

August 9, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the last many weeks we have been considering whether time and history is moving toward the fulfillment of Christ's promises for the ultimate triumph of His Kingdom. We have reflected on Jesus' prophecies about a time of tribulation, a time of peace, and ultimately His second Coming in glory. We have also been reflecting upon some of the writings and prophecies of the Saints, popes, and other visionaries in the history of the Church. Last week we considered recently reported apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at a place in Bosnia called Medjugorje and her accompanying messages. Pope Francis has recently allowed pilgrimages to the place of the apparitions to take place again. This is a signal that the Church is looking toward favorable approval of the authenticity of the apparitions and Our Lady's messages.

As we approach the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15, it is good to remind ourselves that Mary appeared to the five youth at Medjugorje as the Queen of Peace. Mary reigns in heaven as the Queen of Peace because Jesus took her body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly existence at the Assumption and crowned her as Queen to reign in His heavenly kingdom with Him and all the Saints forever. If we remain faithful to Jesus and His saving Grace in our hearts, we eventually will rise from the dead to reign with them in heaven also. Therefore, this feast day is so important to us because we want to live in peace and joy with God now and have that peace eternally in heaven through our own resurrection.

Mary came to both Fatima and Medjugorje not simply to warn of impending destruction if we do not turn our hearts back to God, but to call us personally to the peace that Jesus desires for all people. If we pray, fast, read the Bible, participate in Confession and Holy Mass, live a life of charity for others, and continually convert our own hearts to God by Jesus' grace, it is possible for each of us to have peace in our lives. If enough of us convert to God, He will bring His reign of peace to the earth for a period of time before the final battle between good and evil and Jesus' Second Coming.

Jesus and many of the prophets and visionaries have mentioned a Period of Peace to come upon the earth before the final confrontation between good and evil and Christ's glorious Second Coming. Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Medjugorje (Queen of Peace) have both mentioned this Period of Peace in their messages. St. Louis de Montfort wrote regarding our need to cooperate with Mary in the defeat of the evil that surrounds us today: "Modern times are dominated by Satan and will be more so in the future. The conflict with hell cannot be engaged by men, even the most clever. The Immaculata alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. However, assumed into heaven, the Mother of God now requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, who will become in her hands effective instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spreading of God's kingdom upon earth." (from EWTN website)

In a recent book by Yves Dupont, *Catholic Prophecy: The Coming Chastisement*, he says regarding the period of peace and the difficulty that comes before: "I regard it as **certain** that there will be two different stages. The first stage will only be the beginning of sorrows [see Matt. 24:8], and it will be shortened for the sake of the elect, and the Gospel will then be preached throughout the world. This will be the period of peace under the Great Monarch, the period of conversion and general prosperity which we and our

children may enjoy – in short, the period of peace promised by Our Lady of Fatima” (p.91).

Father Edward Conner, an expert on Catholic prophecy wrote in *Prophecy for Today*, that: “Before the Gospel is preached and accepted in all the world, there shall come world wars and insidious doctrines accompanied by widespread persecution. This era shall be terminated by the direct interference of God destroying the evil systems or persons responsible for the persecutions; and through the leadership of a great civil ruler and a great spiritual leader, a period of peace will come during which nations will hear and accept the true Faith [this period of peace coincides with the Fatima prophecy of a period of peace]. A great apostasy will follow [and Antichrist will come, leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the end of the world as set forth in Holy Scripture].”

Many have said that the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje are the completion of the messages that Mary gave at Fatima. On Thursday, August 6, 1981 Mary said to the youth at Medjugorje, "I am the Queen of Peace." During these days when we remember Mary's Assumption into heaven body and soul (August 15) and her Queenship (August 22), we pray in a special way that the Queen of Peace will intercede for the world during these days of difficulty. May many of us be more converted to her Son Jesus so that His Peace will reign in our hearts and the world! May Christ our King lead us into the period of peace that both He and Mary promise before His Second Coming! Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

As we have mentioned week after week, it is time to pray, especially the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, time to repent and come to Confession, time to come to Eucharist Adoration and Holy Mass if you are physically able, and time to fast and do penance and acts of charity for the conversion of others. As we have also been encouraging for the last five months, please remember that the grace of Christ that we receive in His Sacraments is our sure refuge during these days. We are all being called to find refuge in Confession and to Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist. Once again, included below, is the liturgical schedule with additional Confession times, Mass times, and adoration times. Weekday Mass times may be adjusted on special days so please remember to check the parish Mass intention section of the bulletin to confirm weekday Mass times. Please remember the Catholic precept to confess sins in the Sacrament of Penance and to receive Holy Communion at least once during or near the Easter Season. Confessions are done in a socially distanced way in the church or outside on the parish grounds. We have many extra confession times scheduled. If you are unable to come to church or someone is homebound and in need of any of the Sacraments, please let us know and the priest or deacon will come to you!

In Mary, the Queen of Peace,

Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ and Deacon Ed