### The Nativity of Jesus The Father's Gift of Peace 🎰 The King of Peace is Born

"A Virgin shall conceive and bear a **Son**, He shall be named Immanuel, which means **'God with us'**" (*Isa. 7:14*, *Mt. 1:23*).



THE ANGEL GABRIEL appeared to Zechariah the priest: "Zechariah, your wife Elizabeth will give birth in her old age to a son named John. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit and will prepare the people for the coming of the LORD." But Zechariah **did not believe** him, so Gabriel struck him dumb.

Six months later Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, and announced: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you *above all* women." Mary was troubled at his words. Gabriel said, "Fear not, Mary, you have found favor with God the Father and will give birth to Jesus. He will be the SON of the HIGHEST and His kingdom will be everlasting." " Mary asked, "How will this be?" Gabriel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the Most High Father will overshadow you for with God nothing is impossible, even your relative Elizabeth in her old age is having a child!" Mary said, "May it be done to me, God's handmaid, according to your word."

Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, shouted: "Mary, blessed are you above all women and blessed is the FRUIT of your womb! Blessed is she who believed the angel." Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord! All generations will call me blessed; the Mighty One has done great things for me—Holy His Name!" When John was born, Zechariah's mouth was opened and he prophesied: "Praise the Lord! My child will be a prophet, preparing the way for the LORD by teaching the knowledge of PEACE and SALVATION through the forgiveness of sins (repenting)."

When Joseph realized Mary was with child, he decided to end their engagement, but an angel appeared to him in a dream: "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; she has conceived by the Holy Spirit and will give birth to Jesus, who will save the people from their sins." A census tax was being collected in his hometown Bethlehem, so Joseph left Nazareth with Mary to register. On the way, Mary gave birth in a manger. An angel appeared to shepherds, saying: "I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY: A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN—HE IS CHRIST, THE LORD! YOU WILL FIND HIM IN A MANGER." Suddenly, many angels appeared praising God: "GLORY TO GOD AND PEACE ON EARTH!" The shepherds found the INFANT then SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS and all were amazed!

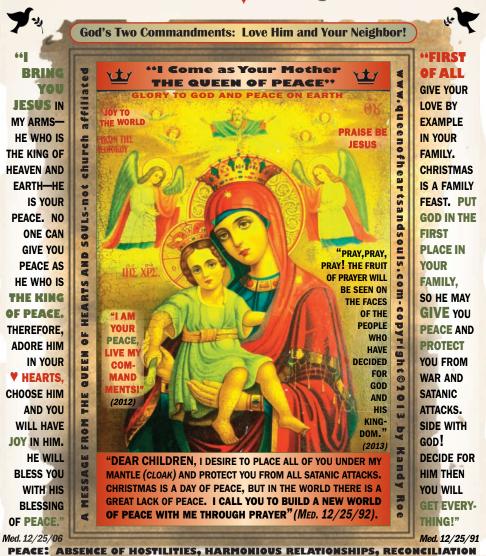
After 40 days Jesus was presented (*consecrated*) in the temple to the Lord. The prophet Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the LORD'S CHRIST. Holding the infant Jesus, praising God, he said, "Lord, as you promised you now dismiss your servant in **PEACE**. For my eyes have seen your SALVATION, which you have prepared for all people: a LIGHT for revelation to the Gentiles and the GLORY of your people Israel." Then he said to Mary, "Your child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many and a sword will pierce through your soul!"

Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is he who has been born KING of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly disturbed. He called the high priest and teachers and asked, "Where is CHRIST THE KING to be born?" They answered, "In Bethlehem of Judea." Herod called the Magi and asked them the exact time the star had appeared and then sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "When you find the child, tell me, so that I may also worship him." They found Jesus and presented him with gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense and then were warned in a dream not to return to Herod.

An angel warned Joseph in a dream: "Take Mary and Jesus to Egypt and stay there until I tell you for Herod will search for the **child** to **kill him**." When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the Magi, he was furious and gave orders to **kill all** of the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity, who were two years old and under, according to the time the star had appeared to the Magi. After Herod died, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to return to Nazareth. (see cards 2, 7)  $\Box$ 

Card 23: Christmas Messages From the Heart of Our Lady of Medjugorje

## ⓓ The Nativity of Jesus ⓓ CHRISTMAS: A FAMILY FEAST AND A DAY OF PEACE! The Father's Gift of Peace ♥ The King of Peace is Born



### PRAY TO THE KING OF PEACE TO GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF CONVERSION OF THE HEART!

**"DEAR CHILDREN!** On Christmas I invite you to pray for the GIFT of PEACE. Without peace you cannot experience the birth of Jesus neither today nor in your daily lives. Therefore, pray the LORD OF PEACE that He may protect you with HIS MANTLE and that He may help you to comprehend the greatness and the importance of peace in your heart ♥. In this way you will be able to spread peace from your heart ♥ throughout the world. I am with you and I intercede for you before God. Pray, because Satan wants to destroy my plans of peace. Be reconciled with one another and by means of your lives help peace reign in the whole earth. Thank you for having responded to my call" (*Med. 12/25/90*).

# CHRISTMAS IN MEDJUGORJE A Time of Peace, Joy, and Family Prayer



Mary has been appearing since 1981 to six visionaries in **Med**jugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, giving them messages of peace and prayer to prepare the world for the return of her Son Jesus. She gives a message on the **25th** of each month at St. James Parish—only the visionaries see her. In 1998 she began giving a second message on Christmas to the visionary **Jakov Colo.** She often appears holding the infant Jesus. These Christmas **excerpts** are from 1984 to 2012.

"DEAR CHILDREN! At Christmas I am calling you to family prayer (84). Love your own family ♥
 —everyone in the parish. I am calling you to prepare for Christmas by means of penance (repent),
 prayer, and works of charity. Do not look toward material things because you will not be able to
 experience Christmas. My invitation on Christmas is that together we glorify Jesus and His Nativity.
♥ Love your neighbor. The more you will to love your neighbor, the more you will experience Jesus.
 God will bestow GREAT GIFTS on you if you surrender yourselves to Him. On Christmas I GIVE
 mothers my own special motherly blessing and Jesus will bless the rest with His own blessing (85).

Prepare your hearts for Christmas when the Lord particularly desires to purify you from all the sins of your past. Pray—that way you will be able to recognize all the evil ♥ that is in you and surrender it to the Lord, so that He may completely purify your hearts ♥. Pray in order to experience the JOY of meeting the new-born Jesus. Pray and open your inner self to the Lord (*repent*). These are the days that the Father grants special graces to all who open their hearts. I desire that you become ALIVE to the graces and place everything at God's disposal, so that He may be glorified through YOU (86).

"I want each of you to open your heart to Jesus and I will give Him to you with love. I want Him to change you, to teach you, and to protect you. I am praying for each of you and presenting you to God, so He will manifest Himself to you. In work and everyday life, PUT GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE (87).

"I call you to peace! Live it in your heart ♥ and all around you, so that all will know peace peace that does not come from you but from God. Glorify the Nativity of Jesus through the peace I give you. It is for this peace that I have come as your mother—your Queen of Peace. I GIVE you my special blessing—bring it to all creation so that all creation will know peace (88).

"I am interceding for you before God for Him to GIVE you the GIFT of conversion of the heart ♥. I am calling you to a deep spiritual life (89). Do not forget that your life does not belong to you, but is a GIFT with which you must bring JOY to others and LEAD them to eternal life. Open yourself to God's plan for peace (92). Decide for prayer then you will be HAPPY and God will GIVE you what you seek (93).

"I rejoice with you and am praying for peace—peace in your families, peace in your desires, peace in the whole world. May the **King of Peace** bless you today (94). **Jesus is the King of Peace** and only He can **GIVE** you the peace you seek (95). He calls you to **JOY**. I do not desire for your life to be in sadness but that it be realized in **JOY FOR ETERNITY**—in this way your life will have meaning (96). **JOY: GREAT PLEASURE, DELIGHT, BLESSEDNESS, TRIUMPH, LIGHT-HEARTED, MERRY, PLEASED, SATISFIED, CHEERFUL** 

"I call you to the good. I desire that you reflect and carry peace in your heart ♥ and say: "I WANT TO PUT GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE." In this way YOU become holy (97). You do not have peace and yet you yearn for it. WITHOUT PRAYER YOU DO NOT HAVE JOY, PEACE, OR HOPE FOR A FUTURE. Yearn for peace and seek it—God's true peace (98). JAKOV COLO

"On the birth of my Son, **My Heart** ♥ is filled with immeasurable joy, love, and peace. As your mother, I desire for each of you to feel the same joy, peace, and love in the **heart** ♥. Do not be afraid to **open your heart** and **completely surrender** to Jesus. In this way **He can enter your heart** and fill it with LOVE, PEACE, AND JOY" (*98 Jakov*).



## YEAR OF JUBILEE: MILLENNIAL 2000—DECIDE FOR PEACE—PUT GOD FIRST! ♥ Our Lady came embracing the infant Jesus ♥

**"DEAR CHILDREN!** This *new century* is a time of grace. I am giving you the possibility to decide for peace. Through your 'YES' for peace and your decision for God, a new possibility for peace is opened. ONLY IN THIS WAY will this century be a time of peace and well being—PUT THE NEWBORN JESUS IN THE FIRST PLACE IN YOUR LIFE and He will LEAD you on the way of salvation (99).

"I invite you to **complete openness** and **complete abandonment** to God (*repent*). Throw all of the darkness out of your heart ♥ and allow God's light and love to enter into your heart ♥ and to dwell there forever! Be carriers of God's light and love to all mankind, so that all in YOU and through YOU may feel and experience true light and love, which only God can GIVE you (99 Jakov).

"I give thanks to God for all He has done in this Jubilee year, especially for all those who said 'YES' to God completely. In this Child I bring to you the Savior of your hearts ♥ —the One who calls you to holiness of LIFE (2000). Open your hearts ♥ so that Jesus comes to dwell in them and starts to work through YOU; then you will comprehend the beauty of God's LOVE, JOY, AND PEACE (2000 Jakov).

#### "I ASK YOU TO ACCEPT AND LIVE MY MESSAGES WITH SERIOUSNESS. EVERY DAY READ THE MESSAGES AND TRANSFORM THEM INTO YOUR LIFE" (89).

"I encourage you to pray for peace. Unite with Jesus through prayer and become a sign to this peaceless world. Encourage each other to pray and love (01). Pray for the conversion of the heart ♥, so that Jesus may be born in YOU and come to reign over your entire being (01 Jakov). This is a time of grace and great trials for all who desire to follow the way of peace. Pray with the heart ♥. I desire to GIVE you peace and that you carry it in your hearts ♥ and GIVE it to others until God's peace begins to rule the world (02). YOU CANNOT HAVE PEACE WITHOUT GOD AND PRAYER. Open your heart ♥ (repent) so that the King of Peace may be born in YOU (02 Jakov).

"Be courageous witnesses of the Good News. Only in this way will God bless you and GIVE you everything you ask of Him in faith (04). PRAY TO JESUS FOR THE GRACE TO BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE HIM ALWAYS AND IN EVERY PERSON ♥. Ask Him for love, because only with God's love can you love God and all people (04 Jakov). I call you to holiness in your families that God's JOY and peace may rule your families. PUT GOD IN THE FIRST PLACE IN YOUR FAMILY (06 Jakov).

"Adore the King of Peace and GIVE TIME to the Creator for whom your heart ♥ yearns. Do not forget that you are passers-by on this earth and that things can GIVE you small joys, while through my Son eternal life is GIVEN to you (07). Everything passes, only God remains in your heart (07 Jakov). You are running, working, gathering but without blessing. You are not praying! I call you to STOP TO MEDITATE ON JESUS. Without Him you have no future. Surrender your LIVES into His hands for Him to lead and protect you from every evil (08). Without God you cannot LIVE in peace (08 Jakov).

"I bring all of you before the **King of Peace**. May He **GIVE** you His peace and blessing. **Share** the peace and blessing with others (09). I and my Son desire to **GIVE YOU AN ABUNDANCE OF JOY** and peace so that you may be a **JOYFUL carrier** and **witness** of peace and **JOY** in the places where you **LIVE** (10). **Witness** so that in every heart ♥, not human but God's peace may prevail, which no one can destroy—the peace in the heart ♥ which God **GIVES** to those whom He loves. Be His extended hands to this world which yearns for God and peace (11).

"Give the GIFT of your LIFE to me and completely surrender to me, so I may help you comprehend my motherly love and the love of my Son for YOU. I desire to GIVE a GIFT of your LIVES to my Son. He GIVES you the grace to LIVE in His mercy, but sin has overtaken your hearts ♥ and you LIVE in darkness. Do not wait, *repent!* Say 'NO' to sin and surrender your hearts ♥, then you will be able to LIVE God's mercy and, with Jesus in your hearts ♥, set out on the way of salvation (12)."