



Stella Maris



Mary
Mother and
Teacher

From the writings of
Mamma Carmela

Volume XXIII



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, 20th April 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.”*

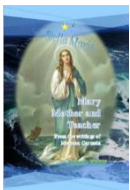
Milan, 5th September 1968

“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, 25th January 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, 4th May 1972



Front Cover: Our Lady Star of the Sea - Patroness of Seafarers: The words Star of the Sea are a translation of the Latin title Stella Maris. The devotion can be traced back to the early Middle Ages. In Maastricht, Holland the Basilica dedicated to Our Lady has a famous chapel to Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Mary, Mother and Teacher

23

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

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

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

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Prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance

24 January 1978

Children, so dear to me, peace be with you! Here we are for the usual prayer and for the usual lesson, which comes to you in the form of a message. You listen to me and follow me. Of course, I am greatly displeased with those who, after having listened, return to the life of sin, and do not care to practice my teachings. That is why today I want to gift you some jewels! I will not give you those that were given to you on the day you received Holy Baptism, that is, faith, hope, and charity. You already have these: just rediscover them as you rediscover the embers under the ash. No, not these jewels I want you to appreciate today, even if they are of priceless value.

I want to give you those four treasures that form like the cornerstones of the spiritual building on which Christian life rests, which are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. These are four virtues that I wish to be practiced by you, because they are a means of making order reign in your homes, and because your relationships with others are as the Lord wants them. I give you the seed of these virtues. I give you light so that you can appreciate them, and for your part you will commit yourselves so that, by practicing them, you can achieve that perfection that the Lord wants from you.

The virtue of prudence is therefore the first jewel. He who is prudent will hardly have any regrets in his life. Prudence is not shyness and it is not human respect. It is respect for the personality of others, which does not cause one to act recklessly. It is fear of lacking in charity towards one's neighbour and of failing in the Law of God.

Prudence is the sister of balance and is always good, because it serves to moderate enthusiasm and not to exaggerate anything, even when it seems that by expressing one's ideas with enthusiasm, they can certainly be accepted. Prudence makes one vigilant, so one will hardly fall into the dangers that lead to evil. Prudence makes one astute in everything, so the advice given by a prudent person can be taken into consideration. Prudence makes one meek and therefore suitable for command, because he who is too hasty will not be able to lead other people, but they will all run into dangers.

In addition to prudence there is justice, which makes souls dear to God. Twice in the Gospel it speaks of just men, and that is, of John the Baptist, the most just among those born of women, and of Joseph, a just man, my husband. The Lord did not find a better term to establish the sanctity of these two characters.

I would like to be able to say of each one of you that you are just because you give to God, to your neighbour and to yourselves, what the Lord wants according to justice. Justice towards God presupposes the observance

of his Law and the duties of your state. Justice towards others is achieved by doing to others what you would like to be done to you, and justice towards yourselves is like one mirroring the justice of my Jesus to reproduce it, making one's life a wonderful testimony of the Gospel.

Telling you how important this virtue is, is not possible. Know that the just man enjoys a particular esteem, not only on the part of God, but also from the church and from all men, who can trust him and confide to him their problems and needs.

The halo that surrounds the head of the just man is already heralded in life and will be ratified in death. The death of the just is in fact serene, because the thought of what he leaves does not disturb his heart and mind, since everything he has seen in the light of God. The crown, reserved for the just, is among the most shining, being the reflection of the infinite justice of God.

Of fortitude, children, briefly I want to tell you that it is currently more necessary than ever, since faith, virtue and the eternal truths are challenged in families and outside. One needs to have clear ideas to defend one's self from the error that threatens to destroy the truth at the root, and one needs to ask the Holy Spirit for this virtue in a renewed Confirmation.

Fortitude can be in its full vigour even in fragile, meek, and shy people, when faith has become a life for them for which they would renounce all that it knows of

human. Fortitude pushes to generosity and does not set limits on sacrifice, which it knows how to face with joy.

And lastly, I mention to you temperance, which concerns not only food but all those things that can be of your own taste. To you I think it is appropriate to recommend not so much moderation in food, as knowing how to accept even what can be disgusting in life.

I also want you to be moderate in asking for those signs which, even if they serve to increase your faith, are not an end in themselves, but must arouse a lot of recognition and gratitude.

I want to adorn your soul with these jewels, so that your apostolate may be ever more fruitful with good.

Now I bless you all. My goodbye and my grace to all!

The construction of the new man

27 January 1978 (in a chapel)

My children, here we are with renewed affection to restart your monthly meetings!

Why are we here at the foot of the altar, and why do we recite the Rosary? Because we want to give God the tribute of our adoration, and because, by interposing my intercession, you can obtain those graces you need. I also wish you to improve spiritually, and that you can become more generous, more understanding of the needs of

others and that, by improving yourself every day, you can give your neighbour an example so good as to invite him to a good life.

First of all, since it is still the first month of the year, I remind you of what used to be said in the past, namely: new year, new life! It seems that this warning echoes what St. Paul said when he invited the faithful to lay down the old man and put on the new man.

What is the old man? It is that nature laden with vices, which each one carries with himself, which have their root in selfishness. One must therefore distinguish egoism, which many times forces one to make one's own ego one's own God. One will need to deny one's self a little, to see the needs of others and be ready to suffocate all that, not creating harmony between you and God, does not create peace between you and your neighbour.

Is this all the work of grace? No! The holiness to which the Christian is called, requires the construction of the new man, who is Jesus himself who gives to souls himself as a model. It will therefore be necessary to study thoroughly the virtues practiced by Him in order to imitate them. What do you see in Jesus who offers himself to you as an example? See humility, chastity, charity, justice, obedience, and all those supernatural and human qualities that awaken admiration in men, amazement in angels, complacency in the Father, and in me, his Mother, the most lively joy.

All those virtues, which Jesus practiced in a perfect way, must be a stimulus for you. I would say that a real

emulation competition must spur you to grow spiritually at the Teacher's school, following in his footsteps. And if you find it too difficult to follow Him since He is infinite perfection, come to me, who holding you by the hand I will guide you, I will raise you if you fall, and I will correct you if you are wrong and if you think you can make yourself a religion as you like. Sure, children, because many think that the faith and religion can be adapted to measure, while they demand a continuous adaptation to the life and teachings of Jesus the Saviour.

If you follow me, I will make you understand that Christian practice requires a continuous denial of your will, to choose what is best and what corresponds to the will of God. All this is the new man, made of God's grace, of generosity, fulfillment of one's duty, even when it costs sacrifice and when it is necessary to make one's own blood contribution.

What advantages will you have in following this path which is that of perfection? You all have some pains in your heart; and you have many pains for your children and husbands, you mothers, and brides! And also men and fathers do not lack crosses, since the life of each bears this emblem of salvation.

Many times you wonder why the Lord allows you to suffer in this way. Well then, know that these crosses can be for you the new garment, the new man. It all depends on the way you know how to carry them. I can tell you that sometimes you could also be promptly freed from these crosses, if, by dressing in grace and virtue, by

imitating your Saviour, you were to present yourself to the Father and ask to be heard.

So when it seems to you that the graces are slow in coming, ask yourself a question: at what point am I in my spiritual improvement? If you realize that you have neglected prayer, that you have indulged your laziness, that you have cultivated in your heart some rancour that causes charity to disappear in you, run for cover! Seek perfection in the way you can, and then ask.

When do you believe that a sovereign grants his gifts? When his son who loves him presents himself, and whom he loves, or when a drunken man presents himself who, after insulting him, ask him for favours? Your answer is not needed! Learn how to present yourselves to God the Father with the clothes of his Son Jesus, and you will see that nothing will be denied you except for what is bad for you. Children, promise me to improve yourselves, as I said to you, by giving your life a new imprint of fidelity in grace and in love.

I bless you all and assure you of my special protection. Make a commitment to bring other souls, so that everyone may enjoy the same graces and favours as you.

Goodbye, children! Your Mother accompanies you in all your good deeds and gives you a hundredfold reward.

When it is not possible to dialogue

29 January 1978

My children, be peace to you! Behold, I am here to listen and to respond, just like mothers do! I am here to receive and to give. I am here to establish strong and lasting bonds of affection with you. I am here to talk to you about holy things, so that you can absorb them and turn them into life for your souls.

I am the celestial Mother, but I live with you on earth with a presence of action, and in a very special way I communicate with my children, to whom I do not let anything lack. Your way of communicating with others must reflect my behaviour. When a mother has clear ideas, when she has a particularly sensitive heart, her language cannot be a common language! Her language, *"which beats where the tooth hurts"*, cannot fail to dwell on the topic that forms the ideal of her life, cannot fail to speak of faith and religion.

That God, who with intelligence has given man speech and who wishes to have dominance over human thoughts, must arouse that dialogue which, by uniting the minds in the search for truth, beauty and goodness, makes men alike, makes them more serene, and places them on the same level for mutual donation and collaboration. The unwillingness to dialogue is a lack of esteem towards those who seek dialogue.

Unfortunately, the first place where this harmony made up of words fails many times is the family. Young

people do not agree to converse with adults and the elderly do not know how to meet young people to understand their needs. Much humility is needed to renounce one's views, but it is even more necessary to know how to profit from the experience of others. Contrasts arise from these misunderstandings; from these, the divisions, and many times those escapes that cause serious pain and moral ills without number.

Knowing how to speak with young people and knowing how to accept the suggestions of adults is part of that fourth commandment which contains in its words the mutual esteem of parents and children. However, there are also rebellious children, who do not want to listen, do not want to accept, and do not want to make any changes in their lives.

At this point I should tell mothers and fathers to be silent, but I cannot, since the Lord condemns those who see, hear, and keep silent. However, I can give you a suggestion: even if you are not listened to, you must, always with charity, expose your thoughts and desires, and above all address your petitions to God, so that He himself will make your children understand and persuaded of those truths that you would like to enunciate and those virtues that you would like to see practiced.

Many times, however, misunderstandings are caused by a lack of affection, both on one side and on the other. It is true that many young people at a certain age despise maternal, fraternal, and paternal love, so they seek, in

friendship, that affection that they need, with great danger sometimes to the soul and body. Parents, however, must constantly make felt the warmth of their heart, with those concerns and cares that can be used generously even if you are not reciprocated.

What applies to parents and children, also applies to spouses, who sometimes bring to others, affections outside the home by that neglect and coldness that produce disaffection!

Children, I have told you that you must behave like me and what do I do constantly? Do I not chase the most ungrateful, the most unfaithful, to attract them to my heart and to make them taste the sweetness of that maternal and divine love, of which I would like to make them aware and make them rejoice? Let every soul be your daughter or sister, children! Go in search of souls with that love with which the good shepherd, Jesus, goes in search of the lost sheep, and know that none of them, however black, however rebellious, and ungrateful, can be removed from Jesus and me!

When the heart bleeds to not be able to dialogue, when the affection you would like to give is rejected, your fidelity to God in prayer and fidelity to your neighbour in loving are worthy to obtain what you desire and ask for.

Of course, if you wanted to do it by yourself, you would not be able to achieve the purpose. Religion, which should regulate every human relationship, must be held in high regard, and must have the importance it

deserves. This is why, in all happy or sad events, it will be necessary to go back from earth to Heaven, both to thank what God gives, as well as to impetrate what man needs.

Faith, which many believe is suitable only for the poor and the simple, and which they call the opium of peoples, is the strength to live and fight the battles of life against passions, the devil, and the world. Rightly Jesus said: *"Whoever will believe and is baptized will be saved!"* In that *"Whoever will believe"*, however, you see the practice of religion in every moment of your life. Whoever lives well, dies well, and the eternity that awaits the believer is something incomprehensible, as long as you are on earth, but truly grandiose and desirable.

Children, I bless you all. Goodbye! Learn how to live what I teach you! Everything is sacred and beautiful to hear, but the practice is always more beautiful, and it gladdens me a lot.

The moral virtues of John Bosco

31 January 1978

My children, I am the Virgin Help of the Christian people. Today, as if continuing a previous lesson, I want to point out to you a model to imitate, so that you can learn from him how to educate young people and make your social relationships fruitful.

I intend to talk to you about John Bosco, humanity's great benefactor for his method of educating young people. I am not telling you what his loves were, which he managed to transfuse in all the souls approached by him, and that is: love for the Eucharist, the Rosary and the Pope, but I speak to you of his moral qualities with which he was able to take hold of all hearts.

John Bosco was a serene soul. His optimism made him accept, not only quietly, but with joy, the most difficult situations in life. He was able to put a good face on the cross every day, which was often heavy and difficult to accept by others. His joyful acceptance of sacrifice knew how to make him find expedients and means to entertain young people and adults, who in this way were educated, turned away from evil and induced to practice piety and the Christian life.

If tears are precious before God, when they are tears of repentance or of sorrow that derive from the love of God and neighbour, serenity and joy are a true program, suitable for bringing to the souls that invitation that the angels announced on the holy night, and what the apostles, repeating Jesus' invitation, communicated to the first Christians. In fact they said: *"Rejoice, because the Lord is near!"* To this optimism, to this serenity and joy, I invite you to think often, to remove from your life all those shadows that serve nothing but to depress and make my children dissatisfied, which I wish happy.

John Bosco's second moral virtue was love of work. His laborious and tireless life was long enough, but

certainly not unnecessarily spent. Every moment found its place, and every job found a good worker in him.

How much would young moderns have to learn who, always eager for amusements and leisure, do not think that these things must be like rest after toil and the right reward to work! Of course, even amusement, when it is healthy and honest, can be considered as a work, as it keeps the mind and body busy. But life cannot be one whole leisure, because work is a means of purification and sanctification.

Unfortunately, there are many unemployed in the world who do not know where to draw the means to live and many times become vicious and bad. But, if these people trusted with faith to the One who rules the world and asked for daily bread with prayer, do you believe that the Father could remain deaf to their invocation?

Know that work is a great gift from God. All of you do with love those works that you are called to perform, those that are part of the duties of your state, because, by not loving work, it does not happen that you are deprived of it or you are lacking the strength to work. Make your children love work from an early age, so that, by loving it, they do not feel the weight of it and do not consider it a humiliation and a slavery.

The work that for John Bosco was almost a life, he knew how to insert it so well in the congregation to which he began, as to be able to welcome thousands of young people to learn the arts and crafts, so as to make them specialized and desired.

Each parent should make their own profession a reason for teaching and dialogue with their children, and from the honesty, rectitude and intelligence of the father, the children should acquire that way of life that makes true gentlemen. The ingenuity of mothers then, who know how to do with love and precision all that for a woman is good to know how to do, will give daughters that experience whereby new families will not lack happiness.

Children, a virtue that emerges in the life of John Bosco is generosity. Knowing how to say one's yes to God who wants to be served in a certain way, knowing how to say one's yes to creatures that ask for your help, is the sign of generosity. However, it is necessary to enlarge one's heart, one's views and one's desires, to get used to a lifestyle of great generosity.

This virtue, which is the one that calls souls to extraordinary holiness, you must keep it in sight, since, as long as you remain closed in your needs, in your way of seeing, and as long as you measure your good deeds in order not to take a step further, you will never be able to reach the heights!

I am happy, however, to tell you right now, so that you may thank the Lord, that even among you there are very generous souls, to whom I never address my appeals in vain. Yes, children, be generous, always! Do not ask yourself too many things! Do good, always, and only for love of God and neighbour. That glory that surrounds the head of John Bosco is also reserved for my

children who, with optimism and with generosity, work in the church for the good of souls.

Don Bosco, with me, blesses you and helps you. Be persevering in good and in prayer.

How souls are purified

1 February 1978 (in Seregno)

Beloved children so dear to me, peace be with you! I am the Immaculate Virgin. I am here with you to make you a double invitation.

Tomorrow, while you will remember the offering made by me to the Father, of his divine Son, in the Temple, you will also remember my Purification. Truly, Jesus with his merits had preserved me from sin, applying the fruits of his passion and death to me, for which that purification ceremony was not necessary. However, it was a custom among the Hebrews, and I willingly accepted to go with all the mothers and offer my sacrifice to God.

The redemption had to be accomplished with the so great humiliation of Jesus, who had become man, and your collaboration must always bear the imprint that distinguishes and sanctifies it: that of humility. But then I will better tell you what needs to be done.

My second reference is the reporting of a very important date for the Church and for the world, that of

my apparition at Lourdes. As for the feast of Purification I ask you for a participation made of humility and sorrow of sins, so that your soul may regain that splendour that it had when it came out of the hands of God, so, in remembering my apparition at Lourdes, I ask you to listen to my words, inviting to prayer and penance for the conversion and salvation of sinners.

Two invitations that are recapped in two words: sanctify yourselves to sanctify! Many people feel attractiveness to a purely human good; others feel like a particular call to act, but they do not have the strength to respond because sacrifices are required of them. Perhaps, some of you may also be among these.

One needs to shake off that coldness and that apathy that makes you cold in doing good, but, in order for fervour to always direct your actions, one needs to let the Holy Spirit enter into your souls with his wisdom, with his light, with his power. God cannot enter those souls too taken up with human things, who only smear this tabernacle where the most holy Trinity wants to dwell with full powers.

That is why purification is needed! Do you want to know how souls are purified? There is the Sacrament of Confession, which Jesus instituted for this purpose. But there are other means that perfect this purification and that can make it perfect: they are the humiliations that are encountered in life, which, accepted for the love of God, take on a priceless value. How many times sacrifices that seem heroic can be made, and one cannot

accept a reproach, a warning, an observation, without self-love making the self that reclaims its rights kick back!

Were you to know, children, the value of an accepted humiliation! I tell you that this can be precisely the means to preserve harmony and peace, to open a dialogue and be able to make yourself understood; but above all before God it is a great thing, since whoever humbles himself, the Lord exalts him and gives him a place of privilege in his heart.

When I remind you of my apparition, I invite you to penance. This is how humility becomes a means of redemption, since humbling oneself before God means repenting, and repenting means having, with God's forgiveness, the grace to call sinners beside mine and his heart. Children, I am not asking you for great things. I only ask you to know how to take advantage of all the opportunities that the Lord makes available to you during your life, to derive from them that spiritual profit that the Lord wants from you.

Children, when I went to the Temple to present my offering to the Father, I met Simeon and the prophetess Anna, who rejoiced in seeing my Jesus and in seeing me. When I appeared to Bernadette, her heart exulted with joy. But these characters still had to suffer in life, and they were not spared humiliations and crosses.

You encounter me in the Rosary, which you pray with much love both here and in your homes and in your churches. Listen to my words and rejoice, but the cross

is not spared you, and many times the humiliation makes you suffer. Well then, know that if in these few days in which you are on earth you learn with the eyes of faith to encounter the Lord in every suffering, you will see Him again, the Lord, in glory and your joy will be infinite. The humiliations that you have endured, and with which you have saved souls so dear to God, will increase your glory, which will be endless and without measure, equal to that which crowned my earthly life.

I bless you all, children. I will give special assistance to those who will leave for the holy exercises, and to those who will join them while staying at home, I will give special graces.

Goodbye, children! May peace and joy be in you now and always.

I invite you to watch Television with caution

3 February 1978

My children, your discussion on that means of communication which, having become almost indispensable in families, can do great harm to society, while it should be a means of updating, relaxation, and culture! I, as a Mother, invite you to use it with great prudence and to make, of what you see, a reason for reflection, and to want with prayer, with word and example, to work to restore society.

Unfortunately, evil is polluting all waters and, if an evil reading can ruin the soul, an obscene spectacle can print an indelible memory in the mind, capable of dragging individuals, especially if young, to also perform bad actions.

Let parents who have serious responsibilities be prudent! Let them learn how to give up any amusement, if it can be an occasion for sin, but may they also know that a right relaxation or amusement is necessary, especially for those who occupy the day in mental work and intense activity.

Television, which keeps the mind of family members focused, can be replaced by interesting dialogues, which commit to getting to know the Bible, the Gospel, and the behaviour of God in all human affairs.

Parents can also make the conversation interesting by letting the family members know of daily events, or those which have accompanied their life in the various difficult, peaceful, or crucial moments, if they can do it in a pleasant way.

But certain games can also be played which, without making the hours too heavy, give that sense of competition, and at the same time self-control, in knowing how to lose at the right time. Healthy amusement was always loved even by great saints, and served as a means of elevation and attraction for many souls, who perhaps would have encountered dangers elsewhere.

I will not tell you how great the danger is of seeking relief in bad things. The example of Herod, who, before Salome's dance, was so moved as to promise half of his kingdom and which ended up by giving John the Baptist's head on a tray, is a clear warning.

Let not the young be attracted by so many dangers that swarm a little everywhere and which, while they seem to give the thrill of living, they generate the death of the spirit and make the laughingstock of Satan.

Be balanced and wise! Look at life in the light of the eternity that awaits you, and avoid everything that weighs down your wings and does not allow you to aim for the heights! Your every sacrifice, offered in this sense, will only tighten the bonds that unite you with God and me and, as if by magic, you will be freed from temptations, to which those who love danger are much more subject.

I bless you, children, one by one. To each one my good night and my hug!

The attraction for good

4 February 1978 (in Legnano)

Beloved children, here I am among you. I am the pilgrim Madonna! I travel the world to call the children of God to good, to bring them on the right path, and to tell everyone that they are not made for earthly things

but for Heaven. I am the pilgrim, who calls pilgrims back to those eternal truths that give the strength to continue in the practice of charity. I am the pilgrim who stands by your side to defend you from the assaults of Satan. This is why I enjoy having you want and follow me, and why I want you to know how to appreciate the gift that is offered to you.

It is I who opens to you like a strip of Heaven and, while I give you heavenly words, I give you help and strength so that you can persevere in the grace of God and overcome the evil with which you are surrounded everywhere. Know how to appreciate this extraordinary, which helps you understand your duties towards God, towards your neighbour and towards yourself, gives you joy in sacrifice and increases your faith, hope, and love.

One reads of Solomon who, having asked the Lord for what he desired in his life as sovereign, asked for wisdom as an incomparable gift to govern well and to be able to choose between good and evil. Solomon was heard.

Well then, children, to those who follow me and attend my school, I wish to grant this double gift: that everyone has the strength to dominate himself, his senses, his body, his passions, so as to make them subject to the soul in perfect observance of the Law of God. And I also ask that whoever has the responsibility of command over other people, can govern them with wisdom, with kindness and with charity, so as to make them good servants of God, serene in their service.

And the second grace that I wish to obtain for you is this: that you always know how to distinguish between good and evil and, while good must always have a strong attraction for you, I ask that you can feel for evil a nausea and a repulsion such as to be forced to run away from it as soon as it shows up.

Know, however, children, that, as you call yourselves sinners when you pray to me, and you really are now, you will be so to the point of death. But not for this you ought to be frightened! One day Jesus said to those who wanted to stone the adulteress: "*Who among you is without sin, throw the first stone*", and all those accusers left one by one.

Therefore you are all sinners and, despite efforts and promises, you will continue to be imperfect. This should not frighten you, as long as you do not have to consider evil as good and do not make peace with your defects. If sin is a serious evil because it is a disobedience to the Law of God and it is a turning away from God to approach creatures, the most serious of sins would be that of pride which, making you believe you are impeccable or superior to others, would deserve a repulsion from you on the part of God who would deny you the forgiveness of your sins.

The attraction for the good that I desire to bestow upon you must be a continuous encouragement to raise you up from your daily shortcomings, and become a force for which you can also profit from the sins you commit.

Do you think that the tax collector, who was standing at the back of the Temple and was beating his chest, was less guilty than the Pharisee? And yet Jesus said that he was forgiven, while the Pharisee added one more guilt when he left the Temple. Do you think that the adulteress definitely changed her life after Jesus said to her: *"Go in peace and do not want to sin anymore"*? Maybe not, but Jesus had said clearly: *"Do not want to sin anymore!"*

Here is what you must have decided within yourself: the will to improve yourself, to perfect yourself and to be true witnesses of Jesus my Son in the world. The pilgrimage of this life is short. The days follow each other and, when you think of resting, difficulties without numbers show up that tire you and make you change your intentions and thoughts; but if I am at your side to help you, the light will shine in the darkness, since I bring the Saviour.

Children, today is a day of grace for you who have followed my pilgrimage, and for those who have desired and wanted me in this house that bears my name. My broadest blessings therefore be upon you.

To the nuns who work in this house and who, with their smile, prayer and sacrifice represent me, the tribute of my gratitude.

To all the nurses who walk with me in these wards and who will be able to say words of faith to the sick, my moral, spiritual and material help.

To the doctors who, by treating the bodies with a spirit of charity, reproduce those good actions performed by my Son in the world, my special light and friendship, so that they may understand the ills of their patients and know how to cure them.

To the sick, who will faithfully invoke me morning and evening especially with the recitation of the Rosary, I grant my assistance and inner peace, which makes suffering light.

It will be my consolation if, within this house, among the sick, the nurses, and among all, a prayer group will be formed. Graces will rain!

Goodbye, children! May the Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and be propitious in everything.

To the young people

5 February 1978

Children, peace be with you now and always! I am the Immaculate, Mother of God. I wish to make you a special invitation to prepare yourselves for the day of my apparition in the Grotto of Massiabelle, with a particular purity of thoughts, intentions, words and affections, so that those divine gifts can be obtained of conversions that I solicited by appearing to Bernadette.

Let your light shine before men, I tell you with Jesus! Let it shine by your blameless life, which must be a reminder for wanderers to come closer to God. Your desires for good will be realized to the extent that, through that internal and external purity, you will introduce the Lord into you. Only with Him will your works take on a divine imprint, and will not be like hindered and avoided by human respect, which is the evident sign of weakness.

The light shines and leads the way. The purity of intentions gives value to the works, which done in the name of God give Him honour and glory. Everything becomes simple and easy, when the intention is right, and overcoming the difficulties becomes a normal thing, as it is easy and normal that the work of God exceeds that of Satan.

This activity, which I ask in particular to those who have the responsibilities of souls, guided by the hand of God, must upset the bad intentions of those who, denying God and not wanting Him to reign in souls, do nothing but pursue the diabolical work.

Children, nobody is stronger than God! Be his heralds and, as you bring his image into hospitals and rehabs, so do that, through the teachers and willing pupils, the divine effigy of my Son may enter into schools. If the crucifix says nothing to the hearts of young people and children, at least the Face full of sweetness and goodness of Jesus, infinite mercy, may arouse thoughts of faith and filial affection in all.

Children, this group is mine, and I promise you that it will flourish even if the current difficulties seem a little to run it aground. Go on loving the Rosary, and treasure what I teach you! May every grace be granted to those who, desiring perfection, come to pray to me in this place in the grace of God. Fight the blasphemy and the neglect of the festive precept, which cause so much pain to my heart.

Goodbye, children, and happy Sunday!

The penance that I desire from you

11 February 1978

My children, how much joy this community prayer brings to my heart, accompanied by sacrifice and a day of work! It is precisely the good night of the children to the Mother, and cannot miss her blessings and graces.

You have come to pray to me for a threefold purpose: you wanted to repair the sins of the carnival, you thought of starting holy Lent with prayer, and in particular you want to honour my appearance in Lourdes. They are three valid reasons, which bear a single imprint: that of prayer and penance. These two precious things, which obtain God's mercy on souls and on the world, must be valued by you and by others, even through you.

Collective prayer is very effective, because everyone brings before the Lord, who is the person to whom

prayer is addressed, their merits, their love. You let it pass through my hands, and I purify it from those imperfections that would not make it pleasing, and I add my prayer, which strengthens yours.

There is a prayer that is irreplaceable, because in itself it is of infinite value: it is the liturgical prayer, made by Jesus himself in his church and which alone can cover all the ugliness of the world. In fact, a single Mass could be enough to empty Purgatory and to convert all men. But community prayer is like the special audience of children with their Mother, to see, through reflection, what are the defects that displease God and that must be removed.

There are an infinite number of evils in the world! Men do not reflect, and offend that God who will be their judge. However, just as in a family, the good ones console the parents for the reckless children, so in the great human family, those who believe and love must urgently feel the desire for reparation. Reparation is not a useless thing that leaves the time it finds, but in addition to consoling the heart of God, it procures the wanderers the conversion, while increasing the holiness and grace of the good.

This is why my invitation is ever more pressing: pray for sinners! This prayer is urgent, it is necessary, it is indispensable, since if there was a soul praying next to every sinner, no one would be damned anymore.

"He who prays for others, lays treasures for himself", you say, and it is a truth; but you also know that

"Whoever saves a soul has predestined his." Souls, Jesus saves them by right and I save them by collaboration, but your prayer becomes a means, and its merit is this: that no prayer, made in the grace of God and out of love, remains unanswered.

Now I wish to insist on what forms a particular commitment for Lent: penance, of which many have now forgotten the meaning. I want you to know that the best way to do penance is to repent of your sins, and I wish that a careful review of your life will lead you to establish the starting point for a life increasingly tended towards perfection, without being disheartened by those faults which are only the result of human weakness.

However, if you ask me what penance I want you to practice, I have no hesitation in telling you that I want from you the mortification of the tongue, not so much as a means of accomplishing that essential diet, but as an organ of speech. You must make your language a means of praising God and doing good to your neighbour. I would like you to eliminate any criticism, any murmur, and even unnecessary words, so that, better and with more love, that prayer of praise that honours God comes out of your lip, joining the one whose angels and saints make their continuous mission of love.

Children, my appearance in Lourdes must be a continuous call to build a temple to God on the mud of the world, through my devotion.

I bless you all, children. You will be granted abundant graces.

Lent, a time of penance and waiting

12 February 1978

My children, here we are continuing our lessons, so important for living in accordance with the Law of God.

Today you have largely started the Lenten period, which must prepare you to meet, after his passion and death, my risen Jesus. It is a liturgical period which, remembering the forty years spent by the Hebrews in the desert, after which they reached the promised land, must make you live on earthly pilgrimage with the expectation of reaching the highly desired homeland. But it is also a period of penance, destined to recall you to that conversion that allows you to put on the new man, while inviting you to lay down, with the old man, those sins and defects that displease God.

So what will you do in this period? I invite you to exercise that penance which is the most difficult to practice. I invite you to give death, if it were possible, to that ego which continually peeps into your life and which threatens to destroy, with your merits, even the right to eternal life. I invite you to annihilate self-love, which makes you seek satisfaction in every action of yours and which continually flatters you, making you believe yourself better than others.

Self-love is like the worm that ruins the spiritual life. It is synonymous with pride. Jesus said that God resists the proud and gives his grace to the humble. That is why I will try in this period to make you understand how

imperfect you are, because it is the first step to humble oneself before God. Oh, do not believe that I want to extinguish the wick that smokes or break the cane that bends! I only desire that, seeing your misery and weakness, you should turn to the One who fills the humble with grace. The goodness of God is so great that the more you recognize yourself as sinners, the more He hugs you in his heart to enrich you with heavenly favours.

This feeling of humility, which brings you before God as the prodigal son before the father, must also give you thoughts of goodness towards your neighbour. I would really like you to learn from Jesus and me to be indulgent with your neighbour, so as to be easier to see good than evil.

If evil is to be blamed and condemned, the sinner is my son, son of God, and deserves all your pity. This pity must arise from the certainty that everyone, in the family and social situations in which many find themselves, would fall into the same mistakes. Your pity should not be justification for evil or permissiveness, but a going out to meet those who are in need of help without condemning, since the same mercy that you would like to be used for you, you must also use for others.

Humility is the virtue that buries one's ego in one's heart, so as not to allow it a way to make its own claims. How many times a need for praise, privileges, graces, and special treatments, can make you lose peace and can lock yourself in, so as to create an atmosphere of sadness

and discontent! It is one's ego that protests and which, to the detriment of what is virtue, wants to spread moodiness. Learn how to be aware in time in order to run for cover.

Humility will make you serene and happy to be in the last place, to receive nothing but the approval of God for your work, and will make you the object of concern and care on the part of God and mine.

Lent is a time of penance and waiting. in this penance, which I have invited you to choose and practice, you will find so much joy and you will be enriched with grace.

The humble soul can sing its Magnificat every day, because, for everything it possesses, it continually thanks its God, but knows how to wait patiently for everything it desires for itself and for others, because it knows that in waiting the gifts are perfected. Not because the gifts of God are not perfect, but because the souls are predisposed to receive them. The Hebrews waited in the desert for forty long years for the promised land to be reached. Their behaviour was such that God had to delay their entry.

Children, your spiritual life must be a continuous liberation and a continuous victory of the divine over the human. Your promised land is Paradise, but your endeavour is holiness. If you commit yourselves with all your strength, you will live your holiness, which is humility and love of God, so as to anticipate now what the final meeting will be. The Easter that you will

celebrate will be an advance notice of the final resurrection.

Children, never fear to humble yourself too much and to love too much! In the annihilation of yourself, with all those bad tendencies that human nature carries with it, the greatness of God who manifests himself in holiness triumphs. The world needs saints.

Children, let the Lord see you ready to detest your sins and to rise up again, to walk towards perfection, towards the Heaven that awaits you. Goodbye, children! I bless you all one by one. I thank you for all you do to honour me, and I help you in everything.

I want you fervent and holy

13 February 1978 (in Cantù)

My children, be peace to you! Behold, I have come to prepare your hearts for the celebration of Holy Easter. Your life must be renewed, and that spiritual flourishing that the Lord wants to work in the world must begin.

What does the Lord want of you? He wants you to free your souls from all that is evil, so that you can see the virtues of a holy life, spent entirely for Him, flourish in you.

What is evil? It is all that separates you from Him, from the Lord, and all that weakens you in his service.

Therefore, I do not intend to speak only of mortal sin, but also of all those mediocrities, lightness and coldness that do not allow you to be a model Christian.

I want you fervent and holy, children, so I desire a commitment from you, not only to do good, but to do it well, so that you deserve approval and praise from me and from God.

Know, children, that many times the good done badly becomes a bad example to your fellow men, so that one will have to purify it in Purgatory. Also know that a soul who practices perfection in his way of life becomes a strong attraction for others, and his example is a continuous sermon for everyone.

See, children, how much evil is done in the world! Evil spreads by all means, but especially with the bad example. Well then, know that before God a person who lives holy can repair for a thousand who live badly. Learn how to be this repairing soul! Like a general purification will take place in the church, in this Easter of resurrection that you will celebrate, and you will have contributed to making it happen too.

Each soul can represent, with its infinite desires before God, all humanity. That is why you can present, with the sorrow of your sins, the sorrow for the sins of all men. Your holiness does not rule out your weakness; even if you feel you are on the right path, you realize that you are weak and that you cannot do what you should. Behold, by invoking my help through prayer, you become stronger. But humanity also needs a renewing

force. You can be the receiving and transmitting antennas. Your life can become a gift for everyone, as long as you want it.

I am always attentive to the entreaties of my children, but when generous and fervent souls pray to me for others, I give graces upon graces and enrich the souls with spiritual treasures of great value. You too are these generous souls. Greed and selfishness, even in the field of the spirit, do not please the Lord, who has established the Communion of Saints so that every good can be shared. I want you good and generous.

My presence in these gatherings is very particular: it is the meeting of the heavenly Mother with her children, who form the object of her particular care. You must correspond to my graces, and not waste them.

Have you seen how much snow has fallen these days? Snow is precious! You say: "*under the snow, bread*", and it is also beautiful to behold; but, if you step on it, it loses all its whiteness and becomes mud, which is unpleasant to see. So are the graces of the Lord! They enrich the souls who welcome them and make them bear fruit; if instead they get spoiled, they become a responsibility and an accusation for those who abuse them. Make sure you are always grateful to God, for the love He brings you and for what He gives you.

I bless you and your families. I bless this community that hosts you, who directs it, and the children who are hosted. I bless those who organize these meetings.

Know that if I bless you once when you come to pray to me, I bless you many times when you call other souls to honour me. Goodbye, children!

Beware of envy

14 February 1978

My children, how much it is pleasing to my heart that, in my company, you try to see those defects that must be removed! I am the divine gardener and better than you, I can distinguish those things that can be harmful to your spiritual life.

And as the gardener rips the weeds and kills those snakes that can take life from his flowers and seedlings, so I must do in your soul.

One of the most poisonous snakes that harm the soul of Christians is envy. God wants his children to love each other as each loves himself. He wants everyone to take part in the life of his neighbour, so as to rejoice in his joys and suffer for his pains. In the world one does not act like this. There is an evil serpent which tears the hearts of many men, and which makes them suffer when others enjoy, and rejoice when others suffer.

Envy is one of the deadly sins, contrary to charity, from which many other evils originate. I do not intend to talk to you about that desire, which can sometimes be had, to be good, clever, holy as others, which can lead to

a holy emulation, but to that bitterness with which one looks with antipathy at those who have the most, both in the spiritual and physical or material fields.

This malignant snake gnaws at the soul until it wishes evil to others and leads it to act against it, both with murmuring and with slander and with deeds. In this way people, families and works are harmed, making envy a sword that strikes from behind.

I desire that, aware of the ugliness of this sin, you try to find out where it is, both to watch out for it and to help others remove it. It is easy for this vice to nest in the heart since childhood, so I ask you to be careful and master in making its ugliness known even to children, directing them to exercise kindness and generosity.

The devil, who was the first envious of man's privilege, since Jesus wanted to become man and not angel, is a strong friend of the envious, and helps them in their endeavours. Thus occurs a chain of evil, to which it is necessary to oppose a chain of love. Chain work is so advantageous for men, which allows one to complete the works without interruption! Even the good, done in this way, is very profitable for the church and for society. Evil, however, done in a chain, produces tragic effects up to affecting entire lands. It is therefore necessary to oppose good to evil, breaking its chains.

There is a force that has power over men and demons, that comes from God, with which it identifies itself: it is love! If you want the evil forces to stop ruining the world, spread love! Begin to remove, from yourselves,

those little bad things that strongly conflict with charity, then proceed with the love towards your loved ones, and speak clearly to them when you see ill-will with anyone.

One of the most necessary apostolates for this Lenten period will be this cleansing, in which I too will participate by helping you in every way. Never lack in your prayers the recommendation for those who envy you or for those whom you have envied. It will be an act of charity and a reparation.

Re-establishing bonds of affection between you and your neighbour is not always an easy thing. However, if you start from your bonds with God and entrust to Him those you wish to love, forgive, and help, everything will become easier!

Children, I bless you all. Goodbye!

The way of perfection

17 February 1978

My children, I am the Virgin of consolation, and I want to give consolation to your hearts, as you console me with your prayers, with holy desires and with your affections. I want to console you by saying that you do not have to fear anything, because I will always be your shield and your defence.

I also want to approve you for that consecration that you make to me, for which you freely put yourself in my hands and entrust yourself to my care, since your hopes will not be disappointed. I will bring you to safety! Not only that, I will use you as a means of salvation! You will be able to do a great good, proportionate not only to the love that I bring you, but also to what you show me.

I watch over your life, I guide you on the right path, I give you light for your vocation, mission, and profession, so you can have serenity and peace. I do not disappoint my devotees, who entrust themselves to me with full confidence. One day you will be able to observe the miracles of mercy, goodness, and wisdom, performed around your person to defend yourself from dangers, to support you in trials, and to obtain favours and graces suited to your state.

Now, what do I want to point out to you? The shortest way to perfection. It is the way of simplicity in love, the way of love, made simple instrument of life. How will you be able to put on wings to reach perfection? By loving! How can you erase the daily faults, from which nobody is exempt? By love! How will you be able to increase, acquire, conserve, and spread the faith? Always through love, which will make its way everywhere and which will call your fellowmen back to God. Do you have souls to convert? Bring them to me, through your love for them and for me. I move consciences, I soften hearts.

I illuminate you on a truth which is often overlooked, and which is very important. When the Lord wants to conquer souls and they resist them, I call them with kindness, making their hearts tender with the suffering, with the family, with the poor. From the charity, exercised by them, faith comes as a consequence. Is it not said in writing that charity and almsgiving cover the multitude of sins? This is why you must not be wary of the salvation of those people who, although not having faith, exercise pity for their neighbour! God rewards charity with the wonderful gift of faith, from which salvation derives.

The Lord has chosen some saints, to whom He has entrusted the particular task of indicating to souls the little great way of love. Sister Consolata, who followed and completed the path of Therese's spiritual childhood, was one of these souls. Her life became a beacon of light, even if she was little known and appreciated. She continually called simple souls to the practice of that act of love which becomes life. I entrust you to her custody, so that you too can see and taste the usefulness and beauty of living by loving and, being loved by God again, arouse a fire of love around you.

I call you all by name and embrace you with maternal tenderness. Have trust, have faith, love everyone. I am with you! Good night!

To the young people

19 February 1978

My children, I am your Mother, eager for your good.

I desire for you to appreciate more and more that marvellous gift of grace, of which the Lord has clothed you on the day of your Baptism, and of which He continually enriches and embellishes you in the Sacrament of Confession. It is the wedding dress that you wear to be able to participate, not only in the Eucharistic banquet, but also in the eternal banquet in Heaven. Grace is water the drinking of which one no longer goes thirsty, because it makes one taste the joy of the presence of its source, which is Jesus himself. Grace is an admirable force, so that whoever possesses it, becomes a fountain welling to others.

Children, I do not want to talk to you about what makes the soul ugly, but about what elevates it and makes it home to the Most Holy Trinity. If holiness is a work of God, grace is its measure, through which prayer and action acquire value.

Performing miracles is reserved to God, but whoever lives in his grace becomes a living miracle, since the Lord acts in him. In fact, for everything he does in the world, God uses the soul in grace, making it his instrument. I want to tell you that it is more important to live in God's grace than to do grandiose works for the benefit of men, since grace acts in a positive sense by

bringing help to all creatures, known and unknown, near and far.

If you ask me what is the most important thing for a priest, and which validates his ministry, I answer you: that of preserving grace and of giving it to souls through Confession. If you ask me what is the mother who sanctifies her family, here, I say to you: the one who, living in the grace of God, has Jesus himself as guide and teacher in raising and making her family progress. If you ask me what apostolate young people must exercise, I answer you: always this, live in the grace of God, corresponding moment by moment to the divine movements.

The light that a soul in grace spreads everywhere is as invisible to the human eye. The devil sees it, to fight it and destroy it. Your good guardian angel sees it, to defend it. I see it, to enhance it. God sees it, to reward it.

Children, sanctifying grace is the life of God in the soul, and you must be greedy for it. You must do like the pearl hunter, willing to lose or sell everything in order to buy it. You must think, love, believe, live as Jesus taught you, but this will never be possible without his help, which comes to you through grace.

Do you have souls to recommend? Always ask that they can have the gift of sanctifying grace, that like a lightning strikes and converts them, acting in them. This is the most beautiful gift you can ask for.

But I also want to invite you to recommend yourselves to the Holy Spirit and to me, that the Lord has made Mother of divine grace, so that moment by moment you will not miss the present grace that is necessary for you to do good, to do your duty, to love God and conform your will to his. Every good action must have its inspiration from God, who commands us to do good, and cannot be carried out and have an eternal repercussion without his help.

Souls eager to love and serve me, souls who dedicate your free hours to the work of apostolate with the sick and elderly, be blessed! I follow you and, for every word and for every gift you made and for every dried tear, I increase your grace and make you giants in the witness of faith. Your life, spent for me and for my Son, will not have a short course that ends in the grave, but will project itself, through the light of grace, into the world for all centuries and into the eternity of glory in the heavens.

I bless you all, children! "*Death, but no sins*" must be your motto! A life of grace, even if short, is a long life that is worth the blood of Jesus, who, to give men grace, immolated himself on the cross. Children, I will help you. Let no day see you at sunset without the wedding dress, which is and must be your trophy, your flag to defend, your glory. Goodbye! See you again!

How you can grow in grace

19 February 1978

My children, peace be with you and, with grace, all good be with you! I am the Mother of divine grace!

I want, children, to make you aware that the greatness of a person is not to be estimated for what he possesses in the natural order. It is not riches, nor science or power that make him great, but it is what he has inside. In other words, it is those spiritual graces that put him into contact with God, and it is above all grace that makes Him dwell in him as a guest of honour in his palace.

Children, you have been told several times about this mysterious gift with which the soul is clothed in holy Baptism, but which can be lost with sin and reacquired with Confession. But today I want to tell you how you can grow in grace, thereby increasing your holiness.

Every day, the baby fed at the mother's breast, when his organs are efficient, that is, well regulated, gains weight, his stature grows regularly, and his intelligence opens up to the knowledge of his surroundings. When a soul receives baptism, it is, like a newborn, entrusted to my maternal care, and what a good mother does for the body of her baby, I do for it.

The virtues of faith, hope and charity are infused with grace, and I cultivate them. If these virtues are not suffocated by the unbelief of adults and their bad examples, you find children eager to open up to the

supernatural, like flowers open up to the sunlight. Children raised in spiritually healthy environments spontaneously abandon themselves to the action of grace, and enjoy the truths of faith even if they cannot appreciate them in their proper value.

You all grew up in the shadow of my protection and nourished by my milk, and you had, as privileged ones, the gift of faith. The life of the Christian, however, is not an imposition of duties, but the free acceptance of them. Faith and grace give him strength, show him the way. The Christian must accept faith and correspond to grace. His spiritual growth is given by the correspondence to these wonderful gifts.

When the baby becomes an adolescent, the mother becomes his guide. She indicates the path to follow, and offers her experience as footsteps on which her children can walk. She does not impose by force, but offers with love all that her heart, her intelligence, her hands can offer.

I too do so with souls. The gifts, with which the Lord was generous in my life filled with grace, I place them at the disposal of souls who, exercising the virtue of faith and hope, entrust themselves to me through prayer. I do not passively witness the journey of souls to Heaven, but, without constraints, I offer all the help that is indispensable.

Those who accept to be advised by their mother will avoid many mistakes and will progress, adding to their experience what is offered to them. I offer my children

what forms the treasure of grace, that is, the holiness of millions of martyrs and saints who already populate Paradise, and I desire that by their example they try to walk and grow in the way of good.

Parents can be helpful to their children insofar as they are loved. On the wings of love, spiritual growth becomes a consequence. Love is identified with grace, it is blended with holiness, and grace, love, and holiness, form the happiness of the soul from this life.

Every act of love of God supposes an act of love for one's neighbour, so whoever wants to grow in grace must exercise that charity which sums up the Law, of which it is the alpha, the centre, and the omega. That is all, children! That charity, in comparison with which every human good loses its importance but which envelops, as in a single globe of fire, all that is human to make it divine, is the grace of God, it is God himself.

Grow in love, children, if you want to do good to all, but identify yourself with the One who is the source of all good. Quench your thirst at this wonderful spring! Remove sin from your souls! Do not ask yourself if it is mortal or venial if it is more or less serious imperfection. Feed on the flesh and blood that the Lord offers you! Feed your souls in the healthy pastures, where his word, his doctrine is offered to you. It will not seem painful to you to change your residence from these pastures to the eternal ones, where God identifies himself with souls for eternity.

Children, be faithful and be prudent. Satan's claws are sometimes so hidden in the sheaths of cheating that you cannot find them, except with much prayer and humility. Be attentive to the mysterious, delicate, and profound calls of grace. They come to you through good inspirations, good readings, and good examples. Every time you correspond to grace, it is increased, so as to give you a new strength, like a blood transfusion that regenerates you. Be attentive and trust me, I will never disappoint you. I will be your Teacher, Custodian and Mother at all times.

Children, I bless you and, embracing you, I grant everyone an increase in faith and love. Come often, even with thought, to this place. I bless you every time.

Goodbye! See you again!

Extend your peace to all the brethren

21 February 1978

My children, peace be to you and to your families! This is the gift that I wish to give to all those who come to pray in this place: a lasting and profound peace, which starts from your souls and which is communicated to all those who live alongside you.

When I spoke to you about grace, I taught you to communicate with God. Today, I want to tell you how important it is that in your relations with your neighbour

you try to maintain bonds of affection and above all a great peace. The good, that is, those who go to church, who pray and who do the apostolate, are used to considering some categories of people with contempt, or as enemies. I warn you about this danger, so that you do not act in a way contrary to the Law.

If, for example, you consider violence as a great evil, you have the desire to condemn the violent, and I think that if you could put yourself in God's place, you would be inexorable in condemning them. This is a mistake! The violent must attract your pity and urge you to prayer and suffering, as reparation, and to the practice of love, as a means of overcoming hatred.

If you think of drug addicts, a condemnation comes to you spontaneously. Maybe you call them slackers or wretches, but it is a mistake! The youth that get intoxicated with drugs, must continually remind parents to give their children a healthy education, and the desire to do their utmost for others must above all concentrate on young people, so that an ideal of good can distract them from vice and from love of pleasure.

If you think of prostitutes and those who are an occasion for evil perhaps for your children, a condemnation comes to you on the lips, and you would like to have them in your hands, not only to reproach them, but also to make them understand in a loud way that they are wrong. This is also not good! Those who have had the good fortune to understand the value of conjugal fidelity and the value of purity and chastity

must make an example of their life and, if necessary, also an immolation to obtain the reform of these souls.

Oh, do not be easy to condemn! You do not imagine how many reasons to be justified, can have so many people, that perhaps the family, society, the friendships, and the dangers in which they found themselves, have made perverse. Always let the Lord judge, and invoke the mercy of Heaven above all.

But there is still a category of people to which you are not too forgiving. They are your enemies, those who harm you or who harm your physical life, your interests, your reputation; or there may be people who simply dislike you, perhaps because of their ways of acting or saying.

I teach you. Children, a Christian should never have enemies, because for him everyone should be brothers! Assumed, however, that there are those people who, having no faith, know not how to love and, lacking in love, can only hate, you must have the greatest pity for them.

One day Jesus said: "*Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.*" These words are not an evangelical counsel, but a command to be obeyed, if one does not want to incur the punishments of God.

Therefore, when you want to extend your peace to your brethren in a way to please God, widen your heart and give hospitality in it to all those whom you would like to keep very far away. Always start from this point.

Begin to love; then address to the Father your supplication in their favour, and let it not happen that, meeting these people on the street, you have your gaze turned elsewhere.

"Do good to those who hate you!" This is a crucial point, but if you have softened your heart with love and prayer, everything will become easier. Know that doing good to those who love you is very easy, but that good that you do to those who prove to be bad or unwelcome with you will be rewarded in a superior way, because, in order to do it, you need a particular virtue and maybe even heroism.

What I want to tell you, is this: never be the first to break peace, but always be the first to restore order, in your relationships, and peace. It sometimes happens that re-establishing certain friendships can be dangerous; however, if it is permitted for you to save your freedom and independence, let your smile, greetings and cordiality never fail.

Children, I bless you one by one and, while I make these very pressing recommendations to you, I cannot fail to tell you that, in order to maintain good relations with everyone, a lot of good will is needed. The angels sang it on the holy night, but it is always a relevant hymn. Peace is a precious legacy of willing souls, legacies they leave to those who live with them.

Goodbye, children. Be good and want each other well! Everything works out! Think about your dead in

the peace of the Lord, so that the thought of them might be an encouragement and help to you.

Murder, the impure sin, and blasphemy

24 February 1978 (in a chapel)

Beloved children, peace be with you. I am the sorrowful Virgin. I wish to invite you to repair the sins that are committed in the world and that are the cause of so many evils. Every sin is a bad thing, since it presupposes a disobedience to the Law of God; but there are some sins that cry out for vengeance to God and that draw serious curses on man and families. I mention these sins so that you yourselves may be aware of it: they are murder, the impure sin and blasphemy.

The murder, which was committed the first time by Cain is constantly repeating itself, recalls the voice of God, who is asking: *"What are you doing with your brothers?"*

Life, that precious gift of God that should be preserved and with which every soul can earn eternity, is not only wasted, but it is arbitrarily thought to have the right to suppress it, almost as if it were a property of man.

One also believes one is authorized to destroy other people's lives for futile or selfish reasons, for human reasons created by rivalry and pride. Thus, murderous blood continually bathes cities and homes, as a sign of

rebellion against God and human sadism. To these murders, add those of the mothers who, after giving life to their creatures, reject them and massacre them before they see the light, and then tell me if these crimes do not cry out for vengeance to Heaven.

But there are also impure sins, which attract the chastisements of God. Humanity already attracted a great punishment for these sins, and it rained for forty days and forty nights, until they all perished except for the family of Noah and the pairs of animals, who had retired to the ark built by the will of God.

But what is the modern world due with all its lust? Perhaps the fire that, falling from the sky, destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? Or maybe the water that, like the flood, destroys every sign of life? Oh no, children! These things will not happen, but it will be the men themselves who will act as the scourge of God, and will chastise each other by sowing sadness and death everywhere. If one does not mourn one's sinful life and not run for cover, everyone will see every prophecy come true in his person, in his family and in his nation, so as to be forced to turn to God and to ask for mercy.

The third most serious evil is blasphemy, which also appears on the mouth of children, as well as adults. The tongue, which should sing the praises of God, is used to curse and swear the One who, with a gesture only of his power and with an act of his will, could destroy everything, except the souls who, being spiritual, will always live, but which God will condemn to the eternal

pains of hell. But why should one not understand the enormity of this sin, which is like a stone thrown high that falls back onto one's head?

Behold, children, that I invite you to repair these sins with a love of God so strong that it makes you capable of accepting your life, with those sufferings that have united them, without complaining and without rebelling against it; to consider it as a gift, and to use it well; to spread harmony and peace everywhere, so that violence does not come from discord; to live chastely in whatever state you are in, to always be a good example to everyone; to guard purity in children and young people, when it is possible, and pray that they appreciate the virtue of purity and know that guarding their own body also means not making themselves the laughing-stock of Satan; and lastly, to combat blasphemy and repair it, not to give others the opportunity to blaspheme, and to warn when you can, with great charity, showing how great your displeasure is when you hear swearing against the name of God.

Behold, children, what is good to do in preparation for Holy Easter! Certainly, they will be the most beautiful graces and conversions for you, if you know how to fight evil and build good with your example and your prayer.

Now I bless you one by one. I will help the sick you have recommended to me and I will watch over your families. Be severe with yourselves so that the penance

which the church commands may be effective and bring about spiritual improvement.

Goodbye, children, and a happy and Holy Easter to all!

The idol of pride

25 February 1978 (in Legnano)

Children so dear to me, be blessed! The consecration you have made of yourselves to me has been very pleasing to me. I promise you help in all your needs. I promise to help you to grow in God's love and a special assistance in life and in death.

I am the Mother of divine love and, of this love, I cannot fail to fill your heart! I am the Mother of Jesus, your brother, and my firstborn Son. And I cannot abandon you, who are members of his body, and who are part of my life more than any child is part of his mother's life.

Today, however, being you yourselves spontaneously placed in my hands, a stronger and more pressing duty pushes me to take care of you. Renew this consecration often, even every day, not so much because I can forget you, but because you have to remember the duty to behave like my children.

What do I ask of you as consecrated to me? I ask you to live your Christianity in a perfect way, that is, following that path traced by Jesus himself with his life. Therefore, I ask you to often deal with what is narrated of Jesus in the Gospel! You must be a living Gospel, even if perfection cannot be reached in a short time, but you will have to spend your whole life, and perhaps even Purgatory will have to complete it.

When a soul is in my hands, it is safe, but remains the duty to it to respond to my graces, since salvation is a choice by the predestined. I offer you salvation; you accept it by studying to indulge my divine action in your soul.

What do I tend to do with you? I tend to bring you to holiness. I therefore want to help you demolish all those idols that enter many times in the life of even the most good, so that everything you do is aimed at glorifying the only true God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to whom one must give honour and glory if one wants to dwell in them and with them for all eternity.

The first idol, from which you will have to remove the throne within you, is pride. It is the idol that brought down the rebel angels and which sowed sin and death in the world. It is the idol that sows discord in families, in the church it brings divisions, in the world the war. Banish it, I beg you, from your soul, so that nothing can lose value in you; so that, undermined at the base by this idol which makes its own ego God, your holiness does not collapse.

The more you commit yourself to fight pride, the more I promise you that I will bless your initiatives, I will give strength to your prayers, to make your works blossom.

Know that humility is like the foundation of your holiness. It cannot be built on sand; it is necessary to go down and, the deeper the foundations, the higher the building is erected.

The early Christians maintained bonds of friendship among themselves and collaborated in spreading the Gospel, because among them there was humility. When this virtue was lacking, they no longer understood each other, and divisions led to error. If you want peace in your families, if you want your groups to flourish and do good everywhere, be humble! Whoever has received the most, be the servant of all and know how to put himself in last place.

This is my way of behaving with those who consecrate themselves to me: I shower them with graces, then I allow them to be tried by humiliation, so that right intention, faith, and grace are consolidated in them, and so they walk more expeditiously on the path of perfection. The more a person is tried with humiliation, with slander, with the annihilation of his ego, and the more you can say that he is called to the high peaks.

So rejoice when you are not listened to, when you are not understood, when many people accuse you unjustly, when they slander you and call you good for nothing! That God who filled me with grace, when He sees you

like Jesus, who humbled himself and suffered all these things of which I speak, fills you with grace, gives you the most beautiful graces, sanctifies you. He only asks you to accept for his love everything that humiliates you, so that everything turns into very pure gold.

Children, cut down the idol of pride, which can present humiliation to you as a bogeyman and can make you believe you can do great things with your intelligence, with your activity and with all your human gifts, everything becomes easy. The other idols are like the satellites of this major idol. When the head is cut down, all the rest will be easily cut down, for the Lord will not let his help fail.

That God who overcomes the proud, and raises the humble and uplifts them, fills these children with heavenly favours who, eager to love and serve me, with good will get to work, letting themselves be directed by me.

Children, I bless you again. I bless your families and your parishes. I bless those who come from afar and the neighbours. To all I give, as a pledge of love, my hug!

Goodbye, children. I wait for you all on the eve of Easter Sunday to bring you my joy to pass on to your families.

The value of the soul

26 February 1978

Children so dear to me, be peace to you and grace and all good! Behold, I have told you that you must bring down idols, for only one is the true God whom you must love, serve, and honour. But to be able to carry out this demolition work with awareness and love, you must be convinced of the need to save the soul, since nobody will be able to save it if you do not want to.

But what is this soul compared to which there is no thing worth, not even putting together everything that attracts man in the world? Behold, children. The soul is the spiritual part of man, by which he lives, understands and is free. It is the spiritual part, by which he cannot die, but will live eternally. It is that part of man that reflects the image of God, from whose hands it came out and to which it must return.

The soul cannot die, since death is the dissolution of the matter which it vivifies; however, it can have a spiritual death, that is, a separation from God through sin, whereby it can no longer live on the divine life that God gives it through grace.

The soul deserves all your appreciation and esteem, to the point of being ready to die to save it. Jesus said that anyone who wants to save his soul must overcome great difficulties. First of all, he must deny himself and embrace voluntary mortification with suffering. Those

who thus give death to their will find their soul in the risen Christ to live of his life.

Many times Jesus spoke of the value of the soul, comparing it to the drachma that the housewife seeks by turning the house upside down, or to the pearl that the farmer discovers in a field and that he buys by selling all his possessions. But He also compared it to the vineyard, which must be cultivated, and which requires committed work at all hours. He also said that it is never too late to go to the service of the owner of the vineyard to do his work.

Jesus spoke many times about the soul and the destiny reserved for it. He warned that it is better to lose an eye, or a hand, or another part of the body, than to lose the soul. If all these words, which are truth and life, are not enough, I want to remind you that a God, to save souls, has humbled himself to the point of, Him also, assuming a body and a soul like every man, to be able to take upon himself the sins of all and being able to repair them.

So how much is a soul worth? It is worth Paradise, to which it is destined! It is worth the blood of the Man-God, who, even to save one soul, would have died on the cross and would have endured all suffering and all evil! And you ask me: but if Jesus knows the value of the soul and wants them all safe, why does He allow many to get lost?

Children, salvation is a gift offered freely, therefore not deserved by anyone. Nobody is forced to accept it, because the Lord respects the freedom of all, but wants that, by accepting the gift, one should act according to

the dictates of his Law. The world has its laws, which take away freedom and make slaves. The Laws of the Lord make free, and make the life of man a loving response to his God. The world gives value to everything that passes, but whoever lives in God and loves Him, despises passing things, and loves what it is long lasting.

Loving one's own soul means freeing it from the dominion of Satan, who is prince of the world. To love the soul means to embrace the cross, which presents itself accompanied by the One who was hung like an evildoer on the cross, and to seek in the cross that holiness that covers the soul. Sure, children, as one cannot reach Heaven with the body, because it must remain detached from the soul until the day of the resurrection, so the soul cannot reach Heaven without the cross, which must open the door of Paradise.

As long as you are on earth, guided by the light that comes from faith, you must accept these truths which are called mysteries. Then when you have reached the goal, and everything will appear clearly to your eyes, you will understand well that it was worth suffering, working and fighting to save that noble and spiritual part that made you act well and that will be glorified. A soul in grace is a paradise of beauty, but only in the light of God can its value be understood.

I am your Mother. The souls, which belong to the Father who created and continually creates them, belong to Jesus, who redeemed them with his blood; they belong to the Holy Spirit, who vivifies them with his grace and

his love leading them to holiness; but they are also of the church, of which they are the living stones; and they are mine, since they have been entrusted to me and, as co-Redemptrix, I have cooperated in their salvation.

I beg you, children, in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, in the name of the Church, and for my sake, do not forget what I have told you! I will want you all safe in Paradise, but do not forget to give the things of the spirit a value superior to everything concerning matter. Your body will also be glorified one day if you have saved your soul. Entrust yourselves to me, trust me! I am the gate of Heaven, but from now on I hold you on my heart, because I want to increase you in holiness and grace.

Goodbye, children! Yes, renew yourselves in the spirit, converting yourselves to God with a sincerely Christian life.

The most decisive moment

28 February 1978

My children, be peace to you! I am your Mother, and everything that is dear to me about you, it is good that it becomes the focus of my lessons.

I want your happiness in this life and in the other, but, between the present and the future life, there is a point that deserves all your attention. From this point, where

all that is earthly ends, what will last eternally begins, that is, eternal happiness or eternal punishment. It is the most important and most decisive moment, that of death. It is therefore worthwhile to keep it in sight, and to often direct thoughts to it, not so much to be afraid, but to prepare for the encounter with the Lord.

Of course, if every Christian lived his life in the light of these truths, living would be much more beautiful, and even death would lose that painful aspect that is usually given to it.

Convinced that one must die, they all are, but one lives in such a way that it seems to mean: *"The others die, but I probably won't die."* And yet, every day that passes is a move towards the last day, which, even if it was very far away, it is always for a limited number of years that is prolonged. Jesus, out of pure goodness and mercy, keeps the time and day of death hidden from men, but, precisely because of this uncertainty, one must always be prepared to suffer it.

How will you die? In your bed, surrounded by relatives and friends, or alone in a place of convalescence, or in a home where loneliness will be even more painful for you? An accident will happen to you, will you die on the train, on the street, where you desire, or where you least want? I have to keep all these things hidden from you, but I know that for you death will be like the good sister, whom you will have waited for and received with love. Indeed, you will have

welcomed her by wearing that festive dress that will serve to make you celebrate your spousals.

Death must not frighten you, since many, many times, every day, you have invited me to be by your side at that crucial moment. If at times an invocation is enough to make me run to the aid of the dying, think if I can forget you, who in life have loved me so much! You need not worry about it at the time.

There are many to whom the sight of a glimpse of Heaven, a corner of Paradise, is presented as help or encouragement, and it is Jesus himself who appears in his white and luminous garment as on Tabor. There are others to whom is presented, as in a vision, one's mother or some relative who already enjoys Paradise. Others protract a vision for a few seconds, and it is a joy that fills their hearts and their eyes. But they are special gifts!

You only have to pray, so that you will be well disposed for the grace of God that you possess, and that the faith will never fail in you, despite the sufferings that will torment you at that moment, which in fact you will be able to offer as if to pay for those penalties that you should suffer in Purgatory.

Death for me was like a very sweet sleep full of love, but the death of my husband Joseph, of whom you are preparing to spend the month, was equally serene, because Jesus and I supported him in his passage.

What must I tell you to help you live well and die well? Children, I desire from you that every month, on

the last day, you try to concentrate a little on this thought, and try to spend it with particular goodness doing, in preparation for death, all that you normally do. Your Mass, Communion and the Rosary must be addressed for this purpose, and I will be eager to keep them in storage for that hour.

Children, Paradise is the place established by the mercy of God and his justice to reward those who have loved and served Him on earth. Life is like attached to a thread, which at any moment could be broken. Fortunate those who will be found worthy to occupy that place reserved for everyone!

May the thought of death and Paradise make you capable of enduring everything, of always forgiving and of loving everyone. In Paradise all the evil done, and the evil received are forgotten. The only thought that will give infinite joy will be that, by loving God, you can work with Him for the salvation of all.

Do you want to anticipate the joy of Paradise? Let go, forget everything that offended you, everything that causes you bitterness daily! It will be more beautiful to live and, if of all bitterness you have made it a means to help your neighbour, you will begin to do in this life what you will continue to do in Heaven.

I bless you, children, one by one. I give each one an affectionate kiss.

How many graces you receive continuously!
Mothers, say the Rosary in the family; I save your
children as a reward!

Goodbye!

Let souls form your attraction

4 March 1978

My children, how much joy this encounter with you gives me! You are souls on the way, in search of an ever more lively faith and an ever more ardent love. Your good desires will be fulfilled. Your hopes will not be disappointed. I gather in my heart all that you present to me, and I say a word to you that will be a certainty for you.

Know that I love you! I love you so, with your limits, with your imperfections. I love you in such a way that I could not love you more! I love you as sisters, as brothers, as children, as members of the body of my Jesus, as living stones that make up the Church. But I also love you as a royal priesthood, destined to complete with your sufferings what is missing from the passion of my Son. As a royal priesthood, I see you, in the world, operators of justice, messengers of peace.

I expect a lot from you. Indeed, I want to tell you that, as you hear a spring announcement in the air, and you see the first fruits in the flowers that adorn my altar, so I

see in you, and in the groups you represent, the announcement of that renewal of the Church and of the world to which your thoughts and desires tend.

Children, the deaf, the dumb and the blind abound in the world, which Jesus must heal. He can and wants to perform miracles of conversion. You must be the saliva that Jesus puts on the mouth or on the eyes; you must be the finger that He introduces into the ears. What is more insignificant than these things? And yet, without saliva digestion does not take place; without fingers one cannot act.

Your work made of prayer and goodness, sacrifice and giving, will be the means to give back to the deaf who do not hear the voice of God, to the dumb who cannot praise Him, and to the blind who do not see his works, that light that allows you to hear, speak and see.

Everything requires the virtue of patience, since the Lord, who with one act of his will alone could upset the world, knows how to be patient, knows how to wait and, while encouraging and helping sinners, wants from everyone patience and peace.

Children, your call to holiness is manifest to you. Jesus said it: "*Be holy like your Father who is in the heavens.*" But you had a particular call, special graces, special invitations! You cannot say no to the Lord who, while calling you, stands before you to show you the way forward with his footsteps.

Your response must be a love response. "*Lord, I am coming*", you must say, "*I am at your service!*" This answer must take your whole life. It must make you forget all that is important for the worldly, since the will of God must be above all.

If you love, you must keep the Law and be precise in the fulfillment of your duties. If you love, souls must be part of your life. God loved men to the point of giving his Son Jesus. You must love God to the point that all men become part of what you hold dearest. Let souls be your attraction, as they were for your holy fellow citizens, and how in God they are the attraction of the saints of Paradise.

You live in the world, but you are not of the world, since whoever belongs to the world belongs to Satan, who is its prince. Let the world feel the perfume of your virtues, feel the effect of your prayers, and enjoy the benefit of your sacrifice and your works. Thus you will truly be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the lamp placed on the bushel.

And now, while I bless you one by one and I bless the community and the groups that you represent to me, I call upon you my divine Bridegroom, the Holy Spirit, so that, inebriated by his love and filled with his grace, you can always be faithful to your mandate.

When you call me, I run to your aid, even if externally everything seems unchanged. The patience with which you endure the adversities is already a gift.

Goodbye, children!

To the young people

5 March 1978

My children, be welcome to this place of graces! I welcome you with an open heart and invite you to put in it all that disturbs you, that pains you, and that is a cause of worry for you. I love you, children, and everything that makes you suffer, also makes me who is your Mother suffer.

Know that I want to guide you in your life, and be for you, a light that shows you the right path and that points out to you the eternal glory. You must be my little children, who allow themselves to be led and who do not abandon the hand of their mother. In turn, if you let yourself be guided, you can become light. My light comes from God, it is reflected light; yours comes from me.

When I lead a soul, I give it love for the divine Word. This is how religious teaching, which comes from this Word, also becomes light for others. One grows in faith, increases hope, and practices charity. When one goes deeper into religious instruction and loves the Word of God, one becomes a beacon of light.

When a big event, a big feast approaches, many get ready with material things, and with amusements and treats they celebrate.

You who are the good children, who let yourselves be led by me, must prepare yourselves for the most

important event of the Church and of the world, which is celebrated on Easter solemnities, trying to deepen its meaning.

Love the Word of God, whether it comes to you from the mouth of the priest, as when you read it as meditation in those books which, being inspired, carry within themselves the action of grace. Enrich your mind, heart and will, with this divine light, so that you never have to walk in darkness and can help the blind, who have only the light of the body and do not know the truth.

I bless you one by one. I bless your parishes, your families, your works. Know that I also made my pilgrimage every year. It must remind you that life is the earthly pilgrimage to the heavenly homeland. From every pilgrimage one must go out better and with a supply of spirituality, to continue with ardour to do good. Wherever you go, I follow you and bless you for those roses that you spread at your passing!

I bless the little children, the young and the adults. I will give each one a special light. Do good, children! Do good while you can, before darkness comes, when no one can operate. That is to say: never be one of those who postpone till tomorrow, because life is short and only now can you earn eternal life.

Goodbye, children. I wait for you again! I love you so much.

Let your works be bright

5 March 1978

My children, be peace to you and grace and all good! Behold, you have begun your conversation with me, which must lead you to a perfect knowledge of your duties towards God, towards your neighbour and towards yourself. It is a conversation that can resemble what Moses held on the mountain, when God called him to give him his Commandments and wrote them to him on stone tablets. What was the outcome of that meeting, of that reception? Moses came down from the mountain, and his face was transfigured and sent out luminous rays.

Children, what must follow on from your prayer, done with me, and from the religious instruction that I myself offer and impart to you? You have to leave here transfigured! You must come down from this holy mountain and bring the brightness of your works everywhere.

Everyone must realize that my lesson is divine, by that precision with which you put it into practice by observing the Commandments of God, and it is like saying, the two commandments of charity, namely the love of God and that of neighbour. What would be the worth if you stayed here for hours, if you then did not know how to put into practice those teachings that reflect the will of God because they are based on the Gospel?

Yes, children, let your works be luminous! Let your face be luminous by the simplicity with which you

present yourself to your brethren! Eliminate those rude ways, that arrogance with which you would like to impose your will on others! If you are not good inside, you take away from your face that serenity and that delicacy that makes your company pleasant. Hard features are produced many times by a strong character, but sometimes by a lack of goodness, which makes people close to suffer. Be luminous, I repeat to you, and may your family members see in you a prophet, that is, an announcer of the Word of God.

Errors swarm everywhere, and are many times the result of that arrogance for which one believes that one can judge everything with one's own head. You must have the divine truths very clear in your mind, so that, having become the life of your life, you can show them to everyone what they are. Being a living Gospel is not so easy, but if you compare your behaviour with that of Jesus and mine, you see that things are simplified. Did not Jesus say to you: "*Learn from Me?*"

I beg you, children, remove all that pettiness, those envies, that lack of sincerity that does not please the Lord! I want to sew for you a new garment made of light, studded with bright gems of great value. I want to clothe you with charity, with love. charity is God! He is the sun! His light must adorn your whole person. The gems are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you must use to grow in holiness.

Who will want this wonderful garment? I seem to see so many hands raised. "I, I!", you tell me, as little children do. Well then, it will be granted to you! I will give it to you! Give me only your goodwill, since know that any lack of charity could cause a tear in the garment, and every one of my graces according to your needs. Do you have any sick to recommend to me? Sick in body and soul? Are you troubled by your state of health? Does the devil play bad tricks on you? Do you want to hear from your deceased loved ones? Do you want to know how to deal with the prayer groups you have started?

Yes, I answer you with two words that summarize everything: trust God who knows how to resolve everything! Trust Him, who uses illness and all evil to derive good. Trust him, who is more eager to grant you than to be prayed to. Have trust because what He promises He keeps. Know how to love Him, because He deserves your love, and everything you do to please Him, is reciprocated by Him with great favours, first of all spiritual, but also material.

Loving the Lord also means accepting physical and moral suffering, especially the humiliations that make you similar to Jesus. Who has been more humiliated than my Son? He, God, equal in all things to the Father and the Holy Spirit, suffered not only the humiliation of the cross, but, throughout his life, those humiliations that are summarized in the word "persecution".

Children, know that when suffering accompanies prayer, it becomes powerful on the heart of God. Only I recommend you remove sin.

Then be bearers of peace everywhere. Said Jesus: *"Blessed are the peaceful, because they will possess the earth."*

Know, children, that those who do not seek to maintain peace in families inevitably bring war and with it the devil, who works and possesses souls in discord. Peace must also be brought to the world, and you must not let any opportunity slip away from sowing those good words that are valid for recomposing any disagreement.

Now I bless you all, children, one by one. I never abandon you. Come here when you have a heavy heart: I will lighten you. Goodbye!

Seek the will of God

7 March 1978

Children so dear to me, be blessed! I look at you, and I read your affections and your desires in your hearts. I see in your minds thoughts of goodness and perfection; therefore I can only approve and bless you. All you have to do is put yourselves to the will of God, in which all wisdom and perfection resides, for having fulfilled your desires and fulfilled your hopes.

What do sailors who conduct a ship do? They obey the captain who directs the naval operations, and everything proceeds in order. Your captain is Christ the Lord. It will be enough for you to study his tastes, that you go along with his directives, and everything will be led to perfection.

The most important thing is this: that the ship does not take on water by some leak that occurs in the bottom. Do you know what the leaks of the spiritual life are? They are those produced by the search for your will, which is not always in harmony with that of God. If, however, your right intention, your simplicity and humility, put you before God as sailors before the captain, that is, at his service, He knows how to patch together and even repair the leaks, and can accommodate everything.

Children, the Lord desires your good. No other person in the world is more disinterested than Him. All that He possesses, and they are infinite goods, He wishes to make available to you, so as to make you similar to Him. There is always between God and man an infinite distance, but by what He gives out of love, He can transform poverty into wealth, ignorance into wisdom, sin into grace, and of miserable creatures He can make wonderful creatures that reflect the light of God.

God is personified goodness. He wants to give everyone what abounds in his heart; however, just as a father wants his children to ask him for help, so God wants his children to pray to Him. Is it not true that

parents when they are forgotten by their children and deemed incapable, suffer? The Lord wants his children to understand that they need Him and, even if all their needs are not hidden from Him, He wants them to express them and ask for help.

Here, at this point, is the teaching of Jesus who says: *"Knock and it will be opened to you; ask and you will get; seek and you will find."* It is the same thought that is portrayed in a different way, as if to demonstrate the insistence that one must put on prayer to obtain divine favours. Everything is in his hands: life and death, disease and health, joy and sorrow, poverty, and wealth. He is the beginning and end of everything. The whole world is in his hands because He is the absolute master of everything.

So what should one ask God for? Everything! Behold the prayer must be continuous, as your needs are continuous. What will the Lord refuse you? Nothing of what you need to achieve eternal life! He will refuse you anything that could be a stumbling block to eternal health, for it is the only reason you were born into life and undergoing the test.

So what is left for you to do? To immerse yourself like fish in the boundless sea of God's love and seek his will, since it is the water that quenches thirst and the food that must nourish your spirit.

The fool seeks in the futilities of life recreation, and in meals the nourishment of the body, up to savouring the taste of food to exaggeration. The wise seek in the

things of the spirit the relief of their own mind, and in the supernatural food that nourishment that gives life, and of which, whoever eats is reinvigorated in virtue and grace.

At the eternal pastures, the Lord invites souls to quench their thirst and feed, and He himself becomes nourishment for those He loves. Prayer is therefore indispensable because it puts your souls, thirsty and hungry for eternal goods, at the disposal of the true and supreme Shepherd, who directs and leads you. How fluid prayer becomes when it is made with this spirit of faith! And, as it rises from your heart to God, so it descends like a spring rain on the souls, who benefit from it and are brought back to new life.

I can tell you, children, that while prayer is a wonderful gift of God to men, to whom He allows to communicate with Him, it is also a gift of love made by you to God, in the demonstration of full trust, and a gift of love to humanity in need of help. Pray in this way: in the will of God, with love for Him and for everyone!

I bless you, children. Yes, I bless you when you come here to pray, because everyone is in need of your help. And when you bring new souls to me, I bless you many times.

Goodbye, children! I love you so much!

A particular task belongs to the woman

8 March 1978 (in Muggiò)

My children, with how much love I am among you, who have made your choices and have decided to follow my Son and love Him, and to follow me, honouring me with that devotion that is so dear to me and that helps you to perfect yourself!

I look at you and smile at you. I am the Mother of Jesus, Son of God, and I am your Mother who, although already in Heaven in body and soul, I still live on earth with a mystical but true presence, to give help to all my children. I smile at you because I know you love me, and because I see your good will to serve the Lord.

Were you to know, children, how much confusion there is in the world with the truths of faith! My Son, who should be known and loved by all, after having worked extraordinary miracles, after having given the example of a whole life, after giving all of himself on the cross and being resurrected after his death to new life, He is still regarded as a simple man, and is denied that divinity for whom his doctrine deserves fidelity and esteem.

This is why the preparation for Easter assumes an extraordinary value in the life of the Christian: because it is the validation of that mystery which confirms the divinity of Jesus, therefore the truth of his doctrine, of revelation and of the future life that awaits every man. Indeed, if Jesus Christ is risen, Christians too must rise!

But why are these truths denied? Because it is more convenient to form a bespoke Christianity, which does not force to accept its dogmas, which admits sin and evil and which opens the way to atheism.

If Jesus is not God, what will the God of Christians be? Perhaps by accepting materialism, a throne can be established for the divinities of the century: lust, dominance over others, money, and all that is part of human ambition. But if one accepts Christianity, how can a Christian way of life be reconciled with paganism and with everything that tastes of sin and death?

Children, destroyed the divinity of Jesus, the Church is destroyed. This is why the devil works to undermine the faith from its roots! It is truly painful that Jesus can be considered in the same way as the agitators of the masses or the defenders of the poor, and that the infinite justice of God is not seen in Him, who, while commanding charity, also demands from the poor and workers the observance of their duties in equated justice.

Certainly, a particular task in defence of the truth belongs to the woman, who has delicate tasks in society. It is rightly said that it is the woman who makes the man and, as through motherhood she can be called the continuer of God's creative work, so, by her faith and by the particular sensitivity to the religious problem, she can be of paramount importance in the spiritual formation and conservation of the faith of individuals.

The mission of the woman, which one tries to destroy, and the halo of her dignity, which one wants to

annihilate, must be restored, if one does not want to make the family a den and society a mass of violent people. This mission and this dignity, so that it can truly be said that the future of the world is on the mother's lap, the first teacher of man, must once again be valued.

Children, in a world that has fallen to the bottom step for depravity, I came to earth to announce, with my birth, that of Jesus. Today, in the disastrous state of corruption, war, and sin, in which men live, it is still necessary for the woman to be reborn to a more complete spiritual and moral life, to reawaken in the world that faith which one tries in every way to suffocate. And just as the woman must turn to God to have that light, that grace, that strength she needs, so all men must turn to God so that, through the sanctified woman, that desired transformation may come into the world.

Children, the moments that you live are extraordinary by the overabundance of heavenly gifts, but they are also serious because they are full of electricity in the moral sense, and full of invitation to atheism and violence. Know how to understand the gravity of the hour, and make your life a continuous offering with prayer and sacrifice. I do not want you pessimistic, but attentive, thoughtful, prepared.

May that God who, by becoming Man, has participated in all the vicissitudes of human life, help you to believe, to endure, to love, and to recover in you and in others those values that are losing their importance in the eyes of many. May Jesus, Son of God, whose

resurrection will be celebrated on Easter day, be announcer of a general resurrection!

Children, I bless you all one by one.

I bless the religious present and the teachers, from whom I expect a lot.

Children, how much I desire to speak individually to all of you! Grant me a conversation with you in your home! I will make you understand very important things. Bring my blessing to all your loved ones.

Your youth does not have to fade

10 March 1978 (in Saronno)

My children, here I am with you to continue a discourse that you started on the first day of Lent. You must continue to give death to that old man who insistently wants to prevail, in order to give life to the new man, who makes you live a divine life and who makes you rise daily with Jesus until the day when, at the sound of the wonderful trumpets that will announce the final resurrection, your bodies will reunite with the soul to be glorified in the risen Christ.

I want to invite you to turn your thoughts to spring, which is already taking shape with a milder climate and with the first buds that sprout on the branches which have hitherto been dried. I want to invite you to reflect

on the life of the Christian: it is wonderful, and, in its course, it presents a resemblance to nature. Your spring, however, which by now has passed by the passage of the years, or may be at the beginning for the incipient youth, must always last. that is, in your hearts, in your soul, it must continually sprout new shoots of life and good, since the Christian has the ability to always remain young.

Youth is that ardour of faith and charity that accompanies your days, and which makes you always undertake new works for the benefit of your brethren and for God's glory. Youth is that serenity that you know how to maintain, even when adversities overwhelm you and family or social conflicts threaten to take your peace away. Youth is that tenacious fidelity to your duty, which makes you intransigent with yourself, which makes you accept the sacrifice, and which makes you run to the aid of those in need.

Your youth does not have to fade. It is headed by God, who knows no age and before whom everything is present. If you remain united to God, let the springs pass, summer or autumn come: you will be proud of your faith, as the young soldier is proud of his flag. You will remain attached to the main mast, even if threatening the waves rise. You will always be like attentive lookouts to discover the needs of your neighbour, and you will be ready to intervene to help, defend, comfort everyone.

If you are with God, trust will never fail in you. You will not feel depressed and sad, because He will be your

shield and your strength. You will never deflect from the path of good; it is difficult, but if your ideal is to reach the homeland, you will not lose courage, on the contrary, you will always be prepared for combat.

However, there is a commitment in life that requires this union with God: it is the fulfillment of one's mission. There is a phrase that clarifies this thought, which says: everyone has his destiny from the day he is born. I ask you to put the word mission instead of the word destiny, and I want you to be convinced that truly each man does not come by chance on the face of the earth. Each one has his own task to fulfill, his importance in the life of the world, and must make his own contribution of love, of pain and of work.

Nobody should ask themselves discouraged: why did I come into the world? What am I doing in the world? Nobody should feel useless! Even if the legs no longer wanted to walk, the arms no longer wanted to move, the eyes no longer wanted to see, you could still continue to carry out that mission for which you were born. Human life becomes purely vegetative, and you can say useless, indeed, harmful to others, when sin separates it from that divine life which is indispensable for communion with humanity, to benefit it, and for communion with God in the continuous action of praise.

Each one of you, from sunrise to sunset, can be considered at the service of God, in the fulfillment of those duties that the profession, the chosen state of life, or the ministry entrusted by God, require. What will be

the reward for this service that announces copious fruits of good? The reward is human and divine! The perennial youth of those who do so is a perennial source of joy.

Who is happier than a mother who knows she has done everything possible to make her family members happy? Who is more satisfied than a student who, after having done his duty, sees his efforts crowned and reaches the goal? Who is more satisfied than the doctor who, after having diligently treated his patients, sees them improve and heal? Who will be able to say the satisfaction of a priest or a religious when she sees that her efforts mature in gratitude, in a general and total conversion?

Well then, children, these arrival points are highly satisfactory and can fill with joy, but I tell you that, even if the outcome was not good, for those who perform their duty in the certainty of doing the will of God, there is still an intimate joy that nobody can destroy. If then you knew the results that a soul can achieve by fulfilling God's will with faith, with love and with a certain perfection, I am sure that you would be truly amazed, and that each of you would like to strive to reach that height.

So what will you do in these days of preparation for Easter? What I said to you at the beginning, and, while you will remove from your soul all that displeases God and that makes you grow old, you will favour the birth and growth of those virtues that make you young. I desire that you remove from your habits the rumblings,

the criticisms, the murmurs, the complaints of everything, that they know of old, and that you introduce the clean song that raises the smile, that makes everyone better, and the serenity, that brings a good mood in family.

So I want you, children, and in the meantime, I bless you all. I bless the students present. Let those who wish to be doctors know that of the medical is not a profession, but a true mission, much like that carried out by Jesus on earth; and know that by healing the bodies, they will sometimes be able to heal souls if they keep united with God through grace.

I bless your crosses and make them light. Love them! Above them is my Son.

Happy Easter, children, I love you so much!

In preparation for the Feast of the Annunciation

10 March 1978

Beloved children, I am with you! I am the Virgin of the Annunciation, and I want to prepare you for that feast so that it will be profitable for your spiritual life. It is a great feast that remembers the announcement of my divine motherhood, to which my response of adhesion and acceptance of the divine will is associated. It is an

event of unique importance in the world since it is the announcement of the Redemption.

No Christian should let this date go unnoticed, because it corresponds to a specific duty for everyone. In fact, as I said my fiat to the will of God, so each one of you has had your own life by an act of acceptance of your parents, and each one of you must carry out in himself the plan of salvation of the Redeemer, adhering with your own, to his will.

When everything goes well in life, it is easy to say one's yes; but when the cross is outlined on the horizon, it is not so simple, on the contrary many times a sense of rebellion arises from within and manifests itself with a refusal which, if it is not in words, is certainly an act not in conformity to the divine will.

I would like for you in these days, more strongly, to be aware of the presence of your good angel, who, by means of good inspirations, good readings, good advice and good examples, given by people united to you by blood ties or affection, will make you understand and will be the messenger of the divine will.

The archangel Gabriel is still at the service of God and yours, to tell you what your thoughts, your affections and your mission must be; this, although different from each other, has only one purpose: to give the world the Redeemer. Be attentive, for his action is not unlike that of your good angel.

Fill yourselves with grace on these days, because the brighter your soul will be by the presence of God in you, the more you will be able to perceive and implement the divine designs of love.

Being at the service of God is the duty of every Christian, it is the purpose that he must set himself, even if the service takes on different names and different aspects. It is always an infinite meritoriousness, that of being called to serve the creator of the world, even if Saint Paul, making fine distinctions, warned that not everyone can occupy the same place. But if in every task you fill your day with, you put this thought of service to God, that serenity will take over that will make you satisfied, even if the world around you is not able to understand, reciprocate and collaborate.

To give God to the world while you serve Him is to give the brethren that faith that they perhaps desire but do not know where to acquire it. To give God, the Incarnate Word, to men, means to bring to them that divine word that you receive: to give it in human form, by the perfection with which you translate it into practice; to give it in the works of mercy, which are bread broken with the brethren.

To bring God is to bring salvation, and then the service can become the good word that comforts, the prayer that helps to rise, to find together that light that saves.

Children, I want you tonight, seized by a feeling of gratitude to God, who has taken you into his service, try to say with me: here I am, Lord, to do your will!

You will spend these days in my company. I ask you to recite the Angelus three times every day, as many pious souls used to do in past years, and to remember every day a mystery of the Rosary with its fruit. On the day of the Annunciation, you will remember my coronation as Queen of heaven and earth, and I will be happy to make you glimpse in this mystery the glory reserved also for you, when the Most Holy Trinity crowns you with glory by joining me in God.

Children, I bless you and love you.

Have a good night. I assist you and give you serenity. I watch over your persons and your homes.

I predispose you to the encounter with Jesus in Holy Communion.

Goodbye, children! This evening meeting is so dear to me, in which I can say good night to you!

Your intercession is needed

12 March 1978

Beloved children, here you are for your love encounter with the Mother of Heaven. How much joy your prayer brings to my heart! It rises like the scent of

incense to Heaven, and spreads trust and faith in the world. They seem impossible things to men, and yet, through the universality of prayer, all humanity enjoys divine benefits.

If men were attentive to the voice of God and to his mercy, they would see with the eyes of faith what they see in the spring with the eyes of the body. Is it not true that, at the first sun and spring rain, the trees are covered with flowers, the mountains look like flower gardens, and the fields seem to be tufted with small stars, which are simple and delicate daisies? Oh, don't you think that a powerful hand has thrown petals upon petals to the point of transforming nature?

Children, if everyone were attentive to the action of God in the world, they would reap the fruits, the flowers, the petals that, from your prayers raised to Heaven, with the blessing of God are thrown to humanity with full hands, to give everyone help and grace. They close their eyes in order not to see and, like many, while enjoying the scent of flowers, the beauty of the starry sky, or the wonders of nature, they do not know how to rise above themselves, thus, the daily spectacle of God's mercy and his goodness, leaves them indifferent and apathetic.

Children, I wish you were instruments suitable for shaking the numbness of souls, not only with your prayer, but also with your word. Were you to know how much need there is to play the part of Martha and Mary to awaken from the sleep of death the new Lazarus's, who lie in the death of sin!

The winter of the soul is a terrible state of death, which only the Lord can see in its ugliness and meanness. And yet, as Lazarus was considered a friend by Jesus, so the souls who lie in sin are loved by God. Only needed is your intercession, prayer, the word, tears, sacrifice, to bring back to life.

It is a state of waiting, that of the soul that rolls in the mud and that does not find light. The fertilized and turned over clods of earth do not realize that they are prepared to give life. So the souls wait to be helped to firm up, to use the sins committed to recognize their weakness, and to release those tears of repentance that give life to virtue.

Nobody can operate on their own! God's grace is made effective by that mutual and fraternal help which cannot be lacking to anyone. How beautiful this communion of souls, available to receive and to give!

You may think that these are imaginary things, but I tell you that they are truths of faith, that in the Communion of Saints, which unites souls in God and among them, finds its fulfillment. Look at your life with confidence because it ought never be a stumbling block to anyone. Look with confidence at everyone, and know that Jesus, even to those who do not accept, do not want the light, and who therefore are like in a tomb, can order like Lazarus to come out, to open his eyes and to untie those bonds that still keep them tied.

Think of the life that awaits you, and which must flourish through virtue in a continuous work of

correspondence to grace, and always be ready to give with goodness what you have your heart full of. Yes, love must fill your heart, because without love nothing is done: a flower does not sprout, a bird is not born, there is no life.

Children, in these encounters between earth and Heaven, you are replenished with that spirituality that becomes fire, becomes strength, becomes water that quenches thirst, bread that nourishes. Well then, do not let yourself be dominated by human respect, and know how to give with the same abundance with which you receive. Do not be disturbed, but where evil abounds, let grace abound! If evil spreads easily, it leaves you sick; if the good finds ground, it conquers and elevates.

There are some of you who live and carry out their mission in hostile environments: do not let yourself be overwhelmed! With serenity, with kindness, show your consistency. Do not hide your thoughts: say them simply, with conviction, with sincerity. Be prepared for the insult, but trust Him who said, *"Do not worry about what you say; the Holy Spirit will speak for you and in you."* Be constant and equal to yourself! Do not be banners waved by the wind!

When evening comes, the little children love to be with the mother. You are my little children. May the evening of your life find me next to you. Then there is another evening, that of unbelief, of sin: this is not in you, but it can be around you. Call me, because even

atheists, hardened sinners, are my little children. Call me, so that I can carry out my maternal task with them.

When a threatening storm rises from east to west, the mother calls the children, so that the crop which cost effort and sweat can be saved. The wonderful harvest, which cost the life of Jesus the Saviour and the death of millions of martyrs, must be saved, and your heavenly Mother invites everyone to work to save souls. Pray for sinners, and may it not be a burden for you to offer all that costs you sacrifice to save them.

I bless you one by one and I say to you: goodbye, see you again!

You are followers of Jesus, members of the Church and my devoted children

13 March 1978 (in Cantù)

Beloved children, with how much love I welcome you into my arms and put you on my heart! You are those children who love me with particular love, and with your prayer you want to repair the infidelities of those who do not want to welcome me as a Mother. I thank you and I bless you, while I promise you that your prayer will return first of all to the benefit of your families, and then it will bring, to all those you love, that spiritual help they need.

The Gospel describes a conversation held by Jesus with the apostles, in which He asks: "*Who do people say I am?*" The apostles report what people say, but Jesus, still turning to them, asks: "*And you, who do you say I am?*" Peter replies for all, affirming the divinity of Jesus.

Now I turn to you with a collective question: who are you? I myself answer you: you are brothers and followers of Jesus, members of the church and my children, my devotees. But if you can answer me like that, I ask you to reflect on what your behaviour should be, so as not to run the risk of being unworthy or lacking in sincerity.

You are therefore Christians, that is, followers of Jesus. What did Jesus say? "*Whoever wants to come after Me, let him take up his cross and follow Me.*" Here is the first manifestation of fidelity to your call, which you must give every day: knowing how to serenely carry that cross that cannot be missing, because, as a consequence of sin, it is a part of nature and human life and because it is a means of expiation. Loving the Lord when everything is fine is easy, but loving the Lord when He makes you walk along the way to Calvary is difficult. Still, there is no choice for the Christian! It is necessary that you accept with love what Jesus accepted for his love.

But you are also living stones, members of the church, and as such you must keep your faith intact. The threats of heresies, the confusions and cheating that come from everywhere, from inside and outside the church, must

make you more and more prudent, cautious, and strong, so that no infiltration of putrid water can pollute that pure and crystalline water that comes from a divine source.

Love and recite the "Creed" which gathers all the main truths of faith; by denying even one of them, one can be a heretic. Defend your faith, keeping loyalty to the Roman pontiff, whose infallibility is your guarantee and security. Be jealous of your faith, and do not allow those who have the task of explaining its truths and administering those sacraments that are channels of grace to be ridiculed and slandered.

And lastly, yes, be truly my devoted children! That is, be imitators of my virtues. Lent must be spent in penance and prayer. Well then, if you imitate me, you will joyfully make the sacrifice of being silent a little more, when you would like to speak to murmur, to slander, or to criticize others. A little silence, to better hear the Lord speaking within you, will also be the means by which I will bring so much peace in your families. The prayer that I recommend to you is the Rosary. I will be present in your homes to bless you, every time, all united, you will pray to me like this.

Children, I bless you one by one by calling you by name. I bless the little children present, whom I will put in my heart. I bless the sick you recommend to me. When you come here, put special intentions. I promise you; you will be heard!

Goodbye, children! Remember that the week you are going to has to be truly holy. I will be with you.

A powerful net to attract souls

14 March 1978

Beloved children, be peace and grace to your hearts!
I am with you!

I am the Refuge of sinners, and I come to solicit your prayers, tears, sufferings, for those souls who, being rebellious against the will of God, reject his grace and his love. Almost in every family there is, as they say, the black sheep, who is a thorn in the heart of the mother or the bride or the parents; but, if for you it is a thorn, for me it is a sword that wounds my heart.

Behold, children, how dutiful it is to do something for these souls, who lose themselves by denying their faith, refusing to obey the Law of God, and who crucify my Son in their hearts! We need to spread out a powerful net, within which they find what they need. We must point out the light, we must make way so that these children, and your brethren, find true joy and enjoy the thought of continuing in Heaven that union with God which must begin on earth through grace.

But what will this mysterious net be that will allow us to attract souls? I insist on telling you that it is the Rosary, of which I have spoken to you many times, but it is also your goodness, which can be the magnet that attracts. Is it not true that many times, in front of a good person, you cannot resist and do what he wants?

Yes, children, I will never stop telling you: be good! Be good, but not of that passive goodness, which accepts good and evil in the same way, or of that goodness, which is more indifference or fiction, than a feeling of brotherhood that makes you act, think, and accept the different characters and different situations! Be good to the end, longing for the true good of all and not letting you miss any opportunity to benefit your neighbour. If in the face of the insistence of a spouse or a mother, husbands and children can respond negatively, before the goodness that knows how to immolate itself every day, to dedicate itself, to deny itself to make others happy, it will be difficult to resist.

I want to spread a net over the world, and I want to cast it myself, calling everyone like a crusade of goodness. A goodness made of works of mercy, of trust in God, communicated to the brethren through faith, which paves the way and makes sacrifice easy. It is a net that must fill up to break point, like that of the miraculous haul, since it is still God who calls, who commands the waves and the fish, who wants the return to Him in a love made of repentance and conversion.

Your brethren must find the light. Whoever enjoys the light of the eyes can be a guide to the blind, who lack it. Those who enjoy the light of the soul can indicate the way to those who do not see it and do not want it. But what is this light of which John speaks in the Gospel, where he says: *"The light shines among the darkness, but they did not understand it?"*

The light is Jesus, children, whom you must carry in your heart by grace. He is the sun who must illuminate your mind, your words, your actions, so as to make them luminous. It is He, Jesus, who living in you must radiate on others. Light destroys darkness. The more vivid it is, the more you will be able to talk about Him, persuade and instil the truth.

Your inner life must be continuously nourished, it must be ever more luxuriant. Every act of love is like a twig that you add to the fire, which blazes more and more until it becomes a fire.

When the Hebrews crossed the desert to reach the promised land, in front of them they saw like a pillar of fire pointing the way. Your love for God, which makes you dwell in Him, your love for the brethren, which is the love of God translated into practice, will be the pillar of fire with which you will call the lapsed to thoughts of peace, to thoughts of faith, and to the hope of eternal goods.

Do not be disturbed, do not lose trust, do not doubt the assistance of God in all your needs. If you walk in the footsteps of Jesus, if you stay by my side, I will guide you and you will not lack anything, I promise you. You will be the net, you will be the light, and others will walk in your footsteps.

I bless you all, with the groups you represent and lead. When you come here, you draw strength to take elsewhere. The communion of souls in the Lord is beautiful! Today I made you partakers of the value, not

only of some Holy Masses, but of all the Masses celebrated in the world. Those who are close to me and love me, enjoy all that I enjoy. Do not lose peace, and stick to the suggestions that I give you daily to make you balanced, wise, and strong in faith, hope, and love.

My embrace to all of you to bring to your family and to those who pray and collaborate with you. Goodbye, children! May Easter, of which celebrations you will begin in a few days, find you enthusiastic and fervent, so that your love may arouse conversions and return to God.

To a group of pilgrims

16 March 1978

My beloved children, little souls who give so much consolation to my Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart, I welcome you into my arms and I put you in my heart. Fear nothing! Be calm, and continue your pilgrimage of prayer and reparation. I accompany you through the streets of the world, where demons run around ruining souls.

Pride has ruined demons, and ruins souls. Your humility, your littleness, attracts the blessings of God and, with my help, you can bring to the world that faith and grace that count to restoring filial bonds with God.

Yes, my children, love humility above all other virtues, because it is indispensable in order to enter Heaven! It is necessary as Baptism. As the proud angels were cast out of Heaven, so the souls who recognize their littleness before God, before men and before themselves, they are deserving of the divine mercy and eternal glory. May my spouse Joseph, an illustrious example of humility, teach you and guide you.

Tomorrow you will remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem while riding on a donkey. After a few days, the same people who applauded Him shouted their "crucify." Let this fact tell you how of little value human glory is, and teach you that, through and by means of little things, one arrives at doing the will of God. The humblest mount, Jesus wanted to use for his triumph. So the Lord does with humble souls: He uses them for his glory, for his triumph.

I bless you one by one. Goodbye, children!

Graces are a responsibility

17 March 1978

My children, I am with you! I am the Virgin of light. I like your discussions, because they are not generated by pride but are mere exposures of existing theories, for clarification.

There were and always will be mysteries in nature which will only be explained to you at the end of the world. Everything will be clear, and you will see the omnipotence of God and his infinite goodness in giving life to some creatures, which He loves, and which must give Him glory.

Many scholars and scientists have wanted, and still want, to investigate the laws that direct the world, falling into huge errors that would make you laugh like certain stories for children. But you be simple, and learn to humble yourself and recognize the perfection of God and your incapacity.

Is it not perhaps true that you would not know, not only how to make the sun or the dawn rise for a single day, but also how to give life to an insect however small, or to make a flower sprout? The science that makes you proud is more harmful to man than ignorance, and wanting to investigate the works of God can be dangerous, as it was dangerous to want to build the tower of Babel to get to Him. Instead, learn to recognize his presence everywhere. Know that He, who gave birth to everything in the most perfect order, preserves all creation with a precision which you cannot find in the most exact clock.

Know that each one of you is guided along your own road that leads to salvation in a wonderful way, each according to the vocation received, the mission to which he is called, and that for the fulfillment of such mission

each one has received particular gifts, special graces, special features, which respond to personal inclinations.

This immensity of God, who can simultaneously provide for everyone and every living soul in the world, is called "providence", which in other words you can call "infinite paternal love of God."

These truths must truly conquer your heart and mind.

No, dear children, you have not come from monkeys; you were created by God, with superior gifts that enabled you to be elevated to the point of being called adopted children of God. This is truly admirable, and must attract all your interest and gratitude.

Know then that, independently of the origin, which is so beautiful, you have received another life through Baptism, to which an infinity of other graces are linked. To these, it is necessary to correspond so that they be not in vain. They are a responsibility, which must put you on top of the bushel like a lit lamp. It is these graces, given to you in profusion, which must make you the salt of the earth and which can make you apostles. Do not let *"the thieves and the prostitutes pass you by into the kingdom of God!"* What is certain is that, if so, many souls had enjoyed the goods you enjoy, they would have walked with strides in the way of perfection.

Children, I do not intend to abandon you, but to encourage you to continue with renewed fervour to do all that the Lord wants of you. Know that that good that you should do, and that you omit either out of laziness

or out of human respect or for any other reason, becomes a gap that will not be filled, but that will keep you in Purgatory for a very long time.

Children, I bless you and wish you a good night. I watch over you, and I say to you once again: be grateful for what you receive, and do good; do it well and do everything you can.

To a group of pilgrims

18 March 1978

My children, welcome to my home on this eve so important in the liturgical life. Tomorrow you will celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He will be praised as the son of David, as true king, even if after a few days his royalty will be declared with a sign hanging on the cross, on which He will be nailed.

I want to invite you to blow up your hearts in a cry of love. *"Lord, yes, we love You, we want You our king forever!"*, you must say and, as a pledge of your subjection, you must promise Him to be observant of his Laws, but above all to make Him reign in your families, in your countries, in your communities and parishes.

Children, the Hebrews sang their praises to Jesus, waving their palms and laying their cloaks on the streets. You must offer your sacrifices, of which the palms are a

symbol, and you must lay down your defects to clothe yourselves with virtue and grace.

Each feast has its importance in the life of the Church and of the Christian. This feast must remind you of how dangerous it is to take the praises of the people of this world very seriously, that they can be easily changed to condemnations. Know, children, to seek in all your works only the approval of God, who will have to reward you, and will do so in proportion to the love and right intentions that you have put in your way of acting.

Before you leave here, however, I want to invite you to be constantly beside me in three ways: like calyxes of open flowers, to welcome the dew that refreshes you; like daisies, with white corollas open to talk to me about your needs; like perfumed roses, always ready to spread that delicate perfume, the fruit of charity, which must bring everyone the good odour of Christ. The dew that quenches thirst will be my words, which I will make you understand in different ways, in proportion to your availability to welcome me. The simplicity with which you explain your needs to me will be a means of being heard.

Don't you see how easily little children are satisfied in their desires? Maybe for their merits? Oh no, but for their littleness and simplicity! And if you remain beside me like fragrant roses, you can truly rejoice my heart, and give to others what you would like to be given to you.

While I assure you of my protection, I invite you to return to this place at other times. You need to make a great supply of spirituality to be strong, patient, and good with everyone.

May the women religious present make me known and loved.

Let the young ladies and adolescents know that I place great trust and hope on them. You must be the messengers who prepare the advent of the kingdom of Jesus. The new families that you will form must bear a mark of distinction: they must be truly Christian families! If your youth is sanctified, your families will be blessed.

I bless the old women, who already see the finishing line emerging. It is the most demanding and most propitious time to forge bonds of affection with the Lord. Know how to enhance it.

And I bless all one by one, promising to grant your desires. Entrust me with your family and relatives, friends and enemies, your desires for good and your hopes. When you arrive at your homes, you will say to everyone: *"The Mother of Heaven greets you, and says that we must be better."*

To the people who have made efforts to bring me this beautiful group, go my tender hug and my gratitude.

Goodbye, children! On the return journey I will sit among you.

To the young people

19 March 1978

Children, so dear to me, peace be with you!

You have come to begin with me that week which we call holy, because in it the mysteries that accompanied the last days of the earthly life of Jesus are celebrated and remembered, from which your salvation came. I desire it to be spent by you in a truly exemplary way and, to facilitate the fulfillment of your religious and civil duties so that you can fulfill them holily, I give you Joseph, my husband as a model, and I indicate a characteristic note of his life.

Joseph had a sense of responsibility for the mission he was called to accomplish. He was to be the shadow of the eternal Father, the guardian of my virginity and the defender of Jesus. In every moment of his life he became aware of his high responsibilities, and carried them to completion by accepting and always respecting the will of God.

The Lord has entrusted to each one of you particular assignments, which concern your life as children of God, as Christians, as members of a family. Knowing how to act as children of God involves being aware of your dignity and not failing, or lowering oneself by degrading oneself, with a life behaviour that is unbecoming to your greatness.

The flight from sin must be a daily commitment and, without going into scruple, you must be concerned about staying at that height to which, by God's goodness, you have been raised. A commitment that must also give your external aspect something of the serene and dignified that it must impose respect to others. How many ambiguous speeches less, how many unclean acts less, if one were to find in the people who work with you that dignity and that delicate behaviour that sometimes takes on an angelic aspect!

But you are also called to sanctify these days in the name of the Church, of which you are a member. You too, like Joseph, are entrusted with Jesus to defend. Christian doctrine is a sacred deposit. Touching it, tampering with it, is like defacing the body of the Lord. The faith that you received in Baptism must be reflected in your words, but above all it must guide your thoughts and your life. If you are consistent, there is no discontent, and your life becomes like a music with which you praise God.

Children, be jealous of your faith and, even if tone-deaf bells would like to make you think and act differently from what you are taught in the Gospel, do not believe. Love simplicity in faith, and do not be of those who would like to touch everything by hand, since the enormous distance that exists between divine perfections and human littleness necessarily leads to the presence of mysteries, which exceed the capacity of human reason.

Love your faith as Joseph loved the Child Jesus, and know that in the world faith will always be fought in all its manifestations, as Jesus was fought from birth to death.

Do not fear those who can harm your body, but those who can rob you of the greatest gift of God: faith!

And lastly, be holy, and sanctify that family of which you are a member. The first true apostolate must be the one exercised in your home, where everyone must enjoy what you have in relation to natural life and the life of grace. It is the first neighbour, to whom you have to give your best. Do not be stingy!

Let the young people remember that in turn they will receive what they have given. Let the parents learn how to dedicate their care to their children, as they would dedicate themselves to Jesus present in their homes. Let the old be aided and respected for that closeness they have with Heaven, and be helped to maintain that peace with God which they will have to bring to their definitive encounter with Him.

I bless you, children, and, while I wish you a good and holy Easter, I give you a hug full of tenderness, which has to be your spur in the fight of life and in doing good.

To a group of pilgrims

20 March 1978

My children, what a happy encounter what is happening today between your souls and the heavenly Mother! It is an encounter of hearts, which must bring an increase of grace in you and must mark a starting point in your spiritual life.

I wanted you here because I want to tell you, with all the strength that comes to me from my authority as Mother of the Church: become saints! The Church is the mother of saints and, if you did not realize your call to holiness, you would betray your vocation.

It must begin for you as a new life, from this week called Holy. You must begin to sanctify the sorrow that, day by day, is offered to you by the mysterious hand of the Lord, with the certainty that precisely by means of these sufferings you must sanctify yourself and you must complete what is lacking in the passion of Jesus, who every day immolates himself for the salvation of all souls.

You will not seek holiness in any other way than in this: by accepting the will of God, who presents you with the cross; accepting it with love and for love. Only in this way will your holiness become light, and will bring souls to the risen Christ, they also rising from the life of sin to that of grace.

Children, the world looks to you, to your works, to your coherence between what you believe and what you live, to admire you or to condemn you. You must therefore be like a living Gospel, and you must be able to say to everyone: do as we do!

I bless you one by one. I bless your initiatives, your prayer groups, your families, and your parishes. Bring to everyone my invitation to be true witnesses of Jesus in the world, bearers of peace and love. I look forward to seeing you here every time you have important problems to solve, because I level the way for everyone. I bless your guide. When a person brings me other souls, he becomes doubly deserving for me, and I have real gratitude for him.

See you again! Goodbye!

Believe in the continuous presence of God

21 March 1978

Beloved children, peace be with you! I am your Mother, eager for your perfection, for your holiness, for your good. We are in the heart of Holy Week, and I come to solicit you because, with good will and with great love, you try to commit yourselves to spend it holily. I want to give you a suggestion that has to be especially useful to you.

If the Lord wants you to be holy, He gives you the means, because you, without his help, are good for nothing. Well then, one of the means that must most help you to achieve perfection must be the constant thought of the presence of God. God is everywhere: this is not an affirmation or just any formula, without consistency; no, it is a truth you must believe, which gave the martyrs the strength to give their lives, which helped the confessors to testify to their faith, which gave and gives true Christians the courage to always carry out their duty.

God is everywhere, therefore nothing is hidden from Him! He sees his creatures individually and helps each one to observe his Law. He speaks to consciences, which are like the bells that call to good, and puts remorse in the hearts so that whoever does evil tries to repent and correct himself.

God sees souls and of everyone sees the thoughts, the affections, the intentions, the desires. You see the outside, God also sees the inside, and He will judge everything. On each person He will pronounce his verdict, without neglecting anything, forgetting nothing. how useful this thought should be to lead a holy life!

"God sees me, therefore I have to act as He wants, in his presence", you often have to repeat yourself, therefore nobody must be a whitewashed sepulchre! Your body should be like a transparent window, from which one can see the feelings that guide your soul.

Children, how many times would you marvel at the lack of sincerity that exists, if you could see the thoughts that people express about you! How much less hypocrisy there would be in the world, how much youth would not be brought to evil, if the tempting words with which he is attracted, could express the wickedness and malice that they hide in their hearts! How many murmurs and less criticisms, if one thought that every word is sifted by an exceptionally fine sieve that God keeps at hand!

The thought of God's presence should therefore make you flee evil in any form. Not only that, though. God is an inexhaustible source of good, love, holiness, and grace. He does not remain impassive before souls, but helps them in a thousand ways, giving them the happiness of his service.

What would you say of a poor man who, having an infinitely good and rich father with him, did not want to humble himself to ask for his wealth? God is wisdom, He is light, He is perfection. What would you say about a son who, being in the darkness of mind and spirit, did not want to resort to the One who could enlighten him, instruct him, and make him wise?

So I wish that, seeing with the eyes of faith what is a reality, you should acquire, day by day, greater wisdom and greater virtue in order to be able to please God more and more.

When a child grows up without parents, he does not enjoy their affection. Only when he grows older does he understand what he missed, and he calls his life many

times unhappy. Whoever does not think of the continuous presence of God in his life, of his assistance, providence, and goodness, does not realize that something is missing from his faith. It is to be hoped that, by opening his eyes and increasing the light in him, he may realize that he has wasted a precious gift, for which he would have lived with more serenity and would have reached a state of superior grace. This must not happen to you!

The thought of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of yours, must make continuous acts of love towards Him come out of your heart. It is then from Him that you will learn to love everyone, not excluding anyone! From Him, who makes the sun rise over the good and the bad, who benefits everyone, who forgives everyone. What would become of you if He did not forgive the sins you commit every day? If He forgives you and loves you, it is because you too must learn to forgive and love.

Children, I am a Mother to you, but do you not call me Mother of God hundreds of times? What sorrow the offenses you do to God bring to my heart, especially when you lack love! Believe in the continuous presence of God among you, if you want to practice that love which is a measure of perfection and holiness.

May Holy Week awaken thoughts of peace in you, so that you can spread them everywhere.

Happy Easter to those who cannot come next time!
To all, my embrace of peace, which may make your hearts better.

To a group of pilgrims

23 March 1978

My children, welcome to my home!

It is a day full of sadness, this, because it recalls the death of my Son Jesus, your brother. It is still a sad day, because in the world his blood is wasted, and his death becomes vain with the willed, accepted, and propagated mortal sin.

I always remain with open arms to wait for the return of sinners. I am willing to welcome them, and to behave with them as with my beloved Son. I want to cleanse their souls, as I washed and cleaned, even with tears, the most sacred body of Jesus.

Bring the sinners to me, my children! Bring them to me with your prayers, with your sacrifices, with your apostolate! I will be grateful to you. Above all, however, promise here at my feet to flee from sin and to preserve the grace of God, which makes you pleasing to the Father and worthy of being welcomed in my arms to enjoy my tenderness.

But I want to give you a very valuable teaching. In a little while, you will remember the great announcement given to me by the archangel Gabriel, and my fiat from which the Redemption began. Children, know how to seek, want, and implement the will of God, who wants your happiness and salvation. What will this will be for all of you, and how will you implement it? The will of God is your holiness, and you will accomplish it day by day by fulfilling your personal, family, and social duties: the duties of children of God and gentlemen. I will help you, children, so that your holiness is as the Lord wants it.

I bless you all. I bless those who brought you here, your families and parishes, your towns.

I particularly bless the young people, and I make a great promise to them: those who will study to live in the grace of God will be helped in choosing their state and will form holy families. I will choose among them those who, with a religious vocation, will serve and love the Lord more perfectly.

I bless the mothers who cry for their misguided children and, for theirs and my tears, I promise their return to the Father's heart.

Goodbye, children!

Easter joy will be renewed for you

25 March 1978 (in Legnano)

My children, be blessed for the promptness with which you have answered my call!

I am the Mother of the Saviour, and your joy must derive from the promise that at this moment I wish to make you: you will all be saved! Yes, you will form my crown in Heaven, since, in the same way you have listened to my invitation, you will want to listen to my advice and to undertake or continue to practice that Christian life which is a guarantee of holiness and salvation. You will all be saved, I promise you, because, even if your weakness, your inclinations, and your passions will allow some falls, you will be ready to resort to my help to get up.

All you need is a determined will to complete the most important business of your life. What would it matter if you were lucky in this world? What would it matter that you were praised, honoured, that you were to do wonderful works, if you were not to save your soul, and therefore you were to spend, not a year or two or a thousand years in a pain without measure, but an eternity always in pain?

So, children, the resurrection of my Jesus and my encounter with you, must make you put like a stone on the past, and start that new life that will lead you to a daily improvement, even if not constantly maintained. I will always be close to you.

Therefore, your family relationships need to improve. The members of your family, even if they were not as you want them, are dear to my heart, and every delicacy, care, expression of love that you give them, are so dear to my heart that I consider them as directed to me. Of these kindnesses, even if not deserved, you will be given a reward in this life, with an inner serenity that derives from the certainty of having been good, and an eternal reward, for the practice of that charity which is the centre of religion.

Your social relationships must improve, since in each person you must see a son of mine, a brother of Jesus. Do you believe that I have loved Judas less than the other apostles? Children, were you to know what infinite mystery of love is enclosed in the love of God for all sinners! And if you limit your affections, don't you think you want to put a limit on God's love for souls?

Love everyone, I beg you! Love everyone, because every soul is made in the image of God and is redeemed by the blood of the Son of God, made man. I want you to know how to overcome all the difficulties that stand between you and others: difficulties of character, conflicts of interests, conflicts created by pride or selfishness.

Be generous, children, and try to see in your neighbour not so much the defects that disfigure him, but those virtues with which he can be adorned or at least the good will that he might have to be corrected. If you do

not see any of this, give up judging them, but pray a lot for them.

Even in your group relationships, I want you to be good. You must have the certainty that everyone has something to give, and that everyone, however perfect, need to learn something from others. Woe to the self-sufficient! They would create divisions as between the rich Dives and the poor Lazarus, since before God the true Christian must always be like the poor Lazarus.

Your relationships with your priests need to improve, in whom you must truly see the Lord. You must admit their humanity, therefore their weaknesses, but you must hold in high regard their dignity, which is a responsibility: a dignity that deserves respect, and a responsibility that deserves collaboration, trust, prayer, and, if necessary, even some advice, which must be given personally with so much humility and charity.

Now, while I have mentioned my wishes to you, I say to you that only if you are docile to my will, will you have that joy that I have announced to you. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared bright and beautiful to me. I was waiting for Him praying. He entered behind closed doors, and brought me an immeasurable joy that made me forget the pains of the passion, which were so deeply impressed in my heart.

Beloved children, tomorrow's dawn will announce the resurrection. You joined me for a wait in prayer. The luminous figure of Jesus will be before your gaze like a white host which, after having cleansed the soul in the

sacrament of Confession, you will be able to receive. It will be I myself who will give you my Son. Easter joy will be renewed for you, and you will be able to give it to everyone.

Do not be afraid, and do not speak of the evil that takes place in the world; speak of these things that I tell you, speak of the values of the spirit, of the greatness of the Christian mysteries, which have the strength to transform consciences and the world! Talk about God's works done in souls, in the Church and in the world! Whoever wants to build does not get lost in scraps; he takes all that resists the weather, and he unites. All that unites comes from God when the bond is charity.

Children, I bless you one by one again. Bring me to your homes as an announcer of resurrection and life. I am with you. Goodbye! See you again and happy Easter!

Jesus is risen!

26 March 1978

Beloved children, peace be with you! I am here with you. I am the Mother of the risen Jesus and I am your Mother. I want to guide you, as resurrected ones, until the final resurrection, when that glorious life in which soul and body will be rewarded, and you will be able to enjoy forever the beatific vision of God.

The great mystery that is being celebrated today has this twofold meaning and purpose: that of guaranteeing the divinity of Jesus, and therefore of his doctrine, and that of assuring you that the great joy of the resurrection is also reserved for you. I want to make you aware of these truths, which are extremely important for the Church and for your life.

Jesus is truly the Son of God. That is why it is necessary and proper to practice his teachings. He came into the world to save souls, and brought grace to all men so that they could identify with Him and aspire to those heights which are humanly unattainable: the heights of holiness, which can introduce into the heavenly Homeland. The confirmation of the divinity of his Word, Jesus gave it to you with the sanctity of his life, but He validated it with his miracles, which culminated in the miracle of his resurrection.

The holiness of each soul is the confirmation of the validity of grace, obtained and granted by Jesus, which is rewarded in the eternal enjoyment of God. When a soul refuses to believe in the divinity of Jesus, it becomes heretical. When he refuses to believe in his resurrection, he cancels the work of Jesus, and makes faith absurd and vain. Then every aspiration to an ideal of holiness falls, and one can doubt and not be required to believe in the eternal life that awaits everyone.

Jesus is risen! Repeat it often to yourself as a warning and as an invitation to continuous spiritual improvement! Jesus is risen! Shout it out loud to those

who want to deny their faith, to those who blaspheme and curse it. Jesus has risen and entered victorious before the Father, but from Heaven He will still come to judge all men.

The joy of the resurrection must give everyone courage. When death comes to kidnap some family member, it is a temporary separation. When death strikes to divide the body from the soul in God's grace, it is a separation full of hope that makes Paradise feel closer; it is a separation that unites, even more intimately, with the love of God and with thoughts of faith.

Your future life, children, will be as you want it. If you have burdened your soul with attachment to the earth, your journey to Heaven will be slower. All that dross that has perhaps prevented you from seeing well, from seeing the true light clearly, must be eliminated, a purification must take place.

In Heaven your body will take on an entirely spiritual aspect: you will be transparent, light, beautiful! The qualities of the body of Jesus after his resurrection will also be yours, as mine already are, but as of now you must work around your existence to make it bright, and so that the value you give to the things of the spirit may make you able to overcome what concerns the body.

Courage, children! The goal to be reached, even if high, is not unattainable. The difficulties that arise are always small, if you think about their duration and the ongoing assistance you have.

In the resurrection that awaits you, know how to see the love of God, which does not cease for a moment in your life and who wants to make you enjoy Him forever. In the resurrection that awaits you, place your hope, which must not fail, even if the thought of your past sins should upset your spirit, or if weakness should make you foresee other falls. In the resurrection that awaits you, you must strengthen your faith.

Why would millions of martyrs have given their lives? Why would victim souls live in suffering and pain, offering their sacrifice tirelessly for themselves and others? Why would so many souls try to seek in Christian perfection of achieving that divine perfection, proposed, and lived by Jesus, if the resurrection were not assured and the fate reserved for the children of God were not?

I point to Heaven and there I await you, children! There is the true life, your home, the heavenly Jerusalem! Never linger in the trivial things of the world! Do not forget those who await you, and let your faith in the resurrection make you sanctify the sorrow, of which you will no longer feel the weight. Think of Heaven, when your personal and family events are going well, and when the conflicts and vicissitudes of life torment you. If you know how to address all for a just purpose, it will be the same difficulties and pains that will cause you joy, because in them you will clearly distinguish the hand of God.

Children, I love you, and I urge you for a life of holiness and grace, true resurrection. Paradise awaits you, and by Paradise I do not mean the place, but all those souls who, immersed in the most holy Trinity, enjoy Him, among which I am also. Goodbye, children! I bless you.

Be angels who announce the Resurrection

27 March 1978

Children, peace be with you! I am here with you to point out to you your specific task, not only as Christians, but also as members of a prayer group entrusted directly to my care.

The task that I entrust to you is this: be angels who announce the resurrection. First of all I will tell you how you must be angels. Too many people delude themselves that they are good because perhaps they do some good work, but being angels involves constant goodness that must involve the whole person. It is this goodness that must make you like angels!

Good is he who strives to resemble God in all things, who is goodness personified. You must be good in your thoughts, always have all those desires for peace, understanding, justice and good that make life a continuous aspiration to perfection. Good in affections, that is, faithful to friendship, grateful for the good you receive, willing to always forgive and to dialogue with

everyone, heart in hand; eager for the good of others as yours, and even more; willing to give up your selfishness, to make harmony, charity and peace reign. The purer affections the more and more they resemble those love bonds that God grants to souls, so that, by uniting more closely with Him, they are more able to benefit everyone.

Angels must be models in this goodness of heart, and they must give to earthly affections that imprint of perfection that makes them holy. How many betrayals take place in the world because one does not know how to keep one's affections and how to raise oneself up! Betrayed and disunited families, broken friendships, collaboration in the destroyed good!

The bad will generates an infinite number of evils, because from the will one passes to action, and one destroys many times in an hour what has been done in many years of work, fidelity, and goodness. It is necessary to be vigilant, so that the will is always aimed at the good, is always available to the will of God and to the service of the brethren.

As angels in a human body you must be! The angels, ministers of God, are at the service of men. You, in the fulfillment of the divine will, must dedicate yourselves to your neighbour with goodness, with generosity, with sacrifice and with fidelity. It is a marvellous thing this covenant of souls who make an offer of their lives to God, and who accept to bring this announcement of goodness into the world as if it were an angelic announcement. The resurrection becomes only in this way a great human and divine reality.

Children, once again I say to you: from your group led by me, from your families blessed by me, from your works inspired by me, supported and brought to completion, it must come as a vital breath that must announce a spiritual, moral and rebirth also material.

You know what importance the soul has, and how much it is necessary that the powers of the spirit be well guided and enlightened, so that the human person be complete and can be an instrument of peace and good for all. Thus, children, good as angels, well guided and well supported in your life by that rectitude that must do you honour, you must reach Heaven full of merits.

I am your good Mother. In addition to the natural gifts, for which it was never difficult for me to be good, I was enriched by heavenly Father with all those moral and spiritual gifts that raised me above the angels. Everything was given to me in view of the merits of Jesus, my Son. I went along with the divine action, and I corresponded to the grace in obedience and continuous adherence to his will.

You are also predestined! You have had a particular call from all eternity. Baptism has transformed your nature and deified it. You only have to correspond to many gifts and, in observance of the Law, never break those bonds that unite you to God, to carry out to completion your mission.

Children, I bless you all one by one. To all a hug.

What does the Resurrection of my Son suggest to you

28 March 1978

Beloved children, peace be with you! I want to be still your teacher in this liturgical period to invite you to make your life a continuous elevation, a continuous progress towards the conquest of the highest good, God. You must see life as a vineyard to be cultivated, as a bread to be broken with the brethren. You must see it as a continuous rebirth and an enrichment of merits. You must see life as a great gift, a great responsibility, which will be asked of you a strict account and which you must utilize to the glory of God.

All this suggests to you the resurrection of my Son, who foretells your resurrection. The vineyard assumes that you are assiduous and caring workers, who in their time know how to prune, earth up, water and fertilize the seeded seedlings. Therefore goodwill and practicality are required. It requires effort, sacrifice, and the ability to remove what can be harmful.

A well-kept spiritual life becomes like a big tree, which welcomes in its shadow not only the owner of the tree, but also all those who, burned by the sun of passions or by vice or bad habits, can ask for refreshment.

Mine is like a parable, but isn't the true owner of the tree and vineyard the Lord, who can approach the soul and ask for an account of everything when He wants? And who are those who take shelter in the shadow of the

great tree, if not your gracious souls, and all those who, by coming to you, can be helped?

Children, it is nice to be able to give, always give, without waiting for any human reward! Do trees ask for the reward of the birds that build their nest among the branches and shelter in their shadow? Meanwhile the birds grow, feed, and learn the first flights, to then fill the sky with flights and the air with trills.

Thus, if, after having cultivated the virtues that God desires from you, you give yourselves kindly to your neighbour, everyone can draw from you, the love of God grows in them, they learn the flights of the spirit and aspire to the things of Heaven. It is truly so that you become bread, that everyone can eat and taste and make use of at will, even if with your suffering.

The men of this world are attracted to human things and believe in what they see, they want to touch with the hand. Goodness is a virtue that requires external manifestations. Only to these many believe. It is therefore necessary to translate it into works, it is necessary to break the bread, that is to give oneself.

When Jesus met the two disciples of Emmaus, they did not recognize Him by his words, but when He sat down at the table and broke the bread with them, their eyes opened. We must always do this in the world: the good words must correspond to the facts, the testimonies! Only from these comes the light. Didn't Jesus say that the works must be bright so that men, seeing them, can praise God?

I want you to observe another episode of the life of Jesus after the resurrection. You come to the group, and you are mostly women. Well then, Jesus appeared, before anyone else, to women. Among these, just to the Magdalene, who had a past certainly not exemplary. I want you to rejoice in this and to recognize, even in this preference, the great esteem that He has for the weaker sex, as it used to be called once.

Jesus, of sinful women, of incapable women, makes them apostles, and entrusts to them not only delicate but also important tasks. Is it not the Samaritan woman who calls the whole town around the Saviour? And, after the resurrection, it is the Magdalene who is given the task of notifying the apostles and of bringing them to the knowledge that Jesus, after going up to the Father, would go down to Galilee to meet with them.

Thank the Lord for everything, and know how to hold in high regard this esteem that the Most Holy Trinity has for the woman, to whom He entrusts particular tasks and responsibilities. If every Christian has to break the bread in his life to make others enjoy his gifts, in a very particular way the woman, called to be the heart of the family, the teacher, the educator and the counsellor of the children, and many times even of her husband, must break it. With joy you carry out your task for the good of humanity.

Children, I bless you and I beg you to put my teachings into practice if you want to be promoted! I

bless the people you recommend to me. My hug to everyone.

You all need mercy

31 March 1978

Children, I cannot let you leave without my blessing! I wish you to prepare yourselves for the feast of mercy with particular fervour.

Who needs mercy? All men, children! Everyone, since you are all sinners, and because the Lord wants everyone saved. This mercy has already been used on you in the Sacrament of Baptism, and it is continually used on you in Confession; but, every time the sacrifice of the cross is renewed on the altar, it is Jesus who, stretching out his arms, implores mercy for all from the Father.

For this wonderful gift of mercy, which is the forgiveness of your faults, you must be grateful and, if you happen to doubt that you are worthy of forgiveness and grace, you must look at the crucifix and say: I do not deserve any pity, but He does, because He is the Innocent One who pays for the sinner.

The infinite mercy of God must not facilitate the way to sin, but must be a spur to correspond to his love, fleeing all that can displease Him; it must lead you to an ever greater commitment, to receive the Sacrament of

Penance with ever greater profit, and to attend Holy Mass with the same devotion with which I assisted at the crucifixion of my Son, gathering as in a chalice, in your heart, the blood of Jesus to make it a gift to all souls.

Among those in need of mercy are the suffering souls, who cannot quench their thirst and purify themselves except with the blood of Jesus of the Mass. It is up to you to give it as a gift, so that they can soon go up to Heaven to glorify the infinite goodness of God.

Children, there is only one category of souls who will never be able to use the mercy of God: they are the damned, who, bound as by an indissoluble bond with demons, can only suffer the justice of God, having proudly refused salvation. For them prayer is worthless and there exists no mercy.

But consider, dear children, how many people in this world make fun of God and walk as if on the edge of a precipice! God's mercy pursues them to call them to good. Your prayer, your sacrifices, your love, must be the mysterious net that calls them back and makes them capable of welcoming the supreme grace of salvation. The feast of mercy, desired by my Jesus, must be an awakening of faith and an encouragement for everyone to return to God.

Children, to you, who have dedicated so many fragrant roses to me in this hour of prayer, my thanks, and my most beautiful graces are for you. You answered my call. May your gift be worth to obtain the conversion of those people whom you love and care about. Never

lose trust and patience. Know that time does not exist before God, and that the Lord never disappoints. You will have to be patient, but certainly your prayer will reach its goal.

Children, I bless you one by one, placing my hand on your heart. In these gatherings one gets a lot, because it is very pleasing to the heavenly Mother that one's occupations are interrupted to come and talk to her.

Goodbye, children, I am with you!

Mercy, a great gift from God

31 March 1978

Beloved children, peace be with you. Oh yes, come near to me! I want to give you that tasty bread which is a gift from God. I want to feed you with my teachings, which are indispensable to reinvigorate and make your life flourishing.

What would become of you if my maternal care were to fail and those necessary suggestions that give direction to your life were lacking? It is true, you do not see with the eyes of the body everything that I do for you, but how many things will be revealed to you one day and you will see that, if you have been freed from so many dangers and you have been able to discover the right way and surely take it, it was because of that continuous

assistance from above that gave impetus to good and made you flee from evil.

Children, God's mercy watches over and accompanies every creature that walks on the earth. However, I wish to make you aware of this great gift of God, by suggesting to you two sentences spoken by my Son during his life, so that you can see how He is continually repeating them for the comfort and salvation of all.

Seeing one day the crowd that followed Him, forgetting about food and rest, Jesus said: *"I have pity on this multitude."* From the top of the cross, in front of those who had crucified Him, Jesus said: *"Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing."*

Behold, in these two sentences, as summarized the infinite goodness and mercy of the Lord, which is aimed not only towards those who follow Him, but also towards those who fight Him, insult Him, and deny Him by crucifying Him in their hearts.

To you too Jesus, full of pity and compassion but above all full of love, is saying: I have mercy. Father, forgive them! I do not intend to make a public accusation with this, but I intend to stimulate your hearts, your will, your strengths, because, with ever greater commitment, you try to show your love and your gratitude to the one who has given you everything, and so that you may exercise a large-scale apostolate of good, to the point of

making your life a continuous battle against evil for the triumph of God and grace.

I am close to you, children! I desire that in your gatherings you become aware of the particular graces you receive, which must yield in continuous improvement. But I desire also that Jesus' behaviour towards you, be manifested, on your part, with that merciful goodness towards others that must make forgiving easy for you, easy the dialogue, the understanding, and the collaboration.

Oh, you too say it with Jesus and with me: "*Father, forgive!*" The many evils, which infest society as infectious diseases, must be fought, but the Father still has, in the name of Jesus, to grant forgiveness.

What would humanity be like if the Father were to use his infinite justice? How would humanity be reduced? But as long as Jesus on the altar opens his arms at every Mass asking for forgiveness, there is hope! Let us unite with Him, children! Let us unite! Do you want total forgiveness, general forgiveness? Work hard to get it! Put in your share of love, of prayer, of suffering. It can be obtained.

Children, I bless you all. Good night!

The Law of Love

4 April 1978

Beloved children, peace be with you! I am your Mother; I am your Teacher. I am here to educate you and to encourage you, so that you can grow more and more in the love of God and of your brethren, so as to make your life truly exemplary.

The spiritual world is supported with love, but the physical life also is supported and originates from love. If you take love out of the world, it becomes impossible to live! Men would be beasts if love were missing. All the works that exist in the world must originate from love. Even the houses you see, and which appear to you as very material things, need love in those who build them and have them built, but then they take on a great value when to live in them are called families that love each other or people who are dedicated to the common good.

Love is so important that Jesus, wanting to establish his Church in the world and wanting to put Peter in charge of it, questioned him three times and insisted saying: "*Do you love Me, Peter? Do you love Me more than the others?*" If love were lacking in the Church, it would be a true failure, whereby prayer would lose its value, religious teaching and the Word of God would lose their meaning and have no basis; the sacrifice offered would become like that of Cain, and would not

be pleasing to God. Everything would become death, since God alone is life, being He personified love.

But tell me a little: what is this love, which is the beginning, the centre, and the goal of living according to God? Love is a feeling that comes from the heart, and is accompanied by reason and guided by intelligence and will, for which a person acts, thinks and wants all that is pleasing to God and all that returns with spiritual good, moral, and material, to his neighbour.

First of all, this feeling must be pure, that is, it must be purified of those defects that degrade it and that put it on an animalistic and cowardly level. Pure love must be devoid of that selfishness that wants to make someone an object, of which you alone want to enjoy it. Pure love is selfless and, as it derives from God, it tends to go towards those who need it, not considering giving oneself a humiliation, but a necessity and a consequence.

In this way it happens that whoever truly loves, after having ascended to God to fill himself with his charity, finds it normal to descend and humble himself up to dedicating his whole life to his fellow men. This explains the behaviour of the saints to you. This shows you how at the vertical line, which makes you go up to Heaven in love, must follow the horizontal one that embraces all the brethren. Only in this way can you explain what Jesus tells you: that in the cross there is salvation!

What do I desire from you? I desire that you increase your love in every sense every day, until you feel tireless and joyful to serve God in this way. What is being done

in Purgatory? What is being done in Paradise? In Purgatory one loves God and neighbour, and this love becomes a fire that purifies and gives help to those who are on earth. In Paradise one loves God and neighbour so intensely that one cannot love them more, and true happiness consists in this love. God's love gives a way to enjoy his perfections, his goodness, and his immensity, so as to be able, in Him and through Him, to reach all the creatures of the earth.

Children, in this octave of merciful love, the thought of Jesus, who loves you infinitely, must involve your whole life and give you that serenity, that trust and that tranquillity that make your life light.

Whoever is in good hands, does not worry about what can happen to him. Trust in God's providential action in your regard must not make you tremble with the unexpected events that may come your way. The certainty that God is the strongest, and that not even the devil with all his satellites can scratch you if God does not allow it, must enable you to face any situation, even the most difficult.

The important thing is this: that, as far as it depends on you, the desire, the will to love never fails, and that you know how to react to that temptation, unfortunately very strong, of making evil for evil. The ancients used to say: *"Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth"*, or *"Love your friends and hate your enemies"*, but Jesus perfected the Law and said: *"Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you."* This Law, which is not optional but

mandatory, must be observed if one wants to be forgiven and if one wants to obtain mercy.

So, children, while I have reiterated to you things that have been repeated to you many times, I insist so that it may be always easier for you to preserve and bring harmony in every environment in which you live. Now I bless you with a motherly heart, and I let you know that these indulgences which you are acquiring, serve not only for you, but also to free the souls you recommend from Purgatory.

Children, to each and every one I give an increase in love and grace. I recommend the well-made confession as a means of obtaining all good. Goodbye, children! Nothing is impossible for God. In patience and charity your souls are perfected.

Trust and hope

5 April 1978 (in Seregno)

My children, with how much love I welcome you to this place! To those who came for the first time, I say: be persevering! You have had this particular call because, by corresponding, you try to be enriched with graces. To those who are assiduous and have been attending community prayer for a long time, while I say: I am happy with you, I also say: learn how to give proof of your faith and call others, since it is my desire that you

also gather in this place in the impossibility of going to that place of grace where my instrument resides.

Today, however, I want to give everyone some help, so that hope may be strengthened in you. There are sick, tired, disheartened, and desperate people who let the lamp oil of faith fail and who complain too easily of their cross. You must not be among them! You must trust God! You must be sure that God not only sees and assists you, but knows how to use everything that happens to you for your own good and that of your neighbour.

Letting hope go is an early death. How could the worker work with love if the hope of the reward were to be lacking? And if the patient loses hope of being cured, or at least that his illness could be of use to his neighbour, for whom he can offer his sufferings, doesn't it seem to you that he would be taken by great sadness?

In your life, trust and hope must be the lighted lamps, or the ray of sunshine that illuminates you and that helps you to climb with serenity and readily the calvary of life. But when one loses hope of reaching Paradise and is tempted to doubt the existence of eternal life, then one can offend God, infinite goodness, who has thought of you from all eternity and has given you a wonderful place in the glory of Heaven. Reviving hope is like cutting back on the flame that must give warmth and life to your natural and spiritual existence.

Children, do not let yourselves be overcome by difficulties. I know you one by one and I know all your difficulties perfectly. Sometimes they are created by

your character, your needs, your lack of prudence or charity. Other times the devil creates them to lead you to despair. Still others are a consequence of your neighbour's behaviour.

Well then, if you entrust yourselves to me, giving me the gift of your good will, studying to keep yourselves in God's grace, you will have a particular strength to win, and you will have serenity and peace even in the midst of difficulties. Hope must not be lacking in anyone, even if it seems to you that everything is against you. Stay in my arms! Do you fear the onset of a thunderstorm when you are sheltered in your home? My heart is your nest: you will find food, refuge, and strength.

Now I bless you all one by one. My affectionate kiss to the young people and little children. To the religious, my comfort and my holiness. Be holy! Everything becomes easy! I bless the mothers who bring me their children, and the spouses present. Goodbye!

To a group of pilgrims

7 April 1978

My children, welcome, and peace be constantly in your hearts! I know that worries and pains, which are never lacking, make human life difficult; but you, who know how much God loves you and how He resides in your hearts if you are in his grace, must have a lot of trust

in Him, whereby neither serenity nor peace can be lacking in you.

You know that eternal salvation is the goal you must reach, and that everything must contribute to your salvation and to that of your loved ones! You just have to turn all you do into acts of love of God, everything that happens to you, everything that you desire.

When a mother genuinely loves her children, she never forgets them, and all her care is directed towards them, even if they are not constantly present. A Christian mother is something wonderful: she is a love poem that manifests itself in every act, and that acts in agreement with God himself to benefit spiritually, morally, and materially his children and help them achieve salvation. The more intense is the love, the more effective is its action, and the deeper is the peace.

Behold, children, your life plan, behold what you must derive from this pilgrimage: you must intensify love, to transform your life and to be able to bring peace and trust everywhere.

There will be someone who will tell me: how can I love those who make me suffer so much? By imitating the example of Jesus the Saviour and also that of the children! What did Jesus do and what did He teach in his life? He taught to forgive, and not only did He forgive those who slandered Him, persecuted Him, and crucified Him, but He made his life a continuous denial of himself and a carrying of the cross. What do children do? They are ready to forget, to forgive and to love. By imitating

children, you are as Jesus wants you. Did he not say: *"Unless you are like children, you will not enter the kingdom of the Heavens?"*

My children, the life of the Christian is all about walking towards the light, but the road cannot be easy, and tribulations and thorns cannot be lacking. If one has light, however, one is able to escape and overcome those obstacles and difficulties that could make you fall. Where does the light come from? From faith, which comes to you as a great gift of God. It is like a ray of sunshine, which starts from Heaven and comes to lighten the way. You have received this gift. Unfortunately, many, despite having had it, have despised, or rejected it. They deserve your pity and, since whoever possesses the light can diffuse it, you must be those living lamps that lighten the way for others too.

Faith is a gift, which you must cherish, guard, and also increase. It is a responsibility what comes to you from faith because it commits you to live in conformity with it and so you can be pleasing to God. It is also a responsibility towards your neighbour since it is a talent that you must also trade for the benefit of others.

Those who have faith, therefore, cannot abandon themselves to constant complaints, cannot swear or curse when things do not go according to their desires, but must discover in every happy or sad event the hand of God, who guides and completes his plan of salvation.

The light still shines in the darkness today, but the darkness does not understand it. So you too, while being

light, will not be understood, followed, listened to, and loved. Finally, however, you will be welcomed, and whoever welcomes you will receive with you the peace that you carry in your heart, and the kingdom of God will be fulfilled.

Children, you are so dear to my heart. You love me and you try to imitate my virtues. However, I still want greater perfection because you have received countless graces in your life. If you grow in the love of God and neighbour, I, day by day, will erase your imperfections and make you walk quickly in the way of holiness.

I thank you for this your visit. Yours has been a true pilgrimage, as I also did during my mortal life. The earthly pilgrimage will end in Paradise, where I am waiting for you now to enjoy wonderful joys with you.

Children, in this Easter period may the thought of sinners to be recalled be constant in you, and valid for stimulating many conversions. Goodbye, children! I bless you by telling you all my love.

The gifts I want to make you

8 April 1978

Beloved children, be peace to your hearts, today and always! How much I desired this moment, to tell you all my affection, to give you my gifts and to bless you with a great blessing!

Children, therefore, know that I have immense love for you, so I would be willing to meet every sacrifice just to witness it to you. The sacrifice I offered on Calvary, when I presented my agonizing Jesus torn by immense pain to the Father, I renew it at every Holy Mass and, with the sacrifice of the Man-God, I ask for your eternal salvation. But I love you as a Mother, as Sister, as Daughter of God, and the command that God gives men to love each other is also addressed to me, who am a human creature like you.

It is a duty and a gift, my love for each one of you. I received you as children on the day of your Baptism, with a specific commitment to raise you in holiness. Just as a mother cares to feed, to guard her baby, and to protect him r from anything that could harm him, so I watch, supervise, direct, and nourish every soul, and I make those virtues that were sown in them with Baptism flourish. I look at you and guide you, because with the omnipotence of which God has given me, I can supervise and take responsibility for every creature.

But what gifts will I want to give you in this encounter of souls that gives me so much joy? I want to grow in you the desire to do good, living as true witnesses of my Jesus. What would be the value that you would have embarked on a long journey, if you then lacked the enthusiasm that gives life to the works?

That desire that pushed my Jesus to embrace the cross, that desire for the Redemption that forced the heavenly Father to anticipate it, was so strong in my

heart, it must move your souls so as to make it easier to establish the kingdom of God, and more effective your work to destroy the evil that is spreading everywhere.

Doing good means first of all fighting the sin that is the origin of all evil, but it also means carrying out an ideal and proposing to men a program made of human and divine love. One cannot go up to God by forgetting the brethren, but one cannot benefit the brethren if one does not give them something which outweighs all human miseries and resists time.

To bring good, you will have to give faith, which in many people is like embers buried under ash. To do this, it is necessary to overcome human respect and set an example of an upright life, even if humanly everyone has his own shortcomings.

I want to give you the gift of perseverance, because I know that many times human weakness has the upper hand, and you are inclined to surrender your weapons. One day Jesus said: *"Not he who has given a hand to the plough and turned back will deserve the reward, but he who will carry out his mission."* Persevering means knowing how to face the difficulties, which can be the slanders, the derision, the conflicts that come from the collision of the devil with grace, the temptations, and all those sacrifices that the apostolate imposes. It is a battle plan that stands before you, in which you must participate by bringing, with your good will, your strength and your faith. You will surely be winners, if

you each hold your place with precision, convinced that nothing can be done without the help of God.

Children, I see your good desires, and I desire to help you in everything. That is why my blessings are not only for you, but also for your work, and not only for today, but they will accompany you throughout your life. I am thinking of your position, of the settling down of young people, of the future of the little children, of the health and care of the elderly. My blessing will accompany you every moment; you must convince yourselves that I would not do my duty if I left you to yourselves and remained indifferent to your needs.

I pray you: believe in me, as I believe and trust in you! Give me your hearts to fill them with true love. Give me your intelligence, and I will give you so much light and so much ability to spread your ideas. Give me your workmates, and I will make your factories, your offices, our meeting places

Children, I want to silently repeat your name, as if to imprint it ever more strongly in my heart, and I want to shout it to the four winds so that the demons fear it and the saints rejoice. Know that you have not wasted your time, but that you have made a conquest for an eternal supply. Goodbye, children, and always so numerous and good!

I invite you to walk like risen ones

9 April 1978

Beloved children, may the Easter joy be constantly in you to invite you to continually lift yourselves from the miseries of life and to start again with renewed fervour that good that God wants from you.

Life is a continuous walk towards death. Every day that passes is a day less that you have to live in this world, but it is also a continuous journey towards the real life that awaits you. Sin clips your wings, weakens you, makes you fall as if passed out or stunned on the pavement of the road and delays you in reaching your goal.

What is the goal the Christian aspires to? Perfection! It is a conquest, a victory of good over evil, of life over death. However, it is a goal to be reached gradually, with the help of God, with his grace.

If a soul does not reach the perfection on earth that God asks of each one, he will have to wait in Purgatory, he will have to delay his encounter with God, purifying himself of the lack of desire for perfection and the lack of correspondence to grace. It is therefore good that you be always vigilant and attentive, with your gaze turned towards Heaven, with your heart always ready to renew itself in love, and with your body always at the service of God and the brethren, with a determined will.

In short, the Easter joy must be an invitation to walk as risen ones through the ways of the world, until you meet Jesus, who will be your prize and your glory, even if He continually walks beside you.

What did Jesus do with those two disciples who had to go from Jerusalem to Emmaus? He joined them and, while they were doubtful and uncertain in the faith, Jesus spoke, enumerated the prophets and prophecies to them so that they might see more clearly and realize that what had happened and what He had said was the truth.

Doubts and uncertainties arise many times in your life as predestined ones, on your way to Heaven. It seems to you that you are a failure, and sometimes you get sick of good. It is then the time to revive the faith, to review those messages that are addressed to you in the form of letters, to have a clearing and confirmation of your faith and truth, in the words of Jesus and mine.

It is true that sometimes illness, physical weakness, work and worries, which involve human life, weaken that spiritual attraction that should feed good thoughts and feelings. Then, in silence, you will have to rethink those warnings and invitations that were an incentive to do good, to regain courage.

Children, enthusiasm is life, it is a form of youth, but, as everything undergoes changes in life and youth fades away, that fervour in prayer, that alacrity in work and that desire for good that today you have may fail. Do not

let yourselves be discouraged, even if the devil and the circumstances of life pose obstacles! Know that the Lord is near you. Have the desire of Him, and be sure that the trial will end, and you too will have to say like the disciples of Emmaus: *"Did our hearts not burn, even if we were oppressed by darkness?"*

So, children, you must also know how to understand others who are in uncomfortable situations. Every age has its needs. Each state has its obligations. Each category of people has its commitments. Never be severe in judging, and make sure that you bring to everyone that paschal joy which is the inheritance of the children of God. Be more good than just in judging; on the contrary, do not want to take on the responsibility of judging, since you would run a risk too serious for you!

May this joy of resurrection, which nature shows you every year with the beginning of spring, mark a continuous flowering in you of those virtues that serve to reinvigorate your soul and, through you, to make the Church more flourishing. Every one of you is the Church. Everyone is a tree, a vineyard, a fountain, a light, a yeast. Do not fail in your commitments.

Guided by the Spirit of the Lord, keep faith, hope and charity alive in you, so as to give everyone the help that the tree can give with its shadow, the vineyard with its fruits, the fountain with water, the yeast with its strength, the light with its warmth and with the ease of walking that it offers. Thus you will be, for one another, a source of life, serenity, and peace. All this you have to

do spontaneously for the love of God and mine, without demanding that it be requested of you, since whoever receives, must not feel indebted to you. Give to God and give to your neighbour for his sake, expecting only from God the reward.

Children, I bless you all one by one. I bless your whole group, with your apostolate and everything that is close to your heart. I want the good that is born in this place to be increasingly increased. Never disperse. Unity is strength!

Goodbye, children! All love one another, and learn how to overcome every feeling that does not lead to love.

Knowledge of God leads to love

10 April 1978 (in Cantù)

My children, here I am punctual to my meeting with you! I give you a private audience. I am here to listen to you, and I speak to you as a Mother and as a Teacher. I desire your affection, and I desire to give you my advice. I wish to instruct you on the truths of faith so that by practicing them you may deserve the eternal reward.

Through my words, I want you to get to know the Lord better and better, so that you can love Him wholeheartedly and serve Him in the brethren, who are like you children of God.

How do you know the Lord? Through religious education, which currently is wanting in many parishes and especially in families. Knowing God is not possible if one does not commit one's intelligence and will to discover Him in the creation, revelation, and doctrine that Jesus made known to us. It is therefore a duty to deepen the eternal truths which are at the basis of the teaching of faith and which are summarized in the "Creed".

Do you know, children, why there are so many heretics at present, who have also received Baptism and the other Sacraments? Because they neglected to educate themselves, to confirm themselves in the faith and to increase it! Heretical one becomes even by denying a single truth of faith, and thus, almost inadvertently, one remains outside the Catholic Church and puts one's salvation in serious danger.

If one does not know God, how is one able to love Him? The more one knows a person, if he is genuinely good, the more one appreciates him and feels the duty to share his life, his thoughts and to do his will. This must happen to every Christian. Religious instruction leads to knowledge, and this leads to love, which is manifested in the fulfillment of the will of God at all times, even when it coincides with the cross.

Children, so dear to me, how can I address you my invitations without talking to you about what forms the pivot of Christian life? The knowledge of God makes you believe in Him. God's love leads you to desire to

serve Him, but his presence is hidden from you. You see his image as reflected in the face of your neighbour, to whom you can and must dedicate all your attentions, through that charity without which there is no salvation.

God wants to be loved in a way that many feel a little strange. He wants that by giving bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked, comfort to the sick, one must feed, clothe, comfort Him. Jesus goes so far as to say that everything one does to the least among his brethren, He considers it as done to himself, to the point of suffering from any offense done to the neighbour, and to rejoice and to give a reward for a single glass of water given for his sake.

Then there is a charity which concerns the soul, and which infinitely surpasses that which concerns the body. And this becomes such a serious obligation that Jesus can rightly ask each Christian: "*What have you done with your brother?*", so much is he responsible for the salvation of his neighbour.

After giving you this teaching, what will I ask you? Here: I desire for my words to be meditated on, rethought, and that you come to these meetings, and call others to participate in them, with the desire to deepen the truth and taste it. When Jesus performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, He brought enthusiasm into the midst of the crowds, whereby they wanted to follow Him everywhere. But Jesus rebuked those people, saying that they sought only bread, material things.

You come to these meetings, and I promise you and I grant you special graces. But you must target what is worth far more than the health and material graces you are eager for. First of all, you must be hungry for the divine word, for faith, for your holiness and for eternal salvation. First ask for the kingdom of God and his justice; everything else will be given to you in excess. These are words of Jesus.

Now I bless you all one by one, so that my blessing may give you abundant light and grace. I bless the men and women religious who participate in these gatherings. I will give them an ardent desire for holiness, and humility so that they can achieve it.

I bless the children present. I will protect them from the dangers of soul and body, and some beautiful vocations will develop in them.

I bless the brides and the mothers. To those who welcome me into their home, I prepare a place of glory in the house of God and the help to reach it.

Goodbye, children, and more and more numerous and fervent! Take my hug to the sick and my blessing to your parish priests.

What is holiness

11 April 1978

My children, be peace to you and grace and all good! I am Holy Mary. I am here with you to tell you once again: be holy! Imitate me, children, because it is your duty, and because it must be your ideal to reach that degree of holiness desired by God in your regard.

Be holy, since the Christian cannot be a mediocre, let alone a rebel. He must therefore obey that precise command from Jesus, who said to all his followers: *"Be holy, as my Father who is in the Heavens is holy!"* However, do not want to seek holiness as you would look for a needle in a haystack, since it is to be sought in you and to be spread around you.

Holiness is the good odour of Christ, who, while giving your life that serenity and that peace that derive from his presence, makes you good with everyone, and capable of forgetting yourself to think about others. Holiness is grace, it is love, it is pain accepted and offered up.

It is grace; therefore it presupposes a merciless struggle against the devil and against sin. One must not distinguish between mortal and venial sin, since, of whatever entity it is, it is an enemy of God, therefore it must be fled.

When a soul wants to sanctify itself, the demons wage a fierce battle, and it finds itself suffocated by

temptations and dangers. It should be remembered that it is not temptation that constitutes sin! If the temptation is beaten and overcome, it is a victory, a conquest, a merit. Sin is the adhesion of the will to temptation, which leads to rebelling against the Law of God. As long as the will remains contrary to the offense of God, there is no sin, but only the struggle, in which holiness is elevated.

Holiness is love. It is not possible to continue in virtue, without having as its goal that of pleasing God. It is not possible to please God if one does not make the love of neighbour a practice and a continuous exercise in the application of the works of mercy. Love of God and neighbour, carried out to heroism, form the extraordinary saints, those whom the Church points out to for the example of the faithful and those who, although unknown, have reached the highest spheres and work in Paradise for the salvation of many.

Your love must be like this: you must love the Lord to the point of not being able to do more for Him! That is to say, you must push your generosity to the maximum, giving your life that imprint of spirituality that makes you live in the presence of God as who is your true sovereign. You must love your neighbour with such a measure that can say: I have done everything I would like to receive from my fellow men. This must be your lived holiness.

The third note is missing, that of sorrow. Unfortunately, the value of suffering is hardly understood, therefore pain is regarded as an enemy

which must be abhorred and fled. And meanwhile, pain is sovereign in the world.

I am not talking to you about the serious pains that affect families with disease and death. I would just like to mention to you that moral suffering, from which are exempt only those who are devoid of sensitivity and who have hardened their hearts until they no longer understand anyone. Well then, it is this moral suffering which, accepted, suffered, and offered up, has a wonderful power, and has a force by which intellects can be upset, and wrong consciences can be called to good.

How I would like to be the mistress of the hearts of so many mothers and so many sisters, to instil in them that hope and that strength that makes them constant, daring, and infallible in faith! How many hidden tears I want to validate! How many offenses I want to help you forget! How many intimate sufferings, not caused by self-love but by desires for good, by terror for sin, and by those delicate effusions of love, which sometimes must be repressed because they would be misinterpreted!

Moral suffering, which derives from the state of affairs that are being created in families where faith is lacking, therefore Christian practice, fidelity to one's duty, is the most valid, because it is more painful and more hidden. Holiness knows how to validate this suffering and, while in hiding it shares this suffering with that of Jesus in agony, it finds comfort, light, and strength in the will of God.

O holy will of God, with what ardent desire one must seek it! Everything is concentrated there: happiness, glory, divine life, life of love, holiness! Everything is accomplished in the will of God, by which the soul finds itself as immersed in an ocean of grace. It is this holiness that I want to give you and that I achieved. It is up to you to accept it. From me, Holy Mary, you are given the help and strength to do whatever God wants.

Children, I bless you all with motherly love. One by one I want to call you holy, because this is your vocation. Goodbye, children. Be holy, now, and forever!

Make the Rosary a constant call to good

12 April 1978 (in Muggiò)

Beloved children, peace be with you! I am the Queen of the Holy Rosary, and I am eager to pray with you and to express my wishes to you, so that your Rosary may truly be a means of salvation, not only for your souls and those of your loved ones, but for those of the whole world .

What do you ask with this wonderful prayer, which connects your souls with Heaven, and which has the sweet scent of roses? You ask for grace and graces. You ask for that help that is indispensable for you to be able to live as Jesus lived, and as I lived, in the house of Nazareth. You ask to know how to suffer by sharing the

sufferings of the cross of Jesus. You ask to be able to reach Paradise, where Jesus ascended and I also, body and soul, and where we await you with an innumerable host of angels and saints.

Everything you ask is good, and everything God desires to grant you. You therefore only have to renew daily these intentions, making this prayer a means of obtaining.

What is indispensable to you is this: the prayer of the Rosary must not be a mechanical prayer, but a continuous vibration of love! Other times I told you that without love, prayer is like the external shell of a house where the construction is lacking. Vibrating with love, means starting from the depths of your heart those words which must be like divine music, which joins the song that continually rises to God in Heaven.

In the world people pray in many parts, but many times the prayer does not reach the heart of God. Sometimes the soul prays in mortal sin, and does not intend to leave it because it loves sin more than God. Sometimes the soul is as wrapped in its selfishness, therefore prayer does not find the way out to reach Heaven. Sometimes other good souls pray, but they are too superficial and ask only for material things which, if they were granted by God, would lead souls to evil rather than holiness. Very many people do not know and do not appreciate prayer, indeed they consider it a humiliation, a waste of time, a useless and ridiculous thing.

Your Rosary must be a cry of love that calls many souls to faith and the duty to communicate with God. It must be a reparation for all those who pray badly, and a cry for mercy for humanity that does not pray. However, if you want to give your community Rosary, and also the family one, a particular direction and importance, I invite you to make it a constant reminder of the good.

In fact, how can you recite the joyful mysteries without trying to hear the voice of God calling you to carry out your mission at home and in the world? And if you see me, who, leaving my Nazareth, I go quickly to a distant town to help Elizabeth, who in her old age must give birth to a child, will it not be easy for you to think how much charity is pleasing to God, which you can implement with those in need? Will not the birth of my Child make you understand the need to help the poor? And will the Presentation in the Temple not arouse your interest so that the children of your time may be baptized and consecrated to God?

The most beautiful work of charity and good that you can do, however, is always to help everyone rediscover that faith which has, as an external expression, going to Church and the practice of the Sacraments.

All these are the fruits that you must derive from the first crown and, while you ask God for help to exercise charity in this sense, your intentions to improve and perfect your family and social bonds will come spontaneously.

The second crown has an imprint of sorrow and sadness, but faith shows you, in the sacrifice of Man-God, the grandeur of the gift: salvation for all. This salvation is not achieved by force, but by accepting and valuing the gift. It is a free gift, what the Father gives to men by giving his Only Begotten Son, and it is a gift of love that the Son makes of himself, asking to be sacrificed for you.

For what you receive and what you have received, a song of thanksgiving and gratitude must be released. To those who give you a small gift, you use to say thank you and call ill-mannered the one who does not show gratitude. To Jesus, who gives all his blood and who perpetuates his sacrifice in the world at every hour, you must express gratitude, promising that you will never waste this precious gift! The Mass, the Confession, the Sacraments, sprang from the merciful heart of Jesus. Using them well, means making the most beautiful meditation of the sorrowful mysteries.

I am not going to talk at length to you about the glorious mysteries. The hope of Paradise finds its support, its confirmation, and its strength, in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus to Heaven, and in my assumption, soul and body, into Paradise. What is there more effective and more important than using dogma, to help one's faith and to give oneself constancy in doing good?

These mysteries, which are an invitation to joy, are also a reminder of that testimony which serves to spread

trust, comfort, and hope in all. A sad Christian will never be a good witness of Jesus, because faith teaches and allows one to go towards death even with serenity.

Children, at this point I invite you to open your arms as if to welcome the souls of the whole world into your heart. Truly, the Rosary thus becomes universal prayer and, with the "Salve Regina", you invite me to reign over the whole world. I have gone on, children, but in return I fill your heart with joy, while I bless you greatly. I give you help and graces.

I ask for your collaboration

17 April 1978

Beloved children, so dear to my heart, peace be to you! You have come to visit me, and I will not allow you to leave without my graces, my advice, and my blessing. You have recommended your children to me, and I promise you to take care of them, and to straighten their thoughts and their lives, but I need your collaboration, made of prayer, of sacrifice, and perhaps even of tears.

How many tears they tear from my eyes, how many tears of blood they tear from my heart the children who, redeemed by my Son with the price of the cross, enriched with heavenly favours from birth, have turned away from Him and live a life of sin and disorder! They are under the dominion of Satan, to whom they have given

their will and their soul. How much the sinners of the whole world embitter my heart!

I ask for your collaboration, and I know you can do a lot, since whoever lives in God's grace is not alone when he prays, when he suffers, when he acts. You are united with Jesus in doing these actions, and He gives infinite value to everything you do. Therefore I must beg you to flee from sin if you want to be fulfilled in your desires, and if you also want to go along with my will.

An innumerable host of demons roam the world, only eager to bring souls to damnation. There are many who open the door of their soul to them, and who give them hospitality. They are unaware of the threat they are facing and the harm that will ensue. They accept a factual situation, which will soon become unbearable and which will lead them to despair and slavery, but they do not know how to give it up.

This dreadful struggle which is leading to the ruin of an immense number of souls must also be fought by you. In contrast to the demonic action, you must bring your beneficial and divine action. Nobody is like God, and you are certainly the strongest, even if, in the name of freedom, the devil is allowed to act.

One must resist and put a barrier between the devil and you, between him and your children, between him and souls. Your life of grace and your Rosary will be your shield that will make you unbeatable, and will be the means to remove the dangers from the people you love.

What are the biggest dangers? Concupiscence and temptations! Concupiscence is the ground on which temptations take hold. The devil is alert and attentive, he knows how to grasp the weak side of each person and acts with intelligence and cunning. Lust and impurity have the attraction of the pleasure of the senses and, this, the devil knows it. Here the souls are brought into the mire by the invitation, which many times becomes a necessity, a vice and a tare, which will leave. An imprint to be handed down to posterity.

What will you have to oppose to these diabolical temptations and passions that infest the world? A life of chastity and purity, according to your state, which makes you good angels on earth. The angel has no body, but with the purity that you will keep in your every attitude, you will emulate the angels.

There are dangers which, if they are not avoided and feared, can lead to evil. Children, the means of communication and modern inventions, such as television, cinema, radio, are becoming increasingly deleterious in society, for which an indescribable individual and social corruption takes place every day.

Here too is needed your cooperation! If your prayer can be effective in obtaining that, in the upper spheres of command, one understands the serious mistake and the grave harm that can derive from obscene transmissions and can influence the conversion of the actors, for those who are more influential and for the good of their own

families, it is necessary to know how to protest and be able to give up seeing certain programs!

Also direct your hours of prayer to these purposes, which are so consoling for my heart because, where you cannot and do not know how to act, we can act. Make yourselves messengers with your parish priests, so that they may insist and invite the parishioners to act in concert.

Children, you will tell me that you are not in the categories of people that I have recalled to you, but the responsibility of the human family must always be shared, if you do not want to share the great troubles from which humanity is affected. Children, always be like vigilant sentinels, not so much to see evil, but to prevent it and to prevent it from spreading and spreading everywhere.

Now I bless you one by one and I repeat to you that, for all your spiritual and material needs and those of your family members, I will take care of it. You remain united to me, as children fond of Mother, and I will have for you and for those you recommend to me, that providence and that assistance for which you will have nothing to complain about.

Goodbye, children! Peace be with you and all good!

What perfection demands

18 April 1978

My children, how dear your prayer is to me! For some, it is like an infinite desire for perfection; for others, it is a food that animates them to do more and more good in the family and in the world; for still others, prayer is like a plea for them to increase their spirit of faith, while, for some, it is like an anguished cry, for those evils that they can bear with great difficulty to cease around them.

Whatever the reason that unites you in prayer, I enjoy it, because I see your desire to turn away evil and go towards the good, towards the light, towards grace, which is God. In this journey of goodness, in this ascent to the holy mountain of God, I precede you, showing you moment by moment what you must do, what you must seek and what you must flee.

I am the Mother of the Lord; I am your guide. What would you do on your own, in this darkness of death in which the world is thrashing around? You would be like little children lost in a dark wood, where it is not possible to distinguish the right path.

I hold you by the hand, and I give you the lantern. It is like a precious gift that you must not let go. It is faith in God, your lantern. You do not see Him with the eyes of the body, the Lord; But you see Him in his works, and you can imagine his goodness and wisdom, if you observe the laws of nature established by Him so that

everything can benefit man and that everything be preserved.

You need even greater faith, to see in every happy or sad event the hand of God, who governs everything and allows to bring to fulfillment that plan of salvation which, announced at the origin of the world, was carried out with the coming of the Saviour and is perpetuated over the centuries until the end of time.

You need to feel the presence of God, and behave accordingly in a convenient and respectful way. This thought would be enough to have a tranquillity that no event could disturb. You could thus say that you are not afraid of death, disease, poverty, hunger, and even violence and catastrophes.

The certainty that there is an omnipotent and infinitely good Father who watches over you who is letting you lack nothing, must give you peace; but, if you have this certainty, you must also have in sight God's Law and his desires. You cannot think of God without feeling obligated towards Him! His is the Law of love, and He is the first to come towards you, but you cannot remain inert and rest on his gifts. One must respond to love with love.

The search for perfection is a search for love. With your life you want to testify to God that you have known and appreciated his goodness, and you also want to be good. Understanding perfection without goodness is a mistake. Being good involves a continuous return on oneself to correct what is defective, it is a continuous

effort so that everyone can enjoy those goods that God has spread in your hearts.

Perfection cannot be limited to one side of your life or to a particular moment of it. Perfection requires constant reform and conversion, that is, making one's life ever more similar to the life of the Father, who loves, forgives, and gives everyone his infinite happiness and goodness.

Children, it is good that you always aim for perfection, even if you continually fall back into the usual defects and even if you feel miserable, because your aspiration to holiness, which is synonymous with perfection, makes you worthy of help and forgiveness. The mediocrity that fossilizes you, and your laziness that tries to make your journey difficult, must not be caressed by you. You must aim for the summit if you want to maintain that fervour, that enthusiasm and that serenity that you need to get there.

Be holy because the present moments require truly clear examples of virtue. Overwhelming evil requires a daytime fight, you cannot rest. You must keep the lantern light alive with the oil of prayer, but you must not give up your weapons. The wind of passions, the many tragedies, and human tragedies, must only arouse in you wider desires of good and goodness.

Your heart, can it be as hard as a boulder before those who suffer? Oh no, let it be a nest, where many, all those who suffer, can find comfort! As I open my heart to you,

so you open it to others, and where there is a pain to be alleviated, may you be present!

Be perfect in your speaking. Let your words fall like a balm on the wounds that embitter the lives of many. Be perfect in your thoughts, and do not want to make them like arrows that destroy the moral good, the honour, that goes beyond physical life. Be prudent, so that no words are spoken that could create distrust in someone who listens to you. Be perfect when you pray, so that your gift may reach God and embrace the whole Church. Be perfect in your actions, that they reflect the justice of God and return to the good of all.

Always be eager for greater faith, goodness, and holiness, even if on your own you can do little, because God loves those who have great desires, and I am available for you who want to do a lot.

Now I bless you all. I am with you.

I urge your prayer and your love

28 April 1978 (in a chapel)

My children, with how much love I come to this prayer meeting to offer you my greeting and to give you my word! You are few, it is true, but this word will spread like an echo and will reach many souls.

You will have already gone to the other side and a call will still be felt, which will serve to increase faith, hope, and charity, or it will serve to prevent an evil or to promote a good. Even your prayer will have a sudden, that is immediate, echo and will spread to the most unexpected places, reaching, like a compassionate hand, many people who need help.

It is nice and useful to find you here! She says well that daughter, who comes here as if she were going to a big feast. It is a feast of hearts; it is a feast of Heaven! Even for you, mothers, it is a feast when you meet your children! The same is for me, and your presence serves to make me forget the many children absent with body and spirit, the many children who reject me, who do not love me, who blaspheme me, who trample on my virtues, who do not recognize those gifts with which God made me custodian so that everyone could enjoy them.

But why do I solicit your prayer and your love so heatedly? Behold, you are on the threshold of the month of May, in which your prayers must be more frequent and more fervent. What will I give you in exchange for what you will give me? I will give you the taste for the things of God! I will make you understand how good the Lord is, and I will make you understand the beauty of faith and its usefulness.

In the devotion to the heavenly Mother, you will find the strength to carry the cross, the light to combat error and the joy to live this earthly life in a Christian way. Then when you want to raise your thoughts to that place

of happiness where you are awaited by angels, saints and your deceased relatives, I will make you understand how little the things of this world are worth compared to the eternal ones, whereby it will be not difficult for you to separate yourselves from everything and everyone.

Children, every day of May will have its rose, and every day will have its thorn. Your goodness will be the rose, which will bring its perfume in the good works you will do. Your cross will be the thorn, which cannot be lacking. Do you not say, "*There is no rose without a thorn?*" And how then could the cross be missing? However, if for my love you accept it and offer it to the Father, the cross will sanctify you and give glory to me too, the Sorrowful Virgin, who at the foot of the cross saw my Son expire and I welcomed Him into my arms. So when you present your gift to me at the end of each day, I will drop a shower of graces on you.

I know how much your children; your husbands and relatives are dear to your hearts. Well then, I promise you to put them all in my heart and to help everyone you recommend to me. Trust me! Love me and love everything I love! You will see that in your life fruits of unexpected good will ripen, which you thought could not be reaped.

Still the Easter period sees many souls far from the sacraments. They are therefore far from life. Direct your thoughts and your love to these souls, so that God, with the power of his grace, may convert those hardened sinners who are also his children.

I bless you with great blessing, and I ask you to carry this blessing with a sign of the cross to all those you love. Tell them: "*The heavenly Mother loves you, and wants us all to be good.*" Goodbye, children! I love you so much!

Joseph lived in prayer and work

28 April 1978

Children so dear to me, be blessed! I am with you to give value to your prayer, but also to bless your effort that has accompanied you on this day. It is nice to end the day with prayer and receive a good night from the mother, which is like a blessing for that work that you have done and that you have sanctified. It is as if my greeting and my blessing were a good omen for the day you will begin tomorrow, which will be even more abundant in merits.

You know, children, how precious work is and how much trouble idleness promotes. It would seem that everything that happens in the world, especially in the world of youth, is caused by the refusal of work or the lack of employment. Many crimes are meditated in idleness; many sins are perpetrated in idleness. The life of the idle, while empty of good and of every sense of responsibility and dignity, goes on filling up with everything that degrades and depresses it.

But why am I talking about these things? To invite you to solemnize the feast of Joseph the Worker, which coincides with the first day of May. Joseph lived in prayer and work; on the contrary, he made the prayer as the most valuable work, and the work, he did it and carried it out as the most fervent prayer. His example must be of encouragement and spur to the young and the elderly, to overcome all those obstacles that make the multifaceted activity that is a sign of life less appreciated.

To sanctify work is to imitate God in the work of creation, it is to imitate Jesus, who spent all his life working and through work made glory to God and redeemed humanity. To sanctify work is to give the Holy Spirit the way to achieve that holiness of which he himself is the author.

Joseph was, in the hands of God, alongside Jesus, the humble worker who prepared the sublime mystery of redemption, training his adoptive Son to that life of sacrifice, tenacity in the effort and mortification that public life required.

To you I ask for an active collaboration in two ways: in knowing how to appreciate work in whatever form it is proposed to you, be it material or intellectual, or moral or spiritual, and in doing the apostolate even among those close to you, so that they may learn to appreciate it. The interest in procuring work for those who are looking for it and who have grave material needs will be

greatly meritorious. Giving work to a person is much more useful and meritorious than giving any other gift.

Remember the saints, who over the centuries gave glory to the Church, how much they worked in favour of the poor, and how they went out of their way for young people to learn those arts and professions that would help them make a position in life!

Let prayer and work be the duo capable of giving your life serenity and well-being and, if by chance or for any reason you find yourself out of work, fill your hours with those occupations that return to the benefit of the Church and the world. Know how to track down the needy, the sick, and maybe even the drug addicts, to be able to give them the help they need.

Children, I also bless you on behalf of my husband Joseph and, while you have his protection, I assure you of mine. Each of you is dear to my heart like a pearl in my crown. I take care of you and help you in everything.

To the sick people present, I assure you of my help and strength. Courage! The moments you are experiencing are full of wickedness and sin. May your holiness be the barrier to oppose the forces of evil against which they break.

Notes

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** — published in 25 volumes
4. **I Santi, nostri intercessori** — one volume
5. **Pellegrinaggi ed esercizi spirituali** — one volume

English Titles:

1. THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

Six volumes in the series covering the period from 14th March 1968 to 1st June 1970 with 14 entries up to 28th December 1973.

Volume I - 14 March 1968 to 23 April 1968, published 2011

Volume II - 24 April 1968 to 23 June 1968, published 2014

Volume III - 24 June 1968 to 29 September 1968, published 2016

Volume IV - 1 October 1968 to 2 February 1969, **published online**

Volume V - 2 February 1969 to 29 August 1969

Volume VI - 31 August 1969 to 28 December 1973

2. JESUS OUR TEACHER

Ten volumes in the series starting from 1st May 1970 to 26th October 1978. English translation and publication undertaken by Divine Mercy Apostolate, Melbourne, Australia.

Volume I - 1 May 1970 to 30 September 1971, published 2004

Volume II - 6 October 1971 to 25 May 1972, published 2005

Volume III - 29 May 1972 to 23 March 1973, published 2005

Volume IV - 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006

Volume V - 29 March 1973 to 17 January 1974, published 2006

Volume VI - 1 December 1974 to 9 October 1975, published 2006

Volume VII - 12 October 1975 to 25 June 1976, published 2006

Volume VIII - 29 June 1976 to 16 June 1977, published 2007

Volume IX - 17 June 1977 to 13 April 1978, published 2007

Volume X - 14 April 1978 to 26 October 1978, published 2007

3. MARY, MOTHER AND TEACHER

Volume I -15 June 1969 to 28 July 1970, published 2007
Volume II -1 August 1970 to 30 March 1971, published 2008
Volume III - 2 April 1971 to 12 September 1971, published 2008
Volume IV -12 September 1971 to 30 January 1972, published 2008
Volume V -1 February 1972 to 31 May 1972, published 2008
Volume VI - 4 June 1972 to 12 November 1972, published 2009
Volume VII -14 November 1972 to 28 March 1973, published 2009
Volume VIII -1 April 1973 to 4 September 1973, published 2009
Volume IX - 5 September 1973 to 31 December 1973, published 2010
Volume X - 1 January 1974 to 19 April 1974, published 2010
Volume XI - 23 April 1974 to 26 September 1974, published 2011
Volume XII - 27 September 1974 to 28 January 1975, published 2011
Volume XIII - 29 January 1975 to 16 May 1975, published 2012
Volume XIV -18 May 1975 to 15 September 1975, published 2013
Volume XV -16 September 1975 to 11 January 1976, published 2015
Volume XVI -18 January 1976 to 30 April 1976, published 2016
Volume XVII -1 May 1976 to 3 October 1976, published 2020
Volume XVIII - 3 October 1976 to 12 Jan 1977, published 2020
Volume XIX -14 January 1977 to 10 April 1977, published 2020
Volume XX - 12 April 1977 to 6 July 1977, published 2020
Volume XXI - 7 July 1977 to 27 October 1977, published 2020
Volume XXII - 28 October 1977 to 22 Jan 1978, published 2020
Volume XXIII - 24 January 1978 to 28 April 1978, published 2020
Volume XXIV- 1 May 1978 to 25 August 1978
Volume XXV - 26 August 1978 to 29 October 1978

4. THE SAINTS, OUR INTERCESSORS

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

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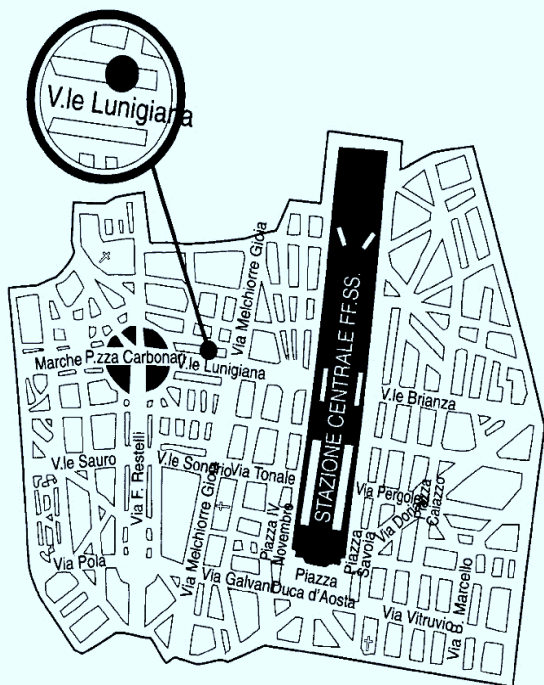


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Mary, Mother and Teacher 23

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 the 30th April 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 22nd March 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 the 9th May 1910. She died in the peace of Christ on the 25th November 1978. Since 1968 she received, almost daily, messages from Jesus Christ as the Merciful Jesus, and from the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Divine Love. She transcribed straight away into notebooks all that was said, without hesitation or correction afterwards, in the form of conversations with Jesus, who spoke about his Father, the Father of all men, and of his Mother, very tenderly; and so lovingly of his foster father St. Joseph, and about many other saintly people, and through this privileged person to all the world, for these writings are meant for all who wish to seek and find God.

**“MARY MOTHER AND TEACHER” TWENTY-THIRD
IN THE SERIES COVERING THE PERIOD FROM
24th January 1978 to 28th April 1978**