

February 3, 2001

My sons, you have come here to find purpose and direction to your life. Remember that your life has been bought at a high price. Since before you were born, I knew you and loved you. And so my son has loved you unto death. Let not his death be for nothing. Take hold of his cross, and through it, you will be redeemed. Hide not your face with shame, for I know your faults and failings, your victories, and your triumphs, and still love you. There is nothing you can do that will make me stop loving you. Tonight I wish to inflame your heart with the love of Jesus and mine.

As this weekend continues to unfold, so also your life. Let today be only one of many seeking the face of God. Do not stop seeking. Do not stop loving. Remember, I am only a prayer away.

My children, how I wish you to know of the love I have for you. Go with my peace, and go with my love.

Breakdown:

General Summary

This message is a maternal invitation from the Blessed Virgin Mary to rediscover one's identity, dignity, and purpose through the love of Jesus Christ. It emphasizes that every person is personally known and loved by God, redeemed through Christ's sacrifice, and continually embraced by Mary's maternal care despite personal weaknesses and sins. The message encourages perseverance in seeking God, embracing the Cross as the path to redemption, and living in the peace and love that flow from an intimate relationship with Jesus and His Mother.

Line-by-Line Breakdown

1. **"My sons, you have come here to find purpose and direction to your life."**

Mary begins by acknowledging the reason her children have gathered. She recognizes the human longing for meaning, vocation, and guidance. This echoes her role as Mother of the Church, who always leads souls toward discovering God's plan rather than merely solving earthly problems.

2. **"Remember that your life has been bought at a high price."**

This recalls St. Paul's teaching: *"You were bought with a price."* (1 Corinthians 6:20)

The "price" is the Precious Blood of Christ. Human dignity comes not from achievements but from Christ's sacrificial love.

Mary reminds us of Calvary, where she stood beneath the Cross witnessing the price paid for our salvation.

3. "Since before you were born, I knew you and loved you."

This echoes biblical passages such as Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Mary's words reflect God's eternal knowledge and loving providence toward every person.

While only God knows us from eternity, Mary, united perfectly to God's will and maternal mission, expresses the profound personal love she has for each of her spiritual children. Mary's motherhood is personal. No one is anonymous in her heart.

4. "And so my son has loved you unto death."

This points directly to Christ's Passion. Jesus did not simply love humanity in general—He loved each individual personally, persevering in love until death on the Cross (John 13:1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.).

We are reminded that every Marian message ultimately leads to Jesus and His redeeming sacrifice.

5. "Let not his death be for nothing."

This is an appeal for conversion. Although Christ died for all, each person must freely accept His grace. Mary urges her children not to waste the gift of redemption through indifference or persistent rejection of God. God's love calls for a response.

6. **"Take hold of his cross, and through it, you will be redeemed."**

Matthew 16:24 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." The Cross is not merely suffering—it is faithful discipleship united with Christ. Our sufferings become redemptive when united with His.

Mary teaches that the Cross is not punishment but the path to resurrection.

7. **"Hide not your face with shame, for I know your faults and failings, your victories, and your triumphs, and still love you."**

Mary addresses one of Satan's greatest weapons: discouragement. She acknowledges every aspect of our lives:

- sins
- weaknesses
- failures
- successes
- victories

Nothing surprises her. Her response is not condemnation but maternal compassion. We learn that true repentance grows in the light of mercy, not despair.

8. **"There is nothing you can do that will make me stop loving you."**

This expresses Mary's unwavering maternal love. Although serious sin damages our relationship with God and requires repentance and reconciliation, Mary's motherly concern never ceases. Like the father of the Prodigal Son, she continually desires the return of every child. Mary's love is constant because it reflects the steadfast love of God.

9. **"Tonight I wish to inflame your heart with the love of Jesus and mine."**

Mary does not seek affection for herself apart from Christ. Rather, she desires hearts to burn with the love of Jesus, allowing her own maternal love to draw souls more deeply into communion with Him. This recalls the disciples on the road to Emmaus whose hearts burned within them. "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32) In this line we learn that devotion to Mary always intensifies love for Jesus.

10. "As this weekend continues to unfold, so also your life."

Mary reference to the teachings at the men's retreat as an example to life. Just as one day leads to another, spiritual growth is gradual. God continues working long after each retreat ends. Finally, conversion is not a single event but a lifelong journey.

11. "Let today be only one of many seeking the face of God."

Mary encourages perseverance. Seeking God is not confined to extraordinary moments but should become the pattern of daily life. This echoes Psalm 27: "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Every day is another opportunity to deepen one's relationship with God.

12. "Do not stop seeking."

Spiritual complacency is dangerous. The Christian life is one of continual growth. We are either moving closer to God or moving away. The Saints continually sought deeper union with God. Mary encourages perseverance despite dryness, trials, or discouragement.

13. "Do not stop loving."

Love is both the beginning and the goal of the Christian life. Mary urges perseverance in:

- loving God
- loving neighbor
- forgiving enemies
- remaining faithful

Love must continue even when feelings fade. Authentic love is an act of the will strengthened by grace.

14. "Remember, I am only a prayer away."

Mary reminds her children of her continual intercession. This reflects the Church's understanding that the Blessed Mother hears the prayers of her spiritual children and brings them before her Son. Mary is always accessible through prayer because of her maternal role in God's plan.

15. "My children, how I wish you to know of the love I have for you."

This is the emotional heart of the message. Mary's deepest desire is not merely obedience but that her children truly know they are loved. Many spiritual struggles begin with forgetting this truth. Confidence in Mary's maternal love leads to greater confidence in God's mercy.

16. "Go with my peace, and go with my love."

The message concludes with a blessing. Mary sends her children back into daily life carrying two gifts:

- peace, which comes from Christ (John 14:27),
- love, which empowers faithful Christian living.

Like every authentic Marian message, it ends by strengthening rather than frightening. Mary's mission is always to lead souls to live in the peace of Christ.