may be able to be luxuriant in your spiritual life and happy in this and in the other life.

How many difficulties does human life present! How many snares the evil one sets against you! How many evils you continually come across! I want to help you. Listen to me well.

Everyone of you by birth to the life of the world have received a precious treasure. This body however, made of flesh and animated by that divine breath which is the soul, is not destined to perish. Even if the soul for some time will be separated from the body which will undergo the corruption of the tomb, on the day of the final resurrection it will reunite itself to it in order to participate at an eternal punishment or reward.

You therefore, who are here will live eternally. This is the destiny of man. To a destiny so elevated ought to correspond an adequate behaviour. You are made immortal by God himself. That's why I ask you for an act of consistency to this thought. The life that you have received has an infinite value for the end that it must follow, to which you must tend with all your soul and all your strength.

Should you perhaps, make this life into an idol, like some do who consider granting to their body all that it demands? "*You shall have no other God beside me*", the Decalogue tells you.

All that which contributes to the conservation of the body is good, as long as one keeps in mind that it is like an instrument that must help the soul to manifest its powers and its attributes and what Jesus repeated in the Gospel is kept in mind: "*It is better to go to Paradise with a maimed body, rather than to hell with a perfect body* (Mk 9:42)."

Beauty, strength, attractiveness and all that can be pleasing to the body, is to be considered as a double edged blade, which can that is, lead to ruin.

There is then another life which men enjoy and it is the moral life, which is constituted by the good name that a person can make by leading a healthy and upright life, in which justice is in the front row. Of this

second life it is imperative to take care, for the example of such a behaviour must edify others. But woe if one keeps oneself in a moral and just way only in order to get the admiration of those who live on this earth. The consistency would be lacking which I spoke to you about and you turn honour and esteem into idols, while Jesus taught you to not bother about the opinions of others and to seek only the approval of the Father who is in the heavens.

Then there is the other life, which is the one that gives value to the life of the body and to the moral life, and it is the life of grace.

To preserve the life of the body without keeping present that God must live in you and to vivify your affections, your thoughts and your works, would be the greatest inconsistency and the greatest absurdity.

There are therefore also, internal enemies and external enemies, which try in every way to convince you to live for this world and not for eternity. From the day in which the serpent, tempting Eve, said to her: "*You will be like God (Gn 3:45)*", the temptations follow one another.

Are they not perhaps an example the stars of the many films and the various beauty queens who expose their body to the full covetous gazes of men?

In this way there are other dangers, other occasions also grave that make Christians change course and which demolishes in their hearts this precious life of grace, the only truly important thing also in human life.

Like Paul, I would like for all of you, here present, to be ready to say in deed: "*My life is Christ.*"

When the thousands of occasions of life call you to erect a monument to yourselves, to make you that is, become great in your eyes and in those of others, repeat strongly that Commandment which says: "*Thou shalt have no God beside Me*", and make with full will and consciousness an act of love of God.

And when external dangers, like diabolical temptations — that may be the press or television, the radio or the fashions — seek to take away your moral and spiritual life and to harm the corporal one, say again strongly and confidently: "*Thou shalt not kill.*" Or even, taking yourselves away from these proximate occasions of sin, learn to express your detachment from the life that passes and your yearning for the eternal life.

Children, I bless you in a heartfelt way and I promise you help in the measure that you show me your good will.

Be simple, since and good. Life will be more serene for all.

I AM THE HOUSE OF GOLD

September 25, 1973

Beloved children, peace be to you and grace now and always.

I am the House of Gold, I am your Mother, the Mother of God, here with you in sweet conversation. "*House of Gold?*", you might say. But why a title so out of the ordinary? When you invoke me as such, perhaps you do not realize of speaking a great truth and I too could give you the honour of calling you with this sweet and valuable title.

My humble little home of Nazareth which you preserve at Loreto, was anything else but golden by the substance with which it was built and by its extreme poverty. But it had become the Golden House because it lodged the King of kings. You know with what love I guarded my divine Son, how I nurtured Him and, growing in age, in my heart grew also love for Him.

It was this love, it was the fact of having Him lodged in my womb during the nine months that preceded his birth and it was the great gift of preservation from every even the littlest stain of sin, and that is the possessing of grace in its fullness that made me the House of Gold of my Lord.

Love is signified by gold and the Magi gave proof of it when they came to offer their gifts to my darling Child. And who can place a limit on your heart's love for the Lord? I want you all houses of gold, houses where sin may never have the permission to enter.

Does it seem hard for you? No, children. You are weak, I know. The devil tempts you from every side, I know. You are by nature inclined to evil, but if your will is firm, no one will be able to make you sin. Serious sin must be a conscious act of the will that makes you go against the Law of God. But who among you will not want to combat sin under any form, that is, in thoughts, in affections and in actions, in order to give your own soul the brilliance of the golden house? And who will not

want to continuously increase his preciousness growing in grace and in the love of God up to desiring only to please Him in everything?

May you be blessed houses of gold, and may you bring into your families those precious treasures that you have inside. In every church, the temple of God, there is a Tabernacle. Unfortunately nowadays modern theories have confined it for reasons more or less just to a corner, sometimes well hidden and it has become like my little house of Nazareth. But if you keep in mind the divine Guest that dwells in it, the Tabernacle ought to be a true House of Gold.

And what will you be in your family? You will be the tabernacle, and the God of love who dwells in the hearts in grace will speak also through you.

What I say to mothers, to fathers, to children, I say to the religious and serves for their community.

There are many houses which, while on the outside they may seem golden, inside they enclose much rubbish and evil things. The domestic shrine is many times disfigured by foul language, by bad printed matter, by dishonest life, by lack of faith, by blasphemy and by all the unmentionable sins that turn the house into a den or a pigsty.

What will you do, my children, whom I have welcomed into my womb as once my Jesus, because consecrated to me, in order to make you grow in virtue up to sanctity? Put yourselves to work, children. Give me your hands joined in prayer, but also your actions, your word, your holy desires, so that, after having purified your families, all the others may be purified.

How many betrayals, how much lack of sincerity, of goodness and peace deconsecrates these homes that ought to be like lamps placed on the bushel, so that they may make light to others!

Where Christians do not realize the duty to bear witness of their faith to others, everything falls. They are like houses built on sand, which fall at the first gust of wind.

And the peace so precious is transformed into family fighting, community fighting, fratricidal fighting.

Children, build your house putting solid foundations in the faith. That it may help you always to overcome and beat the raging of the storms and to preserve peace in you and everywhere.

Yours ought to be a house of gold, and may my blessing help you to realize this great desire of mine.

While to mothers and to the children is reserved the task of keeping everything clean and tidy in the constant fulfilment of one's duties, let men commit themselves to bring that serenity and that love that can become heroism after a days work, but which is the best contribution to the happiness of the family.

And now, one by one calling you by name, I bless you.

It is not possible for my instrument to name you all. But you will feel me through that joy that I will communicate to you even far away from here.

Goodbye, children. May the feast of the Rosary see you all fervent in spreading this precious prayer.

I GIVE YOU MY TEARS

September 25, 1973

My dear and beloved children, who full of fervour and faith, have come here to honour me and to ask for my help, be blessed.

I welcome you as the celestial Lady of the manor of Italy and I invite you to have more and more trust and confidence in me, up to letting yourselves be directed and guided in all your necessities with that certainty with which little children abandon themselves to the caresses and cares of their own mother.

It is true that I cannot exempt you from your personal, family and social duties towards God and your neighbour, but I am certain that, on leaving here, you will bring with you a new spirit whereby what you now do well you will learn to do better and learn to take away from your heart, from your homes and, God willing, also from your parishes all that displeases God in order to bring all that is holy that He desires.

What will I say to you today therefore, in order to encourage you to improve? Behold, I show you my tears. I wept bitter tears during my life. When I saw my Son despised, calumniated, insulted, mistreated, compared to the devil himself, my heart of Mother suffered and bled blood, even if in appearance my sorrow was unnoticed.

When some disciples and especially the traitor, did not want to correct their defects and, attracted by the love for money, for pleasure and pride, distanced themselves from Jesus and did not understand his teachings, my heart bled.

And when I discovered on the face of my Son the signs of fatigue borne with so much love for the spreading of the message of salvation and I noticed in Him a sense of sadness, for many would not have accepted and did not accept the truth and would be lost forever, I joined my tears to his and I wept resting my head on his heart.

But the suffering, after two thousand years, continues. The betrayals, the rebellions, the insults and the rejections of the Truth, who is God himself, continues. And my tears, a sign of love and sorrow, continue to be shed on the mystical body of my sorrowing Jesus. Statues and pictures weep, but they are human tears which gust forth from my eyes and from my heart. And yet one remains insensitive. Sin has hardened consciences and hearts, whereby one feels no love for the Mother and her tears do not move.

What do I ask therefore, of you who want help from me? I ask you to sanctify your tears and your sorrows so that they may be embellished, and joined to my sorrows may be valid in converting hearts.

Your sorrows seem so great and irreparable to you. Well then, consider that your sorrows are mine too, but you must join to the sorrows of each one of you those of all humanity of all times, so that you may be able to get to fill up the infinite sea of my love and my sorrow. It seems that I am able to say to you that I understand the sufferings of everyone, because I feel like a repercussion of it in my body and especially in my heart.

If you knew how much an hour of suffering is worth, you would ask only to suffer. The saints could certify its value for you. No saint in Paradise would like to come back to life in order to enjoy the joys that it can offer, but all, if they were able to come back into the world, would not ask except for suffering, and if they could regret something, they would regret for not having suffered more and with more perfect love. I added with more perfect love, because in itself suffering has no sense nor value; it is love that embellishes and grace.

The more one loves, the less one sins, and whoever does not sin ob-

serves the Commandments. Therefore, God dwells in him and he becomes holy.

Children, I give you my tears; join them to yours, so that your loved ones and all men may be saved.

I give you my heart and I ask you: make yourselves holy for my sake, for the sake of God. One is heading for a slope more and more dangerous. Evil increases before one's very eyes. It is as if an impetuous stream of water were to come down from the mountain in order to drag men and things downstream.

Become saints, children, because your sanctity will be the dam that will stem evil. Form a powerful and unbreakable dam by means of the Rosary also.

In a few days you will begin the month dedicated to this devotion. See the combination: in the month of October that delicate fruit from which wine is extracted matures and from the wine the blood of the Mass. Let every Rosary be offered with a delicious bunch of grapes to me, and I will use it for all the priests so that the Masses that they will celebrate in that month be holy and sanctifying.

Children, I embrace you and I bless you all.

Bring my blessing to your loved ones. Mark them on the forehead, so that they may become strong in faith and learn to manifest it without fear. Bring it to your sick and make a small sign of the cross on their heart, so that their love for God may never lessen in spite of the suffering. Bring it to your little children and grandchildren and to all the little children. Mark them with their little hand, so that they may learn to mark themselves with the sign of the cross in order to keep dangers far away.

Your Mother and Queen waits for you still soon in this little castle of her dwelling, in order to give you with joy her good wishes of good and in order to be generous with her graces.

Goodbye, children, see you again!

LOVE THE ROSARY

October 1, 1973 (at Seregno)

Dear and beloved children, here you are, lined up as a crown in order to offer me a wreath of flowers on this first day of the month dedicated to my Rosary. I bless you one by one and I thank you for having once again responded to my call.

I would like to make you understand the power of this prayer and I assure you that you will be won over, so as to become apostles of my Rosary. It is a mystical crown that unites mysteriously but really the Church triumphant, suffering and militant. It is not a mumbling of words, it is not the repetition of simple sounds, but it is a marvellous music which, repeating its notes as in a symphony, gives to the words themselves a meaning and a harmony.

In Paradise echo those same prayers that you utter to the praise of the Most Holy Trinity and your Queen who, celebrated and invoked, does not cease to praise God and to implore from Him help for all.

When in a home or in a community all hearts join themselves in the same affection in order to recite the beads, all of Paradise is listening and all the brethren benefit from the celestial favours like those who, being joined as in a roped party, are drawn towards the summit, where beings much more powerful than those who are climbing up sustain the head of the line.

It seems perhaps to you a banal comparison, but it reflects a reality, children. You are all journeying towards Heaven, even if sometimes you are tempted to attach yourselves to the earth and you stay behind and weigh yourselves down, thinking that you have to remain always here. The Rosary is the rope which you can attach yourselves to and, meditating the everyday Gospel that it presents to you, you must progress and ascend, improve and sanctify yourselves.

Moreover, there is something still that must incite you to prayer under this very simple form.

Jesus said to all men, besides to his apostles and disciples: *“If you do not become like little children you will not enter into the Kingdom of the heavens (Mt 18:3).”*

The Rosary is the prayer of children, of the simple, of the humble. By

its repetition, monotonous if you like, it is a clear call to the supplications that the child addresses to its mother in order to have what it desires.

And who does not have some needs? There are the lonely who desire to be consoled in their solitude. There are the sick who desire the healing or the strength to put up with their illnesses. There are the elderly who feel more and more the weight of their years and desire to be understood, helped and reinvigorated. There are the mothers who must nurture their children whom they want perfect, while they feel incapable of accomplishing their duties.

And there is, of every category of persons, those who supplicate because they want to be satisfied. What shall you do therefore? You will do like so: you will recite your Rosary with the persistence of children and you shall be heard, because you have put in it that humility that renders you dear to the heart of God and to the heart of your Queen Mother.

I will tell you more. The Rosary is the prayer of the poor. How many poor in the world! Poor in spirit, poor of heart because they do not feel inside them the echo of the moans of their brethren who are in sorrow. Moreover, how many poor also because deprived of that grace of God that is the only riches that avail. There are also the poor in virtue, the cold in good, who do not know how to take an extra step in order to become true Christians.

For all these who are the true poor, behold the Rosary that recurs as a gift and goes to soften hearts, to give strength and courage in order to beat and overcome all the difficulties and in order to make one's own life a testimony of faith.

The Rosary is the prayer of the poor, that is, of all those who do not have the possibility of deepening differently the truths of the faith and who commend themselves to their Teacher, that she may enlighten and bring the Holy Spirit, through whom every secret is uncovered and the faith appears in all its beauty.

There is no age that can prevent praying and the Rosary belongs to everyone. When the eyes do not permit to see very well, when the ears do not receive the sounds easily, when the body rests willingly rendered inactive by age, the beads are always good, which, moving between the fingers, mark the number of the roses to be offered to the Mother. But

also in the hands of the young the beads do not look out of place, just as the geniuses and the men of great human value are not ashamed of reciting the Rosary perhaps also on their knees on the bare earth.

The Rosary is a gift that you give and a gift that you receive, and your prayer that rises to Heaven as a fragrant incense, descends consoling and, as a refreshing dew, gives relief to those who in Purgatory are waiting to be liberated from their purification.

To Francisco who asked me in the Fatima apparition if he would have gone to Heaven, I answered: *“Yes, you will go there, but first you must recite many Rosaries.”* I repeat the same thing to you and if you ask me: *“Will we go to Paradise?”*, I answer you: know that it is the most important thing of your life the salvation of the soul, but you will get there. I ask you to love the Rosary, to recite it with faith and to spread it with zeal.

Children, your singing is so dear to me, which makes me think of that of the angels even if it is not perfect.

I bless you now and I embrace you. Have trust, the graces will come.

YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

October 2, 1973

Beloved children, I am with you, and today I desire that once more from your heart a hymn of thanksgiving to God may burst out for a lofty gift that He has given to every man that comes into this world.

It was not enough for Him to become man in order to teach us how we must live. It was not enough for the Son of God to sacrifice himself on the cross to redeem humanity. The gift of himself whereby man can enjoy his company and the gift of the sacraments that are like channels of graces were not enough. But already from the first moment of his conception, every human creature is entrusted to a superior being who has the task of guarding it, protecting it, defending it and guiding it to Heaven. It is your Guardian Angel, this friend of yours whom you do not see and who nevertheless has a responsibility over your life that you cannot imagine.

It is the Guardian Angel who has the charge of presenting your acts of

adoration to your God, your intentions and your good desires. He watches carefully over your person and as the envoy from Heaven he makes present to you, through the good inspirations, God's desires in your regard.

He always sees the face of God, from whose throne he never looks away though being at the service of man, for the love that devours him and the obedience that he practises are inseparable. If love keeps your angel bent over in a continual act of adoration, the service that he in obedience gives, renders him assiduous and desirous of bringing his mission to a completion.

Even after this life it will be your angel who, receiving you at the gates of Purgatory, will introduce you into the blessed Fatherland. He will be with you like the subject who, having served his king, returns from the field of battle victorious with the sign of his conquest.

Children, love, invoke, respect your angels. When it seems to you of being alone, your good angel watches over you, and your sins bring him disgust and pain. Respect him, always behaving before him as before a personage that has the task of referring to the King what you do. Your behaviour shall be simple, dignified and full of delicacy.

There are those who pretend to be deaf to the suggestions of others, let it not be so with your angel. Every good thought neglected is an act of delicacy towards him. Jesus could say: *"There are those who have ears but do not understand."*

Listen to him! He speaks to the innermost heart, he speaks by means of books or people. His voice is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is mixed with his and he carries out his desires.

When you feel sad, invoke him, so that he may bring a ray of light in you, a spark of the most pure joy of which the angels are bearers. Your recourse shall never be in vain.

True friends are considered by the Holy Spirit as a real treasure. In the world true friends are few, more than often they betray and in need distance themselves. But your angel is the true friend who takes a living part in your joys and in your sorrows and, as he carries out his action in order to hinder all that can harm you in body and in spirit, he tries to help you to capture all that is good for you.

The occasions of sin are numerous and many times are unforeseen, just

as the dangers of losing one's health and life are so numerous, but your angel is like the light which, lighting up the way, points out the difficulties and levels it out with the concurrence of your will.

Do not forget therefore, him who is at your right hand as your attendant. Do not spare him your trust, give him the most delicate and important tasks. Pray to him and thank him for the services that he freely gives you.

Your angels were the victorious ones who in the battle that happened at the beginning of creation, remained faithful to God, keeping that humility which distinguished and distinguishes them from the demons. Ask to be able to imitate them and, if it is asked of you to battle in order to defend the truth, let the cry of the good angels "who is like God" be your cry, and the humility impetrated from them be your principal virtue that you will place at the basis of your perfection.

Teach your children to pray to their good angel and invoke the angels so that they may protect the Church, the Supreme Pontiff, all the families and institutions.

Perhaps you have no exact idea of the immense number of angels that work as in great unity of protection in the world. It is an army ever so powerful and sensitive to the necessities of all and each one. Your invocation puts the army on the move, especially when you authorize it to combat the enemies of man, the demons. If the devil is astute and strong, the strength of the angels is much superior, for they combat in the name of that God of hosts who has given life also to the demons and in whose hands is everything.

I bless you, children. May the Mass of the Angels fill you with grace and devotion.

THE PRAYER OF THE ROSARY

October 3, 1973

Beloved children, I am here with you and I cannot let you leave without giving you a word of encouragement and my maternal blessing.

I am the Queen of the Holy Rosary and I go everywhere asking for this prayer that must be not only the weapon of defence against the infernal

enemy, but also the bulwark attaching yourselves to which you may be able to safeguard the faith and repress the habits, ever so licentious.

The Rosary in families will be the means to maintain harmony and peace and to cleanse them from that immorality and that lack of fidelity that leads them to ruin.

The Rosary in parishes will be the means to bring to fervour all those who with coldness participate in parish life, and behave as those lazy ones who never take an extra step in order to improve and enlarge the Kingdom of God.

The Rosary is the means to sanctify work, in order to give comfort to those who suffer and to draw blessings and graces on to society and on the Church.

How many useless words, how many less murmurings and calumnies, how many less envies and wickednesses if in housing blocks, in hospitals, in workshops one prayed more! And how many graces and blessings for those who, overcoming human respect, promote this reawakening of faith which in this hour so difficult is indispensable.

May this month dedicated to the Rosary find you all ready and the fervour of your prayer push everyone to return to God and to change life.

I bless you one by one and I give you a task ever so dear to my heart: make so that in your homes or in your courtyards or after the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice in your churches, around you may join some willing people who wish to honour and beseech me with the prayer of the Rosary.

YOU MUST BE LIGHT

October 6, 1973

My children, so dear to my heart, here you are once more in order to offer me your floral tribute, mystical but real.

I welcome you into my bosom and I bless you. Will you always remain with me? I hope so and I desire so and, if you do not want to slip away from me by mortal sin and by repudiating me, I certainly, even if you are defective, will never dismiss you from me.

You are here with your Mother as good children and I bless you and I

caress you though giving you some warning, for I always want you more and more good. You are here in order to acquire that beauty that will render you the object of admiration on the part of God.

The worldly desire beauty in order to be pleasing to men. You have to be beautiful in order to be pleasing to God. There are places in which women go in order to beautify their face and sometimes instead of beautifying it make it ugly, but I assure you that, if you seek to beautify the soul by acquiring those virtues that I keep infusing in you, your face also will become more beautiful. Your eyes shall be more luminous. Are not the eyes perhaps the mirror of the soul? Your smile will be sweeter, because it will reflect that goodness which your heart will be full of. And your whole body shall be illuminated by that grace of God that animates it.

I am not saying to you that stupendous miracles will happen whereby your features may change or the years be taken away, but I promise you that youthfulness which God gives to those who stay close with faith, with love and with devotion to his altar.

What will I say to you today? What will I say to you now, while many are wasting the early hours in dangerous games, in unhealthy entertainments, in sins that offend God and bring evil consequences to all humanity? What shall I tell you? Children, rejoice, since this time that you spend so well, you will find it again one day. They will be your Rosaries matured into numerous conversions, whereby for every moment spent here in devout prayer you will rejoice for all eternity.

And what do I ask from you still? Children, the air is becoming more and more smoggy. You also ought to say like the disciples of Emmaus: "*Lord, stay with us because it is evening* (Lk 24:29)." But it is not enough, children, to pray for the Lord to stay with you. You must be light, make light, in order to bring to the truth, in order to bring others to God.

"If you do not convert, you will all perish in the same way (Lk 13:3,5)." So Jesus says. And you must be the echo of these words. Conversion is always in action in the life of the Christian, since everyone must perfect himself and improve. He who lives however, in a life of sin, must feel with greater force this call to conversion.

I appeal myself to you. Let your Christian life lived out wholly be a

continual call to those who have forgotten the Law of God and denied their own Creed.

Children, it is necessary for one to show through works that you believe in God. Faith without works is dead. It has been said to you: the charity that you will bring to your fellow man shall be an invitation for others to be good.

Do not be afraid of encountering enemies in your life. Outside of the invisible enemies against which you must combat with prayer and perhaps with fasting, the Christian must not have enemies. They are all children of God to whom you must go and meet with trust, with generosity and with goodness so that what St. Paul taught to the early Christians may be put into practise. He said in fact: *"I make myself everything for everybody in order to gain everyone for Christ."*

This is how I want you, children, and a zeal must animate your prayers and your works, it must inform your whole existence: the zeal for the glory of God.

Definitely, children, if you do not wish to lose time, do everything for the greater glory of God. What importance can the praises of people have for you? Perhaps you think that they will make you better than you are? And if you are not good, perhaps you think that the praises may sanctify you?

Remember that an humiliation accepted well makes you spiritually improve more than the praises that can come to you from all the men of earth. That's why I invite you to be avid for humiliations, if you wish to pass by the same road travelled on by my Jesus, by me and by all the saints.

One cannot serve two masters, either you satisfy one or the other. Whoever wishes to satisfy the world serves it, but it is the enemy of God. Therefore, it is better to serve God amidst the humiliations that the world reserves to those who do not serve the world, but God alone.

When you come here and tell people also religious ones that you sacrifice the hours of sleep, they mock you and they pity you, but I praise you and I bless you and I am happy that the world does not applaud you. If all the good were to make a league of good in order to combat all the evil that in the same hour is committed, good would suffocate evil and it would be the triumph of God in the world.

Children, be happy, be good, be persevering.

I bless all and those who zeal for the honour of my house, rendering it more and more welcoming and serene. May your prayer rise to Heaven as a sweet perfume and give you peace.

I INVITE YOU TO MEDITATE THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

October 7, 1973

My beloved children, joy and graces be to you and to your families.

I am always here to welcome you, but on the solemnities that concern me I come in the sanctified places with a host of souls. Today I have brought with me many saints who have loved in a special way the devotion of the Rosary.

You also know some who have filled every free time of the day with the recitation of the beads. Every day it was a basket of roses that were offered to me by these saints who also had ministerial commitments and very strong conventual rules, so that others with difficulty would have been and learned to have been faithful to this marvellous offering.

Now what would these saints say to you? Love the heavenly Mother, love her intensely, that is, with all your heart. Love her, because with this love she uses it to bring you to God. Serve her, this Mother, because with your services she uses them in order to bring her Jesus to the world and realize his Kingdom. Honour her, this Mother, by becoming so many images of Her.

Imitating the person that one loves intensely is a consequence of this love. If you want for my Jesus one day, meeting you in Heaven, to greet you as his mothers, brothers, sisters, here is the model.

I was a creature of earth, but I equalled and exceeded in love the Seraphim. My task is the same as yours. The Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai and which are now the code of the Christian, like they were then for the Hebrew people, were also for me a Law to be observed. I therefore, had to love God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength. I practised this commandment and I performed it in every moment of my life.

You also live my life of human creatures. The Rosary ought to make you become gigantic in the love of God.

May the God who becomes man, the God who is born in a stable, the God who is offered to the Father, the God Child who becomes the Teacher of the wise of the earth, open your heart to that love made of gratitude, of respect and of trust. He wants to be loved with your intelligence, with your heart, with your will. This is what honouring me with recitation of the Rosary means: it means to imitate me, giving to God that homage of love that He expects from you.

Children, I want to make you continue in virtue. The saints whom I brought you have made the sorrowful mysteries their Way of the Cross. Without sorrow there is no remission. They have suffered the pains in the Garden of Gethsemane, of Calvary and they are culminated in the Crucifixion.

Strength from the Rosary, and on their road they invite you to walk. Some saints had intimate pains, moral pains, spiritual pains, pain caused by creatures; and yet they were happy with that, they wanted to participate in a concrete way, feeling on their bodies the pains suffered by my Son, and also they wanted to give comfort to my sorrows making them their own.

In this way you live a life of tribulations and of sorrows, but I also lived your everyday pains. Imitate me, do like me in the different contingencies of life.

If you find yourself without a home, I too was. If you find yourself in the greatest needs, up to lacking everything, I found myself in this situation. I had to imitate my Son, who was able to say: *“The foxes have their holes, the birds their nest, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head (Mt 8:20).”* And I was so poor like none of you are.

If someone were to say to me of being slandered, misunderstood, criticized, I say to you that my whole life has been so. Along this same road the saints pass and will pass.

If some mother weeps over the death of a son, I am with her; but I weep over many sons, lost through sin and through vice. All the sorrow that has wounded my heart has been of no use to arouse in them the love of God and neighbour.

But, children, I want to make you catch a glimpse of glory, of Para-

dise, where you will be as if absorbed by love. If in the sky, after a storm, a rainbow appears, all eyes are fixed on those multicoloured circles that gladden as a sign of peace. Well then, children, in Heaven, where you will be wrapped in a sea of light, one point alone would be nothing to attract your attention. The love of God for men will have its fulfilment and the love of man for God will have its manifestation. It will be a joy without a boundary and without end.

All this the saints here present say to you and I say to you, inviting you to meditate the glorious mysterious. Therefore, may the Lord be always loved and blessed in all the places of earth as in Heaven, and my Rosary serve to reawaken love for God and neighbour, love for the cross and the desire for Paradise.

With a cry of the most pure joy my devotees greet you, who enjoy the vision of God and my tenderness.

Let a blessing to all be an encouragement and a help.

Thank you to those who with commitment and with great love make me known and loved. Even spreading the Rosary beads or bringing into homes a blessed image is a sign of love.

Again a greeting and a wish. I clasp you one by one to my heart and I urge you: be as good as possible. Goodness has been a special characteristic of mine, for Jesus had modelled his heart on mine and my heart had to be a copy of his.

May you also be living copies of mine. You will make me happy.

PRAYER AND ACTION

October 9, 1973

Beloved children, peace and joy be to your hearts!

Look, I pray with you. I am your Mother, but I am also Our Lady of the Heart of Jesus, whereby your entreaties, after having passed through my hands and after having been enriched with my merits, I present to Him so that He may grant them.

How beautiful is your prayer when it is deprived of that egoism whereby everyone would like to make present only and always their own need! How beautiful is this prayer that is both vocal and mental

whereby you can, growing in it, become true contemplative souls who keep their thought constantly turned to God and his interests.

I like speaking to you about myself, so that you too like me can praise God for the marvellous works that He has done in my soul. That's why I can say to you that, even though the daily occupations of spouse and mother absorbed a good part of my day, my actions were done with so much love as to be considered a prayer.

In this way I would like for you to imitate me in order to make your life more and more holy. I relate a little Gospel deed to you.

Jesus had entered into the house of his Bethany friends, and Martha went to Him and invited Him to stay for dinner with them. Mary, the sister of Martha, when she saw Jesus seated, knelt at his feet and was listening to Him.

Martha, who was all busy so that nothing would be lacking to this precious guest and to the friends that He had brought with Him, turned to Jesus saying to Him rather resolutely: "*Teacher, command my sister to help me.*" And she meant to say not to keep her there doing nothing. To which Jesus responded: "*Martha, Martha, you worry yourself over too many things. Mary has chosen the better part (Lk 9:41-42).*"

Certainly Martha did her daily duties with care, but without putting in that spirituality that serves to elevate them and to transform them, so as to make them become a true prayer.

Now you see how prayer can be an action ever so mechanical and sometimes only material, while the most banal things can become a precious offering if accompanied by a true mental elevation.

At this point, as I regret that many Christians do not find a moment of their day in order place themselves in communication with God, I want to give joy to those who out of contingent necessity must sometimes leave God for God, leave prayer that is, for the good work, and to render thanks to the Lord so that, if the manner changes, the substance of praying does not change.

It is also true, children, that our Jesus has given us the example of continual prayer and the day was not enough for Him, thereby spending many hours of the night also in prayer. I prayed with Him when He was in our poor little house, and prayer became a very pure joy for us and a

great gift for humanity.

Many hold that it is lost time that spent in praying and they do not know that from God then strength, health and grace come to cope with the daily duties.

Now then, also in many religious institutes and in some seminaries and convents there is a tendency to diminish prayer in all its forms and to substitute it with action. What a big mistake! Well could Jesus repeat to all these called his word, as a reproach: "*Mary has chosen the better part.*"

Perhaps one thinks that, embracing the religious state, one had to forget being at the service of God even in a direct way, that is, addressing to Him those adorations, those praises and those manifestations of love that are suitable for God, the Spouse of souls?

It is a tremendous temptation that which makes prayer undervalued compared to action, which aims at destroying the Kingdom of God. Moreover, there are also those who, flattered and attracted by the thought of helping the poor and the workers, underdeveloped peoples and in war, see fit with having to act and to bring their convictions to the upper spheres or into the surroundings in which they live.

Children, if justice demands that all the poor be helped to live in a way worthy of their quality of men and of children of God, if it is just that all be sanctified and give something of their own in order to come in aid of the needy, you must not forget that it is not the riches that elevates man, who many times in wellbeing becomes more depraved, but it is the spiritual and moral elevation that gives to man the serenity and the happiness even in the straits in which he can come to find himself.

Therefore, do not be afraid of exaggerating by giving to God a part of your time. Have the clarity of ideas in the fulfilment of your works that have to bring comfort and help to your neighbour, that they may be animated by that vital breath which is love and bring these convictions to your brethren.

May all learn to elevate themselves and affirm that if work in itself as a chastisement for sin lowers man, when it is transformed into prayer, it becomes a means of purification and source of joy.

Children, be Martha and Mary. I help you and I bless you. To all my embrace.

MAKE ME A GIFT OF YOUR TEARS

October 13, 1973 (in Turin)

My dear and beloved children, see, I welcome you in my arms one by one, I bless you, I caress you and I want to give you consolation.

You have for the greater part a heart that bleeds for the wounds that you receive from your family members. Your same sorrows are also mine, since those who make you suffer, as they bring offence to my divine Son, at the same time they make me suffer. These children lose the faith, they move away from God, but how will they be able to confront the difficulties of life?

Have you seen what happened at Fatima, in the not so far away 1917, exactly on this day in the month of October? The sun started to swirl round and round and then, as if it were about to fall on the head of the many thousands of persons present, it lowered itself to the improbable.

Would you believe it? While the people that saw the miracle beat the breast in order to ask forgiveness for their sins, not far away from there sinning continued and those same ones who had seen, a little later forgot and became as before.

And now, what happens in the world? Do you not hear talk of extraordinary things and do you not see chastisements or extraordinary trials? And yet the world continues on in its wickedness, in its pride, obstinacy and indifference. And what will become of so many unfaithful and incredulous children? Mothers, sisters, all children, do not ask yourselves the reason for your sufferings, but make me willingly a gift of your tears. A tear is a ruby embedded in your crown and it is a price of redemption.

How much I want to assure you that your tears have a force of command on the heart of Jesus and mine!

Do you recall the widow of Naim who followed weeping the coffin of her dead son? Jesus approached that woman, probably her tears had wounded his Heart. He approaches the coffin and gives back to the widow the son restored to life.

And perhaps are not many children dead to grace? Learn to weep with Jesus, learn to make a gift of your suffering. If you ask me then how you must behave with those who err, I say to you: do as I do. After having

offered in person, pray to God that He may send his light to illuminate minds and that with the strength of his love He may soften hearts.

When sin enters into a soul, the heart hardens and not even the most sacred affections are understood. If you were to see the ruin that sin brings into families, you would be dismayed. The hardness of heart makes one forget God, wife, husband, children.

An unhealthy affection enters into the heart: with it enters infidelity and everything seems unbearable. Children, the family is the cell of society and what will become of so many cancerous cells and in the putrefaction phase? Society is ruined and all the branches are affected, even the Church suffers the consequences in its members in high and low levels.

It is a swarming of errors that come from false doctrines and from the accommodating theory that makes one seek his own comfort. Try and speak to the young about prayer and penance, they will laugh at you. And yet in the apparitions at Lourdes and at Fatima and in the many apparitions of these last years, to maintain the words of Jesus, I did not ask and do not ask but prayer and penance.

What did Jesus say? *“Pray without ceasing.”* *“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Mt 26:41).”* And again: *“If you do not convert and do penance, you will all likewise perish (Lk 13:3, 5).”*

And now what do I ask you? Learn to make of your life a continual Rosary, a true Holy Mass. Learn that is, to offer up moment by moment what the will of God allows in your homes. I have said to you that you must learn to weep, and now I say to you that you must learn to hide your tears under the veil of a serenity that is a pointer of the goodness of your heart.

Even if it is lawful and proper to express your thoughts, to manifest your disappointment for certain behaviours, your goodness must always have the upper hand and must be more convincing than any word. Let your motto be this: to love up to immolation in order to gain the greatest number possible of souls for the Lord.

There are some mothers who ask themselves: *“Perhaps the Lord wants something more from me, perhaps He wants me to pray more, to suffer more?”* Daughters, whoever wants to reach an aim, even in the material field, directs his every thought to it and every action tends to realize it. I do not wish to put a limit on your generosity. Act so that every minute of your day may be sanctified by an intention of salvation.

What I say to the mothers, I say to all, for everyone can arise to the grave duty and so sweet too of paternity and maternity even if only in the spiritual field.

You have an ideal in life, you have a sure faith, you have the hope of reaching Paradise with many souls attracted by you to the faith, and be certain that the Lord keeps his promises in a precise way. Whoever saves a soul has the certainty of saving his own.

I bless you again and with great love.

Goodbye and thank you.

MAKE YOURSELVES LITTLE

October 17, 1973

Most beloved children, who overcoming many difficulties and beating that natural inertia that would invite you to rest, you have come here in this place in order to honour me and to ask me for graces, may you be blessed.

You come to me, I come to you and our encounter makes holy affections, holy thoughts and holy desires mature which will lead to the practise of many important works.

I bless you every time that you get together and I give you as a precious maternal teaching, a lesson that must enlighten you on the way to behave yourselves with God, with neighbour and with yourselves. They are useful teachings that I myself learnt at the school of my Son, which can give you a foretaste, practising them, of that most pure joy that you will taste in understanding the divine truths that will be fully revealed to you in Heaven. Today I invite you to reflect on the words that my Jesus said one day to his disciples: “*Whoever sees Me sees my Father*”. And again: “*No one comes to the Father except through Me* (Jn 14:6).”

I would like to bring you closer to a manger and show you a Child, give Him into your arms and repeat to each one of you: He is your life, He is your salvation. Only through Him can you ascend to the Father. To this Child who gives life, you must give your intelligence, your goodness, your life.

It is He who must teach and who must guide you, even if He makes

use of my hands to lead you. How lovely it is to think you as so, as little children by the hand to my Jesus who in my turn I lead.

The world is full of adult people who at any price do not want to accept to be little. They are like the successful, the men; they think they are sufficient to themselves and have only to dictate the law to others. My Jesus, the Son of God, willed to overturn the human laws, He made himself little, defenceless. He, the Eternal Wisdom of the Father, willed to learn everything as any child. He, the Life, willed to have need of food in order to live. He, the Infinite Perfection, willed to learn a skill and to perfect himself in that school of a humble artisan.

He said one day that the little would have confused the wise. It is because of this that, getting you closer to Him and speaking to you about Him, I want you all little. I desire for you to possess true wisdom.

In the world ambitions lead to ruin, the Son of God boasts about being the poorest of the poor. Further ahead He will be nailed to a cross, right from birth He chooses his condition: to be poor. When you see a poor child you are moved and your heart suggests to help him. In fact in all the poor that you help, you help Jesus, but my Child is the poorest of all. He wants to be rich only with love in order to call everyone alongside himself and He desires from all a return of love.

My Jesus is the road that you must travel on in order to reach the Father. To be Christians because one is baptised is too little. To be Christians because one is anointed with the Holy Chrism in Confirmation is too little. One needs to travel with Him, on his footsteps, holding Him by the hand and resting oneself on my heart.

You suffer when a misfortune hangs over you and, while it seems to you that a storm is gathering over your head, you are afraid and you turn from left to right in order to ask for help.

My Jesus is peace and serenity, He is joy. If you entrust yourselves to Him, these gifts of which He is the source are yours. Trust my Child, be children like Him, you too spread joy. When a soul lives out its spiritual infancy, it always finds the way to make others rejoice, even if the weight of years or the ailments of an unstable health makes one suffer.

There were the angels alongside and above the hut that announced the joy, but He would have been enough to fill the heart with happiness. A Christian that does not know how to be serene and how to spread joy,

evidently has not yet gone into that wonderful well of happiness that is the Christian life. Now I say to you: at the school of my Child be joyful. If every morning at your awakening you were to fill yourselves with Him who is life and joy, you also would learn to rejoice.

Your brethren have the right to be helped by you. Perhaps your occupations do not allow you to do differently, but one thing will be otherwise easy for you: to make everyone who live with you and whom you meet in the different hours of the day happy.

You will wonder perhaps that just today in which the Church recalls the gifts of love come from the Heart of my Jesus by means of St. Margaret, that I speak to you about his birth and his infancy. In order to arrive at comprehending the heart of a person, one needs to study his life in all its details. Bit by bit you will understand everything.

For the moment make yourselves little. Welcome my Child with love into your heart feeding yourselves with the Most Holy Eucharist. Receive Him in your arms and bring Him into your home with your humility, with love for poverty and with much joy.

I bless you again and I promise you to hear your prayers. I will make you feel the affection of our encounter in the first Rosary that you will recite in your home.

See you again, children!

THE WHOLE WORLD IS YOURS

October 21, 1973

Dear and beloved children, peace and grace be to you and to all those whom you commend to me. I am the Immaculate Virgin, I am the Mother of God and Mother of all men.

I desire that the idea of this universal motherhood be truly clear in your mind, which must animate you to render more and more extended the intentions of your prayers and more and more universal your desires of good.

There is no state in life, no colour of skin, no family situation or spiritual condition that limits this motherhood of mine through which I, loving everyone, for I welcomed everybody as children at the foot of the cross, wish, like my Jesus everyone saved. The good and the bad, the

faithful and the unfaithful, the beautiful and the ugly, they are all mine, all my inheritance and they will have to be my crown, provided they want to be. That's why you must not limit your possibilities and to contribute by your collaboration to my glory and yours.

What disgust does egoism give to God which would like to make the creature a centre of attraction! What a mistake it is to combat in others those defects which you yourselves do not succeed in freeing yourselves from, only because self-love makes you justify yours and combat those of others.

In the broad views of the spirit no evil must seem irreparable to you. What does not bring spiritual benefits to humanity is all to be condemned, but every guilty one must be before your sight as before mine, like a sick one whom you can help to cure.

I want you all doctors of souls, confident and serene. Hope is life and you, with trust and hope, must possess such a drive as to be able to supply others also.

It has been said to you sometimes that the world is like an immense hospital, but if the sick that inhabit it are flanked by specialist doctors and assisted by generous nurses who go out of their way without sparing themselves, there will be strength and light in them whereby they will entrust themselves confidently and peacefully to those who help them.

The whole world is yours, children. You are all called for the conquest of souls. Do you have sad thoughts regarding some of your relatives and children? Does their lack of faith, rejection of God and his Law disturb and distress you? But no, have trust. Do you not know how great the power of God is? He who commanded the shapeless mass and established the laws of nature, He who commanded the fury of the waves and placated them, He who overcame death in others and in himself can very well overcome the reluctance of men to serve Him and He can transform them.

A wave of evil seems to unleash itself on the earth and overthrow everyone in its fury. Stretch out your arms, let your desire welcome into your heart all the degenerate children of the earth. Together with your loved ones, all my children have to change and be transformed.

The tribulations of the flesh, those of the spirit and all the sorrows which humanity is weighed down with are like a crane of immense pro-

portion which, handled by the powerful hand of God, can bring immense values suitable to build an eternal happiness.

Let us join together, we are the Church. Let us do so that, reappraised by the blood of Christ and my tears, the suffering of all humanity may become a price of ransom.

Oh, the faith, children! What a precious gift! It is not opium, because it does not serve to hallucinate and put souls to sleep. Faith makes one live, it gives energy, it is the anchor of salvation, it is hope in the future, it is strength to do good.

You must have faith and bear witness to it in the different trials of every day. All must have faith. God grants this gift to all those who desire it. He speaks through his works just as He speaks through revelation. But presently more than ever, others, your neighbour, all men, in order to believe in God want a human witness, they want to see how Christians live in order to accept their faith.

There will also be the wayward who even before the example of the saints will not want to accept, but it is a temporary thing.

I would like to say to you that "*He who holds out will overcome it*", as you say. And do you know why? Because persevering for your whole life, keeping faith to one's convictions, following the morality derived from it, is a marvellous work that involves the intervention of God. That's why the life of a holy mother can be, after her death, a call for the lapsed children.

Never get dismayed. Embrace your cross always with trust and persevere in good. Let the world be your field of work, all men be your beautiful family that you must love and for whom you must suffer and pray for.

Your desires of universal good will procure for you infinite rewards, before which you will be amazed and filled with wonder.

Be all united like the stones of one only building and collaborate so that no one may be lacking that moral, spiritual and also material help that will be like the cement that consolidates the construction.

And now I embrace you, while, lodging you in my heart, I communicate the divine life of my Son to you. To all my affectionate goodbye.

Remember, the world will be God's and yours in the measure that you wish it.

AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

October 22, 1973

Dear and beloved children, how much my heart enjoys your prayer and your presence. I am here with you truly as Mother and I give you the sign that gladdens you so much.

Well then, children, you bring me your heart full of love and of sorrow and I give you mine, swarming with love and sorrow. In this exchange of gifts there is the expression of your tenderness and mine.

I look at you one by one and I confirm to you that the Most High has done great things in you, to whom you must render glory and give your thanks unceasingly.

You have had very serious illnesses and troubles and the Lord has even miraculously healed your body. Now the only preoccupation that must occupy your mind is to be that of making yourselves holy.

The time that the Lord puts at your disposal is always little. Behave so that not even one moment is wasted. And I mean to say that time is wasted when you do not occupy it in the service of God.

How must you serve God? The great works that require physical strength and superior means are not for you. You have to serve Him in the fulfilment of your daily duty with an ever renewed love and fervour. When you pray, you serve God; when you work, you serve God in your neighbour.

In this way, with the same commitment and with the same heart with which you have prayed here in my presence, dedicate yourselves to your neighbour seeing in each one the face of my Jesus.

Does the health of your family members worry you? But no, be calm. You who have seen miracles, must not be lacking in faith. Remember that in suffering the soul is purified and that exercise is practised which, reinvigorating the spirit, gives the capacity to understand others. He who does not learn to suffer will be an egoist and will not understand who-ever suffers.

I bless all those present and I wish that at every Rosary a particular grace be given to you and that you welcome it with gratitude; a current grace that gives you strength in all the days of your life.

See you again, children!

BOTH GOOD AND EVIL HAVE THEIR CONSEQUENCES

October 1973, 1973

My dear children, how much that dialogue pleases me which you let precede your prayer! I assure you that it is useful for your experiences and for your mind, which in that way is enriched with new ideas, so necessary.

I desire to give you very clear ideas and I give you them also through my instrument.

Man lives by imitation and generally what he sees or reads becomes a spiritual food. If what he ingests through reading is poisoned, the soul, the heart and his entire life will suffer its evil consequences. Even the closeness or the knowledge of the evil that others do has its consequence and not rarely you have heard of young people who, imitating what they have seen on the newspapers or films, have completely ruined themselves.

Therefore, the responsibility of those who give life to those powerful means of communication that is the press and the cinema is great. When a newspaper or a magazine therefore, qualifies itself as Christian, it ought to be from the first to the last page an invitation to sanctity and it ought to lean towards building that new world which everyone hopes for.

But in order to better explain to you, I remind you of the words St. Paul expressed in his teachings. He says in fact that, just as sin entered into the world by the fault of one man alone, so through one man alone came justification. I want to make the thought much clearer to you. Adam and Eve with their disobedience brought ruin to all men, and Jesus with his obedience justified all men by giving grace to them.

When evil is committed, it can have consequences which neither time nor space can limit. Every sin always has a repercussion also on others. If it is so for a sin that can be unknown to all, what shall it be for a scandal that can invite others to evil? When then with the velocity of the wind the news is propagated by means of the press, you understand that it can be to the detriment of entire families and nations.

The press is like an arm that can invite to good and can lead to commit-

ting the most horrendous crimes. May it come well therefore, the warning of being watchful and prudent in printing news and in pointing out as if they were models, persons whom, if they are talented with a knowledge or a human capacity, do not mirror in the same way a morally healthy life. If the press which proposes itself as Christian does not denounce as immoral some deeds and the behaviour of some persons in pointing them out to the public opinion, it is as evil were to be made lawful.

Moreover children, I wish also to invite you to act in harmony when it is proposed to you to make your complaints. It is not about being rebels, but of defending good, morals, faith and to induce those who preside and collaborate in the press, to prepare for all a healthy food, perhaps with the risk of losing customers.

If evil spreads, good also spreads and to go back to St. Paul, the justification of One has been for all, and whatever good one soul alone can do, it can be like a lever that raises and makes the whole world enamoured of good.

In this way, things being seen in the light of the truth of the Gospel, it all becomes easy. Jesus in fact warns you to prepare yourselves for his coming, which He himself is represented in the master who returns from the wedding, by girding your loins and keeping the lamp lit in the hand. But what does that mean? - you could ask me.

Girding your loins is a sign of mortification. If the curiosity and the desire to know and to propagate news can be to the detriment of public morality, behold mortification intervenes as a means in order to defend oneself and in order to combat.

And what does the lamp signify? Children, the lamp in the hand that will illuminate you and others, is the faith. Certainly, if you want light, you cannot hide the lamp under the bed.

You must have eyes opened, a desire for truth, readiness in defending it. You must always be also on the breach, always attentive, always in expectation of the Master, of Jesus, who could arrive in any moment of the day or the night.

Your soul, children, is dear to me like a precious vineyard that I must cultivate. But the vineyards are many and all run the same risks.

You have to learn to defend yourselves, like you learn to defend yourselves from the vipers or from poisonous snakes and like you defend

yourselves from infectious diseases. Let vigilance, prudence, mortification, love for the truth be your guide. I accompany you along the streets you must travel on and I lead the way for you.

I bless you one by one.

I bless those who also at the cost of encountering reproaches or observations commit themselves to spread the ideas, the suggestions and the counsels that they receive in this place.

Goodbye to all with ever renewed fervour.

TO THE SEMINARIANS

October 24, 1973

Be blessed, children! You have made a choice in your life which, even if it does not mature into a priestly vocation for some of you, it shall be equally dear to the Lord.

You ought to thank the Lord all the days of your life for having giving you the desire to distance yourselves away from the dangers of the world, overcoming even your attachment to the family and to your habits, in order to live all united, under the guidance of chosen priests and in this way be able to acquire full knowledge of what God wants from you and learn the way to carry out this divine will.

You have undertaken the best thing then, which will serve you forever. You only have to behave yourselves in a way that your superiors can educate you and make you know the great responsibilities that every man has before God, before men and to himself. They are important things that you will take in little by little, if you learn to be docile and obedient.

Not having understood the great gift of life signifies wasting it. Appreciating besides the gift of life that special call of God, signifies corresponding to his grace and sanctifying oneself.

I therefore, will not let you leave here without you having promised me to be obedient to the superiors and to obey with love. If you put these two things at the basis of your spiritual life, I on my part promise you that you will reach the aim for which you have left your home in order to unite yourselves in community and today have left this commu-

nity in order to visit me.

When souls desirous of good entrust themselves to me, rest assured also that they will not be lost. Before leaving here, you will give me your hearts of which you will make me Mistress, and I promise you that not one of you will be lost.

One day, and it will be the last, I will come to meet you and I will bring you into glory in order never to be separated ever again. But you must merit eternal glory with a holy life.

I am your immaculate Mother, I am she who from God himself has had the charge of guarding you and helping you to reach perfection. If you will be docile, if you will love me, I shall be your conquest and you my crown.

Love me, love one another and love everyone, united to my Jesus. In his love the sorrows of life are sweetened and the joys consolidated.

Goodbye, children. I bless you one by one and I thank you.

I DESIRE TO SEE YOU GROW IN SANCTITY

October 26, 1973

Dear and beloved children, I am with you. I am the Queen of the Universe, your Mother.

I am here as at a special hearing and a confidential dialogue. I want to express some desires to you and I am certain that you will listen to me and hear me, as I promise to hear you.

You find me every month and I do as the mothers do with their newborn, I count the months in order to see you grow and measure your spiritual stature. So, while I desire that you remain always little through humility of thought, I desire to see you grow in sanctity.

There are neglectful mothers who do not take care of their children, but I assure you that my cares towards you exceed those of the most wise and most considerate mothers.

I desire therefore, for your spiritual life to be always more flourishing and strong, rich with that light that comes from above and with that grace that is like the lifeblood that circulates in the body vivifying it. That's why I advise you that when one day a month, sacrificing your

family commitments and renouncing perhaps some relief or some rest, you come here to receive light, on the morning of this same day go to approach the holy sacraments in order to be vivified by grace.

This has to be a very special day for what you give me and above all for what you receive. I promise you special graces, which you will see as a gift of Heaven in your families and in the realization of those desires that are so dear to your heart.

I watch over those who love me and to those who give me one, I give a hundred. But to those who, obeying my invitation, separate themselves from the world and join together in a cenacle in order to pray, I am very generous with blessings.

When a soul feels the need for prayer it is a good sign, because it denotes a desire for perfection and knows whom to address its invocations to.

When one is sick of prayer it is a bad sign, because it means preferring to stay in misery rather than acquiring the riches placed in the heart of God.

If then you want to know how the devil thinks about it in this regard, I will tell you that he does not disturb too much those who do not pray because he already feels them in his possession.

If therefore, you feel the desire to communicate with God through prayer, thank the Lord and go along with this desire that comes to you from Heaven. Pray with your loved ones if it is possible for you, because the strength of prayer also derives from that union that you make with heart and soul with other persons. But if this is not possible, because your loved ones refuse to or because different occupations prevent it, pray alone even. Remember that for the Christian true solitude exists only when one does not want to enjoy the company of others.

You are always assisted by me. You have your good angel beside you who is connected with all the heavenly spirits. If you truly love God, you have the Most Holy Trinity as guest in your soul, and finally a multitude of souls, be they in glory as in Purgatory, are concerned for your needs and are intent on helping you in a loving communion.

How can you call solitude this reality? The real lonely one, because far from God, is he who willingly lives in mortal sin. Therefore, even if your eyes do not see but your person, look with the eyes of faith and

pray in union of spirit with this supernatural world which hangs over you.

If then you want to help everyone with your prayer, feel as living members of that one body which you belong to and your prayer will become help for your children near and far, it will give an apostolic spirit to the priests, it will give help to the infirm and to the dying, it will give faith to the unfaithful and light to the sinners, so as to become truly a universal rescue.

Children, little children grow in age and you must from one meeting to the other become wiser, more virtuous, more good. If your weakness makes you fall again into the usual failures, do not get distressed. Be like the little children who are restless to walk; they fall, they get up again, they fall again, until they walk confidently.

What do good mothers do when their children fall and, crying, seek their arms? They pick them up from the ground, they squeeze them to the heart and cover them with kisses. I will do the same with you. Do not be alarmed, call me always; I will cover you with kisses and I will help you to continue on your journey.

Children, I bless you all. Be good, I beg you, more and more detached from the things of the world.

I bless the hearts of the mothers and I desire to give them so much generosity up to heroism.

See you again, children!

TO THE SEMINARIANS

October 27, 1973

Children, be the welcomed ones! You are my chosen ones and I, blessing you with every blessing, squeeze you one by one to my heart and I promise you to be constantly at your side in order to help you to travel on the not easy way that brings you to the priesthood. You have only to be humble in order to be able to persevere and you have only to ask for help to him who can give it to you.

I rejoice that you have come here on this day which by little precedes the feast of All Saints. You also have been called to holiness and better

than most others you must reach it.

Today is also the day of the month in which my title of “Miraculous” is remembered. Your holiness shall not be however, of this kind, that is, a holiness made of extraordinary things, that is miracles. Yours will be like a loving response to the infinite love of God. Therefore, it will be a commitment to do with particular precision and truly for love those daily duties that comprise your life.

If you will learn to put a pinch of love in all that you do, you will walk swiftly on the road to sanctity. The years do not count, for you know that one can die at any age. The most important thing is to fill your life with love. Love of God and neighbour are the two commandments that form the summary of the whole Law.

Your duties towards God you know them in part and then, as you grow, they will appear to you clearer and clearer before your eyes. However, it shall all be identified in these words: corresponding to his call.

You can summarize love of neighbour in this sentence: do not do unto others what you would not like to be done to yourself. If you travel along this track, everything will be simplified. Every evening, reviewing your day, you will be able to verify of having taken a step forward in love and of having acquired a little grain more in sanctity.

The vocation to the priesthood demands holiness as a base, for the priest must be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. In the fulfilment of your daily duties you feel the presence of God, who, guiding your steps, points out to you the summit to be reached.

I bless you again, children, and as you consecrate your heart to me, I will place a hand on your head in sign of protection.

Pray every day for the Church, especially for those who have become in her like insipid salt because they have not corresponded to the call, to the holiness that was pointed out to them with special persistence.

I WANT YOU ALL MISSIONARIES

October 28, 1973

Beloved children, I am the Queen of the Missions here present amongst you in order to invite you to raise up your prayer every day for all Christians, so that, being aware of the great gift of the faith received, they can feel alive the desire to propagate it.

Really the missionary problem ought to touch everyone of you closely, even if presently the thought and the theory that every religion is good has weakened in all the desire to make others sharers of this immense wealth that is the faith.

I desire that this problem become pressing for you and I draw good hopes from the fact that you have wanted to enrich your chapel with the effigy of Saint Therese, whom the Pontiff wanted as Patroness of the Missions.

Why do you have to pray for the missions and to be of help to the missionaries? The great family of the human race is called to participate in that redemption which, accomplished two thousand years ago by my Son Jesus, is always active and will continue up to the end of the world.

Just as you have been called to the Christian life by the apostles, who, having left their lands, spread themselves over the world, and from the paganism to which your ancestors belonged you have become Christians, now it is up to you to make yourselves heralds of the divine doctrine, calling to the following of Jesus possibly all men.

It is true that not everyone feels the call to leave family and country in order to enlist as soldiers for the conquest of souls; but in every battle not everyone is in the front line, and yet even those who combat in the rear and those who supply the provisions can call themselves combatants and their actions are equally important and useful.

What did Therese do in the cloistered convent in order to be called the missionary with the missionaries? She offered her sufferings, her love, her prayers for them, and the combatants on the field of battle felt they were helped, defended from the dangers, assisted in the moments of discomfort and physical, moral and spiritual exhaustion.

The communion of saints is a reality ever so active, whereby no distances of time and of place exist in order to come and to go in aid of

everyone.

Is it true then that every religion is good? Children, the truth is one alone and the depositary of this truth is the Catholic Church, guided by the Divine Wisdom through the infallibility of the Pope. Even those who in good faith and have not heard other religions spoken about, because having grown up in places where other religions exist, can be saved just the same, but how many more dangers do they encounter, how much more superstition! And how much intense activity the devil does around these souls and how much less certainty of being saved!

By practising the Commandments that God has placed in the heart of men, all could be saved, but, if it is hard for you who have so much help from God through the sacraments and grace to love God and neighbour, how much more difficult will it be for the infidels, lacking this help.

How much sorrow, children, those souls give me who with levity, attracted by the beautiful and easy words of brethren who have sold their faith, leave Catholicism in order to follow sects that claim to be the true religion!

Children, you must be jealous of your faith as you are jealous of your honour, of your dignity and your health.

The true faith is the anchor of salvation, it is your defence, the joy of your life. If you love to have a good conscience so as to enjoy perfect peace, you have to make the faith your project. It is like a gold mine that you can constantly excavate and in which you find values and treasures suitable for every necessity.

If then you truly enjoy these treasures, you cannot bury them in your heart, like the servant which the Gospel speaks of, who, having received a talent, buried it under the ground in order to be able to deliver it to the master. You must traffic this great gift, and you must share it with others.

The Baptism that you have received and which has incorporated you into the Church as shoots of a great tree, binds you to make this gift which you call the apostolate. The Confirmation that makes you become soldiers of Jesus Christ, that is combatants for his honour and his glory, binds you. The Communion that gives you Jesus under the species of bread, made out of many grains of wheat and of wine, made out of many grapes binds you. And that prayer that Jesus taught you binds you, in

which each one prays in the name of all asking for the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord.

For all these things the Christian cannot selfishly think only for himself. Even if the prayer is directed to ask for the better things, it must have that ecumenical imprint, that is universal, that becomes a call for everyone. Have as a certainty that, if you pray and suffer for your missionaries and you help them in their apostolic works, the faith in families will not wane and, if some were to momentarily neglect or suffocate it, it will very quickly come back and make itself alive.

Children, I bless you from the heart. To all an affectionate kiss with a see you again always.

ONE HAS TO CORRESPOND TO THE CALL

October 29, 1973

My children, peace be to you and to your families.

I have seen your worries, I have listened at your discourses. You have asked yourselves: is it possible to be saved? It is possible, since my divine Son became flesh and died crucified in order to see you all saved.

There are some things however, said by my Jesus in the period of his public life that you give this certainty: "*He who believes and is baptised will be saved* (Mk 16:6)." And you are just among those people who have received Baptism and who believe in the truths revealed by God and taught by the Church.

One thing, however, could hinder your salvation: that of believing too superficially and of not accompanying your faith with those works that are as a consequence of it. To believe without to practise is like learning to read and not learning to write. They are two things that must walk at the same pace, because the practice of the faith is morals, which in substance is Christian living.

Faith is a gift of God that sometimes is annihilated, even if in the depth of the heart there is a certain belief that manifests itself occasionally, sometimes also with superstitions that can reveal a falsified faith.

When the Lord in his goodness calls, one has to correspond to the call.

You have heard and read of Saul on the way to Damascus who,

blinded and thrown off the horse, turned to the Lord saying: “*Who are you speaking to me (Acts 9:5)?*” And from that moment began his conversion. Moreover, you have also heard of the Magdalene, who from a look of my Son was called back to an honest life. And I can recall to you the parable of the master who sends his servants to call the workers at all hours and promises and gives to all the same reward.

The indispensable thing is that of corresponding to the call and to start, from the moment in which the light penetrates, to follow the new life, that of the risen man who is on a journey towards the celestial Jerusalem.

The things that deflect the gaze away from the destination are many, but there is above all the work of the evil one who is ever so tenacious and strong. A page of the Gospel speaks to you about it that narrates about that woman who the devil held under his dominion for eighteen years so as to compel her to be bent over. My Jesus cured her through the faith with which she had recourse to Him.

This could happen to all men who, though having received the gift of faith with Baptism, let themselves become lukewarm and disorientated by the worries and the temptations. If in a burst of love and in the desire to sanctify themselves and to improve, they learned to raise their cry: “*Lord, have mercy on us*”, the miracle would come about.

Unfortunately the life of the good presents a difficulty that many do not learn to overcome. Just as to my Jesus the rebuke was made of having cured the woman on the Sabbath day, so many open wide their eyes on those who do good in order to find a motive to accuse them. And while evil brazenly spreads itself and is justified, good has to make its way timidly and sometimes he who does it has to use much prudence and secrecy, not only in order to hide it from the eyes of the wicked who would criticize it, but also from the eyes of the good who hamper it and hinder it, if it were possible.

That’s why therefore, human respect and timidity find their reason or at least their justification in that lack of support that is denied from all sides.

The word of my Jesus remains always encouraging: “*He who shall confess me before men, I will confess before God (Mt 10:33).*”

That’s why therefore, my word of encouragement comes by the way in

order to say to you: welcome the light that comes to you from above. Follow it and practise it well, because there is a place for you in Heaven and there is He who waits for you.

Moreover, how can I not talk to you about your friend who looks at you from Paradise and rejoices over this little and beautiful gathering in her house? She has corresponded to the call and made herself a voice. She called as many as she could by example, by word and by a true love made of a continual offering.

Age does not count. The important thing is to follow the invitation of working in the vineyard of the Lord with promptness and without looking back, but always looking forward, loving everyone. This is what she did and now, she has become your protectress, she points out an example to you.

To all her blessing joined to mine, and the certainty that one day all united you may be able to sing with us the glories of the heart of Jesus, which she loved so much.

PRACTISE THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES

October 30, 1973

My children so dear to my heart, peace be to you and grace and every good in Jesus, our Saviour and Sanctifier.

Look, I come to you with hands filled with the most beautiful gifts of Heaven and to all I wish to make it a free gift. Who will receive more of it? I leave it you to decide. Perhaps those who have lived the longest are more worthy? Perhaps those who have a position of greater responsibility? Those who know how to weep and dig their heels in to want them or those who possess greater sanctity or the greatest misery?

Nothing of all this. A greater abundance of goods will be given to those who present to me the biggest receptacle to welcome them, that is, to those who have the most generous heart, whereby what they receive will become common wealth.

Did not my Jesus tell you that you must be like the yeast that ferments all the flour? Therefore, you must receive in order to give and you must bring among the world the substance of the faith, that is, the faith lived

out. You must bring the hope that gives confidence in every difficulty. You must bring the true charity. But what are these virtues if not the holiness to which you are called?

That's why therefore, I bring to you gifts of grace whereby, increasing the three theological virtues in you, you grow in holiness and as precious and efficacious yeast you heal society.

I want from you a heroic practise of the faith. Do you not receive special gifts here? Do you not touch by hand the extraordinary? If a grain of mustard seed could be enough as a quantity of faith to make you transport the mountains, why so many complaints, so many doubts, so many uncertainties?

The Lord is near, He is in you, He walks along your path, He loves you infinitely, He wants only your good. But why is this sure and granite like faith not the guide of your life? Would you like to build yourself a world made to measure, would you like a future according to your desires, but does it not seem to you that you are asking for unrealizable things? Perhaps you think that every child would not like to touch the stars or to put in his own little bucket the water of the sea? And are not men perhaps those eternal children who believe that they govern the world?

Have trust, my children. Live day to day, learning to accept and to offer up what Providence permits from time to time. When you do not know how to behave in different situations, look at the saints, look at me and above all look at the Gospel. No one can be a guide to himself, if he does not draw the light and the strength from Him who can give it. A strong faith does not let itself be knocked down by the thousand crosses which life is full of, it is a sign of holiness. In fact, the Holy Spirit tells you that the just man lives by faith.

Believing is coupled with hoping. In the exercise of faith, hope is strengthened. You are not here to stay for a long time on earth. The promised land, that the people of Israel reached after forty years of waiting, was only a figure of that Homeland which you must reach.

The years of waiting are always few, but your hope must solicit that blessed day and that desire for heavenly things to which you tend and to which you are headed for must never wane in you.

How much those souls grieve me who, disheartened, let their arms fall

and renounce the struggles of life! How much they grieve me those who speak of suicide as if they spoke about the remedy for every evil!

Children, hope points out a reality to you. If the seafarer were not to attach the anchor because inconvenient, or were not to accept being aboard a dinghy because it could not have the conveniences of a ship, tell me, what would happen?

You navigate on the treacherous sea of life and the billows and the waves and the tempests assail you on every side. But as the guide of your ship there is the Lord, the Creator of the world and I am there, your Mother, whom the good wished to call “Star of the Sea.”

Have faith therefore, have trust, which is like saying: have confidence in Him who will guide you certainly to port. Faith has to be heroic in you and also hope, since you have also seen with your eyes difficult situations resolve themselves as if by magic.

I add another invitation: you must have a heroic charity. Charity is the sun, it is the air for the soul that possesses it. But you cannot fabricate charity with good thoughts. The fount of charity is God himself. You have only to get close to Him moment by moment in order to participate in this richness of his which He wants to fill you with. Love teaches to forget oneself and to sacrifice oneself for others. Only this way do you become apostles and in a certain sense you can be also martyrs, because, crucifying continuously in yourselves your will, you make yourselves “everything for all in order to gain all for God.”

So, children, I want you and I already rejoice to see you as beacons of light illuminate the world, as precious yeast to bring vitality amongst the masses and one day increase the number of the saints that are waiting for you.

Be saints! Be holy wherever you find yourselves, wherever you carry out your mission.

Every category of persons have their own representatives in Heaven that can serve as models, even if every saint has his special features as every flower has its perfume.

Be saints yourselves, in order to create around your person a precious beehive that may produce very sweet honey, suitable to reinvigorate the Church and help it.

See, children, how many hidden dangers, how many errors, how many

clashes! By bringing holiness into your surroundings, you bring health.

I bless you with special affection.

I bless, with the priests present, all those who are a part of their spiritual family.

WHY DOES ONE GO TO PURGATORY

November 2, 1973

Beloved children, thank you for having come to pray in this place today in which many souls await the help of your prayer in order to be able to ascend into Paradise to enjoy the most blessed sight of God.

It is an act of charity of profound value the one that Christians do to the comfort of the suffering souls, which will be in its time rewarded, besides being very useful in the present life for the spiritual progress. I want however, as I congratulate you, to put you on your guard against the danger of having to stay too long in that place of purification.

Who goes to Purgatory? They go those who, though having detested their own sins in the sacrament of Confession, have a residual penalty to expiate, or because the sorrow has not been perfect or because other requisites demanded by that sacrament are lacking.

One goes to Purgatory because of the evil that one commits in life. But there is another reason that demands purification. Many times the same good is not done with that perfection that God requires. The good done badly has to be perfected, and Purgatory is the place destined to acquire the perfection, without which it is impossible to appear before God.

There is then another motive whereby souls cannot enter into Paradise straight away after death. To everyone the Lord entrusts a task, a mission that is all personal. Physical or spiritual laziness and the lack of zeal for the works of God can create those voids that you can call sins of omission, that is, the good that one should have done and which was not done.

For all these reasons souls suffer in Purgatory, feeling themselves drawn by the infinite love of God and not being able to reach Him. It is an unspeakable suffering which, making the souls burn with a fire, purifies them, as moment by moment it raises them upwards. The pain for

having corresponded poorly to the love of God is for them like a salutary bath.

It is true though that few are those who do not pass through these pains, which only in the other life will be able to be understood; but there is a means to avoid, as much as it is possible, these sufferings and it is the perfect love which, turning a simple offering into a great thing, is capable of giving to the soul an increase of grace and of sanctity.

That's why I beseech you to fill your day and your life with acts of love, so that through them not only does a beneficial and refreshing rain fall over the suffering souls, but much suffering may also be spared to you.

And now, my children, I bless you.

LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOUR

November 4, 1973

Children, I enjoy seeing you once again here all united by holy thoughts and desires. Holiness must be your hope, your conquest and the summit that you must reach. It is for this that it is indispensable for you to pray. No one can reach the summit without knowing the road that leads up to it. No one can reach holiness without the help of God, who, having loved you for first, gives you a gift of his love so that you may be able to love Him for himself and in the neighbour.

Holiness is properly love, true and deep love. There are some who, dividing the love of God from the one of the neighbour, forget that the indispensable Commandments are two, but indivisible, whereby one cannot subsist without the practice of the other. You must not be of these. The love of God must so fill your heart as to compel you to be always ready for his will; so that I may be able through your means to show the face of my Son to all the brethren, a real transformation must come about in you.

Your thoughts must mirror those of Jesus', they must be therefore, thoughts of salvation. Your affections must be the vibration of the heart of Jesus and they must have their most concrete manifestation in action, which makes you go out of your way for the sick, for the suffering of

every category, for the lapsed and for the poor.

Thoughts, sentiments, divine actions will render your life a true witness that will operate in the world to the advantage of all.

Courage, children, and walk always united along the paths of God, spreading the good perfume of Christ that gives peace and serenity to hearts.

I bless you all and each one in particular. To all my embrace and my good wishes.

THE MEANS TO ASK FOR FAVOURS

November 5, 1973 (in a private house)

Beloved children, peace and joy be to your hearts and to your families! You call me and I come. I am the Mother of God, the Queen of the Universe and I am your Mother who sees and scrutinizes your hearts, your thoughts, your spiritual and material needs in order to meet you halfway and to help you to cure the wounds that cover the soul sometimes more than the body.

You are here to represent all men, for they are all my children and your prayer becomes an efficacious means for a point of encounter between myself and all of them.

All have need of help and prayer. All must feel themselves as children in my arms, so that I may be able to carry out my mission of Mother towards them.

There are many however, who feeling needy of graces, do not know how to ask for them with that faith that is indispensable and with those guarantees that are so necessary. I explain to you, children. Many needy in soul and in body present themselves to God and claim to be heard not through a long prayer, not because they may have special merits, but only because they hold that, being needy, the Lord has the duty to help them. Therefore, they exclude humility from their requests, which they sometimes do not even wish to present, holding it an excessive demeaning. These children, do not understand the enormous distance that exists between themselves and God and how the Lord is not the cause of their woes, which man encounters only because of the sin.

The sin of Adam brought consequences to all his descendants, just as the bankruptcy of a head of family can bring misery to all those who comprise it. But sin, which amongst men has become like a necessity to which one does not want to renounce, continues in the world and its consequences continue like a cancerous wound that is impossible to heal.

One sins and one dies in sin. Men, rebelling against God, throw themselves into the arms of Satan, to whom they entrust themselves more than to the angels of the Lord.

And yet still the goodness of God governs the world and keeps it; God still intervenes and commands the agitated billows of the sea to calm down, and wants to place a dam on all that evil which, spreading itself, attempts to drag towards an incline all those who descend in it. God intervenes and wants to be prayed to with faith and with humility in order to give a hand to all. He desires this humble and fervent prayer from you, made in his grace.

There are many who, while asking for material graces more than the spiritual ones, declare themselves, if not by words but by deeds, enemies of God, because they do not possess the grace that makes them his friends. It is an indispensable condition that of possessing grace. How could you in fact, ask for favours from him whom you openly call an enemy?

Moreover, there is above all a means that has a divine strength that you can use in order to ask for favours. How I would like to talk to you persistently about the Holy Mass! It is Jesus who immolates himself still, though without the shedding of blood, and He offers himself to the Father in order to ask for mercy and help, whereby I do not hesitate to say to you: do you desire graces of any kind? Use the Mass, pray with the Mass.

The Father cannot refuse anything to his divine Son who supplicates in your favour. The priest celebrant is but only a simple instrument; the true celebrant is Jesus, who offering himself as victim, as once in the Cenacle and on Calvary, makes himself justifier and intermediary between humanity and God.

Do not want to neglect this great means and learn to value it, asking for all those spiritual graces that assure you a progress towards sanctity.

If then you want to be strengthened in your requests, entrust yourselves to those friends of God and your friends who have already overcome the trial and who enjoy the sight of God.

How many amongst those whom each one of you have known are already in Paradise! How many, though not having lived at your side, you have heard narrated what good they have done in life, whereby they can be your intercessors in Heaven. If you feel miserable, it is a great good thing. Well then, let your requests pass through their hands and your vows will be granted.

I am a Mother to you and I point out the most simple and the most easy roads to you because I love you. I love each one of you especially. I love and I bless those who live in this house, which I consider as my house or my little Bethany where all must be friends of my Jesus.

I bless all those who enter here in order to pray or to make a visit and I promise still special graces to all.

It is a year that you invite me every month to address my word to you, and the faith and the love with which you welcome it makes you worthy of divine favours.

Be persevering. Know that I do not promise anything without keeping my promises. Learn to wait, accepting the will of God and behaving yourselves as true Christians. God, who is infinite goodness, through his divine Son, through me and his saints, will grant you all that is useful for you for eternal salvation.

Thank and bless the Lord in every instant of your life, for He does everything well and He gives you every good thing for your happiness.

I bless everybody one by one. Persevere in good in order to help everyone to be converted and to be saved.

YOU ARE HERE TO RESPOND TO A PRECISE CALL

November 6, 1973

Beloved children, here I am with great confidence and with great hope in you.

You are my little children, it is true, you know how to do little; but I open before your eyes a stupendous vision. To everyone I show a field of immense work.

You are the privileged ones who, having responded to the call, have participated at the banquet of the rich Lord. The riches have not held you back like that someone who, having brought five pairs of bulls, had to go and try them out. Not even your commitments and work, which must occupy your daily hours, have held you back. You have therefore, learned to multiply your activity, so that no one from home would be lacking anything. You have not imitated him who, having brought a field, had to go and see it just when the master was inviting him to table.

You have accepted the invitation and, though giving to the family the place it deserves, you have not forgotten the words of my Jesus, addressed also to you: "*Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me* (Mt 10:37)."

Even matrimony, for he who was invited to the banquet, was a motive to excuse himself. And in the world it's done this way everywhere. The pleasures of the senses are an attraction to make one forget one's duties before God.

Did not Jesus in my company will to take part at the wedding of Cana? And was it not perhaps in order to give a meaning and a strength to a sacrament so important in family and social life?

The family is sanctified by the sacrament of Matrimony, but this sanctity is maintained and solidified in prayer and in the contacts with God, who must preside over every family.

So today like yesterday and like always, you are here in order to respond to a precise call, even if you have left your interests, your family cares and home for a little while. Do not doubt that everything shall be rendered to you multiplied.

Rather I would like to give you a warning. Do not marvel and do not criticize those who do not understand and who do not correspond to the call. Not all have had the same grace, whereby it's up to the Lord to judge the different situations.

You have to be the flame which, shining with a reflected light, illuminates the places where it is put. You have to be the little alarm clock that, ringing like a joyful bell, may reawaken the faith in he who has buried or destroyed it. You have to be the light which in the desert of the present life echoes the voice of God. You must not provoke any clash, but serenely and constantly recall everyone to good. Yours is a force

that expands itself, because the help comes to you from God.

Do you want to know what you have to do, with whom you have to act? You have to hinder evil possibly everywhere. See, children, how much the Lord and his Mother is insulted and cursed! If you were able to understand it, you would hear a powerful roar raise itself from the earth to Heaven in order to curse. Note that at the same time in which this infernal cry is raised, your God could open a crater so deep as to bury all the blasphemers. God does not do it and you must set yourselves above those ungrateful and unfaithful souls with your acts of love. Only in this way does your work become effective.

But listen to me still. I would like for you to be able to smell the tremendous stench that rises towards Heaven from all those souls that live in the most repugnant practices of the impure sins against nature and for all that men do in offence against their own God and against the brutalization of their own body. The Lord ought to once again, as once over Sodom and Gomorrah, make fire rain down from the sky. But this is your task. With a blameless life and with the offering of the purity of the heart of Jesus and of my heart to God, you can obtain the mending, the conversion of these souls and placate the heart of God.

I could continue on like this, but I want to descend into a field to which I hold so much and you have to help just me so that I may realize my desire.

You are a good number of people, but those who pray, who love, who repair ought to be much more. I know that some of you go to visit the sick and I desire to come with you. I want to bring consolation and help. I want a little cenacle to be formed alongside every suffering soul. Here you come to draw, there you go to bring; then I intervene and a fountain is generated where others can draw.

Sometimes people gather, and they are vain words and discourses that form the object of those encounters. I desire to be amongst you, I want to be at the centre of your discussions.

There are those who work in factories, those in hospitals with their minds distracted by futile thoughts or by discourses bearing disconnected and evil thoughts. I want to be the inseparable companion of everyone. My Rosary is the chain that unites everybody to me. That's why, while you prepare to receive from me the precious title of "my mission-

aries”, I point out to you with what ardour you must put yourselves to work. In the meantime, I bless you all. I prepare your mind and heart, so that you may be able to render your action more and more effective.

Be good, be harmoniously lined up like soldiers ready to do their drills. An army well constituted, at the orders of the Church and of God, cannot undergo defeats.

See you again, children, more and more numerous and strong.

I AM HERE TO HELP YOU TO CONQUER HOLINESS

November 7, 1973 (at Pontedera)

Beloved children, so dear to the heart of my Jesus and mine, peace, grace and love to you and may your families whom I consider as my family have light, concord and joy through you.

I am here, in this little city of Tuscany that was home of saints, poets, artists and men of great genius, in order to invite you to conquer in your life the summit of sanctity.

My Jesus spoke to you one day about of he who, having to build a tower, stops for a moment before starting the construction in order to supply himself with the means so that it may not happen that, having reached halfway, he may have to interrupt his work and encounter the derision of some people. I am here to help you and to give you the means.

You have begun well, you have honoured me and in this moment I feel the duty to thank everyone, from the first to the last; you have contributed, some in one way others in another, to make my cenacle beautiful and welcoming.

Well then, here you have laid the plan, now all you have to do is to build the tower. You must grow continuously in perfection and no one can say that he has reached it, since perfection is always active, it is a thing that is earned with much commitment, with many defeats and with much prayer and grace of God.

Yours is a call that demands a response. It is a privileged call, a loving call that requires a response of love.

You have made yourselves all available to do those works of embellishment that are necessary. You have wanted me beautiful and smiling amongst you. Well then, I want to embellish your souls, I want you all beautiful with that beauty that enraptures the heart of God.

There is a salutary washing, a bath of blood that has the strength to give back freshness, youth and beauty to the souls disfigured by sin. Use it, this bath: it is the sacrament of Confession. Use it well in order to receive the forgiveness of your sins. Have no fear that the confessor may be surprised at your sins; he also is a sinner and he in turn has to beat his breast and confess himself.

Be simple and sincere in confession, for the more you say the more the Lord God is happy to forgive.

When you have settled your conscience, you can ascend with the scaffolding, for the clearness of the soul procures you that light which permits you to work. Ascend very slowly, like you slowly ascend the steps in order to come here. Do not say straight away: *"I want to be holy!"*. Say: *"I want to improve myself little by little."* He who usually has little patience, let him make this virtue a special exercise; then he will acquire everything, but with more serenity.

The bricks with which you build the tower of your sanctity must be bonded with each other by an intense love. You must dispose yourselves also to humiliations, knowing that the Lord can make use of them for good.

The tower of Pisa is not very far from you. When it was built the builders regretted not having brought the tower to completion with precision; but if it had not been leaning, what less value it would have had and how few curious would have visited it!

So it is useful for there to be mistakes in the life of people in this world, because they serve to maintain humility and to make each one acknowledge his own misery. The important thing is to recognize one's mistakes, get up again and walk. A mother made like this shall be the salvation of all her family, who will be able to admire in her the faith, the perseverance and the strength. A sister who behaves in this way will not only edify her community, but also all the worldly who will approach her.

Children, the world thinks of having need of riches, but men are those

eternal little children who need to live by imitating others. And who will be those whom they ought to imitate, if not you who by your example will bear witness to Jesus?

Certain men wanted to build a tower at Babylon in order to start the climb to Heaven. They wanted to be like God and exceed Him. Your holiness must not be of this brand. In humility, entrusting yourselves to the infancy of my Child, you must ascend and this must be the means in order to understand God and the brethren more and more.

The builders of the tower of Babylon, having arrived at a certain point, no longer understood each other. You with your sanctity must call around you the lapsed. Holy fathers, holy mothers, holy religious, holy society. This is my wish.

And for this purpose, placing my hand on the heart of each one, I say with affection: my son, my daughter, I bless you.

I thank everyone and I assure that great things will happen in this place. I will be present at every prayer gathering. I desire at least that sometimes the Holy Mass be celebrated and for children to be brought.

Children, I promise you eternal salvation. Put yourselves in my heart, consecrate yourselves to me, remain united to me like now, always.

See you again, children, know that I love you so much.

THE SPIRITUAL INFANCY THAT YOU MUST PRACTISE

November 9, 1973

Beloved children, how much I enjoy being here among you in order to speak to you of my love and the trust that I have in you. I am certain that the faith will not wane in you, that rather you will guard it like the most precious gift of Heaven. I am sure that you will guard and nourish more and more the hope whereby no cross will seem heavy to you, seen in the light of that eternity that awaits you. And I hope exactly that you will not disappoint me, but that, each one corresponding to one's vocation, you will bring that charity which is the fire and the grace of God everywhere.

You argue over the word "child", but do not be surprised: even the apostles sometimes, though being followers of the divine Teachers, did

not understand his lessons up to quarrelling among themselves in order to make their thoughts and their rights prevail.

We want you like children who, constantly submissive to the will of God, learn to obey out of love and to have for their superiors that confidence and that submission that leads to tranquillity in consciences and order in communities, in works and in institutions.

It is good for children to be docile and they are when, conscious of their littleness, see virtues in all those who surround them.

It is easy to impose oneself on others, less easy to admire in others those hidden or evident virtues that perhaps for you are a reproach.

You have to be like the little children, so lovable, so joyful, so happy with everything whereby staying with you may be a true spiritual enjoyment. Too taken in by all that is material, adults do not know how to enjoy the little things.

The life of the consecrated is a life of love, love of God and neighbour. The child is the first consecrated one, because in his mind and in his heart neither hatred nor resentments take root. The child is quick to give pardon and to ask for it, even with one word alone and with a look.

This is how the spiritual infancy that you must practise is understood, which is not made up of words but of humility, of simplicity and above all of love.

When it becomes hard for you to call yourselves little children, call yourselves children who must grow; you will avoid having that mistaken concept of the spiritual infancy whereby it seems lawful to you to be naughty or commit an imprudence in order to practise it.

Constantly have trust, not only in God, but also in your neighbour and never judge anyone.

My Jesus, the Son of God, presently desires to be honoured as a Child so that his infancy must be a model of yours.

I too desire to be honoured as a Child and you, dear daughters, have received your vocation through the call to littleness that I represent. You have only to look at my effigy that dominates in every house of yours in order to say to yourselves: "I must be little." The little ones are the favourites of Jesus and mine. The little ones never have big problems to be resolved, but they entrust themselves to the goodness of God, sure that his providence intervenes in every necessity.

I bless you. I bless your mind and your heart, your intentions, your work and all that will flourish constantly beside you through that love, that grace and that humility through which you let God intervene.

See you again, children. Our Lady the Child is always with you.

DON'T PUT LIMITS ON YOUR WORK

November 10, 1973

Dear and beloved children, here you are again in my company. I would like that with you all the men of earth were here, by that duty that I have of being Mother of all and because I truly love everyone.

May your prayer be able to reach them in order to arouse in all and in each one, with a thought of God, an act of sorrow for their sins and an act of perfect love. Were you to know, children, how many persons through their own will damn themselves and the hatred towards God which they boast of with themselves and with others, they keep it up to death in order to increase it and preserve it forever.

What gratitude will they have for you for all eternity those who through your prayer will be able to amend themselves and be saved!

Thanks be to God, who arouses in you this desire to meet here and to raise your arms to Heaven in his love in order to obtain mercy for all.

Today I want to address a special word to the widows and to those who, deprived of a consort through the lack of a marriage opportunity or through a desire of virginity, find themselves a little abandoned in life.

I desire to make the widows and the unmarried understand how great God's love is for them and how much the Church prays for these categories of people up to commanding to assist them, to protect them and to help them.

I would like to make present to these children how this period of their existence must be sanctified by that charity and that activity so necessary for the Church.

There are many people who tremble at the thought that the necessary might be lacking to them and they shut themselves therefore, into that selfishness that risks becoming avarice. Trust in providence. Have confidence in Him who loves you and who, just as He provides food for the

birds of the air and the fish of the water, so He cannot forget any man who lives on the earth, for each one possesses a soul made to his image and likeness.

I refer the deed of Elijah to you, so that you may be able to be urged to be generous with all. Elijah therefore, sees a widow, and being thirsty and hot, he asks her for a jug of water; but not only, he asks her also for some bread, to which request the widow answers that she has only a pinch of flour and a drop of oil that will serve for only once in order to nourish herself and her son, after which they will have to die through lack of food. Elijah asks persistently for some bread for himself and assures that she will never lack for either flour or oil. So it happens, with the amazement of the woman, that the cupboard is filled with flour and the pot with oil.

Children, Elijah was a prophet and he asked for charity in the name of God. But in this moment it is not only a prophet who asks you for help, but the whole Church. You must not put limits on your action and on your correspondence to the divine call.

To every mother, to every widow and to every person who has some responsibilities would come the wish to limit their work up to thinking only of the loved persons, but it is a temptation.

If I had shut myself in my sorrows after the death of Joseph, my spouse, and above all after the death of my Jesus, who would have assisted the apostles who were then about to begin the Church with so many struggles and so many difficulties inflicted on her?

Well then, children, today as yesterday and as always the Church is in tears. The body of my Son is undergoing the scourging and the crucifixion. That no one may remain indifferent to this drama which keeps on manifesting itself more and more and may each one collaborate so that the world may be healed.

See how many Catholic Christians foolishly renounce their own faith in order to accept contrary principles. How many youth, forgetful of God and his Commandments, choose Satan as their king! You see families which, started thoughtlessly, dissolve without caring for those offspring whom they gave life to, who have the right to have a father and a mother.

Were you to know, children, how many deny God mocking Him and

insulting Him believing themselves superior to Him, who with only one act of his will, just as He gave existence to everything in the same way He could destroy all of creation.

Children, that Jesus who redeemed the world was welcomed into my sanctuary and I gave birth to Him. He lived and died sacrificing himself, but then He rose up and, ascended to Heaven, He presented himself in the eternal sanctuary to the Father in order to ask for mercy for all.

Well then, in this same sanctuary, which is my womb, I welcome you all so that you may learn to live and to grow in such a way as to be able to be the voice which supplicates the Father with Jesus to have pity on all.

A day will come in which in the sanctuary of God you will take your dwelling and it will be a great joy for all; but since one lives and dies only once, it is necessary for you not to live like the Scribes and the Pharisees who worked for their satisfaction, for their interests and for their own honour.

Always keep your sights on Heaven and may the glory of God render you capable of acting in secrecy and in humility. It is not doing a lot that counts, but that what you do be done out of love and brings always that imprint of generosity that makes you forget yourselves in order to think of others.

Let everyone accomplish, according to the possibilities and the talents that he has, all that good that he can. Remember the offering of the widow which was so appreciated by Jesus, even if it was only one little coin. Do all that you can, do the best that you can and the Lord will be happy with you.

Let the activity in consoling and helping the neighbour and the prayer with which you ask God help for all, be always suffused with love.

Children, I bless you all starting from those who are alone, so that, free from any bond, they may be ready for the service of God.

See you again, children, and many thanks!

YOU MUST SAY: "WE ARE USELESS SERVANTS"

November 13, 1973

Children, here I am with you for a sweet colloquy; you speak to me by prayer, I speak to you by word. What a marvellous gift you give me and what a reward you receive!

I then, when you are here, look at you with so much loving-kindness that, if you were able to see me, you would rejoice immensely. How beautiful it is to live in this climate of charity that reflects Paradise so well!

I would like to speak to you always about Paradise, where the just shall have reward and glory. The just there will be glorified in a marvellous way, but also on earth the just foretaste the most pure joys.

The just man is he who gives to each one what is due to him. Having received everything from God, the just man lives thinking of Him, loving Him, serving Him and making his Law a programme of life. And God loves him and favours him up to not letting anything lack to him, up to making himself his shield and his fortress against enemies, up to making him live his life.

How I would like to give you a real enthusiasm so that you can choose to really live the life in such a way that the Lord were able to say of each one of you: "*You are my just one!*" You are all called to accomplish a mission, whereby no one can say: "*Why have I come into the world? It is better if I were not born!*"

Each one must plough his own field and guard his own sheep at the service of the Master, since you all have responsibilities and you do not live in isolation. You are all necessary. One mission is different from the other, but everyone must be able to say: "*Look, Father, I am here to serve you and to do your will.*"

Many times it seems that the life of certain beings to whom was not given clear intelligence or legs to walk or hands to work, may be without sense or without usefulness. But just as many times, observing perfect machines, you do not know how to explain the mechanism and you are unable to understand the value of a very little part that seems useless, so in the magnificent organism of the human race also the most insignificant creature has his point of arrival and his value.

“*What am I doing in the world?*”, the infirm, the sick and the old ask themselves many times. You are in the world to glorify God, I answer you, and in your immobility and with your suffering you can give life and motion to the greatest works. Just as in the constructions of bridges and canals or imposing works there is always someone who pays with his own life, so in the construction of that wonderful edifice of the salvation of nations it is continually necessary for many to sacrifice and offer themselves.

“*What am I doing here — many ask themselves — while everything goes bad for me and I cannot bring anything to completion?*”. Children, if there were not these adversities, your life would be spent perhaps in evil and from it bad consequences would come from it to many. Your sorrowful situation is a precious coin with which, as you bear witness to your faith, you can be of help to many. Nothing is hidden to God, nothing is useless.

Then there are those who enjoy good health, strength and intelligence and can do a lot also. But before God how ought they behave themselves? After having spent their energy, after having used their own talents for the glory of God and after having thanked Him because He wished to be served by them not with sickness and with suffering, but in perfect health, they ought to say: “*We are useless servants.*”

You are all useless servant in reality before the Father, who, as He gives all to you, He wants to pay you for what you give Him as if it were yours. So, if you are good, He gives you the means, He gives you a generous heart, He inspires you with thoughts of goodness and then He rewards you. All useless servants, for you are incapable alone of acting for good, if the Spirit of the Father and of the Son does not animate you. All useless servants, whom my Jesus uses joining you to himself in order to accomplish the work of redemption.

And amongst all I, your Mother, am the servant of the servants of God who goes about carrying out through his will my salvific mission.

All taken in by this precious teaching, feel for your life all the responsibility and employ it in the best of ways, without losing a minute and valuing everything, until, having arrived at the eternal thresholds of Heaven, you may hear yourselves encouraged by Jesus himself to enter with those words: “*Come, good and faithful servant, and enjoy the re-*

ward that I have prepared for you from all eternity.”

Children, I bless you. Bring my encouragement to all those who, discouraged with life, have seen their projects fail, their desires annihilated. Bring with your prayer comfort to those missionaries who, after having sacrificed everything, health, family, future and country, find themselves disappointed because they no longer find their ideal in faith.

I would like to give my affectionate embrace to all those priests, religious [male and female] who, after having undertaken a road of giving to God with great joy, have let their early enthusiasm slip away and serve God with a colourless life, always desirous of human affection. Offer some fervent holy Masses for them, making good Communions.

And to all the mothers and to all those who weep for not having been able to educate or for having had a bad outcome from a good and religious education given out, because the evil one sowed dandelion during the night of sin, my: *“Courage, daughters and sons, I am with you!”*.

I bless you all, hugging you to my heart. See you again, children!

I WANT TO FREE YOU FROM EVERY SLAVERY

November 17, 1973

My children, peace be to your hearts. Behold, I present myself to you: I am Mary the liberator. This I want to do: to free you from all those ties and those worries that prevent you from elevating yourselves towards God, not in search of extraordinary things, but in order to welcome that delicious food that the Lord offers to his creatures.

I want to free you from every slavery little or great, that does not allow you to walk towards the Homeland with a sure foot. I would like to say to you that still, as in many and many years ago, but as always, every person of this world must cross his Red Sea and with the help of God must make his enemies perish in it, if he wants to be victorious.

To cross the difficulties without letting yourselves be knocked down is what I desire for you and I want to help you in every way.

Constant faith, recourse to prayer and the exercise of holy humility will make of you those chosen souls that the Lord uses in order to save others.

There is no fixed hour in life to respond to his call, but the most important thing is to welcome with joy and go along with his request when He deigns to make his will felt more strongly.

Sometimes it happens that after a fervent life some relaxation may take over; but they are pauses that the Lord permits in order to make understood that it is He who calls, it is He who give constancy in love.

Courage, children! As truly free souls, attend to the things of God and let the dead bury their dead.

To all, my affectionate embrace, the assurance of my help.

CONSISTENT CHRISTIANS

November 18, 1973

Beloved children, peace be to you now and always, I am your immaculate Mother, your Teacher and Queen.

Your will for goodness and perfection gladdens me and I support your intentions and I help you to realize them. You have to be consistent Christians, Christians who bear witness to the faith and morality, because they practise it entirely. Someone has said well: *“It is not thought of that the Church is governed by the successor of Peter, who like him holds the keys of the Kingdom of the heavens.”*

Children, if error makes headway everywhere and it is propagated even in the religious circles, putting the infallibility of the Pope into doubt and the respect for the hierarchy willed by Jesus himself, its institutor, you must give more and more proof of your fidelity.

When the barbarians entered into your homeland, they had no regard for anything and even the tombs of the dead were uncovered and outraged. Now it is not the barbarians, but the demons who, by means of those who deny their existence, attempt to desecrate every sacred thing. They are people who act on the orders of the prince of this world and, as they create confusion in the Christian people, doubt in the minds and approve the impure sins as a necessity, they sow disorder and ruin everywhere.

Do not let yourselves be intimidated by anything, but continue to seek God with purity of intention. Make Him reside in you with grace and

spread Him with the light that comes to you from the Holy Spirit, who gives himself to whoever invokes Him.

Be deeply humble, that is, conscious of your insufficiency, but have confidence in Him who in every time made use of the little in order to confound the great, the ignorant in order to confound the wise.

I love you and it is I myself who calls you to this place. I want to save you and your loved ones. I want to be your guide in life and make you happy.

I bless you all, now and always.

TRUST GOD

November 18, 1973

Beloved children and so dear to my heart, grace and peace and health be to you. See, I am here as always in order to stay with you. How much happiness the angels and the saints of Heaven feel who see me and speak to me and to whom I can make the beatings of my heart understood! Paradise is this encounter of souls with me in God. The Lords fills us with himself and we give ourselves one to the other with a love and a happiness without measure.

Oh, children, if you truly wanted with clarity and humility of thoughts and with deep faith receive these words that I address to you, you ought to be so full of joy whereupon life would seem so light to you.

I qualify myself sometimes as Mother of divine providence, which is like saying Mother of God, for He alone is infinite providence in whom every creature can have his full support. How I would like to make you serene and trustful in life! I would like to deprive you of all those thoughts that nag you not only for the present, but also for the future, whose uncertainty you well know.

When a soul fully trusts its God, it no longer feels the weight of the cross, because it knows that everything has to contribute to its good. It is true though that human life is a succession of ups and downs, but to guide with a sure hand every man, every family and society itself and all nations, there is Him, the Supreme, the Eternal, the Infinite, the Provider, who directing everything draws out those consequences for which

He willed the world.

Trust God and think of his goodness as to a reality, even when men are wicked and even ferocious in their behaviour, only because they, abusing the freedom they have received, prefer to serve Satan rather than God.

Children, know that the Lord in his infinite providence watches carefully and provides for the needs of each one as if he were the only creature in the world.

Providence which gives to each season its fruits, which gives light so that men may occupy their days in work and which brings the night so that their sleep may be calm, is still that divine gift whereby no one in life must lack what is useful and necessary for him.

If then the day is used in offending God and night also, it certainly derives not from Him but from the evil inclinations and from the evil one, who tirelessly works to ruin what God has done and does incessantly.

God is infinitely good also when sickness strikes you, but no one is tested beyond his strength; and if sometimes the burden that He gives you seems unbearable, it is only because the faith, which is the anchor of salvation, has waned in you or because recourse to God, who is always listening and always ready to help you, has waned.

The providence of God is like the good housewife who sees the needs of all the family and who attends to everything. I myself, receiving the orders from my divine Son, must be for this human family that I must guard, the good Housewife.

I hold the hands and the heart of God, and whoever wishes to be helped has only to ask. Children, I am the celestial Treasurer of the divine strongboxes and I cannot deny you anything. I am certain however, that you will say: I have been begging for a while and get nothing. But tell me, do you perhaps grant to your children all that they ask you? Have you not seen sometimes, perhaps many times, children who, after having been satisfied in everything, have become dissolute that have ruined the family and made the mother die of a broken heart? And why should I, who sees very far ahead, ought to satisfy all your demands, while in this refusal is your salvation?

When you want absolutely what is bad or which though seeming good

to your eyes is your ruin, you cannot be satisfied, because true love would be failing in God and in me.

Be trusting, live day to day. Say to the Lord with simplicity and faith: *“Cover me with your shadow and only for today.”* Tomorrow say the same thing, and after again up to the last day.

When afterwards suffering makes you sad and you remember with sorrow the days, the months and the years passed by, do not forget that for every moment suffered out of love, you will receive an eternal reward. Throw your past suffering in the heart of God and in mine, so that I may bring it to Him. Never dig up again what is past, neither the evil, nor the suffering and I would say not even the good, because you could become proud over it.

Say every day: *“Today, only today I ought to suffer and of my suffering I ought to make a gift of it to God for myself and for the brethren.”* In this way you will be like those children who without worries seek only the heart of the Mother in order to be able to find comfort on it.

The house which in these hours of prayer you are in, has been in its time consecrated to me, Mother of divine providence. Over this house, over those who inhabit it and over those who occasionally or habitually visit it, I watch with Providence who intervenes in the material, moral and spiritual needs.

The gifts of Providence are incommensurable, but the first to enjoy them are those families which, accepting the will of God and doing their duties be it conjugal or family, give proof of fidelity and of trust in God. The large families, in this sense are more blessed, for, even if they have to undergo inordinate sacrifices, they mature in that wellbeing which is the fruit of blessings.

And now, beloved children, I embrace you and I say to you firmly: if you believe in my love for you, no longer complain over your woes, go forward serenely. I can remedy everything.

Goodbye, children, see you again!

“HERE I AM LORD, I AM YOURS”

November 21, 1973

Beloved children, how pleasing this encounter with you today is to me, as I desire to remind you of that giving made at a tender age to God in a total sacrifice to Him, so that He would make me a suitable instrument in his hands in the fulfilment of my mission!

I was only three years old, but I was aware of what I desired and did. And if moving away from my loved ones was as for any child a suffering, the thought of going to live in the house of God, in the shade of his wings, gave me a most pure joy, unequable.

Children, how beautiful it is to live close to the Lord! How advantageous it is to work for Him without asking for anything and giving the best of oneself!

When a child comes to birth, it does not have the capacity to understand except through an extraordinary gift of God; but how great it would be for every creature, as soon as it reaches the use of reason and even before, to be entrusted to the goodness of God so that, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, it may comprehend how proper and great it is to be at the service of a King so powerful and good.

What you go about doing, when with an act of your will you consecrate yourselves to me, reminds me of that solemn moment; and just as I a child ran up to the arms of the high priest, so I take you in my arms and I bring you to the high and eternal Priest, my Son Jesus, so that He may accept you and make you a monument of his glory.

Children, when you come here you accomplish no ordinary action. Just as I in the Temple, taught by Anna the Prophetess, was able to train myself for all the works in order to be a good spouse, a good mother and a loving soul of God who would have borne witness to his existence, so you, coming here, acquire many virtues that render you capable of being in time and place true teachers of Christian knowledge. You acquire hard virtues that, translated into practise, sanctify you. You have seen many times situations change suddenly and even your characters and that of your loved ones, just through those teachings that you have received.

Now I desire to give you a reference to a passage of the Gospel that

some of you have heard during the Holy Mass. It speaks of Zacchaeus, who, desirous of seeing Jesus and of hearing his word, being small, runs where Jesus will have to pass, he climbs up a tree and waits for his coming. Jesus arrives, looks at him, invites him to come down saying to him that He wishes to go to his house in order to have supper with him.

Children, if when you come here, you try to put in your heart the desire of the divine word as Zacchaeus, I assure you that the Word himself, the living God communicates himself to you with a living light that clarifies everything for you and from this light the ease to do good comes to you.

It is certain that from those who are around you, you cannot expect praises and approvals. If you have had a past a bit dark or a bit doubtful or sinful, you will find many who will make fun of you and say that you do it out of interest or out of pride. If your past has been good, they will say that you want to do “extra” and put yourself on show. Whatever it may be, the judgement of men does not count, for Jesus answers for you saying: These are children of God whom I love, and if they have erred, I have come in order to forgive and in order to save.

Oh, how much I rejoice then, when so fervent and joyful I hear you say: *“If I have wasted time in past years, now no more! I want to work only for the glory of God and redouble and multiply my activity in order to be pleasing to Him.”*

When the judgements of men tend to calumniate and to demolish what good a soul would like to do, they produce the same effect of what the devil goes doing in souls that have the desire of conversion or who are in the early steps of a radical conversion. He disturbs the souls showing them the difficulty of persevering in good.

Past confessions are usually the means with which the devil disturbs consciences. He in that way demoralizes and makes one think of non-existent sacrileges and of a lack of sincerity only in order to stop one from working by prayer and by work for the Kingdom of God in you and in the world.

Do not let yourselves be intimidated neither by the criticisms nor by the temptations. Learn to continue on your journey with confidence. Every day that passes is a getting closer to God more in the order of grace, if you wish, and for the brevity of life, which runs uninterruptedly

towards that sea of goodness that is the mercy of God. Have trust and continue on.

When at the start of the day you turn your gaze towards the sun that illuminates the world, and towards the Eucharist which is the sun of the soul, say with a sincere desire of sanctity: *“Here I am Lord, I am yours; accept me so as I am and like Zacchaeus I will do my best to repair the past evil and to walk along your paths.”* I take you by the hand.

I bless you, children. I bless the little children of all the world, especially those who from birth were consecrated to me.

I bless the Lodi cenacle, and I assure that in it, if humility and charity is practised, great things will blossom.

To you my ministers, a special blessing for those spiritual children that come to you, sometimes tempted and sometimes possessed by the devil. I help you because your mission is important.

Goodbye, children! Do you want to make me a favour? This evening, before they go to bed, consecrate all the babies, young and little children to me with which you have some relation. Let the mothers consecrate to me their children and grandchildren, the religious and the priests their communities. Graces be to you and to them.

IMITATE AND SERVE JESUS, YOUR KING

November 25, 1973

Beloved children, so dear to my heart, children of God, children of a royal race, peace be to you and grace and every good.

Permit for me, children, the humble handmaid of the Lord, to speak to you about my Son who, from the eternity in the bosom of the Father, enjoys the same greatness and his same glory.

In the name of the Son, the Word of God, was created the world, of which He was and is the King. Moreover, when in the fullness of the times He wished to assume the human nature in order to be able to present men as faithful subjects to the Father, after they had rebelled against Him with sin, He chose a royal human family, so that men would acknowledge his right of sovereignty over all nations. Even the prophecies had announced Him as a shoot of the family of Jesse and had

amply spoken about his royalty.

He therefore, came on to the earth, and from his very first years of life was sought after so that He could be put to death as the King of the Jews.

Everything could be admired in Him, even though He hid every virtue of his and his power under the shadow of humility. His bearing, his look, the sincerity of his words, the greatness of his promises based on the fulfilment of the Law inspired fear and respect, even if He was made an object of criticisms, of calumnies and insults without measure.

He had come to save his people and just for this reason He was able to say to Pilate who interrogated Him: *“My Kingdom is not of this world (Jn 18:36).”* He who as God was and is the King of creation, He as man wished to respect every sovereignty and declare himself King of souls, for whom He would have sacrificed himself to the last. But in his response to Caiphas He showed in embryo the triumph of his royalty: *“You will see me come upon the clouds of heaven in order to judge men (Mt 26:64).”*

He is the man-God who, crucified, risen and ascended to Heaven, will return in the world in order to reward those who will have acknowledged his royalty and condemn those who will have denied it disobeying his Law.

Jesus, our King, has wished to give us a model of his behaviour.

From the moment that He has recaptured you to grace, elevating you to the dignity of sons of God, you too have become a royal race like your older Brother.

Imitating Him is easy, if you think to what He said to the apostles who were contesting the first places: *“He who among you is first, let him be last and servant of all (Mk 10:44).”* Did not my Jesus, God and King, say: *“I have come to serve and not to be served.”?*

I do not speak to you about the thirty years spent in the most perfect obedience to two poor creatures of his, but look at Him go out of his way for all in his public life. Look at Him, after having accomplished the greatest miracles, subtract himself from the gazes of those who wanted to make Him king. Look at Him again on earth in the most solemn moment that preceded the institution of the Eucharist, gird his sides with a white towel and wash the feet of the apostles. To Peter, who re-

fused and did not want for the divine Teacher to humble himself so much before him, Jesus said: *“If you do not let yourself be washed, you shall have no part in my Kingdom (Jn 13:8).”*

So, as a mocking inscription is fixed a notice that declared once again “Jesus King”, He who with only his voice, replying “It is I” to those who were looking for Jesus the Nazarene, made them fall unconscious to the ground, still again after the most atrocious sufferings He was capable of saying to the good thief: *“On this very day you shall be in my Kingdom.”*

With a total service to the brethren and a total immolation, Jesus spoke to you about how the Christian must value and practise his royalty, his priesthood. Yes, children, I do not hesitate to call you a royal priesthood for the high mission that everyone of you has of being an instrument in order to reach God.

You must not fill your head with futilities, for on your mind God must reign sovereign and your thoughts must be guided by my Son. You must not dirty your heart with impure affections, for your King is jealous of your love and gathers even the smallest palpitation as a marvellous gift. You must not have intentions less than upright, because it is not fitting for the children of the King to work for another end that is not the spreading of his Kingdom.

No, you must not insult, nor wound, nor outrage this marvellous King of eternal glory, who deigns to assume the semblances of every person who lives beside you, so as to be able to say: *“All that you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me.”*

Oh, how I would like for all of humanity to gather around the throne of this King of infinite majesty in order to be able to put an end to all the evils that torment it!

Many weep, despair, curse, though knowing that at the end of life they will be judged for every though least fault by Him who has shed his blood, by Jesus the eternal Judge.

Let it not be so for any of you! May your homes be the royal palaces of my Son and your heart his throne.

You must serve your King in spirit and truth. That’s why I invite you to tighten more and more your affectionate bonds with Him, so that He may have the freedom to act. If you wish to resemble Him in everything,

do as He did, my Jesus and, seeking the last place, serve everyone with humility and love.

I bless you, children, one by one.

How to go about in order to tell everyone what they desire? I will say it in your heart. Stay a little in silence also at home. I am always with you.

May Christ Jesus reign everywhere now and always.

TRUE KNOWLEDGE EDUCATES SOULS

November 26, 1973

Dear and beloved children, peace be to you. I am here again with you in order to give you confidence and courage and in order to help you to overcome the difficulties that life presents, especially those caused by the differences of characters and by the illnesses that come to menace your health and weigh down life itself.

It is not extraordinary graces that I want to grant you, but uncommon graces, to which you must collaborate with your good will.

Just as a doctor easily cures a sick man who is not only aware of his own illness but who also knows how to explain all the sensations and the symptoms on which the doctor can rely on, so I desire that with an act of deep humility for everyone to expose all their defects to me.

No one is deprived of defects in this world and you all have the duty to help one another in turn and correct yourselves. A special task is reserved for the parents, who have a special capacity granted to them by God in virtue of holy matrimony together to the state of grace, and through that experience that derives from age and from learned experiences, they can admonish and correct their children.

Even parents among themselves can with humility be admonished, while the children, though having the freedom to be able to express their opinion, must be respectful and prudent.

Children, how I would like with all the heart to make you aware that the gift of faith, so precious and useful, is preserved to those who with much humility and with prayer guard it. You have not gotten such a favour by yourselves, but you must be watchful because the devil, jealous

of family peace, has no other desire than that of destroying peace and faith at the same time.

Oh, children, do not let yourselves be made proud and flattered by human knowledge! It takes nothing to destroy it and is of no use for the eternal life. If you forget the things of Heaven for those of earth, you will find yourselves empty handed at the most difficult moment of life, when the curtain is about to be definitively closed and the real life begins.

True knowledge, the one that truly renders one learned before God and men, is the one that, educating souls to love, renders them sensitive to the sufferings of others and incapable of making anyone suffer.

Don't take it wrongly, children, if in these admonishments I put you all together; it is because like one unique thing so dear to my heart you form a true unity.

In this way the human family becomes a true image of that divine family that is the Most Holy Trinity and in imitation of the family of Nazareth it finds the strength and the capacity to live.

I bless you, children. When at the confessional you will detest your failures, I will obtain special graces for you.

I AM THE MIRACULOUS ONE

November 27, 1973

Beloved children and dear to my heart of Mother, joy be to your hearts and trust and hope today and always.

I am the Miraculous One, children, and what can you not obtain from me who loves you up to the improbable? Tell me, what you mothers would not do for your children? You would give everything, is that not true? And if your children were to show you of returning your affection, is it not true that you would like to increase a hundredfold your good?

Well then, know that what is impossible for you, for me is easy; and know that I love everyone, also and especially those who are far from God, just as you give your most assiduous care to your children struck by some infirmity.

From what thing does this power of mine come from which exceeds

every assumption of yours? It derives from having been chosen by God for the fulfilment of a great mission and from having been prepared by the eternal wisdom of the Father for such a purpose. It derives from the fact of having been enriched with sanctifying grace from the first instant of my conception in view of the merits of my divine Son. It derives from having been covered by the virtue of the Holy Spirit whereby He who is thrice holy made me a gift of sanctity.

What has happened in me is all a work of God. And it is from this incorporation of my life in that of the Most Holy Trinity that that strength of intercession which I enjoy before God is derived.

The new Eve, I had to give birth to the new Adam, Redeemer and Justifier of the human race.

How could I let my children be lost, how would I be able to let them perish? I present myself to the Father as Esther to her king in order to beg pardon for my people. I present myself to my Jesus like the ancient Judith, ready to cut off the head of the Holofernes of all times, the infernal serpent who works destruction and death in the world.

Whoever entrusts himself to me, finds the road of the heart of God of which I possess the key and whoever desires sanctity with me can capture it, because with the tireless action of the Holy Spirit, my most sweet Spouse, everyone that desires it reaches perfection.

And are not these divine works miracles which the Lord through me accomplishes everywhere?

Observe children, men and women deprived of the gifts of human knowledge who, used as instruments, go overturning the world so as to marvel the wise. Observe souls that perhaps of God did not know but the name, touched by grace, become fervent so as to surpass in zeal that of the early Christians. See mothers, religious, priests who, loaded down with work, always find new strengths in going out of their way for all, even attending to their duties diligently and promptly.

And if you look at the Church with God's eyes, behold, while you can verify its wounds, you cannot not see in every age a flowering of saints, who edify the Church with the holiness of their works as well as with the martyrdom of their heart.

It is a continual miracle that is operating everywhere, for the action of God and your heavenly Mother go about doing marvellous works every-

where.

And the other miracles, those more striking because of a material order, certainly are not lacking and are of every day.

There are some places set out for these miracles, and once it might be Lourdes or Fatima or Pompeii or Banneaux, but also this place which I call my home and my shrine. You could say that they are few because most of them are forgotten. But was it not also like this even in the time of Jesus? Did He not move cities and towns with the most astounding miracles? And yet who had remembered Him in the moment in which He was subordinated to Barabbas and the “crucify” was cried out? Remember moreover, the ten cured lepers. Only one returned in order to thank, is it not true?

Well then, know that the world is all supported on miracles. I myself, your Mother by divine will, go about carrying out before all and each one that meticulous work of assistance that is a continuous miracle.

You are not aware of anything, and yet, if you were to run over even rapidly every stage of your life, you would see together with the sorrow that perhaps accompanies it, the marvellous work of God, which does not exclude from any existence the extraordinary.

That’s why I desire to be called the Miraculous One and I want you to invoke me as such. This word must reawaken faith and trust in you. It must give you the assurance that beside you there is a person who has the responsibility over you and who can and wants to save you from the dangers.

If you say to me that in some cases you have felt as if abandoned to yourselves, oh, it is not because I have abandoned you, but because you have distanced yourselves from me or with sin or by doubting my help or by lacking faith.

I am the Miraculous One and I expressed my desire to give you the most beautiful graces to Catherine, showing myself to her with the hands that emanated luminous rays. Knowing then how my children of earth continually have a need for perceptible signs, I wanted for a medal to be struck where my image would be represented.

I know that presently, while the extraordinary is denied and apparitions are denied, the perceptible signs also which I gave as gift to humanity are despised. But I once again confirm to you, and my promises

do not fail, that those who propagate and wear my medal enjoy my favours and will have material and spiritual graces.

Oh, children, never let this distinctive sign of trust that you have in me be missing on your person! I am and I will be more and more Miraculous so as to save you in life and in death and bring you with me after death.

And now I bless you all one by one. Do not leave here without having asked me for graces for everyone. It is a day of graces, I promise you so.

I bless all the leaders and those who honour me propagating the miraculous medal, my Rosary and the beads. Passing the hand to each one on the head and on the heart, I say: my daughter, son, your love for me is returned and it is blessed in all those whom you desire to help.

PURITY OF THOUGHTS, HEART AND ACTIONS

November 30, 1973 (in a Church)

Beloved children, here I am with you to put pressure on the heart of God through prayer in order to obtain graces for you and help for all humanity.

I am the immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and your Mother. I enjoy introducing myself as such, for the purity with which I was filled gave to my existence that reflection of Heaven that rendered me dear to God.

I therefore, come to say to you that I wish to make you a gift of this reflection of Heaven, so that you truly may be able in the purity of thoughts and affections and in the goodness of your actions, mirror my life.

First of all, I ask you to purify the thoughts. How can you have pure thoughts—you could say to me—while around us seems a call to impurity? Well then, if in the world there were not the attraction of evil, how would you be able to sing victory? How would you be able to be worthy of reward? Fleeing the occasions of evil and combating the evil openly is what the saints did and it is for this that they were capable of reaching Heaven.

When however, I speak to you about purity of thoughts, I mean also to invite you to exclude from your mind all that, offending charity, smears the

soul even in thoughts. I would like for you to exclude therefore, from your mind, all those reckless judgements and that consideration of yourselves which, making you turn your ego into an idol, makes you think yourselves superior to others and worthy of special honours.

And if I speak to you about purity of heart, I mean to say to you that, while you must exclude those affections to people and things that cancel out your character as Christians, you must also exclude that resentment which you often keep in your heart for the brethren which, even though it cannot be called a true hatred, certainly does not bring harmony and peace.

When then you want to know if your actions bring this note of purity, observe the purpose for which you do them. If you exclude every personal interest or intention and in benefiting and helping the neighbour you have the aim only of God's glory, be calm. The holiness of your life shall be clear and the good example that you will give shall be my reflected light that you will bring to others.

In this way, lucid in mind, in heart and in actions, be prepared to glorify me and I will be glad to compensate you with a thousand and thousand favours.

Have you seen what a great coincidence? Right in the middle of my Rosary, Jesus appeared amongst you and, as He gave for you his blood to the Father, He blessed you.

I then encourage you, children, to continue also in the months that will come this happy encounter and to beg the priests of this parish that every time they might want to offer the Holy Sacrifice according to my intentions.

What do I promise you? This parish shall be blessed. The priests at my school will be sanctified and will be the salt and the light that illuminates, and the parishioners shall be the yeast that ferments the mass. They will receive our word and learn to make it effective practising and spreading it actively.

And now, as I bless you all one by one, I give to you for my Immaculate Conception, which I desire honoured, an ardent desire for purification that is valid to wash your soul.

When I appeared at Lourdes to the little Bernadette, I affirmed what had just already been announced by the Pontiff in the dogma. I said: "I

am the Immaculate, I desire for everyone to come here, for them to come in procession."

In every parish I make this announcement: I am the Immaculate One. I desire to be feted in order to be for all a model of life. To those who welcome it and put it into practice, let there be graces and help.

See you again, children. I give you my embrace.

TO THE YOUNG

December 2, 1973

Dear children, I am happy with you. I like it that you have wanted to assign to the Rosary a special place and that you also want to communicate between yourselves. This communicating must serve to cement your friendships.

He who finds a friend finds a treasure, but only by making a mutual gift of experiences and of wisdom is it possible to arouse that affection and that esteem which become so precious for the spiritual life of each one.

Unfortunately many times the young shut themselves up in that silence that makes many people suffer. Speech, that precious gift which distinguishes the rational person from the irrational creature, must be an effective means, besides for praising God, also for spreading that harmony, that comfort and that joy which derives exactly from the communicating together.

When a young man arrives at overcoming himself and to have as a confident his own mother, he is repaid with so much serenity that serves to prepare him a happy future.

What in fact is the family if not the happy encounter of souls who, mutually giving themselves, make of their gift a means of carrying out the will of God?

Oh, if this communicating of Christians among themselves were intended to form that unity so much hoped for by my Jesus! Be open therefore, loyal, confident and trustful with those who are around you, even if you have to be prudent in order to learn to uncover the dangers that surround you, and make yourselves centres of attraction in order to

be able to bring all to good.

These are the tasks that I give you on this first Sunday of Advent which prepares you for Christmas.

Be balanced, be joyful and do not allow to be lacking to anyone especially your loved ones, the gift of your speech which serves to make them happy and to cement the friendships.

I bless you, children, each one in particular, and I see to all your needs even when you do not feel my presence and it seems I may be far away from you. To your most pressing needs, leave it to me.

LORD, MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME!

December 2, 1973

Dear and beloved children, I am here with you in order to predispose your hearts to welcome my Child on the day of his birth.

I am Mary of Nazareth, the girl who dreamt of being able to know the Mother of the Messiah, in order to be able to go beside her and give her services. I am the girl who with the ardour of desires was able to bring forward the redemption. I am your Mother, desirous of making you a gift of my Jesus, so that you too can be mother, sisters, brothers to Him.

Oh, children, how I would like to predispose your hearts with that humility and charity whereby you can see in every sick or poor or needy person a soul to be understood and to be helped: a king as member of the body of my Jesus!

This time of Advent must perform this miracle in you. I know that many times one prefers to make a lengthy prayer rather than serve one's fellow man. But I myself in this period invite you to carry out your charitable works in the most complete way. I know and I have repeated it to you many times that prayer is worth more than action; but, if in your visits to the sick, to the elderly, to the poor, you will bring a little prayer, you will reawaken in them the thought of God, which will be like a luminous ray that will bring serenity and comfort.

How much they please me those who, denying also their will that would compel others to listen, learn to keep silent, in order to give the poor and troubled that they go to visit a way to express their sorrows

and speak about themselves.

I would like for you in these visits to serve me, as I had desired to serve the Mother of God.

Children, learn to be sweet with everyone, since He whom I must bring into your heart is sweetness personified. It is He who was able to say: *“Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart (Mt 11:29).”*

If your family activities do not permit you to arrange other time in favour of the needy, learn to make some sacrifice for them, for you are all called to collaborate fraternally and what you do now for them, perhaps one day others will do for you and will be very dear to you.

The second teaching that I want to give you is this: if you desire for your children to be revived to grace, hasten this Advent with a lively desire. God still has to give to men an announcement of salvation. May your desires and your sighs hasten this day.

When you hope for the advent of the Kingdom of my Lord, join your sighs to mine.

I did not live in the midst of the world, but I knew the evil in which humanity was immersed; this was a sorrow that gripped my soul and I would have willingly offered my life to save all men.

God is infinite goodness and values desires also. That’s why, when you see evil in your families, in your cities and in the world, with faith and with trust you must beseech: *“Lord, may your Kingdom come. May it come everywhere. That men may welcome you and be converted.”*

There are mothers who weep over the fate of their children. There are sisters who beseech, and they do good. But if you joined these tears to mine, if these entreaties and these sighs you join to mine, then Heaven will be moved and salvation shall come.

Moreover, I wish to give you a teaching still. There are people who lead a life of piety and work, who would not like to commit any sin, but who are not aware of being miserable, be it for the capacity that everyone has for sinning, as for that lack of mercy that they have towards the neighbour.

There are some people who, if in words they declare themselves brothers of all, in practice do not learn to pity and forgive so as to see in every person an enemy, and are ready to see in the eye of the brother the speck. To these persons whose charity besides humility is defective, I

wish to approach with special goodness and say with a heartfelt desire: do you want to be the mother, the sister, the brother of my Child? Oh, do not be like that! Love everyone, for what sort of a Christian would you be, if you were to love imaginary persons? I say “imaginary”, since you would like perfection from them, while this does not exist.

Try to love everyone with sincerity. For those who love truly like a new world is created. Whoever loves gives without regrets, without making his gift into a problem that requires a return solution. Children, try to do to others what you would like others to do for you. When on Christmas night in your churches you assist at the Holy Sacrifice, you will be happy for having done what I have suggested to you.

Yes, may the Kingdom of my Lord in the world come and come also by your means! Your littleness, your poverty, your faith, your desires, shall be that beautiful dowry with which you will adorn his cradle that will be a flowering of acts of love and of goodness.

I bless you, my children, and I give you my support so that you may be able to walk more briskly in the way of holiness.

To my dear religious daughters, be they in a convent or secular, my special blessing.

To all those who honour my Child in their home, I will grant special graces, especially the virtue of humility.

I thank you for the beautiful consecrations that you favour and that you present me. To all I assure protection and help.

Goodbye, children! Pray for my instrument so that she, helped by you, may be able to accomplish her mission, that must have an immense resonance in time and in space.

FAITH AND HUMILITY

December 3, 1973

Beloved children, I am happy to be here with you. I've said to you at other times and I confirm it to you, as I assure you that these family gatherings bring and will always bring new loads of spirituality in those who already possess it, they will call to good those who are lapsed and will be a means to obtain abundant graces over families, over society and over the whole Church.

I assisted at your talks that you have made precede the Rosary. It seems strange to you to notice in some determined moments the intervention of the extraordinary, that is to say the intervention of God in your life; this is only but a ray of special light that illuminates you, but his presences is continuous and infinite in time and in space. You have only to recall some deeds of the Gospel to have its confirmation. When the Centurion approached Jesus in order to ask for the cure of his servant, he did not ask Him to go to his house in order to obtain the miracle, but that also at a distance He could give his orders so that his servant would be freed from the illness. Children, a word was sufficient and Jesus, through the faith of the Centurion and his humility, worked the miracle.

Faith and humility are the two good sisters that put pressure on the heart of God. Faith makes you place all your trust in Him who can do all and humility, making you discover, admit and accept your incapacity and misery, renders you before God like little children who need everything, like poor ones to whom everything is lacking, like children waiting for everything.

This is what you will do on these days that precede my solemnity, that of the Immaculate Conception and the other solemnity, very much greater, that of the birth of my Son. If for the first feast you commit yourselves to increase your faith, you will at the same pace make an effort to distance yourselves from any form of known sin.

If you knew the value of grace, you would be so jealous of it as not to want to lose it for all the gold and the goods of this world. If you will grow in humility, your preparation for Christmas will be ever so easy.

If a God has made himself a Child in order to elevate you to Him, raising you up from the abjection in which you find yourselves, it will not be difficult to descend up to understanding the mystery of his littleness and of his infancy. The special study that you will put on this exercise of humility shall be so pleasing to my heart. I will go on teaching you many things that the great of this world are not capable of understanding.

Humility was the first virtue that the rebellious angels despised. Humility was the first virtue that my Jesus favoured. And if you wish to observe my life, you will find an easy model in order to resemble my

Son. When a soul understands the value of humility, it has understood everything, for the basis of sanctity is all here.

If God resists the proud, He bends over towards the humble and gives them his heart as a refuge; his confidences are for the humble, his secrets are revealed to the little, so that the wise according to the world remain confused.

I would also like to give you for this period an invitation to mortification and to penance, but it is enough for me that you do your practises of piety and your duties of state with promptness, with faith, with precision and with love, so that whoever sees you may remain edified. It is enough for me that in the exercise of humility you take away that stinging touchiness which many times is the cause of discords, especially in communities and in families.

The most pleasing penance to God is that which helps to keep the peace among my children, in the long-suffering of the different characters and in the acceptance of those difficulties that only with humility is possible to overcome.

If you love me in this way, you will make me happy and I will be able to respond to your love with a boundless motherly love.

I have so many children who do not love me, who blaspheme me, who hate me. I have so many children who say they love me, but theirs is not true love; it is rather a fatuous thing, based on words and not on the imitation of my virtues. He who truly loves me, walks following my footsteps and at the fragrance that they emanate run speedily towards the summit.

Children, you are called to be holy. In Paradise millions of them have fought the good fight, they have reached the destination. If you wish to be in their number, you must imitate them and do as they had done.

Today the Church presents to you Francis, the apostle of the Indies. Would you all like to be true apostles? Be true Christians, and your mission will become an effective sermon for those who are lapsed.

Children, I bless you all one by one. See you again! I wait for you always with joy in order to help you.

I GIVE YOU THE MEANS TO SANCTIFY YOURSELVES

December 7, 1973

Beloved children, joy be to your hearts for the Lord has favoured you, calling you with a special vocation to work for the advent of his Kingdom. And He has called you in a very special way. He wants you to be my disciples, He wants you to be in the front row in honouring me, for He repeats to you with sweetness all divine: "*My Kingdom will come by means of my Mother!*"

I therefore, am here, Missionary amongst the missionaries, to tell you how useful and precious your work will be and how efficacious putting yourselves in my following.

To be missionaries is a very beautiful thing, and you know that in order to be able to go to other lands to bring the light of the Gospel health, knowledge and holiness is required. But to be in my retinue holiness is enough.

It seems I see you discouraged, since who can boast of possessing holiness? I comfort you straight away, children, telling you with a sweet smile: yes, you must ardently desire to be saints and every day you must fight against your defects in order to be able to reach holiness, but without being discouraged. You must use the means that I give you and do not fear and do not doubt the good outcome.

You cannot be saints in one day, and not even in one year, but your whole life must be occupied by this thought and desire.

You must not make general intentions that summarize a complex of virtues, but with much patience you must start from the principal defect, the one which makes Jesus suffer and your neighbour. Spark off a tremendous battle against this defect; do not give it peace until you have routed it, as a most bitter enemy, from your mind. Then you will continue on patiently with the other defects, raising yourself up and asking pardon from God and from the neighbour every time that you fall again.

You could say to me: "*Why ask for pardon from the neighbour who perhaps ignores our defects?*" Yes, children, it is good to humble oneself with all, for every sin brings harm to all men and not only to the closest ones, but to all of humanity.

When you begin to be more holy, your apostolate shall have a conse-

quence, even if the work of your perfectionment must walk in harmony with the fulfilment of your mission. I would like to tell you that you have to be full of grace in soul, so that you project into the world that light that illuminates all.

If you wish to know what are the means that I give you in order to sanctify yourselves, here: first of all, I give you my bread. Oh, how sweet is the Mother's bread! It is the body of my Jesus, who in order to be able to be eaten made himself bread; his flesh is my flesh; it is the living bread descended from Heaven. If one only Communion is sufficient in order to sanctify a soul, consider how defective your Communions have been if you still have not become more good.

The second means is the meditation of the divine word. It is like a spiritual food and it is that instruction that allows you to know God, Jesus and his Mother, so as to be able to and to have to love them. Moreover, it is also that divine knowledge which allows you to confront with serenity your neighbour, bringing to all those teachings whereby they may find again the right road or travel on it with greater commitment.

If you are faithful to these commitments, you will fill yourselves with God so that the apostolate will become a need.

How will many of you be able to do everything on time? Will it not happen that even with an excessive zeal some may neglect their duties in order to preoccupy themselves with souls?

No, children, know that whoever puts himself on my trail, will have that sense of moderation whereby he will learn to give to each commitment its place.

Know also that the greater your desires of good are the more you will understand that the first duty that you must accomplish with love and precision, are the duties of your state.

Then you will see your energies multiply and you yourselves will marvel at doing everything on time, so as to leave everyone happy.

It is great that you have come here today to ask me for help. During the Holy Sacrifice I will make myself interpreter of your needs with Jesus before the Father.

Do not say that you do not obtain graces. What do you know of the secrets of God? Is not that long prayer which every evening you do before my image a true miracle, if you consider the coldness with which you have served

God in past years? How many spiritual and material graces!

Never complain, but be content and thank. If those graces which you ask for persistently are late in coming, it is surely because, through your persistent prayer, you must convert many souls and obtain for them to return consciously to God and to serve Him with love.

Children, perhaps you do not realize all of what you receive. You act like those children who grow up surrounded by the cares of their parents, who have sacrificed themselves in all for them, but then they forget who has benefited them and abandon them. Learn to be grateful, for every instant of your life is a gift in which the love of a God enters for his creature.

And now, children, I bless you. Continue with interior recollection to keep what I have told you. Tomorrow I will speak to you again and I will make you understand all my gratitude.

Peace be to you and joy!

TO THE YOUNG

December 8, 1973

My beloved children, I am your immaculate Mother. I have come to gather up your promises and your desires to endorse them and to give you constancy in realizing them and keeping them.

I from now bless your activity which you wish to give me for the triumph of my Kingdom of love in the world and above all because through me you may be able to reach up to the heart of God. However, I desire to give you a special teaching that will be ever so precious for you.

My Jesus said: "*Blessed the pure of heart for they shall see God* (Mt 5:8)." If the problem of the faith becomes sometimes difficult for you, know that in the purity of your hearts your minds will have light. To see God is impossible for you, since your body of flesh cannot perceive the Spirit, but you will feel it present with its light and you will rejoice through the goodness with which you will feel your hearts filled.

You seek happiness and many young men think of finding it in the possession of what they yearn for: riches, honours and love. But happi-

ness is only in God, and He alone can fill your hearts.

In this purity of heart which Jesus invites you to practise and of which I can give you a model, you will find full satisfaction and your desires shall be satisfied.

I wish to tell you again that the pure of heart have a force of attraction that comes uniquely from the presence of God in them through grace.

The more you live out this life of grace the more you will be missionaries according to my heart. Doing good must be helped by that light which comes to you from above, like from a star that must guide your journey.

I shall be your Star, I shall guide your steps, I will safeguard your future and I will help you in all your spiritual and material needs. Be pure of heart, pure of mind, pure of body and happiness in this and in the next life will be your heritage.

I bless you, children, squeezing you to my heart.

I would like to call you all by name. when the priest pronounces your name, feel it from my mouth with complacence and as a blessing.

YOU ARE MISSIONARIES OF THE QUEEN OF PEACE

December 8, 1973

My beloved children, grace and health and joy be to your hearts! Look, you are here a host of fervent souls, desirous of putting yourselves at my service. I have already welcomed you into my heart; it's up to you to start your work, which I will guide and bless.

You are all my missionaries, therefore, you will have to bring my voice and my doctrine everywhere. The peace that emanates from my heart must enter into your heart and you will have to be messengers of peace. Am I not the Queen of Peace?

The world is racked in fratricidal conflicts and men massacre each other with ease and with ferocity. Families break up and are ruffled in disorder and in betrayal and souls anxiously seek that peace they do not find in human remedies. The God of peace, distanced from hearts, cannot give out this precious gift that comes only from Him.

I send you messengers of peace and I invite you to live it out better and better in you, if you will truly possess it, from all your being a beneficial influence will emanate that will give to others so much tranquility.

Yes, children, you must at any cost bring into the world that peace which the world desires. You are missionaries of the Queen of Peace.

When the missionaries with ships plough the oceans, they bring with them things that are indispensable to them. They bring also a white handkerchief, which they wave as a sign of greeting when the ship looks like moving away from the port. I would like for this white handkerchief to be a call for you and an invitation for others to remind you of your faith for which you accomplish every undertaking of yours.

You are not called to seek material interests. You follow a road, and the faith is your flag which you wave not so much in order to make a show of your theories, but to speak about the joy that you have of being at the service of the King and his Mother.

Perhaps in some moment that white sign could indicate an SOS, that is, it might be an invocation for help or an invocation for a truce or peace; but also in those moments that could be sorrowful, you ought to always keep your banner high. Your faith must not be lacking in you.

Moreover, children, let us go back to the ship leaving with the missionaries who plough the seas. They bring the crucifix with them, since they know that accomplishing a mission also means embracing a cross. Sorrow is the inseparable companion of the life of man. If however, in moments of struggle, when misunderstanding, slander, physical or spiritual suffering make headway and you find yourselves in the alternative of accepting it, of embracing it and having peace, or of refusing it and being in despair, you look at the crucifix, you cannot be rebellious.

In the fulfilment of any mission, even purely human, the difficulties and the sacrifice is the money to be paid every day. But if the mission is divine, then the difficulties are very many. They will engage battle against you even if unbloody, not only the demons, but also those whom you would think of turning to in order to have some collaborators.

Do not be surprised and be in peace the Gospel has already spoken to you about these struggles and you must do nothing but only to make yourself fierce with prayer. Look at the crucifix every day and listen

from the mouth of Jesus to those words: *“This very day you will be with me in Paradise.”*

Live day to day, because every day could be the last and because you must not bother about the past and the future, but only of the present moment, the only one you have at your disposition.

The missionaries depart bringing with them an image of mine and the Rosary beads, like he who goes far away brings with him the photograph of his mother or loved persons to whom he wants to keep faith and whom he wants to love forever.

An effigy of mine has been donated to you. It is a good thing, but I beg you, do not shut me up in a little drawer with objects that have no importance. Keep me under your eyes, so that every day, looking at me, you may be able to repeat to yourselves: *“Am I a true missionary of Mary?”* In this way you have the Rosary a weapon, that will be useful for you in winning all the battles. The enemies are always in ambush, but I give you my shield and the Rosary which, propagated, will defend you and others from the evil one.

And now all be ready. All docile, embark on Peter’s boat, the one of the Church. The Star points out the Harbour to you and steers the rudder in order to help you in all the manoeuvres, even the most difficult ones. Yes, call me “Star of the Sea” and so I am. In the treacherous sea of life, you missionaries look at me.

Come here again every time that you might have the possibility. My minister and my instrument will be up to date with your conquests and also with your failures.

Do not be surprised of these and not even they will be surprised, but all united you will help each other in turn.

I would like in this moment to remind you that those who have to reach the destination must be all in agreement. Imagine if a group wanted to climb up a mountain roped together and if at a certain point one of the party were to stop climbing what would happen? All compact, all docile, all active therefore.

I bless you one by one just as I have blessed you with the hand of my minister.

Invoke me like this: *“Most Holy Mary, Queen of Peace, Missionary amongst missionaries, help me to do always all that good which God*

desires from me.”

Goodbye, children, and thanks to all for the good that you show me and for the good desires that you have.

SERENITY AND PEACE

December 9, 1973

My beloved children, be blessed and joyful, for the Lord who loves you infinitely has chosen you as instruments, so that you may go to sow his word as good seed everywhere. Be joyful, for joy is the characteristic that distinguishes the children of God, who possess grace, from those who live far from Him.

If sorrow makes you weep, never let yours be tears of desperation. Let your tears speak to God of the desire for purification that you have, the desire for sanctity to which you aspire and let them be the expression of the sorrow that you have of not seeing all men, especially your loved ones, correspond to the calls of God and be converted.

I am the Immaculate One, but I am also the Sorrowful One and if in life I did not have the comfort of tears even in the most sorrowful moments, I go about a little everywhere now showing them to you in order to make everyone understand the suffering that the sins of men give to my heart.

The intimate joy that you must possess, must not lessen not even when your eyes water with sorrow, because it comes from the certainty that we are near you and that God does not permit any evil that is not in order to draw out greater good.

The gladness of the souls of God is like a powerful magnet that calls souls beside Him; it is a marvellous thing which the world, though not able to understand, appreciates.

In this way, with the serenity that comes to you from a spirituality understood and lived out, you will continue to do your daily duties, but everything will change in you, because everyday you will ascend the holy mountain of the Lord, bringing to Him and to the brethren a more and more perfect gift of love. The joy will be like a voice that will call others to want to enjoy it, since the desire for happiness is connatural to

man. You will be in this way truly Christian, and it will be a refutation to those who say that to be practising Christians is equivalent to being sad and morose.

I would just like to give you a badge, so that as missionaries of Our Lady you are distinguished from the others, but I limit myself to giving you a catch-word that you will communicate to each other: "*Serenity and peace*:" With this commitment your thoughts will be more tranquil, your heart more calm, your families more happy and everywhere you will bring the seed that will produce love.

Children, I want to allude to you to that which was the work of John the Baptist, the precursor of my Jesus. Well then, he preached to the crowds in order to prepare the way of the Lord and in order to tell everyone who He was. And of himself he said: "*I am the voice that cries in the desert* (Mt 3:3)."

Beloved children, in the desert of the world I send you to tell everyone that the Lord is near and that all must understand his love and love Him. I would like for you to respond to those who should ask you who you are and what you are doing: "*We are the voice that calls everyone*."

What is there more insignificant than the voice? And yet what is there more important than speech? You shall be the voice, that is, in every work of yours you will not seek yourselves, your glory, honour, esteem. You shall be my voice, children, and you shall be those who announce the Kingdom and who bring the word of salvation.

In this way the joyful voice that is spread around you shall be that of happy children who on the heart of the Mother perform, in sympathy and agreement, the will of God.

I bless you again and I give you with heart outpouring all my tenderness.

You of Pontedera shall be the spark that will develop a great fire of love for God. I beg you for one thing: give your piety a solid base, if you want for your work to resist the battles and time. The base of every spiritual work is the Mass. That there may be no one who, coming to the cenacle, forgets the Sunday Mass.

I bless my effigy, that will obtain sorrow for sins to those who look at it and invoke it. I bless the one of the Child Jesus that you will place alongside me, that will give consolation and help to many.

A goodbye to everyone. Be certain that one does not leave here empty handed.

To the young men present, the invitation to call many around them, so that one may pray and pray well.

Thank you, children, many thanks and more and more numerous and fervent as now.

THE EXERCISE OF PATIENCE

December 11, 1973

Dear and beloved children, peace be to you. I am the Mother of holy patience and I desire to address to you an invitation ever so pressing, so that you may be able to grow more and more in the exercise of this virtue so important in life.

Patience, in fact, gives you control over yourselves and renders you good with others, but above all makes you dear to God's heart, for to be patient means also to be meek, to be peaceful, to have confidence in God, who in his works needs good and patient souls who go along with Him.

God exercised first this virtue so necessary. In fact, He would have been able to create the world with one act of his will alone; instead, He wished to employ six epochs. He wanted to show with it that in life all is carried out with order and patience.

My Jesus could have descended from Heaven and started straight away his work of evangelisation of the nations; instead, He patiently submitted himself to the laws of human nature and wanted to accomplish his work after thirty long years of waiting. At the Last Supper He expressed his long patience with those words that manifested all the anxiety of sacrificing himself for men: "*I have ardently desired to eat this Pasch with you (Lk 22:15).*"

And I too, my children, made patience one of the favourite virtues and I learnt always to await in everything for the Lord to manifest his will and clarify every event.

Children, the behaviour of the Christian in order to be called exemplary must be a continuous exercise of patience. There are many people

who turn to God asking for graces and want to be heard immediately. They do not remember how long the Lord waits for sinners to return to his heart, and they do not remember even how long He waited for their return in the long years in which they coldly lived out their commitments with God, or had been far from Him.

If God does not hear promptly, it is because He sees in the waiting the merits increase, the prayers intensify and through them good spreading. If everyone were convinced that they were in good hands, they would abandon themselves to the holy will of God with tranquillity. Do not the good fathers and good mothers also do likewise? Perhaps you think that in everything and always they go along with the demands of their children?

To be patient in the requests that you make, praying, is also an art which gains God's heart and renders it more lavish of goods towards those ask for them, especially if they are spiritual goods. So too, if you wish to gain the heart of men, you cannot let the virtue of patience be missing. If the misunderstandings and the family and social fights are sorrowful, and you well know it, there is a means to calm them and to resolve them, and it is patient discussion and the dialogue which permits one to reason.

Whoever possesses patience shall certainly be the winner in all the human situations no matter how difficult they may be. It is certainly not in the overpowering or in forcedly imposing one's opinion that one can triumph, but in the placid exposition of one's ideas, that renders one worthy of being heard.

The patience of the mother who knows how to love, suffer, pray without interruption, in spite of the controversies and the tears that the family makes her shed, is that gift that merits her the title of "strong woman."

The patience of the upright man who conscientiously works, even if not justly recognized, is that virtue that makes him appreciated as a true gentleman.

The patience of my ministers, who in the midst of temptations of every sort, to misunderstandings and difficulties, learn in the exercise of prayer and the apostolic works to continue on as if it were the first day of Mass, is that virtue that lets them be called saints.

In this way, in tenacity and in constancy, the works are carried to completion, without haste, but with patient preciseness and accuracy. Patience is a virtue that makes meek heroes, those which no one is aware of, but which serve to preserve family peace, peace in the workplaces and study, in the Church and everywhere.

However, children, you must also be patient with yourselves. You many times would like to get to the top of the ladder without going up the rungs. If you want to descend, you could also do the rungs four at a time, but going up you must do one at a time. Perfection is a great and difficult commitment. If you have patience, little by little you get there.

I hear from many people who get demoralized, who get discouraged. But why, children? Don't you know that your God knows you better than you know yourself? Patience therefore, and what seems to you unbearable will be brought to completion.

With good will, you catch your breath and strength every time that you come beside me and then you continue on. Letting yourselves be disheartened means letting yourselves have too much confidence in yourselves. The saints were surprised at having done something good, not of being slow in perfecting themselves or also of having fallen. You are accustomed to looking at the saints as sinless souls, who captured glory without a fight. But it is not so. All have had defects and virtues and only after having fought the former, were they capable of consolidating the virtues.

You also do the same, walk on and have only the fear of offending the Lord. If you fall, you will find ready the hands to lift you up again. Ask help from everyone and have peace.

I bless you all one by one and I urge you: be patient with yourselves and your neighbour. Learn to be patient in asking graces from God, and in patience you will reach Paradise.

PRAYER FULL OF FAITH AND LOVE

December 12, 1973 (in a private house)

My beloved children, peace be to your hearts and every good. Look, there is no place on earth where I am not able and cannot bring with my help my word. You are here and are performing one of the most solemn acts of your life: you are communicating with Heaven by means of prayer. You are performing an action that must have a resonance in all the world. Well then, if you wish for your praying to have a deep echo on earth and in Heaven, behave so that this act may be always animated by your love.

Faith gives strength to your prayer and makes it capable of moving the heart of God and of obtaining miracles, love is like the soul that vivifies the prayer and renders it acceptable to God.

Children, if you did not know the goodness of your heavenly Mother, you could put in doubt my assistance, but you know how much I love you and prodigious things have not been lacking in your town and in this same house. Let your prayer addressed to me, be a response of love to the love that I bring you.

Many make my heart bleed and my eyes water, offending my Son Jesus, but you who love me, do not cease combating evil everywhere. Flee sin, even if you should have to fight, because only he who lives in the grace of God can be capable of interceding for all.

Humanity is struggling between life and death, children, and threatens to be swept away besides by a chaos of evil, by a last attempt of the mercy of God in order to be called to good. How will so many of my children be saved who live only by sinning?

Your prayer, full of faith and love, will be the net through which once again a miraculous haul will be made. That's why I invite you to persevere in good. Continue your good gatherings, I will always be amongst you in order to bless you and to encourage you.

So that you may be able to persevere however, and be conscious of the preciousness of your encounters with Heaven, do so that a little religious instruction may never be lacking in these meetings, it will be like mental prayer, which letting you know the Lord better and better will teach you to reflect, to meditate.

The world is full of mindless ones who do not learn to give the true

value to things. But if you know God, all the things of the world seem nothing to you and you rejoice with Him. Even sacrifice does not cost more, when everything is done for God.

If you were to know how pleasing the offering of your daily sufferings is to the Lord! It's the little things that turn you into little heroes, because the constancy in offering can be more painful than confronting martyrdom.

Know that your crosses, purified by love and joined to the cross and to the passion of my Jesus, are a means of continuous sanctification of the Church, while with her you are made chosen members.

So, children, offer up your work, study and even amusements and know that everything, if done in the grace of God, shall be repaid in Heaven with a glory without measure.

I am your Mother and I have the duty to love you, since the commandment to love the neighbour, which is a duty for everyone, is principally for me. I do not find it difficult to love you, for no mother must find it difficult to love her children. So that I may be able however, to take on full responsibility for you, so as to assure you Paradise, I desire that you consciously consecrate yourselves to me everyday.

Many things happen in the world, unpleasant and painful things whereby many suddenly lose the life of the body. If you are consecrated to me, do not be afraid and do not doubt, I will save your souls from the claws of Satan. You will be with me in Paradise, I promise you so.

To the children present, my special blessing. Yes, I am happy that a beautiful wreath is formed around me with the living Rosary. These good children will be preserved. And let the mothers distinguish liveliness from naughtiness. Some religious and priestly vocations will emerge amongst these children.

To the mothers and the sick who come to this cenacle, my embrace and my "courage, daughters!"

To the men who come and will come here to pray, I give my most beautiful graces, especially faith.

To those who open their homes in order to give others the way to pray, I open the gate of my heart and one day I will open the one of Heaven. Do you not call me the "Gate of Heaven?" So it is.

Squeezing you all one by one to my heart, I beg you: be a help to your

priests, so that, reinvigorated in spirit and conscious of their duties, they can truly be for the people of God light that illuminates.

Goodbye, children. See you again numerous and fervent.

THE CENACLE OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT

December 14, 1973 (in a private house)

Dear and beloved children, here I am at this spiritual banquet. You have desired me and I have come to preside over your first meeting. It will be cenacle of Our Lady of Light and I will give light to your minds, to your intellects. It is true though that many are the spirits darkened by sin, but, giving you light, you too will become beacons that illuminate.

No creature of this world can shine with its own light, all have to receive the reflected light that comes from above. Courage therefore, and continue on.

Good will and desires of good must characterize this cenacle. I will do the rest.

I recall to you the words that my Jesus addressed to some interlocutors one day. In fact He said: "*John the Baptist came amongst you, who did not eat and did not drink, and you say he has a devil. I have come who eats and drinks, and you tell me that I am a glutton and a drunkard and that I am a friend of sinners. But the works bear witness to Wisdom (Lk 7:33-35).*" I have referred these words to you in order to tell you that the light that I will give you shall be wisdom and that wisdom comes from God.

Moreover, I want also to put you on your guard on the dangers that could arise. The men of all times are the same. If you do good, they will judge you either fanatics or mad; if you do otherwise, they will hurl at you their condemnation. What will be the thing that will justify you before God and before men? It will be the goodness of your works, it will be the testimony of your life, it will be the perfect consistency demonstrated by you between prayer and charity, between faith and morals, between words and Christian practice. To this sense of balance, to this exactness and preciseness of life I invite you.

I will not speak to you of extraordinary things in our encounters. I will not praise you if you deserve a rebuke and I will not rebuke you if you

deserve a praise. I will be more than ever a Mother and Teacher to you and from the divine Wisdom I will make you draw from time to time what is necessary for each one.

This is a private audience which I grant to you. If general audiences allow only those who direct speak or the person responsible, the special audience is an individual conversation.

I promise you therefore, to answer every request of yours in a plausible way. The most important thing is docility, humility and faith through which you can more easily welcome the light.

As of now I promise you to grant you special graces on Christmas day, but know that sometimes you do not understand the graces in their true value, therefore you do not know how to ask for them. I will make myself the interpreter for you and I will ask God for all that is good for you to receive.

Be serene, children, and may your serenity bring peace to hearts and to families.

I bless you all one by one and I say to you: be light that illuminates.

I bless my ministers here present.

A special blessing to the children, to whom immobility is truly a cause of suffering. I bless them all, even the absent ones who are desirous of loving me.

TO THE YOUNG

December 16, 1973

My children, peace and joy be to your hearts and may it never lessen, be it in prosperous things or when set-backs come to poison your days. You must react with prayer and with the strength of the will to adversities. It's only in this way that you can prepare yourselves for the struggles of life.

If everything flowed like the waters of a river in its own bed, what merit would you have and how would you be able to be fierce and strong when enemies of every kind launch their battles against you?

In this way, constantly maintaining serenity, you will modify your character. The good characters naturally are themselves a fount of peace,

but that peace that you willingly try to capture and which must direct your interior and exterior life, is the best means to show to others that an unusual light comes to you from that doctrine which you profess and from that life which you lead.

Be therefore, always and in every place persons of character, who in the constant possession of joy and peace give witness of believing and of loving. Children, were you to know how dear to my heart is your spiritual improvement!

Your human situations, the desire that you have of seeing your dreams hit home, are also my preoccupation and in everything I want to help you. But your perfection is a thing that exceeds every human event, even if you see it under a good light. Let this desire be constant in your heart: I must be holy.

Marriage can be the road that leads you to that destination and it will be I, it will be your God who will guide the events. Think about improving yourselves day by day and edifying everyone with your example.

I am happy with you. I urge you, love one another and do not judge one another, but emulate each other in virtue and in good.

I bless you one by one and I protect you, but know that the love that you bear me makes you masters of my heart.

IT IS LOVE THAT GIVES LIFE AND THAT TRANSFORMS

December 17, 1973

My beloved children, here I am with you. I want to predispose your hearts to welcome my Child. I am Mary of Nazareth. When two thousand years ago I awaited the birth of the Man-God, I had only one worry, that of giving Him, who already dwelt close to my heart, that warmth of love whereby He would not have regretted of having left Heaven.

This fire of love must on these days of the preparation novena, fill you up to making you forget all the trifles which human life is full of. The act of love of God, which I would like to be like the breath of the soul, must not impede any occupation in you however, but rather it must bring in it like a vital breath.

Love, children, is what you have the most precious at your disposal, for one only act of perfect love is enough to erase the faults of a whole life and to transform a soul from sinner to saint.

If then you adorn the human actions with the love of God, the same will be done more precisely, so that all those who live alongside you will benefit from them, as they take on that gracious aspect of gift that returns pleasing to all.

This shall be therefore, the novena of love and as a consequence the novena of grace. It is impossible to sin, when one loves. Sin is the moving away from God, to whom one does not wish to obey, and the getting closer to the creature to whom one wishes to bestow honour as if it were a divinity. Sin is the rupture of the relationships of friendship with God and becoming his enemies by one's own will.

For he who loves therefore, no sin can exist, no rupture, with the exception of those weaknesses in which man falls, but without awareness and without the desire of hurling himself against God, opposing his will.

Behold, children, what will gladden these days: the thought of your union with Jesus, so deep as to mirror mine with my Child who was waiting to be born. All the rest is second rate, even if it has its importance.

The moment of giving birth having arrived, Joseph and I went in search of a house in Bethlehem.

You ought to give Him to many others, my Jesus, after having intimately tied Him to yourselves. Many homes in the world need the Lord, many hearts are unhappy and do not know the motive of their unhappiness.

Go, as John exhorted, to prepare the way of the Lord. You who have been invited to be the voice, speak about my Son to all those who will listen to you. Do not expect to see a flower blossom where you throw a seed. There are some plants that sprout a long time after having been sown, and the seed must decay in the soil; then the rain is needed and the sun in due time.

This divine sun, this beneficial water is the grace of God. You sow and God works and makes those little plants grow which then bring their fruits. A word of yours is a little thing, but the divine sun makes it fertile.

Oh, children, it is always love that gives life and which transforms it! So to all, with a gift of love, bring your acts of goodness. The works of mercy that John preached on the banks of the Jordan are always current. John used to say: *“He who has two tunics, let him give one to he who has not (Lk 3:11).”*

You do not take it literally what you hear, but you understand in that way: he who has enjoyed the benevolence of God in every sense, but especially of that warmth that comes from being covered by the mantle of protection and of the providence of God, learn to share these riches with others so that all can be happy.

Children, my Jesus still as two thousand years ago, is waiting not only for one house, but all the houses of the world where He can pour out his graces and his love. In this way, if you bring my Child in you, that will be a consequence of attracting not just the shepherds to Him, but the simple, the workers who turn their duty into an offering to God, the mothers, the children.

It is easy to speak about love, even if it is not so easy to live it out in the practise of charity, but if you seek to live it out intimately with God, the difficulties will disappear.

Children, do not have many desires. I give peace to whoever asks for it and to whoever with good will collaborates in order to procure it for himself and preserve it. If then you want to be messengers of peace, behold: that baptism of Spirit and of fire that John the Baptist had foretold, whose author is Jesus, in this moment I make to descend on your head.

You will not be sensitively aware of anything, but you will feel love redouble in your hearts and the light to your minds will serve to give you that clarity of thoughts that will make the apostolate easy for you.

And now I bless you, embracing you. See you again, children, and so much love.

I bless the images of my Child that you have brought to be blessed and I promise you by their means light and warmth in the homes where they will go: light of faith, warmth of love.

PEACE, A PRECIOUS GIFT

December 17, 1973 (in a private house)

My children, see, I have followed you in your peregrination and wherever I pass I sow blessings and graces.

I am the Help of the Christian People, the Queen of Peace. I wish to give peace to hearts, to minds, to families.

Peace is a gift that comes from God, the author of peace, but only he who has good will welcomes it inside himself and keeps it.

Children, learn to love peace and guard it even at the cost of the greatest sacrifices. Learn to meet everyone halfway with the same love with which you would come to meet me.

From the depth of love depends much the gift of peace. Learn to love peace and prefer to lose every other thing rather than this precious gift.

Humility of thoughts and features is a great means in order to establish peace if you were to have lost it. Know that the God of peace gives to those whom He loves to call peaceful ones, that is, bearers of peace, also unusual material gifts. For this Jesus said: *“Blessed the peaceful because they shall possess the earth.”*

The promised earth is Paradise, but in this promise made by Jesus those goods are realized that go from fraternal collaboration to wellbeing and to health, which are fruits of peace.

I bless you all, my children, and I urge you: keep old age in great honour. The elderly people are the lightning rods that avoid many woes to families when they are loved.

I bless your loved ones and I urge the recitation of the family Rosary to everyone.

See you again, children, I embrace you in the Lord.

THE GIFT OF MOTHERHOOD

December 18, 1973

My beloved children, I am the Mother of Jesus. Today I want to tell you what sorrow wounds my heart, when heartless mothers, without faith and full of selfishness kill those fragile creatures they carry in the womb.

It is not just because they feel incapable of being a mother that they reject motherhood — which would be a sentiment of humility corresponding to the truth, since being a mother is an art ever so difficult — but only because calculations too precise on what concerns the future make them excessively prudent or, worse still, because a child would compel them to renounce those amusements which they are used to.

I would like to speak to you about motherhood as it appears to the eyes of God and as I had seen it in those nine months in which I carried the Child in my womb.

When a mother receives a baby as a gift — I say gift and gift of God, since the soul that gives life to the body comes from Him — it is as if surrounded by a halo that renders it especially protected by God. He commends it to me and I protect under my mantle the mother and her baby, so that they can with my blessing bring their mission to completion.

It is not only a human act that is performed, but an act to which God, Creator and Lord of the world is particularly interested. Even for that baby, that will see birth, He has given his blood, but his work has been entrusted to the mother, who can harm with an inhuman act not only the life of the soul, but also the fruit of his redemption.

God in his infinite goodness and mercy has willed that every baby come into this world, after the trial, to be a sharer of his glory and enjoy for all eternity an infinite happiness, even if proportioned to the degree of love that it has brought Him. The selfish mothers deprive their babies of this happiness and deny them being able to reach that degree of glory to which they are destined.

I want to tell you still, children. When a poor person is adopted by one who possesses wealth, if he is a very thinking person, freely, he feels a very great gratitude towards he who has sacrificed himself for him and

made him a gift of everything. And why do many, especially many mothers, do not feel the duty to be grateful to God for the gift of life that they have received? And if this gift was freely given to them, why do they deny others the right to live?

Were you to know children, how this sin cries to Heaven for vengeance! You know about Cain who killed Abel and his sin was great, also because he took him by deceit and unknown to him. But does it not seem to you that the gravity of this sin be equal to the one of the sin of Cain or even greater, from the moment that unaware and innocent babies are killed by their same mother?

You know also about the massacre of the Innocents and how Herod wanted to kill the children of Bethlehem two years or younger, fearing of having a rival in the Messiah. But does it not seem worse to you that the mothers themselves consummate these crimes, not just because they may fear of having rivals, but only because that faith that lets one recognize in God the author of life, the only one who can dispose of the life of man, is lacking in them?

Children, it is true also that many children, scandalized from the most tender age, will not have from the parents and especially from the mother that help and that light whereupon they can walk on the right road. But does it not seem to you that at least they would have given these babies the possibility to choose? Is it not true that freedom is the most beautiful gift of God, after grace, which allows man to choose between good and evil? And why should a mother have to take away from her baby the right to live, to choose between good and evil and to gain eternal life for itself?

So I present to you the good mother who, surrounded by the halo of motherhood, is like a perfumed rose from whom will come the bud that will give praise to God.

Daughters, if hoariness already whitens your hairs and beside you there are young spouses, never be tempted to frighten those who are waiting. Be benevolently close to these young mothers. Learn to speak to them about this mission so great and so delicate and encourage them to abandon themselves into the hands of God, offering up beforehand those sufferings that they will have to encounter for the good their babies. The woman is sanctified with motherhood.

It seems that I hear more voices. There is someone who says: “*My children, whom I welcomed with love, now are my tribulation and I do not know how they will end up.*” It is true that many times they make your heart bleed, but there is another heart that has bled for everyone: it is the heart of my Jesus. Bring your children to his Heart: He will give them back to you healed.

Sometimes however, the mothers weep and they have a very good reason to. When these children were little, from the maternal womb they have not learned to keep them only for God; they have not learned to warn them and keep them away from the dangers.

What will these mothers do? Here is some advice. Do not try to pretend to do again what had not been done before. Entrust them to me with abundant tears, prayers and sacrifices. I will take your place and learn to be their mother.

If then one of you have not had the gift of children, learn to ask God to be able to exercise that spiritual motherhood and fatherhood that serves to give life to souls. Before God everything is important, provided that one follows his Law and loves.

I bless you, children, and I love you. I bless those who have special responsibilities whereby their authority could be compared to that of parents. Be prudent, but seek to make everyone understand what the will of God is: that life be respected also in seed and that to legalize abortion is to legalize homicide.

To that mother whose son was killed at a young age, I say: my daughter, I understand your sorrow, because also to me they have killed a son, the best of the world. If they had not killed him for you, perhaps you would have had from him some great grief. Forgive, my daughter. Your son will come to console you and you will have peace.

To all my embrace!

DEEP HUMILITY AND GRATITUDE

December 23, 1973

Dear and beloved children, the Spirit of the Lord be upon you and give you light and grace so that your hearts may be well disposed to celebrate the day of birth of my Jesus. I am your Mother, children, and my desires are only of benevolence and of peace for men, be they good or evil.

You are by now at the end of that liturgical period which, though having an imprint of mortification and of penance, is a continual invitation to joy.

But why is there in the world so much sadness in spite of the well-being and the entertainments which many make use of? Only my Son, who can dwell in the soul through grace, is he who brings joy. Observe my meeting with Elisabeth. The presence of Jesus, though hidden, makes her heart jump with joy and with her the child that she carries in the womb.

God is the source of happiness, therefore, happiness cannot wane in Him; and if sometimes you hear some words that demonstrate to you the Lord angry or saddened, it is only so that you may be able to understand that sin is evil in itself and it is bad for you, since God has to punish it. But even if all men of earth were to curse Him and insult Him and distance themselves from Him, He would remain what He is, his nature would not change; He would be equally happy and He would be equally infinitely holy and good.

He who seeks happiness must seek it therefore, in Him, if he wants it to be true and lasting. The heart of man has been made for God and nothing can satisfy it, if not the possession of God.

That's why therefore, my children, I invite you to regain grace should you have lost it, also in order to be happy. And if you wish for your happiness to increase more and more, grow in this grace seeking to live with love for God. If your encounters with the Lord are rare, make them become more numerous; if your communions are cold, make them well prepared and for your thanksgiving to be all fire, so that the divine life may increase in you. The more grace increases the more your joy is full, so that all may be able to enjoy it.

You have seen with Elisabeth. A sudden light burst out from the body

of my Jesus that is communicated to those creatures. John was sanctified, Elisabeth was illuminated. “*Why has the Mother of my Lord come to me (Lk 1:43)?*”, exclaims Elisabeth. It is always so. Whoever lives in grace is pure of heart and whoever is pure of heart sees God.

But, my children, I must continue the lesson for you. Listen to the words inspired to humility of Elizabeth and hear from my mouth the song of thanksgiving: “*My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit exults in God my Saviour, for He has worked great things in me (Lk 1:46)* .”

Children, if grace brings you God and with Him happiness, in order to preserve it humility is necessarily needed. How will it be possible in fact, to overcome the temptations of him who only through his great pride has fallen if you do not make the effort to practise that humility which is the foundation of every virtue?

There are many Christians who, only because they have always been believers or because they have always heard Holy Mass and fulfilled their practices of piety, have built for themselves a pedestal from which they never want to descend. They forget these, that having been chosen from the first hour is a greater responsibility and a gift of which they will have to render an account to God.

And for so many gifts received in the order of the natural and supernatural life, does it not seem to you that not just a thought of pride ought to gush forth from you but a sense of gratitude and profound humility? You ought not therefore, put yourselves like the Pharisee before the altar to say: “*Lord, I thank You, because I am not like the publican down there.*”; moreover, the recognizing of the gifts of God must make you reflect and fear of having corresponded badly to his call and of having wasted his riches.

If the song of the Magnificat has to emerge very often from your mouth and from your heart, never let it be in order to make comparisons, but to magnify the goodness of God.

May the Lord also let you understand that it is only pride that creates so many disunities and discords in families. Oh, if each one were to try to meet half way his fellow man with sentiments of humility, how your relationships would change! He who is more humble let him understand others and try to break those barriers that get in the way.

It is true also that many people seem to be guided by wickedness and

by stubbornness, but tell me: what do you mothers do when you want to knead the bread, if the flour is too hard or clotted? Is it not true that you add either water or milk, and then you work it with love and with good will until you obtain a dough homogenous and well compact?

You must do the same with those who are near you and who did not let themselves be worked and do not let themselves be convinced. Put the water of prayer, put the fire of your love and have patience. Patience is the great teacher of life that obtains miracles.

In this way, children, you must predispose the mind, the heart and the will in expectation of Christmas. Humility and grace, patience and good will in order to arrive at giving at least to your family and to yourselves that joy that is to be the prelude and the fulfilment of Christmas.

My children, I bless you. Learn to understand more than to try being understood. I watch over you and I help you, so that a daily spiritual progress may mark the journey of your sanctity.

Let it not happen that, after having come to my school for years, you remain illiterate or backward. To proceed in nourishing your mind is my desire, but you must follow me with good will. Let it not happen that these gifts go wasted, because the Lord could take them away from you in order to give them to those who could traffic them better.

I give you peace, children, and good will, but fear the Lord who passes by.

And now I wish you a good Christmas. I will be at table with you. Put on an extra plate, it will be mine, and on this plate you will put the heart of all the fellow diners that will be for me, and an offering that will serve for the poor.

See you again, children, happy and holy.

Pray on these days for the dead in the air and on the road.

COMMEND YOUR SPIRIT TO THE FATHER

December 26, 1973

Beloved children, I cannot leave you deprived of my word, for I see your desires and your love. I am the Queen of martyrs, and it is just that I remind you of the martyrdom of him who was the first martyr after the death of my Jesus.

Stephen was martyred because he believed in Jesus. He loved Him and in his name worked great miracles. Just as they had killed my Son, they had to kill also him. And he, who was stoned, still had the strength to say those words which Jesus also had uttered from the top of the cross: "*Lord, into your hands I put back my spirit (Acts 7:58).*"

Children, I would like for this expression to be habitual on your lips, not only in anticipation of that last moment in which you will have to put back your soul to God, from where it left, but in many moments of your day. When you would like to make yourselves understood by those who are near to you and unfortunately it seems that you speak another language, this is the moment to put back your spirit to the Father. He will speak for you.

When, distracted by the thousand temptations of life or flattered by desires that do not coincide with the will of God, you would like to suspend your life of piety, interrupt your prayer and do what others do whom you consider more wicked and more happy, this is the moment of putting back the spirit in the hands of God, so that He may give you light and perseverance in good.

When you would like to do some greater good, more ordered and more effective and you feel as if bound by a thousand adversities and difficulties, that are not only external to you but also in yourselves, commend your spirit to the Lord; that strength and that firmness will come to you whereby you will be able to overcome yourselves and win.

Putting oneself in the hands of God every day is like letting oneself be guided and instructed, encouraged and helped in everything. Let it therefore, be habitual this invocation in your life; the last day will be like the conclusion of a drama to a happy outcome. Every day can be for you like a donation of a drop of your blood, but your offering shall not be vain and, if you make everything a gift to God, your daily martyrdom

will mark not only salvation but also perfection.

Remember that from the martyrdom of Stephen came the conversion of Paul, who would have been the apostle of the Gentiles. Your drop of blood will give life to the apostles, it will be the one that will vivify the Church. Stephen in his agony said: "*Lord, do not impute this sin to them* (Acts 7:59)." The same my Jesus said also.

All those who wish to live their Christian life must travel on these footsteps: the forgiveness of enemies. When I speak of enemies, I mean all those who make you suffer in body and in spirit. It is easy to love those who love you, children, but Jesus willed for the Hebrew religion, which taught to love friends and to render an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth to those who harmed, to be perfected. There must be no enemy in the life of the Christian. All the children of one same Father, all brothers amongst you, so as to rejoice with the joys of others and be saddened for the sufferings of others.

Every day must bring you an increase of love for all. Just as the Lord does, who makes the sun shine on the good and on the wicked, you must extend your affection, which must embrace all humanity without excluding anyone.

Perhaps you could say to me that it is easier for you to love the negroes of Africa rather than your family. But I say to you that the love for your loved ones is indispensable, since in the order of duties it is exactly them to be loved first of all. Love is carried out however, it is not an abstract sentiment made only of words. "*Who has a greater love than he who gives his life for his own brethren?*"

This is the way one needs to love: to be available, to accept taking on the burdens of others in order to render their life lighter. Then, going to meet others halfway forgiving them and accepting them the way they are, with their defects and with all their gaps. In your turn you have something to be forgiven and in some things to be put up with.

Patience and love, children. As you see, suffering is often spoken to you about. But was not my life and that of my Son the same? He was a few days old and already they were looking for Him to make Him die. Around Him innocent children gave their life in order to testify for his coming: even if it was not a voluntary act, it was meritorious for Paradise.

It is always the same in the world. One loves and one suffers. One suffers and one's heart bleeds. One gives one's life and one takes part in salvation.

Let the example of Stephen be a warning and an encouragement to you and let it be in blessing for you every time that for the love of God you learn, commending the spirit to the Father, to forgive everyone, by loving.

See you again, children. I embrace you one by one and I give you my Son as a treasure to guard.

I GIVE YOU A LITTLE PROGRAMME

December 27, 1973

Beloved children, what joy this meeting of yours gives me! To the cry of desperation, of discontent and of cursing that is incessantly raised from many lips and from many hearts, you oppose yours of love, of acceptance and of praise. Be blessed!

I will use this Rosary and above all the Holy Mass and I will make an offering of them to the Father, so that He will want to pardon those who sin and to continue his benevolence and protection over you.

I as of now bless you and, giving you an embrace full of gratitude, I give you a little programme so that the joy of this meeting may remain always alive in your hearts.

You have heard repeated in the days of preparation for Christmas and on the day of the Lord, these three words especially: "Fiat, magnificat, glory be."

"Fiat" (let it be done) was the word that I said not only to the angel at the moment of the Annunciation, but in every instant of my life especially when the will of God asked me for great sacrifices.

"Fiat", let your will be done, Lord, I used to say before the trial. A hard and fatiguing journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a second journey from Bethlehem into Egypt, a return journey to Nazareth with ever new dangers, with ever new tribulations.

Moreover run over my life up to the death of my Jesus on the cross, and you will see how every "fiat" uttered by me, acquired the value of a

great sacrifice which only the faith was able to alleviate.

You are here to learn from me, and I invite you in the name of that faith which the Lord made you a gift of, to pronounce this “fiat”, your “fiat” in all the difficulties of life. I will help you, and from your adhesion to the will of God new strength will always come to you, always new trust and hope, always new joy in order to be able to carry the cross.

I could say to you that I want to free you from suffering. But tell me: do you think that being well off on this earth happiness can be realized? How many people possess health, honours and riches, and yet live anguished in soul and internally tormented. Happiness is the possession of God and no human thing can give only what God can give.

Moreover, look at Heaven, children, and there you will find people who have not known rest in their sorrows; and yet, if you were to ask them what they would like to do in the world if it were possible for them to go back there, they would answer you: *“We would not desire anything else than to suffer out of love, in order to bear witness to God of our fidelity and our love.”*

Continue therefore, to do the will of God, even if it is lawful for you to ask for health as to ask for the daily bread, in order to serve the Lord more and more and better and better and make yourselves useful to the brethren.

The second word that I suggested to you is “Magnificat”. From the hymn of praise gushes forth the thanksgiving. My children however, do not always understand the true gifts of God and even less are disposed to thank. You have seen, of the ten lepers cured by my Jesus, only one return to Him in order to thank Him. But you who voluntarily have put yourselves at his following, feel the duty of gratitude. That’s why I invite you to make the word “thanksgiving” habitual to you.

Even amongst men a good upbringing is defined as that which makes you say thanks for every little favour that you receive. Do the same also with the Lord. Say often: *“Thank you, Jesus!”* It will be an invitation to benefit you more greatly. Even amongst yourselves, is not thanking a stimulus to give each other gifts to those who help you?

The word however, which must complete your programme shall be the song of the angels that resounded over the grotto of Bethlehem: *“Glory*

be to God.” This, children is the highest point. Every day for you is as if you were to write a letter of great importance to God. You put all your woes, your anxieties, your tears and your desires there. You write all that with characters of blood. But what would this letter be worth if you did not put down the address? And the address is this: *“To the glory of God.”*

All that is done for human motives can be recognized by men or badly rewarded, or evil for good can be given you. But what you do for the Lord is not lost. Even for one sole glass of water, given in his name, He will give you a reward.

A day offered to Him is like a gem which you insert on a crown that will adorn your forehead. Working for the Church, you are working for the Kingdom of God. All put out their hands to you, they need you: the priests, the young, the children, the old, the adults, the families. All have need of your sufferings and you, giving to God your days that seem empty of works to you, give to Him the way of helping everyone. You give to God out of love and love works miracles everywhere.

Have you understood well your programme? Well then, follow it and practise it and I assure you that you will be more good and more happy.

And now, as you prepare yourselves to hear the Holy Mass, which will bring Jesus to you present in this room as once in Bethlehem, receive again with my blessing my promise of help.

A special blessing to the volunteers of suffering and to those who direct them.

To all the children and the young present my caress. See you again, my children, and much peace to you and to your families.

SEEK THE WORD INCESSANTLY

December 28, 1973 (in a Church)

My children, thank you for having come also by sacrifice to pray to me in this Church, before this image that has given consolation to many souls.

I am here amongst you, to pray with you and to make you a gift of my counsels and my tenderness. I desire for you to walk in the light. The

light is truth and life, therefore, I speak to you. My word is the one of my Son who is the Eternal Word of the Father. To love the truth is like loving the Word, who was made flesh in order to be your light and your nourishment.

When I speak to you about truth, I speak about religious instruction based on revelation, in particular on the Gospel, and on the teachings of the Church united to the Pope.

Many speak about loving the truth, but they are in error and they propagate it with malice, knowing to be in the darkness. You remain constantly united to me, which is like saying to the Pope. Do you not see how he who represents Jesus on earth is slandered and mocked?

But do not believe that those who act wickedly are not exempt from remorse, for the Lord does not cease speaking to their consciences; it is only the upper hand of the devil over the intelligence of men that permits so many aberrations; it is the demon of lust that acts on their hearts and makes them incapable of seeing God.

Children, I give you the Word. He is light and grace. Listen to me well. If the world wants to drown every human and Christian sentiment in sin, to so much evil counter your will for good. Seek light, seek grace. Flee sin. Those actions which God condemns, you too condemn them. Those thoughts that distance you from God, chase them away from your mind. Those words that offend God in the brethren or Him directly, do not utter them. Those affections that leave bitterness in the mouth because you understand that they are not according to the will of God, suppress them.

I give you the Word, I give you my Child. I give you grace, lodge it in you. *“If anyone loves me, I will love him and the Father too will love him and we will come to him and establish our abode in him (Jn 14:23).”* So said Jesus.

Seek the Word incessantly with the same wisdom, intelligence and love with which the Magi sought Him. You will find Him, and your joy will be full. You will always have to watch yourselves from the new Herods who present themselves to my children, pretending they too an ardent desire to find the Child, the Newborn, the King. Do not trust those who under the semblance of lambs are ravenous wolves. They will tell you that they do not sin because sin no longer exists. Up to now eve-

rything was taboo, but now finally there is freedom. No, children, it is a false freedom that which renders one slaves of sin. Do not trust those who show you everything lawful, everything easy.

The denying of oneself, taking up the cross and following Jesus who walks on the way to Calvary is never too easy. Mortification and penance is always current and always indispensable to get to Heaven.

So all united, squeezed around the Word made flesh, desirous of truth and announcers of truth, walk in the world and be beacons of true light. I bless you.

Now and always I bless my ministers present in this Church. I bless the parish priest and I give to all an increase of faith and of charity. I am happy with them, they love me and make me known.

I bless the soul which in this moment is being prayed for and through your prayers its Purgatory will be shortened.

TRUE LOVE COMES FROM GOD

December 30, 1973

My children, peace be to your hearts and to your families now and always. See, I am here with you, I am the immaculate Mother of Jesus, your Mother.

You have asked yourselves sometimes why families, who are the cells of society, are so broken up and deprived of peace and harmony. I tell you why: they think of putting into matrimony a purely human love, and since all that is human is destined to perish, there is no constancy in love.

True love comes from God and only if it is God who joins the hearts, can the spouses be persevering. It is not the attraction of the body or attractiveness or wealth or power and not even the moral gifts of intelligence or will which must furnish the motive for an eternal love, but it is the fact that that love sworn at the foot of the altar has been accepted, blessed and ratified by Heaven.

One would say then that in order for a family to be happy in love, it needs to be a threesome, that is to say: the spouses are needed and God who blesses them and remains always with them. The more the spouses

realize their union with God the more their love becomes deep and timeless.

Many ask themselves if it will be possible to recompose the many families broken up by infidelity and by sin. It is all possible to God, but one needs to return to Him and bring Him back among you with humility of behaviour. It is not good to insist on deciding whose fault or mistake it was. One needs to be humble, and whoever humbles himself brings the Man-God back into the midst of the family.

What distances one from God is sin, and families are presently deconsecrated by a multitude of sins against the Commandments. What amazement if the children, growing up, do not recognise and do not respect the authority of the parents? He who does not obey God does not deserve to be obeyed.

You put temptations last of all. God is excluded and third persons are let in, with the pretext of free love. Already from the time of the engagement infidelity and sin make a massacre of virtue in the young. How will they be able in due course overcome the insatiable concupiscence of the flesh and the struggles of the evil one that become more and more terrible?

Children, I have pointed out to you these dangers today in which the family of Nazareth is remembered. Today unfortunately, one thinks of being self-sufficient, of building one's future and one refuses to observe as model our family, which even in poverty, in work and in sobriety of every thing, had the abundance of love, of harmony and of peace, fruits of that Jesus who dwelled with us. But if one does not return to the old way, even worse disasters will be seen whereby all of society will be damaged.

Love, children, my family and yours intensely. Keep the faith amongst you. From faith trust will come to you. God's providence does not abandon those who confide in the Lord.

Guard purity and watch over the young, so that they can avoid those dangers that take them away from religious life and from the practices of piety.

Respect the elderly and take into account their wisdom. Do so that prayer may be the voice that in unity is raised to Heaven and obtains for all the members of the family the necessary helps in order to live well

and die well.

If some member has moved away from your home or from the faith, do not desist from praying and have hope. If you offer yourselves for their salvation, you pay money of inestimable value. If you pray for those who err and for those who distance themselves from God and from you, you hold in your hand a powerful magnet. By persevering in prayer, Monica obtained for Augustine to be sanctified.

I hear desperate mothers who say that they no longer know how to pray, but with what means will my Jesus be able to draw the soul of your children? Persist before God, and if you add tears and sacrifices to the prayer, you will achieve your purpose and mine. Do I not want perhaps the salvation of everyone, I who was called to be the Mother of love and of sorrow?

I put you on your guard against one danger. There are some who think, by their closeness and by their words, of converting persons gone astray or have lost the faith. No, my children, this is a temptation. My Jesus saves souls and I save them, collaborating with Him. From you the Lord only wants love, which you can make concrete in works and above all in prayer.

Act so that in your families the torch of love may be constantly lit and God will work all those changes that are dear to you. Remember: a holy mother sanctifies the whole family; a holy family becomes the admiration of the angels who watch over it so as to be at its service.

I bless you, children. To renew the world is an arduous thing for men, but not for God. You carry your little grain of wisdom in directing yourselves and your home according the desires and the Law of God; the art of bonding and building God reserves to himself.

Happy year to all, my children. Fear nothing. Love always. God, your salvation, will be with you.

BE BEARERS OF LIGHT

December 31, 1973 (at Seregno)

My children so dear to my heart, may the Spirit of the Lord be upon you and fill you with love so that you won't have to desire anything in the world besides loving Him and serving Him.

What shall I say to you, children? What will I give you, as you have not come here solely with the simplicity of the shepherds, but with the same riches of the Magi and you have brought me your hearts overflowing with love, you give me your fervent prayers and you make me a sharer of your anxieties and your sorrows?

See, children, I want for you to have a trust so great in me that I may not be able not to care for you, but must take you under my very special protection. I want to point out the way to you, I want to make you light, I want to lead you to salvation.

Do not get worried anymore over those things that the Lord permits for you to have. Live the present moment just as God gives it to you, fill it with love and make a gift of it, through me, to Jesus and to the Father. All the rest is nothing. Your life can have had a past more or less long. Ignore it. After having thrown it in the heart of God, don't think about it anymore. I want for you to start today to live, like a newborn baby that sees life today.

You have heard in the parable of the workers, that those who had entered to work at the last hour had the same recompense as those who had worked from the morning. I explain the reason to you.

The call is a gift and whoever has received this gift from birth, that is, from the morning of life, cannot pretend more than others, he must only be more grateful to God. He who is called later, must answer to his gift and must start to love from the moment in which the appeal reaches him.

You have been called, it does not matter if also previously and you have not gone along with the call. Your call is today's. Today itself therefore, and for your whole life you are and you always will be my chosen ones.

You have had a special grace, a grace that has acted on your will and has moved it towards good.

How much gratitude you owe to this God of goodness who knocks incessantly at the door of hearts! So, while in the world one thinks of enjoying oneself sinning, you enjoy my company and the tenderness of my Jesus.

I would like for you to make a gift to God of the year which in a few hours is about to begin. It is a holy year, in which Christianity is called

to be sanctified through God's pardon and mutual reconciliation. Oh, yes, let it be truly a year of peace!

The greatest woes amongst families and their members come about almost always because everyone feels the duty to judge the behaviour of others.

I want to teach you, children, to be more just. Every action that man performs presents two aspects: one internal that regards the intention, one external that is the fulfilment of the action. But tell me something: who can see the intention of the performing? Is it not exclusively seen by God? And how can one judge it? And also in what you see done, who assures you that wickedness and evil truly enter in? Will it not perhaps happen that the Lord might want to reward certain intentions and certain action that you have condemned?

If therefore, you wish for this year to be for you in blessing, act so that you are good with everyone in order to maintain that peace which everybody desires, but which they don't know where it is possible to find it and carry it out. I ask you for nothing else: be bearers of peace.

The holy year that you are to begin shall be rich with the unexpected: many woes, many calls, many sad things shall come to disturb many people. But, if everything that happens in the world is a means to bring to the faith, to the light, to the truth, it will be a good. By your example, by the serenity of your behaviour, by your words full of goodness shall come help and comfort to all those who suffer.

The saints are an example to you as they were in every age, and if their example is always effective, it is because they have learnt to put into practise the teachings of the Gospel which is for all times, for all the places of the earth and for all peoples.

You do likewise, children. Life is full of conflicts, to which men counter by fighting. But the peaceful behaviour of a soul that lives its present moment loving God is like a cold shower on those who would like to quarrel and fight. May those mothers who sigh and weep over the wickedness and over the fate of their children do likewise. To be quiet, to love and to offer up. And those daughters who feel challenged and not gone along with, learn to understand, to be quiet and to love. Those that feel as if persecuted and hindered in every aspiration of theirs, learn to be patient, to pray and to love.

Those children who feel the attraction for good and feel at the same time derided and embattled externally and internally brought to despondency, say to themselves: my call is an invitation to persevere, whatever it may cost. Those children who see in matrimony a point of support, a help for life and would like to have a holy family, I bless them and I help them, but I cannot but say: children, be prudent, because presently the devil goes about sowing the most blatant insinuations amongst the youth. The Commandments are forgotten and the body is made an object of passion and sin. Be prudent and do not fear those who would like to make you lose your soul.

To the priests, whom I love more than myself, I will say: children, stay on my heart, so that I may be able to make you understand moment by moment what the will of God is. Love chastity, live in obedience and spread charity.

To the lonely, to the widows, to those who for whatever reason have seen their family fall apart, their sacrifices erased, their ideals destroyed, I say: children, you are not alone, I more than ever am near you in order to protect you and to give you consolation. Learn to discover me, understand me and love me. I shall be Mother, Sister, Friend to you and I will grant you spiritual joys to whose comparison those human ones are a trifle.

My children, bless the Lord for this year that is passing and bless Him for what He will give you. They will be graces that you will not even be able to number, tied to every moment of your life and which will help you to ascend higher and higher still, in expectation that the last year, the last day, the last moment that will mark your definitive encounter with your heavenly Mother in God will come for all.

MAMMA CARMELA'S PUBLISHED WRITINGS

Titles in the original Italian editions:

1. **Pensieri e Riflessioni** — published in 6 volumes
2. **Gesù nostro Maestro** — published in 10 volumes
3. **Maria, Madre e Maestra** — 22 volumes published so far

English Titles:

1. THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

Twelve small 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 from the French edition by Fidelitas, Canada.

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.

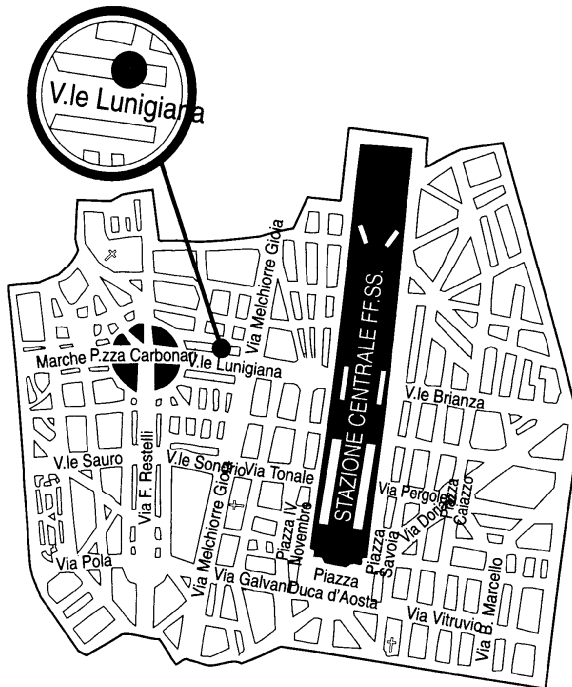
- Volume I — 1 May 1970 to 30 September 1971, published 2004.
Seventy two topics.
- Volume II — 6 October 1971 to 25 May 1972, published 2005.
Sixty topics.
- Volume III — 29 May 1972 to 23 March 1973, published 2005.
Fifty seven topics.
- Volume IV — 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006.
Fifty five topics.
- Volume V — 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006.
Fifty eight topics.
- Volume VI — 1 December 1974 to 9 October 1975, published 2006.
Sixty two topics.
- Volume VII — 12 October 1975 to 25 June 1976, published 2006.
Fifty six topics.
- Volume VIII — 29 June 1976 to 16 June 1977, published 2007.
Fifty eight topics.
- Volume IX — 17 June 1977 to 13 April 1978, published 2007.
Fifty eight topics.
- Volume X — 14 April 1978 to 26 October 1978, published 2007.
Forty one topics.



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MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER — 9

FROM THE WRITINGS OF
MAMMA CARMELA



The Message of Merciful Love was received by Mamma Carmela during a period which lasted some ten years, from 1968 to 1978. It ended in the year that Rome had at last lifted the suspension on the Divine Mercy revelations to Sister Faustina, who was subsequently canonised by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000 in St. Peter's, Rome.

In 1968, in the city of Milan, a widow with a large family, who had given her whole life to works of Mercy in her city, was praying one evening when she heard a voice that said: *"You will be another witness to my Divine Mercy. I will bless you and give you special graces. I ask your help as a beggar asks alms. Will you help Me? I want you to find new apostles, and once again spread my message of Merciful Love to the ends of this earth."*

On March 22, 1970 Sister Faustina herself gave a message to Carmela and her Mother of Divine Love Prayer Group, she said: *"It is not the first time that I come among you, but it is the first time that I wish to speak. I am Sister Faustina and I ask you to make with particular devotion the Novena of Mercy, so that all men will begin to believe in the mystery of salvation, which is contained in the devotion to the Divine Mercy."*

Carmela Carabelli was born in Melegnano, Italy on May 9, 1910. She died in the peace of Christ on November 25, 1978. Since 1968 she received, almost daily, messages from Jesus Christ as the Merciful Jesus, and from the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Divine Love. She transcribed straight away into notebooks all that was said, without hesitation or correction afterwards, in the form of conversations with Jesus, who spoke about His Father, the Father of all men, and of His Mother, very tenderly; and so lovingly of his foster father St. Joseph, and about many other saintly people, and through this privileged person to all the world, for these writings are meant for all wish to seek and find God.

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