

Reflection of Our Lady's Message 25th September 2011

“Dear children! I call you, for this time to be for all of you, a time of witnessing. You, who live in the love of God and have experienced His gifts, witness them with your words and life that they may be for the joy and encouragement to others in faith. I am with you and incessantly intercede before God for all of you that your faith may always be alive and joyful, and in the love of God. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

A TIME OF WITNESSING

All creation bears witness to the presence and power of God; sun rise in the morning and sunset in the evening; the moon in the night surrounded by the stars which differ in size and degrees of brightness; the mountains that surround us, the waterfalls and different oceans with their living sea creatures. The very earth we walk upon with its many buildings, cathedral's and church's, crosses, statutes, the rain and the snow that comes down from the heavens speaks to us of the presence and power of God, but, it was to his disciples that the Risen Lord in glory said, When the Spirit comes upon you, **you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.**

In this month's message, Mary invites all who live in the love of God and have experienced His gifts, **witness them with your words and life that they may be for the joy and encouragement to others in faith.**

Jesus, the Son of God, Son of Mary, was sent for our joy, for our encouragement and salvation. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the increase of joy and gladness because of the coming of the light of the world's salvation in the person of God's own Son, Jesus, the Christ of God.

Mary's presence with the church in the Acts of the Apostles, in Medjugorje, in our times is there for our encouragement and with every generation she proclaims, “my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.”

You shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth. **Medjugorje is one of the ends of the earth** where by we have truly witnessed the love of God and the love of Mary, the love of lived and joyful faith in the love of God. The witness of countless pilgrims over the last 30 years is a living testimony to such love and faith.

A LIVING AND JOY FILLED FAITH

The early Christians those who had seen and those who had not seen the Risen Lord but experienced his presence, his grace, his power in their lives could not keep such Good News to themselves but began proclaiming such Good News from the housetops.

In his first letter the Apostle Peter writes to those who had not seen the Lord but experienced his saving presence in their lives, “You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.”

The Good News of God's love cry's out to be heard, to be seen, to be believed and experienced. This is where 'You' and 'I' and many others who have been to Medjugorje, or who have in our local Church or

where ever have come to know and experience the love of God and His gifts can and should contribute our share for the joy and encouragement of others in the faith.

Just as Mary intercedes for us, so too, we should always pray before we speak to others about God, about his love, his gifts, so that what we say may do good to those who hear us and be for their improvement and building up of their faith.

May the Lord inspire us all with his wisdom and fill our hearts with the joy of his love. May His face shine upon us so that when others see us, they may see something of the goodness and the glory of God. In all of our comings and goings, may His give us the wisdom of his word's to bring joy and faith to others who are without faith and knowledge of his loving presence.

And, may the prayers of the Blessed Mother Queen of Peace help us to live the simplicity of her messages so as to better witness to the grace offered to us in our time for the joy and encouragement to others in the faith.

God bless you all.Fr Ciaran