

Reflection of Our Lady's Message 25th October 2011

“Dear Children! I am looking at you and in your hearts I do not see joy. Today I desire to give you the joy of the Risen One, that He may lead you and embrace you with His love and tenderness. I love you and I am praying for your conversion without ceasing before my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

I AM LOOKING AT YOU AND IN YOUR HEARTS I DO NOT SEE JOY

In her nothingness Mary knew the look of God who gazed on her with such tender love and joy. Scripture reminds us that “Man looks at appearances but God looks at the heart.”

God Himself is the great discernor of our hearts, our thoughts and our deeds. Nothing is hidden from the One to whom we all must give an account of ourselves at the end of this short span of life.

In this month's message Mary reminds us that she is looking at us and into our hearts. What is she looking for? What does she see? What is she hoping to find therein? Mary no doubt would love to see the joy that flows into every heart through conversion, the joy and happiness that causes the Saints and Angels in heaven to raise their voices in praise and thanksgiving for the repentance of at least one repentant sinner.

Just as Jesus led His first children disciples from sadness to joy, from unbelief to faith in Him, from a loss of hope to a joyful hope and love that redeems, so the same Jesus desires to embrace us and lead all nations and cultures out of death and into the joy of life, the life of the Risen Lord who lives to die no more.

I LOVE YOU AND I AM PRAYING FOR YOUR CONVERSION WITHOUT CEASING BEFORE MY SON JESUS

Mary loves us as Jesus loves us even though we have not yet come to the perfection of love ourselves. Mary prays for the one thing necessary “our conversion,” and so should we for ourselves and others on a daily basis before the beautiful love and face of Jesus Her Son.

Our conversion can be understood in different ways, here I mention a few aspects of our search and need for conversion.

Is not conversion the continual search for and the revelation of God in our lives as his son's and daughters sharing His glory forever?

Conversion is a daily choice, a daily decision for God and his will, and if this is so, then, it means NOT creating any space for idols or rubbish that becomes an obstacle to joy in the Lord. This is were a good sacramental confession in our lives helps to get rid of the rubbish and idols so as to make way for the beautiful presence of God's grace and peace in our lives as fruits of his love.

With the daily exercise of discipline that brings this body of ours into subjection joined with the desire for God then prayer will become a joy for us as we witness within ourselves and around us the joy of conversion.

God never ceases in his efforts for our good and when we sincerely set out to love God and obey His commands we soon realise that all things work unto good for those who love God. Mary prays without ceasing for our conversion and in this we know a great support and power that helps us along the path of conversion.

May the presence and prayer of Mary, bring once again into our lives, our families and the church, the joy of the Risen one who leads us in our faith and brings it to the perfection of love.

God bless you all with peace and joy in the Risen Lord.

Fr Ciaran