

## Criticism of the 'Maria Divine Mercy' messages

The Lord says:

*„so many of you are reading what does not come from Me but are of human origin and a false creation by the evil one; but I will call all hidden deeds, good or bad, to judgement;”*

In 1997 Jesus Christ dictated the above words to Vassula. As the Lord warns we are to be on guard and pray for discernment that we are not distracted by false messages given by false prophets.

I will start with the situation which has occurred not so long ago, that is around the time of the end of the pontificate of John Paul II and the coming of Benedict XVI. Towards the end of 1990's through the spread of internet various texts claiming to be of divine origin became popular among the faithful. I am referring here to the messages of John Leary. One could find in these a number of good things: encouragement to pray and offer spiritual sacrifices, call to closer listening to the word of God, encouragement to participate in the sacraments. All this was imbued with many various warnings about the negative political, economic situation and also problems in the life of the Church. Every so often would come the news that in the Vatican there were some in rebellion against the pope John Paul II, and then came the announcements of the inevitable betrayal and the usurping of the pope's chair by one of the rebels. Reading these messages one could see that someone purporting to be Jesus was almost exclusively commenting on the current events, and creating at the same time an atmosphere of entrapment and fear of what was to come. In these came the assurances of the extraordinary intervention from God and ever more detailed descriptions of what to do in order to survive.

### **... the strategy of deception ...**

These texts were distributed with enthusiasm and were received in wide circles of the adepts but they were never subjected to any serious scrutiny from anyone responsible within the Church. Apart from one or two statements from the local bishop which could only reach the immediate collaborators of John Leary, nobody else heard of any warnings coming from the Church that these messages were detrimental to the faithful. Yet, the consequences were serious. I can clearly recall the conversation I had a year or two after Benedict XVI became pope, in which a certain man who was under the influence of Mr Leary's messages tried to convince me that Pope Benedict XVI certainly was not the pope chosen according to the will of God and that is why we were not to be obedient to him. This shows the strategy of deception which was adopted by the demon responsible for these so called messages. Those who believed in them were drawn by the apparent religiosity but also because they were looking for sensationalism as well as the desire to see what is hidden behind the veil of the future. Sadly, being fed by this so called appetising fodder, they did not notice the hidden poison which quickly and under cover took hold of their hearts, making them disobedient to the successor of St Peter. This meant that they were rejecting one of the important elements of our catholic faith: obedience to the pope.

This strategy appeared to be so effective that it easily became possible to use it again, and

also this time on a larger scale. Towards the end of 2010 appeared a website where a new series of messages were being published by an anonymous prophet calling herself: Maria Divine Mercy. This name alone should ring bells and make us question their origin. The name, Maria Divine Mercy sounds odd and arrogant, it breaks grammatical rules according to which when one creates a name, of say a consecrated soul, one would use for example: Maria of the Divine Mercy. But the form used here gives an impression that this person ascribes to herself one of the attributes of God. As to the authenticity of the person receiving these texts I shall return later. Let us now look closer at their content.

### **The authentic messages mention this event ... because it will confirm the Divine origin of these messages ... not for sensationalism**

These texts have been constructed around a few themes or ideas which we also find in the authentic messages coming from God. This explains in a large measure, the fact of such a large following especially among people spiritually advanced as a result of reading current prophetic authentic messages. But in this instance they are presented in a twisted way, exaggerated until they are totally divorced from their true meaning. One of these themes is the so called Warning. It is an event foretold in the messages of Our Lady in Garabandal and which is also mentioned in True Life in God. The authentic messages mention this event not because it feeds the appetite for sensationalism, but rather because it will confirm the Divine origin of these messages in the future, whilst the heart of the matter of these messages is in the call to conversion and holiness.

However, in the texts of Maria Divine Mercy the theme of Warning has become the most important aspect and is therefore, constantly mentioned. In addition, these texts derive their name from the warning (The Warning Second Coming). This approach is very different from the one we find in True Life in God where the essence is to find the true life and which is only possible in union with God!

### **The interpretation of these descriptions is symbolic ...**

Another theme which is already present in the title of these texts is the second coming of Christ. The Messages of True Life in God speak of „His Return (Jesus)“ (see March 8, 1988), The Great Return (see March 13, 1988), The Great Return of Peace and Love (see March 31, 1988) or even: ”His visible passage on this earth“ (April 12 1995). However, the interpretation of these descriptions is symbolic and is connected with the renewal of faith and love in the Church, with the unity of the Church under Peter and with the powerful, new outpouring of the Holy Spirit who will effect an internal renewal in the hearts of God's people. We read in the Message of March 13, 1988:

*“...the New Pentecost I, the Lord will establish on the very grounds of My Foundation; I will unite you all and under One Shepherd you will assemble, creation, and I will establish My Kingdom therein; My House will reign in Peace and Love and My creation will be born again, returning like children, innocent, without malice; this will be the Great Return, the Rebirth, the Call of the Shepherd, the New Pentecost, like in the beginning when Christianity was still at its early stages, an infant, innocent, without self-interest;”*

However, these false messages present “Second Coming” in a millenarian way, which is

completely opposite to the teaching of the Catholic Church, see Catechism of the Catholic Church 675 – 677. These false messages present a philosophically and theologically absurd view of seeing material “*merging as one of Heaven and Earth*”, enjoying “*the Glorious Life that awaits you for 1,000 years. No disease. No shortage of food. No worries.*” (Maria's message of 14 September 2011). It is against such erroneous understanding of the “Return of Christ” or “New Heaven and New Earth” that Vassula wrote in her explanation in reply to the Congregation of Doctrine and Faith in the Vatican.

### **In the Book of the Apocalypse ... they are meant in a symbolic way**

Let us now have a look at some of the elements of the messages from Maria Divine Mercy which make them similar to those of John Leary. The messages of 15 November 2010 concerning the “The Sign of the Beast” and the Antichrist propose that a sign in a material form, though not clearly described, will have power over those who accept so that they become obedient to the “evil hypnotic influence” of Antichrist. Similar description is in John Leary, except that in his messages at a certain point this begins to be clearly identified as an electronic chip. Such material understanding of the words which appear in the Book of the Apocalypse of St John and which were meant in a symbolic way, is a very typical characteristic of various types of false prophecy.

### **Authentic messages have ... dominant language of the Bible, symbolic and of a hieratic style.**

Another similarity is found in the cataclysmic tone of Maria's messages. There are frequent references made to the current political and economic situation, and what is so characteristic, these texts are presented using colloquial language, even technical at times, in poor style and this cannot be said about authentic messages, where the dominant language is that of the Bible, symbolic and of a hieratic style. The cataclysmic tone comes up through the frequent prophecy of doom in the political sphere (murder of national political leaders), in economic sphere (financial collapse) or natural catastrophes. Because of the large accumulation of these, it makes readers miss the fact that they have not come to fruition. For example the message of 22 May 2011 announced floods in the south of France which were to happen in the summer of 2011 and the increase in the level of the Mediterranean Sea to the extent as to shock many. These and many other statements did not come about.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we read: **„And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ – when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him.”** (18:21-22).

The other similarity of these alleged messages concerns the call to prepare for the exceptional times which are soon to come. These preparations are apparently necessary in order to survive the approaching times. The description of these times may be dissimilar but their general tone is the same. John Leary speaks of the time of darkness during which the angels of God in a visible form, but only visible to the chosen ones, were to lead them to the places of shelter. Up to that time one is to be prepared, e.g. amassing food. In the messages of Maria there is a call to look for places of shelter and to cultivation of own vegetables and

seeds (20 November 2010 and 23 November 2010). Such peculiar calls are not found in the authentic messages. Whilst in the Messages of True Life in God there is a clear warning against such types of false texts. In the Message of January 20, 1992 the Lord says:

*“Vassula, be on your guard; many claim they hear Me and are carrying projects but they are not Mine; they make plans, not inspired by Me; remember, you will be approached by those who do not consult Me; they rave with prophecies that are not pronounced by Me; you have already heard and seen it all; they announce month by month what will happen to you next; let them come forward, do not be afraid; I shall cover you My child;”*

### **The poison can be very strong**

Finally, the most damaging consequence of following such messages from the point of view of faith, is that they direct the faithful to disobedience towards the pope, the rejection of the Peter of our times. The tactics used here are a copy of the strategy which the demon used in the texts of John Leary. We find in these texts almost identical phraseology, where there is only the change of the name of the given pope. We then have the announcement that the pope will have to flee the Vatican because of treason against him, and that the one who will fill his place will not come from God (e.g. the messages of 1 June 2011, or 7 June 2011). The followers of John Leary were not convinced by the natural death of John Paul II and the unfulfilled prophecy that he would have to flee from the Vatican. And they branded his successor, Benedict XVI, as a false pope. This manipulation found even more fertile ground in the hearts of the followers of this anonymous prophetess from Ireland. Taking into consideration the particular way that Benedict XVI ended his Peterine service her followers are not convinced even by the obvious argument that the resigning pope said his farewells to the cardinals and in this he promised his complete obedience and service to the one who would be chosen in his place. The poison that her followers swallowed was too strong and thus caused the rejection of pope Francis, the Peter of our times.

### **Clear criteria given by the Lord**

There is a very clear criteria given by the Lord for us to discern the false revelations. In the Messages of 3 June, 1988 He said:

*“daughter, when you read a revelation which openly expresses a disunion of My Church, denying Peter, denying your Holy Mother, know that they do not come from Me, the Lord, your God, they come from My adversary who appears and takes My Image to accomplish his designs which are to separate you as much as possible; know that I, the Lord do not want My lambs dispersed; I want you united under Peter, all in one flock; I desire you all assembled together;”*

In the above text Christ reveals the hidden agenda of Satan. These false prophecies lead to disunity of the faithful, especially those who in a particular moment of their lives followed the true call from God. This is what we can now see in some True Life in God prayer groups, where some people have been led to read false texts of Maria Divine Mercy. The goal of our adversary is to compromise authentic Messages by leading some followers to absurdity and distracting their attention from the essential meaning of the contemporary revelation as for

instance: from personal conversion, from the desire for holiness, from sharing with others the health giving spiritual nourishment which brings people back to life, the spiritually dead. In other words, distracting them from effective channelization. Instead of coming to know the Lord who gives us true life, they are being led to concentrate on what is to come, living in constant stress of unhealthy curiosity and fear.

### **How are we to discern the false messages?**

These are not all the errors present in the texts of Maria which testify that they are false. There are many more, for example the demand to reject all other prophets (how else can one solve the obvious discrepancies?) and pride at the root of these messages (in one of them there is a claim that these texts will lead two billion people to conversion!). But instead of analysing point by point these false texts, it would be better if we listen to what the Lord says about false messages and how to discern them. In the Message of 7 August 2002 He says:

*“Vassula, Scriptures say: “peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness;”  
I have been teaching you with authority and majesty so as to raise you to be able to express My Words as I wish, My Words bring peace and love and hope in one’s heart; I bring to reconciliation through repentance;  
anyone who wreaks havoc in anyone’s heart does not come from Me; by this I mean that anyone who declares they have prophecies that prophesy plague and disasters only, these do not come from Me; but anyone who prophesies My warnings, peace and repentance and his word comes true are to be recognised as one truly sent by Me; yes, indeed, anyone who prophesies encouragement, consolation and improves the community, know that he is truly sent by Me;  
I have been warning you not to take anyone by merely his words or believe just anyone who claims he has words coming from Me, even if he performs miracles and prodigies, such as raising one from the dead; but turn an ear to those who do not elicit discussions that contradict the mysteries of faith, for the grace of the Holy Spirit given to My chosen ones will overwhelm with joy those who will listen to them; their words will lift their soul, bringing them close to My angels and saints; their words which are in reality My Words, will turn you into Cathedrals; My Words not only have authority and power but they burn putting aflame your soul and enlightening your spirit at the same time;  
above all, the divine realities revealed to you through My chosen souls, will be expressed on the basis of Scriptures and Tradition and nothing else; how will you know I am speaking? you will know by the sound Knowledge you obtain; and you, who were completely dead and lying putrefying in the valley of death, in your awakening you will realise who lifted you by grace;”*

Whereas in the Message of 3 March, 1999 the Lord turns to us with the following words:

*“you fill yourselves, generation, with all that is not holy and is an abomination in My Eyes, you hear of emissaries sent from Me, and you show your gratitude by raising your hands calling out your praises to Me for sending them as ‘ambassadors of the Most High’ to be among you; but instead of pondering over My Words, your*

*endurance is affected by your inclinations towards sensationalism; these people are like Scriptures say of them: "they are like a drowsy man, besotted with sleep whom you are trying to rouse up, having explained to him certain things, when you have finished he will say, 'what is it all about?' his heart, like a broken jar will not hold any of My given knowledge, then, like a fool he is led astray;"*

*this is why Satan has raised so many false prophets, who ape My Teachings and My Divine Actions; so many of you are reading what does not come from Me but are of human origin and a false creation by the evil one; but I will call all hidden deeds, good or bad, to judgement; I called out from the very beginning: "come all of you who wander in this desert and discover Me, your Triune God;"*

*see, there is no closed door from My side, but My Calls are not heeded nor are they honoured; My frequent visits to you, together with My chosen one, bringing all the way to your feet My Salvific Love Hymn to renew you and restore My tottering House, have been left uncultivated;*

*to some of you, I said: "I will now strip you of My visits since you seem to be indifferent to My request of multiplying the fruits of her labours in your hands by evangelising;" and so I have; moreover, this departure and abstinence is necessary for your growth;"*

### **What about the person receiving the messages?**

Now I would like to come to the important aspect concerning the person receiving the alleged messages. How does she appear when we compare her with the authentic emissaries of the Lord? Nobody knows who Maria is, nobody knows about her spirituality, or of her life style etc. In reality anyone could stand behind these messages. As an alleged prophet she does not participate in the Cross of Christ. As a result of this hidden anonymity which the internet gives her, her cross or persecution is purely smoke screen. How very different are the experiences of authentic bearers of Christ's Cross who are sent by God to His Church and the world. His chosen ones seem to be purposefully exposed by God to be pierced and crucified with their Master. This criteria in my understanding, should be an absolutely convincing argument in identifying true prophets.

*"in your days, the prophets who prophesy falsely, trumpeting all sorts of falsehoods, go by unhindered; whereas My Own prophets, who come from My Mouth, who openly declare the Truth, My Law and how your generation apostatised and is well on its way to perdition, unless I hear from them a cry of repentance, they are being disabled and persecuted"* (Message of April 15, 1996).

How easily the devil seems to have access to us who have been conditioned by years of listening to the bad news and distorted media, and thus are more willing to give more credence to negative reports, false voice than the good, loving Voice of our Lord and God. He is the only One who can bring us: The Good News! And even if we stray He will not abandon us. He has come with His remedy: The Holy Spirit, the Messages of True Life in God which so majestically and paternally bring us to the knowledge of the Triune God and fill us with God's Love so that we would never again be defenceless prey to the influences of the evil one.