



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 9 No. 7/8 *Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)* July/August 1998

Our Lady's MESSAGE of 6/25/98 via Marija Pavlovic Lunetti and the *Franciscans* at Medjugorje

Dear children! Today I desire to thank you for living my messages. I bless you all with my motherly blessing and I bring you all before my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call.

Father Slavko Barbaric's REFLECTION starts on page 13

Our Lady's MESSAGE of 7/25/98 via Marija Pavlovic Lunetti and the *Franciscans* at Medjugorje

Dear children! Today, little children, I invite you through prayer, to be with Jesus, so that through a personal experience of prayer you may be able to discover the beauty of God's creatures. You cannot speak or witness about prayer, if you do not pray. That is why, little children, in the silence of the heart, remain with Jesus, so that He may change and transform you with His love. This, little children, is a time of grace for you. Make good use of it for your personal conversion, because when you have God, you have everything. Thank you for having responded to my call.

Father Slavko Barbaric's REFLECTION – Not Available prior to 7/29/98 Press Time.

A PRAYER

Lord, Creator of the Universe, look on this earth with Your Mercy, and help us all to see that it is only in the power of prayer that we will be able to correct the injuries to our human race, our Catholic Church, the environment, the government, and our families. Bless us with your Eucharistic Presence, with insights and wisdom to act as Your hands, ears, eyes, and mouth. In truth teach us to speak forth, to lay hands on in healing, and to praise You in all that You bless us with. In pain, suffering, and rejection hold us in Your comforting arms, and help us to know that You never leave us. AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart to head each issue.)

APPEAL to ENTIRE CHURCH: PRAY for POPE

"Lord, do not let him fall into the hands of his enemies"
(from the prayer for the Pope).

May unceasing prayer for the **Pope** rise up to God, as it did from the first Church of Jerusalem for Peter in prison. We know what this **Pope**, bulwark and defender of the truth, means for the Church and the world of today. It is clear that Mary has defended him and continues to defend him prodigiously from Satan's many accomplices who attempt on his life. Our Lady, though, needs us all to help her keep back the hands of the enemies who plot against him: "the hands of the **Herods**, the **Judas**, the **Caiaphas**"

"The *PILGRIM*" Theme for July/August 1998 is "Mary, Mother, Most Powerful through the *SPIRIT*." Page 3 contains the Table of Contents or "IN THIS ISSUE . . ." block.

and the **Pilates** of today, so that the infinite power and mercy of the Father can shine its victory over the evil one." With those words **Bishop Paul M. Hnilica** urges us to pray every day for the **Pope** with the prayer which **Pope Leo XIII** wrote "against Satan and his rebel angels." Here is the prayer:

Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Make the children pray—The same bishop says to the "Marian families":

"In the spirit of the messages of **Fatima**, and in view of the enormous work awaiting **John Paul II** for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, and given that this is the year of the Holy Spirit, I invite you to ask your small children (5-10 years old) to pray the Rosary, or at least ten Hail Mary's, for the **Holy Father** and for Our Lady's intentions for the whole year in the evening prior to bedtime.

This special novena for the **Pope** can be offered up to God by your family. God will make the same promise that he made to the 3 shepherd children of **Fatima**: through your prayer He will give peace and will protect the life of the **Holy Father**, but also your family life so threatened by television which has become, especially in the evenings, the queen of your homes!"

P.M. Hnilica

(**"ECHO of MARY QUEEN of PEACE"** March/April, 1998)

“**The PILGRIM**” SUMMER SCHEDULE

The summer schedule of publishing “**The PILGRIM**” bi-monthly continues. This issue is the *July/August* issue. The next issue, *September*, will be published in early *September*. It will contain the *August* message and reflection. We hope that you will take your past issues with you to the beach, or on your vacation. **Please** remember us by using the donation slip enclosed. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN WE ARE USUALLY FORGOTTEN. OUR WORK IS DONE COMPLETELY THROUGH DIVINE PROVIDENCE AND VOLUNTEERS.** Our bills do not change, and we struggle with paying them monthly. We also continue to collect for our new building to house the ***Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)***. We are desperately in need of larger facilities. **Have a beautiful Summer.** Pray for us and we will pray for you.

THE NEW **PFMC** BUILDING

We are scheduled for a continued session with the **Voorhees Township, NJ** Zoning Board on *6 August 1998* and should be able to move right into approval of the Site Plan. The public is welcome at these meetings and your prayers on site would be appreciated. If all goes well, we hope to complete zoning variance and site plan approval with building permits submission before the end of the Summer. We will continue to keep our readers informed.

Please continue to pray for us in this project. We appreciate all help financially, materially, spiritually and voluntarily to put up this building.

We are still in need of the \$165,000 it will cost to purchase the property in **Voorhees Township, NJ**, but we feel this will enable us to complete the vision our prayers seem to be bringing us. We can take from the \$300,000 we planned to borrow for the building itself but then this causes us to go into the building project without the necessary resources to finish.

One donor has set up a trust fund to give us quarterly income for the next several years. We are most appreciative of this since it removes the wonder as to whether we can make ends meet on a month to month basis. You can make contributions in a variety of ways including investments with income payable as contributions to the **PFMC**, trusts, wills, etc.

If you have talents to put in telephone or computer network lines, or can volunteer to do interior finishing work, make signs for the building, clean or paint, please contact us. We will need your help. We will also need help moving when the time comes. We'd like to line up a moving truck and moving professionals to help with the move.

UPCOMING EVENTS for the **PFMC**. MARK YOUR CALENDARS and MAKE EARLY RESERVATIONS

September 25, 1998, Friday 5:30 PM to 2 PM, Tuesday September 29, 1998. Intensive retreat with **Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ** Formation Retreat for leaders in Ministry and Prayer Groups. Father has requested that this retreat is for those who have attended a Baptism in the Spirit. This will be a deeply intense 5 day retreat on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit focusing on the Gift of Healing. It will deepen your participation in all Ministries particularly healing ministry. \$60 registration with the **PFMC** for the retreat. Book your room yourself at the **Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ** by calling **1-800-HILTONS**. Rooms are \$85 for 2 double beds in a room. Father has requested, because of the intensity of the material, that all registrants stay at the hotel. See enclosed information sheet.

Sunday, November 1 through Saturday, November 14, 1998 Pilgrimage to **Italy** to include **Milan, Bergamo, Montechiari, Padua Venice, Ravenna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Loreto, Lanciano, Sorrento, Pompeii (Our Lady of the Rosary), Mugnano (Saint Philomena), Monte Cassino and Rome**. Spiritual Director is **Father Joseph Sioli**, and **PFMC** Coordinator is **Kathleen Werner**. Departure on **Swiss Air** from **Philadelphia, PA**. Cost **\$2399** double occupancy, plus **\$79** taxes and **\$79** insurance. From **Pittsburgh**, **\$2550** double occupancy, plus **\$79** taxes and **\$79** insurance. Single supplement **\$425**. We will have a general audience with **Pope John Paul II**. All breakfasts and suppers are included. All entrance fees to sites are included. Full spiritual program and daily Mass.

Saturday, November 21, 1998 A one day retreat for married couples. **Saint Pius X Retreat House** in **Blackwood, NJ**. Retreat master is **David Haggerty, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.** Cost is **\$100 per couple or \$55 per person**. This includes Lunch and Supper. David will concentrate his talks on **setting priorities, communication, and prayer life**. Call the **PFMC** for reservations, or print your name address and phone number with area code on a card and send a check to **PFMC**. To charge on **VISA (CIRRUS/PLUS), MASTERCARD (CIRRUS/PLUS), or DISCOVER (NOVUS)** give us your charge account number and expiration date. This retreat will be limited to 100 persons.

February 26, 27, and 28th and optional March 1, 2 and 3rd, 1999 Mark your calendars for the Annual **PFMC** RETREAT CONFERENCE. In 1999, **Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ** and his sister **Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol** will return to bring you into a spiritual experience and personal relationship with the Lord and His Mother.

We recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the apparitions, locutions and related messages from **Our Lady** at, and to the recipients from, **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the **Holy See of Rome**, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We vow total allegiance to our **One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church**, its **Magisterium (Cardinals, Bishops and Priests)** together with the **Holy Father, Pope John Paul II**.

PLAN NOW to ATTEND the 1999 PFMC RETREAT – CONFERENCE: 2/26/99 - 2/28/99.

The teaming of **Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol** with her brother, **Father Robert DeGrandis**, will be repeated again next year for the **PFMC 1999 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)**, **FRIDAY thru SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 27 and 28, 1999**. This will be the first weekend in **Lent**. The RC will again be held at the **Four Points Inn** by **Sheraton** in Cherry Hill, NJ.

We are extending the **FEBRUARY 1999 RC** for those who can stay over and remain **MONDAY, TUESDAY** and **WEDNESDAY** after the retreat, **MARCH 1ST, 2ND and 3RD**.

Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ and his sister **Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol** will make themselves available for an intense and deeper teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop James T. McHugh of the **Camden Diocese**, has again given us permission to have **Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Mass, Confessions** and a **Youth Track**.

We can only accommodate 700 people in the Assembly Ballroom. We hope to fill the entire RC area as well as all the hotel rooms. We want to have only retreatants in the hotel. Please consider attending and making your reservations early. We may not be able to have walk-in's.

The three weekend RC days will focus on various aspects of **“Healing, Intergenerational Healing, and Healing of Memories.”** The 3 day extension of the weekend will focus on the **“GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HEALING MINISTRY.”**

Cost for the weekend will be **\$75** for the 3 day RC per person. For both the RC and the Extension Workshop the cost is **\$125** per person. For a husband and wife the cost is **\$140** for the RC and **\$240** for the full 6 days. Family rate, at least one parent and related children, is \$190 for the RC and \$290 for the full 6 days. Anyone with a student identification may register individually for the RC at a special rate of \$50 for the weekend and \$100 for the RC and the Extension. There is no registration cost for priests and religious.

The Youth Track is only for the RC weekend with a **\$25** donation requested as there will be limited space. If you can sponsor a youth this year, please send in a check for **\$25 to PFMC** marked Youth Track Sponsor. If you are signing up your own youth, please mark your **\$25** check to the **PFMC** with name and age of youth. The ages are limited from 10-16 for the Youth Track. Anyone outside of these ages must register for the RC either individually or as part of a family.

You might want to request your vacation time from work ahead of time, but certainly put us on your calendar for the full weekend or 6 days. Call for hotel rooms at **1-800-257-8262** NOW. Tell them you are with the **PFMC** Group. Rooms for two (1 King or two Queen beds) cost **\$68** per night and rooms for three or four persons (two Queen beds) are **\$78** per night. Cots are \$5 per day.

Please continue to let us know what you liked about past events and send us your suggestions for improvement.

Call (609) 768-9228 if you need additional information.

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THE ANTS and the CROSS

I recently had the blessing of attending the **PFMC** Spiritual Retreat Weekend. The theme was “Listening and Hearing God”. During the course of the weekend, I found myself starting to walk the outdoor stations of the cross.

At the first station, I decided to “listen” and sure enough the following occurred. I was staring at the plaque that said “Jesus is Condemned to death” when suddenly the word condemned caught my eye and I “heard” in my head “yes, as you condemn your fellow workers!” I immediately knew what this meant. Recently I started a new job and the men I work with continually “cut” each other up. Sooooo, to be “one of the guys”, I joined in. My Marian training let my conscience begin to get the best of me, and I knew the hurt I was causing Jesus and Mary. I answered aloud to “the plaque” “Yes Lord, I’m truly sorry

and beg your forgiveness, and give thanks for talking to me and allowing me to learn how to hear you this weekend.

Wow, this listening really works! Ok, second station “Jesus is made to carry His cross.” Even before I had a chance to think, I was looking down at the ground at this little ant struggling with a dead termite 3 times its size. I was about to look up when I heard “watch the ant!” At first I thought “oh this must be of me”, but just in case, I looked back down at the ant. There he was tugging and pulling that heavy termite towards an anthill. Suddenly he reared left away from the anthill. He went this way and that, coming back to the place where I first spotted him! He then started struggling to carry the termite in the opposite direction of the anthill.

Suddenly I noticed this other ant seemingly just walking along. I said to myself “Oh don’t tell me this ant will spot this struggling ant and come to help him.” No sooner had I thought this when the ant did exactly that! He came over, picked up the other side of the termite, turned the other ant in the direction of the ant hill and off they went – quick and with ease right to and down the ant hill. Suddenly I’m thinking, no “hearing” look how God’s simplest creature can teach us such a great lesson. You do not have to carry your cross alone, as Jesus did not or this ant. How much easier it is with the help of another.

Wow, and to think had I not “listened” and not watched the ant, all I would have missed from God.

So, when speaking or praying to God and suddenly you hear “something” listen closely or watch closely. You won’t miss out. Have faith!

(Tommy)

ABUSES IN THE LITURGY

We at the **PFMC** are called daily with the question “what can we do in our parish other than pray when it comes to the more and more abuses in the liturgy?” It is the topic of conversations among Catholics, that the Church is losing its Universality and Oneness. Yet, God’s Church will prevail. But how can we be involved in helping?

We are suggesting that you introduce yourself to the Rubrics for liturgical celebration and prayer. We suggest you arm yourself with information from the fascinating book of truth titled “Mass Confusion – the Do’s and Don’ts of Catholic Worship” available from the **PFMC** for a donation of \$15.99 and \$3 Priority Mail.

We suggest you lovingly confront the abuse with the priest making the errors, and write him and the pastor a letter documenting the action. If no change or response write to the bishop and Cardinal and then the Pope.

Read the Encyclicals. Attend Seminars and Workshops that will strengthen your knowledge and gifts. Speak out in boldness and in truth with facts. If you don’t, soon there will be only interpretations of the Mass, and it will no longer be a valid Mass. The richness of Eucharist will disappear, and the need for the priesthood no longer be, since the priesthood is dependent upon the Sacred Holy

Mass and Consecration of the Body and Blood of Jesus within it.

The Sacred Congregation has noted changes in liturgical reform. They see active and conscious participation by the faithful in liturgical mysteries, doctrinal and catechetical enrichment, readings from the Bible, community sense of liturgical life, and efforts to close the gap between life and worship. They have commented on liturgical piety and personal piety and liturgy and piety.

But **L’Osservatore Romano** has **quoted** *“Inaestimabile Donum”* or the *“Instruction concerning Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery”*

“But these encouraging and positive aspects cannot suppress concern at the varied and frequent abuses being reported from different parts of the Catholic world: confusion of roles, especially regarding the priestly ministry and the role of the laity (indiscriminate shared recitation of the Eucharistic Prayer, homilies given by lay people, lay people distributing Communion while the priests refrain from doing so); an increasing loss of the sense of the sacred (abandonment of liturgical vestments, the Eucharist celebrated outside church without real need, lack of reverence and respect for the Blessed Sacrament.); misunderstanding of the ecclesial character of the Liturgy (the use of private texts, the proliferation of unapproved Eucharistic Prayers, the manipulation of the liturgical texts for social and political ends).

In these cases we are **FACE TO FACE** with a **REAL FALSIFICATION OF THE CATHOLIC LITURGY: “One who offers worship to God on the Church’s behalf in a way contrary to that which is laid down by the Church with God given authority and which is customary in the Church is guilty of falsification.”**

NONE OF THESE THINGS CAN BRING GOOD RESULTS. The consequences are – and cannot fail to be – the impairing of the unity of Faith and worship in the Church, doctrinal uncertainty, scandal and bewilderment among the People of God, and the near inevitability of violent reactions.

“THE FAITHFUL HAVE A RIGHT TO A TRUE LITURGY WHICH MEANS THE LITURGY DESIRED AND LAID DOWN BY THE CHURCH, which has in fact indicated where adaptations may be made as called for by pastoral requirements in different places or by different groups of people. **UNDUE EXPERIMENTATION, CHANGES AND CREATIVITY BEWILDER THE FAITHFUL.** The use of unauthorized texts means a loss of the necessary connection between the *“lex orandi”* and the *“lex credendi”*. The Second Vatican Council’s admonition in this regard must be remembered: **“NO PERSON, EVEN IF HE BE A PRIEST, MAY ADD, REMOVE OR CHANGE ANYTHING IN THE LITURGY ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY.”** Paul VI stated that **“ANYONE WHO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE REFORM TO INDULGE IN ARBITRARY EXPERIMENTS IS WASTING ENERGY AND OFFENDING THE ECCLESIAL SENSE.”**

(Editor and quote from *“Inaestimabile Donum”*)

WORSHIP of the EUCHARIST

In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the Real Presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord. The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated Hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession.

The tabernacle was first intended for the reservation of the Eucharist in a worthy place so that it could be brought to the sick and those absent, outside of Mass. As faith in the Real Presence of Christ in His Eucharist deepened, the Church became conscious of the meaning of silent adoration of the Lord present under the Eucharistic species. It is for this reason that the tabernacle should be located in an especially worthy place in the church and should be constructed in such a way that it emphasizes and manifests the truth of the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

(Catechism, # 1378-79)

AN INSPIRATION LETTER and APPEAL

Dear Keith and Kathleen,

Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted His message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day. (Acts 2:38-41)

But many of those who heard the word came to believe and the number of men grew to about five thousand, (Acts 4:4)

In the days following the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, the Apostles came to realize the importance of bringing souls to Christ. They gave their lives for that cause. *Saint Luke*, in the Acts of the Apostles tells of their success.

Now, two thousand years later you and I and others like us have come to the same realization: that salvation of souls is paramount; that, in the end, when time is no more, nothing matters except an eternity of complete happiness with Jesus Christ. My soul shudders at the alternative: eternal damnation.

It is these thoughts that prompt this donation in support of your ministry. Please remember my prayer intentions: to make God’s will my sole desire; to give all honor and glory to Him; to never separate myself from Him for even a moment because of sin; to love and adore the Most

Sacred Heart of Jesus; and to promote love and reverence for Holy Mass and Jesus in the Eucharist.

“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look kindly upon you and give you peace! (Numbers 6:24-26) E. R. T.

We thank E. for this beautiful letter, words of wisdom, and his generous donation to the **PFMC**.

Many people just don’t know the work that the volunteers do here, and the joy we find in spreading the “Good News.” Many hours go into typing materials for **“The PILGRIM,”** setting up the retreats, conferences, and pilgrimages. We just long to get out of our crowded space and into our building. Please pray for this intention, and for more to help us financially. We know that this is God’s will, and the Cross has never been easy to carry. We just ask you for prayers and help in any way possible.

Editor.

THE WOMAN of FAITH

Mary’s astonishing Assumption into Heaven is celebrated on *August 15th*. The Church considers the Assumption such an important event it made this memorial a **holy day of obligation**. The Church did this with good reason, for a fully human person has entered paradise.

Mary has shown—through the free grace of God—that it’s possible for a creature of the Lord to be admitted to the Beatific Vision, that “blessed sight” which will never end. Therefore, the Church must rejoice at the thought of the Almighty’s goodness to his special Daughter.

On Nov. 1, 1950, **Pope Pius XII** solemnly declared: **“Mary, the immaculate perpetually virgin Mother of God, after the completion of her earthly life was assumed into heaven body and soul into the glory of heaven.”** This definition precisely states what the Church believes concerning this mystery of our faith.

As with many Catholic doctrine, the dogma of the Assumption has ramifications for each disciple of Christ.

Mary is a “pattern” for us—a model from which we derive a helpful example and anticipate our future destiny. Her

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fidelity to her Son, the God-Man, inspires us to strive more diligently to remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ. The Madonna teaches us that no matter how difficult things can be, we can (thanks to God's ever-present strength) persevere in the good fight to take up our cross and follow in the footsteps of the Savior.

(By Father Charles M. Mangan "CATHOLIC TWIN CIRCLE", August 10-16, 1997)

ASSUMPTION

Hidden in simplicity and silence

The Joy of Israel lived out

The number of her days,

Pleasing God in every way.

Now sleeping without animation

Or motion, Full of Grace

(her other name) awaits the Spirit (as she did so long ago)

and for angels bright as noon

to flood the room.

She waits for resurrection...

For no tomb can hold perfection.

(By Eve Forti)

CAN YOU HELP US?

We need to set up long term support for our ministry. You can help us through a bequest in your will? Simply add this language to your will:

"I bequeath to the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center, a Religious Association, Inc., a non profit, 501(c).3, organization incorporated in New Jersey the sum of \$_____ to be used for their ministry."

If you already have a Will, it generally is possible to add a request without preparing a new Will. Through a short separate document known as a "codicil" you can include **PFMC** as your beneficiary. Be sure and check with your attorney to make sure that any change in your Will or Codicil complies with the law of the state where you live.

Would you ever consider setting up a trust fund? You can donate any amount to the **PFMC** to be distributed over a period of time to assure us of funds to use as needed.

All donations as such are tax deductible, and we will provide you with written acknowledgment for your IRS paperwork. Thank you so very much and God Bless You.

PRAYING for HOURS IS EASY

People can and do object: "How can I possibly pray for three or four hours a day? I'm not a contemplative religious cloistered in some convent or monastery. I live in the world and I have to work hard. I love God. But with what little time I have left for myself, I just want to relax."

Well, if you really want to relax and find peace, there is no better way than in prayer. Our Lady in Medjugorje was talking to everyone when she made this request, and she understands how busy we are. She tells us that our minds and hearts must be raised to God for at least a sixth of the day.

When we stop to consider this request, perhaps we misunderstand Mary if we think that we must remain sequestered in prayer for three to four continuous hours every day.

I feel the notion may not even be close to what Our Lady was suggesting. What then did she mean? If we realize what is already in Scripture, then her request becomes easy to comprehend. She is saying "pray always."

If that is what Mary means, then a total of three to four hours of a working day isn't unreasonable at all. It isn't easy and it could mean changing some priorities. But prayer is no more than talking and listening to a loved one, and that is really very pleasant. It's great in fact, if one loves much.

A devout Catholic prays. One who lives Mary's messages prays. One who wants to save himself and others prays. One who seeks peace prays. One who loves God prays.

Prayer can be measured in quantity or quality. Mary talks of both in all her apparitions, but let us consider "quantity" for a moment. Three to four hours; how is it possible? Well, actually it can be easy, especially if one splits up the time. Just consider what everyone's daily routine should be:

1. Mass sometime during the day, and door to door that is at least one hour.
2. Fifteen decades of the rosary, said whenever we can fit it in, totaling another hour.
3. Morning and evening prayers usually about one-half hour each, more or less, depending upon if one is a morning or night person.

That already totals three hours and I haven't yet taken into account the other prayer times that must come into the reckoning. I refer here to prayers and devotions such as the Angelus said three times a day...the Divine Mercy chaplet...grace before and after meals...meditation Scripture reading as well as spiritual reading generally...the rosary...visits to the Blessed Sacrament...Liturgy of the Hours...watching spiritual videos...listening to religious tapes...

Also to be included in the count are the short prayer one is to make during the day. Examples of this are "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul"... "My God, I love You in the most Blessed Sacrament"... "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You"... "Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you"... "Queen of Peace, pray for us"... the Guardian Angel prayer, etc.

We all have little favorite prayers that flash through our minds during the day, little chaplets, novenas, petitions to our favorite saints, blessings with holy water as we enter or leave our homes, a kiss of a loving glance at a crucifix, holy picture, statue or relic.

And when we say to someone, "God bless you", isn't that a prayer? It certainly is. Start saying it, in fact.

When you love someone you want to be with that person, and when you are together it is an exciting, happy and joyful experience. Prayer is fun when you love

God! These countless little prayers are sweet moments of joy. It is edifying to contemplate and embrace Him within. I think it would be dreadful not to be able to pray. Poor are those souls that don't know or love "God. Let us pray for them and for the souls in purgatory who are unable to help themselves, and also for those who are kept from praying because of persecution. Are you still wondering how you can pray for three to four hours a day?

You are missing a lot of joyous and enriching experiences throughout the day if you don't attain that target.

Sister Lucia (Fatima) wrote in 1970, "The principle fault today is that people have abandoned prayer. In this way they have become estranged from God, and without God, everything is lacking."

(By Wayne Weible "MARY, MESSENGER of PEACE",
Oct. 1997)

TAKE TIME

Take time to **THINK**...
It is the source of power.
Take time to **READ**...
It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take time to **PRAY**...
It is the greatest power on earth.
Take time to **LOVE** and **BE LOVED**...
It is a God given privilege.
Take time to **BE FRIENDLY**...
It is the road to happiness.
Take time to **LAUGH**...
It is the music of the soul.
Take time to **GIVE**...
It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to **DO CHARITY**...
It is the key to Heaven.

(The Pallottines, Saint Jude Shrine, Baltimore, MD)

WHAT IF GOD HAD an ANSWERING MACHINE?

I have learned to live with answering machines as a necessary part of modernization. But I have often wondered – what if God decided to install an automatic answering machine?

Imagine praying and hearing this: "Thank you for calling 'My Father's House'. Please select one of the following four options: Press 1 for a request. Press 2 for a thanksgiving. Press 3 to complain. For all other inquiries, press 4."

Press 1 and I hear: "We're sorry. Due to heavier than expected volume, please try your call again later. Your business is important to us."

What if God used the familiar excuse: "All of the angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line. Your call will be answered in the order it was received."

Can you imagine these kind of responses as you "call on God" in prayer?

"If you would like to speak with Gabriel, press 1. For Michael, press 2. For any other angel, press 3.

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"To receive the latest promotional gift with your order from Paradise Parlor, press 0 and an operator will assist you.

"To find out how many angels dance on the head of a pin, press 5."

If you'd like King David to sing a psalm for you, press 6."

"To find out if your relative is here, enter his/her date of death and listen for the list that follows."

"For reservation information or to confirm your reservations at 'My Father's House,' press the letters J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.

"To know what your pastor is doing at this moment, press 7.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, wait till you get here!"

If you want to know what I think of American politics, don't press anything. Hang up and listen for laughter."

Our computers have shown that you have called once today already. Please hang up immediately."

"This office is closed for the weekend. Please call again Monday."

Thank God you can't call Him too often. You only need to ring once and God hears you. Because of Jesus, you never get a busy signal. God takes each call personally. He knows each caller personally.

"Then you will call and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here I am." (Isaiah 58:9)

Best of all, God often calls us. Are you waiting for His call or will your answering machine talk to Him? If you listen carefully, you will hear music in the background and God singing, "I just called to say 'I love you! I just called to say how much I care..."

(Rev. Paul Kummer)

PRAYER to MARY, PERFECT DISCIPLE of CHRIST

O Mary, you are rightly called blessed, for you received God's Son in your virginal womb.

But you are more blessed because as a disciple of the Incarnate Word, you eagerly sought to know God's will and faithfully carried it out.

Help us to imitate you in receiving the saving Word of God, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit it may speak to us in our daily lives and bring forth a rich harvest of holiness.

Thus, we may be true disciples of Christ, eagerly hearing His words and putting them into practice.

AMEN.

("Queen of All Hearts" Sept-Oct. 1997 Vol. XLVIII #3,
Montfort Missionaries, Bay Shore, N.Y. Used with
permission)

**OUR LADY'S MESSAGE of 5/25/98 via
Medjugorje Visionaries and Franciscans**

Dear Children! Today I call you, through prayer and sacrifice, to prepare yourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Little children, this is a time of grace and so, again, I call you to decide for God the Creator. Allow Him to transform and change you. May your heart be prepared to listen to, and live, everything which the Holy Spirit has in His plan for each of you. Little children, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you on the way of truth and salvation towards eternal life. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

**REFLECTION on Our Lady's MESSAGE of
5/25/98**

Greetings to all those who will be reading this message and these thoughts about it. As we have done so often before, let us first remember the message of April in which Mary invited us to open ourselves to God through prayer. She also helped us understand what that means when she used the metaphor "as a flower opens itself to the rays of the morning sun."

We may not forget that there are two fundamental ways to pray: First, one can pray just as one does any other work. Many behave with prayer as they also do with their work when they do it as quickly as possible and, if in any way possible, to also leave it out entirely. Many people pray this way, and that is why nothing in their life ever changes. Or, one can pray the way Mary wishes of us. Mary wants prayer to be for us what the sun is to the flower. To pray means to make God a present of our time, and then to open and to expose ourselves to Him in our prayer. When we do this we will feel Mary's presence as well as God's presence -- and this is because she says: "Be not afraid, I am with you." Her loving presence frees us of any fear, and gives us freedom. Being distant or separated from her loving presence causes fear and so many other negative feelings. Many people live in constant fear because they are not before God in prayer, and others because they keep themselves distant from Him. Another cause for fear is when we sin against this Loving Presence. All of us, when we were children, quite naturally sought the presence of our mother or of our father, but all of us have also, at least once, tried to avoid their presence when we knew that we had sinned against the will of either our mother or our father. Many people live in fear because in their hearts they feel that have sinned against God and His holy will. Prayer means to be before God and the Sacrament of Confession then frees us of this fear. The fundamental message of the Bible is quite simply -- God's presence. He introduced Himself as the God who is present and who with the greatest of yearning is seeking the presence of His people.

That is why Jesus has the name 'Emmanuel' -- God with us. That is why, when He speaks after the Resurrection, He always says, "Be not afraid, It is I. Peace be with you." Therefore His Loving Presence frees us from all fear, and then fills us with His peace. Mary also prays that we open ourselves and that our hearts may then accept the grace of conversion. Conversion, when seen in the light of what we have already heard about prayer, can be defined this way: "To decide to overcome sin and the distance between ourselves and God, and then to always seek His presence and His proximity to us." But, it is here that we also come across the mystery of our human freedom. Man can also decide for a distance between himself and God, or he can even decide to hide from God, and then to live without His Loving Presence. But NO-ONE in such a situation can possibly be happy and in peace. That is why Mary prays and I am certain all of us will also pray for the grace that we may all feel God's presence, that we may then accept it, and that we will always keep trying to rediscover Him.

Since April's message it is also very important for us to understand how important grace is for us. For us that was also a call that we must be extremely careful in this world - - this world that has brought about such technological power that humanity can, with this power, either continue developing or, just as easily, be so severely misled. We are all tempted into believing only in human power, and in this way to forget how important grace is for us. Many people, either when they are young, or in good health, or when they are rich, no longer seek God, and therefore so easily forget the importance of His grace. But grace is imperative for the young, as it also is for the old, for the healthy and for the sick, for the rich and for the poor. May April's message help each of us realize that we ought to decide for God, that we ought to open ourselves to Him for then be freed from all fear, and that we then also accept the grace of conversion, and, in this way, come to know how important grace is for us.

We are in the week in which we prepare ourselves for the great Feast of Pentecost. That is why there are always more and more pilgrims, and right now we can easily say that there are pilgrims here from all over the world. Right now the Polish and the French seem to have the majority, but many other groups are here as well -- including from Brazil, Argentina, Canada, the U.S., Australia, the Philippines, Hungary, Romania, England, Italy and Belgium. We also had a group from the Ukraine, and even one from the Island of La Reunion. Every day more than 40 Priests concelebrate Holy Mass in the evening, and more than 40 have also been seen at English Mass in the morning. Quite simply said, there are many, many pilgrims here in Our Lady's Oasis of Peace. And we hope that we will celebrate this great Feast Day in a most worthy manner -- and especially so in this year that the Holy Father consecrated to the Holy Spirit. We also hope that we may celebrate this great day in deep openness toward God, and in a deep joy to be among so many

people from all of humanity, all of whom have decided to gather here alongside Mary, and to hear Him.

The message that Mary gave us during the Novena to the Holy Spirit (on May 25) is also a word from Mary with which she wishes us to prepare ourselves for the great Feast of the Holy Spirit. First she says...

TODAY I CALL YOU, THROUGH PRAYER AND SACRIFICE, TO PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Again, Mary mentions prayer. So, the prayer with which we should open ourselves and prepare for the Coming of the Holy Spirit, is the prayer for which we must first decide, then take the time, and then stay loyal to it. To be in front of God in prayer means to be exposed to Him, and to give Him the opportunity to fill our hearts with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as the sun gives life to the flower. That is the preparation like the flower is the preparation for the new seeds, but, along with this preparation that occurs in prayer as in the sun, Mary also calls us to make sacrifices. But what does a sacrifice really mean in this case? We usually do not like to hear it when someone calls upon us to make a sacrifice, but when there is love in our hearts, then we will with happiness decide for that loving person. One can also say that it is love that makes the sacrifice possible, and the sacrifice, along with that needed love, then becomes meaningful and therein attains its real value. A sacrifice can also happen without love, but it certainly will no longer have its real value. Perhaps in our everyday way of understanding things, a sacrifice may be something negative, but it is in fact something absolutely positive, and thus God-like. In the context of this message, we should come to understand a sacrifice as something we do to become free and open to the Holy Spirit. That is why it should be our assignment to ask ourselves: What is it that hinders us from becoming open to the Holy Spirit? ...and then to work on the answer. For instance, what is it that hinders us from spending more time with prayer? And to be freed from the true answer to this question, then THAT is our sacrifice. When we begin to know that it is Mary who is after all asking us to do something, then every one of us will certainly be willing to do it. No? Mary then speaks about the...

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Here we may first think, and ONLY think of what happened in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago when Mary and the Apostles prepared themselves for the Coming of the Holy Spirit. When He did come -- and He did -- their hearts had already been transformed. They had come to understand everything that Jesus had told them, and they were now ready to go out into the world and to spread His message. In that they were ready to spread it, they were also ready to suffer for it, because, through the gift of the strength of the Holy Spirit, they had also lost all fear. We are, right now, in the Novena to the Holy Spirit and that is how we too should behave like the Apostles -- to pray

along with Mary. As you all know, this year 1998 has been dedicated to the Holy Spirit, and therefore that, by itself, also becomes one more reason that we really should prepare ourselves for...

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Then Mary says...

LITTLE CHILDREN, THIS IS A TIME OF GRACE

This she has already said in many other messages, and "a time of grace" means for us, here in Medjugorje, and for all our pilgrims, the day that Mary's apparitions began, on June 25, 1981 -- and so, 16 years and 11 months ago. Many people have had the experience, and they have received the grace to pray, the grace to believe, the grace to reconcile with one another, the grace to love one another, the grace to do good, and among so many other graces, especially the grace of going to the Sacrament of Confession, which was inspired by their wish for inner cleansing. The "time of grace", a renewed world, began especially with Jesus' Coming some 2,000 years ago. Yet we may also call these times in which we live "the end times" -- but ONLY "the end times" in the sense that God has done everything that He had planned to do to save us, and to heal us. With the Coming of Jesus, this plan of God has been accomplished. It is our assignment that we, in these times of grace, also become a part of His plan. God is gracious for all time, He always loves, and He is not more merciful today than He was, for instance, before the beginning of the apparitions. It is ONLY the people who have perhaps become a little more responsive, a little more merciful, a little more willing, and therein a little more open to His graces than we were before June 25, 1981. Mary then continues with...

AND SO, AGAIN, I CALL YOU TO DECIDE FOR GOD THE CREATOR

Mary has often used this term, and it is really the First Commandment of God that she is repeating here. But to decide for God the Creator, it means to accept life as a gift from God and to do so with great love. This is because God created us out of His pure love for us. Every one of us is His creation and about whom He said at the very beginning of Creation: "It is very good." When He created the other world He said: "It is good," yet when He spoke

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE and RESPOND - STAY ON the MAILING LIST -

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list. So, **if you haven't written us a note asking to stay on the list, please do so this month.**

The value of "**The PILGRIM**" is appreciated in the hearts of you the readers. "**The PILGRIM**" serves to provide you with overviews to plant seeds in your life to fulfill all the above needs. If you know someone who would enjoy the "**The PILGRIM**", please ask them to contact us.

about humanity, and therefore about each one of us, He said: "It is very good." We are permitted to accept our life with joy and with love. For a Christian there is simply no room to think about himself in anything but a positive way. There is no room for him to reject his own life, or to live with an inferiority complex. With any of these attitudes we are only insulting God! Even when we have, in any manner, been wounded by our families, or by our parents and therefore have inner problems - and this is happening a lot today - still, we have more than enough reasons to accept our lives with great joy and with even greater love. Because even when the others did not love us enough, or when even our parents completely rejected us, God's love for us is still complete, for He is our Creator. This love of the Loving Creator will help us all to really become healed of all our wounds. The other specific decision for us is to meet and to accept every other person as a gift and as a grace for every one of us. Every one of us is created by God. God said about every one of us: "It is very good. You are my much loved child." So to accept God the Creator, it means to have a loving relationship with oneself as well as with the other people, and then also to develop one toward all of nature. But if man does not have the true faith in God the Creator, then it can happen that he comes to consider himself as the lord over all of life, and this is very dangerous for him, for all of those around him, as well as for all of nature. And every time man turns against his own life, or against the life of the others, then he is clearly demonstrating for all to see that he does not yet believe in God, the Loving Creator. This shows itself most clearly in man's relationship toward the yet unborn life, and we all know that this so-materialistic world has raised its hand against unborn life in a terrible, terrible way. Man has gone against God the Creator at such a decisive moment - the moment of conception - and he goes against this new life, and he kills it. Man must reconcile himself with God, the Creator, so that he can again cooperate with Him in the act of Creation. **THAT IS THE CONDITION FOR MAN TO COME TO PEACE,** and that man can then again live in joy.

The Holy Spirit for whom we are now preparing ourselves is the Most Holy Spirit Who creates all of life. There where we kill, there where we chase, divide or destroy, there we have already sent away the Holy Spirit -- the God of all Creation -- Creation that is very good. Just one of the fruits of the great Feast of Pentecost is a new, a loving, a creative relationship and cooperation with God and with **EVERYTHING THAT HE CREATED.** In this message we find the word ALLOW...

ALLOW HIM TO TRANSFORM AND CHANGE YOU

With this word ALLOW we again discover how God leaves us our freedom and how greatly He respects it to be our own decision. HE asks us that we may ALLOW Him, and here again is the great mystery of human freedom -- the freedom that we are also able to say 'no' to God, that we often prefer to say 'yes' to something else, that He

ALLOWS it to happen that we may follow it, and that He ALLOWS it to happen that something else, and no longer God, transform and change us. When we say 'yes' to the Loving God as Mary says 'yes' to the Loving God, and thereby create conditions in which He can come to us, then **HE WILL TRANSFORM AND CHANGE US!** Even at this very moment each of us should really ask ourselves the question: What is it that hinders me, or what is it in me that does not allow God to enter my life? All of us see, on one hand, that man is good inside and that he has very many gifts, but we also see, on the other hand, that many among us are either deformed or are already destroyed by sin -- many young people, many families, and also much of the entire world. All of us need this transformation, all of us need this change. God wishes, through His Holy Spirit, to undertake these transformations among all of us. He knows this because He created us, and we should become transformed and changed according to His Image. The foremost element that these changes need from us is His love, for His love changes us from the inside outward. We are created according to His image -- with the gifts such as freedom and love, and it is here that we all need a transformation and a change. Mary says...

MAY YOUR HEART BE PREPARED

Knowing this is also extremely important for us. So, preparation happens by way of prayer and sacrifice, and when we have created these conditions inside us, then we will also be ready...

TO LISTEN TO, AND LIVE, EVERYTHING WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS IN HIS PLANS FOR EACH OF YOU

But even more so, each of us will recognize this plan that He has for us. Once we have recognized His plan, then we will also be inspired and transpired by this plan. Because that which the Holy Spirit has prepared for us is always the best for us. The word LISTEN appears in the Bible very often, and the celebrated form in the prayers in Israel were: LISTEN O ISRAEL! God calls upon us, He speaks to us, and He wants us to listen for Him. Again, the question for us is: What is it that makes us deaf? When we are open to the world, then we listen only for the world, but when we are open to God, we WILL hear God. Whoever hears God will himself, hear the others, and will not reject the world, but will rather have a good relationship with God. But the one who only hears the world, will then turn himself away from God, and away from the others. At the end Mary again uses the word allow when she says...

LITTLE CHILDREN, ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LEAD YOU

The most important meaning for faith is really allowing God that He may lead us. He does this by way of the Holy Spirit. To let oneself be led, to listen for God, and to do what He has planned for us is what many people -- people who say that they believe -- still do not allow themselves to do. For instance, when we are wounded by someone, if we let ourselves be led by God, then we will forgive, and

also not lose our patience, even when he has wounded us 70 x 7 times. Jesus tells us to forgive 70 x 7 times, but when we say only after 2 or 3 times that we no longer wish to forgive, then it means that we do not allow God to lead us. And every time, in every sin, the same thing is repeated, because we are failing to allow God to lead us. For instance, someone who does not pray and does not go to Mass, and who does not honor his parents, and who rejects, in one way or another, God's Commandments, he then fails to allow God to lead him. Why does this happen? Once because we are proud, another time because we are selfish. Pride means in itself the questioning of God: "Who are you to tell me this?" Then it also adds the statement: "I will do this alone, I will do this the way I want to do it." This pride is the cause of the first sin, and of every sin that anyone has ever committed. Why should man not know what is best for him? ...this is what God asked. But pride always says in every situation: "Who are you God? I decide the way I want to decide." This pride in us is what we must fight with all the means that are available to us by way of the graces that are given us by the Holy Spirit - the Holy Spirit who wishes us to lead us...

**ON THE WAY OF TRUTH AND SALVATION
TOWARDS ETERNAL LIFE**

What is truth really? The truth is again that God created us, that He loves us, that He wishes to work in our lives by transforming and changing us, that we may grow the way that He had planned for us to grow, and that we will then enter Eternal Life. The truth is that man is unable to serve the world, but the world is still able to serve man. The lower always serves the higher, but in today's world many people have let themselves be enslaved by the world, and they therefore no longer act humanely but inhumanely. This also happens with us Christians when we no longer think or live in a Christian fashion but rather in a non-Christian way. And this is what Mary tells us before this Feast of Pentecost, but we may also think that in one month we will come upon the 17th Anniversary of her Presence among us. The time until then should for all of us become a time of intense prayer to the Holy Spirit, that we may understand all that God has told us through Mary, that we may all allow ourselves to be transformed by God and may become people of God's peace.

Let us pray

God, our Father, we thank You for Your love, we recognize You today as Our God, our Creator. We thank You for our life, for the lives of our parents and all the people whom we have met, and those whom we have yet to meet. Along with Mary we ask You, give us the grace that we may, through prayer and sacrifice, prepare ourselves for the Coming of Your Holy Spirit. Give the strength that we may be freed of all that which at this moment hinders us from being open to Him, Your Holy Spirit. Lord, we bring before You our entire life, all that which is

deformed inside us, all that is bad within us, all that is dark and injured, and we beg You, come and heal us, through You Holy Spirit. And we beg You forgiveness that we were often fearful of You, that we often distrusted You, and did not allow You to transform and to change us. Prepare our heart so that we may recognize Your plan through the Holy Spirit, that we may listen for Your word, and that we may then live it. Send into our heart your Spirit of Truth, that we may recognize You, our true God, and that we may allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit on Your path to Eternal Life. Lord, during this Novena and during this year of Your Spirit, we beg You, send Your Spirit of Truth and Love into the hearts of all those who are responsible in the Holy Church, and in the world. Send Your Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who, at this moment, are resisting You, who still distrust You, and change their hearts. Send the Spirit of Love into the hearts of those who hate, send the Spirit of Strength into the hearts of those who have become enslaved by sin, so that we, as Your Children, may come to be able to love in freedom and in love. Give us the grace that we may come to understand the message that the Mother of Your Son Jesus Christ has given us through Her, and that we all may come to live better lives with the strength of Your Spirit. Bless us and heal us, and bless all those who have ever asked for our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Fra Slavko of Medjugorje
Medjugorje; May 28, 1998

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

PRESS BULLETIN #92, 06/03/98.

THE NUMBER OF HOLY COMMUNIONS

During the month of May 107 000 holy Communion were distributed in the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje and 3248 priests from Croatia and abroad celebrated holy Mass, that is 104 priests daily.

**MISSIONARY TRIP of FATHER SLAVKO
BARBARIC**

Father Slavko Barbaric visited Brazil from May 5 to 12, 1998. After his return from Brazil, Father Slavko Barbaric gave his impressions:

"Although this country seems so far away and is unknown to us, Brazil has not remained untouched by the events of Medjugorje. This time I saw again how widely the message of Medjugorje has spread and how many fruits it has brought forth in this country, which is full of contradictions and which has more than 150 million inhabitants. One part is very rich, while the larger part makes up the so-called middle class; but one also meets

very poor people and even more so destitute people, who live in the so-called Favelas. But there are also many, who in the name of Jesus Christ fight against spiritual and material poverty, who help in various ways and so make the Church present. Many poor and needy people see the Church as a sign of hope. Still, all efforts of the good and faithful people often only remain a drop of goodness and love, which can hardly be recognized in the lives of those, who live in spiritual and material poverty.

'I think it was on the feast day of Our Lady of Carmel. I was celebrating Mass in the cathedral. There were many people present and I prayed the Creed. After Holy Communion, I wiped the chalice and suddenly bent my brow over the altar. Then I sat down. Suddenly - and I really don't know how to explain this - the following words came into my mind: "Why did you not think about building a house for my Mother?" And I saw a shrine between the rocks at the place, which rises above Sertao. I did not know how I should react to these words. The reason for this was simple: I did not know if this was an inspiration or a fruit of my imagination. Knowing myself well, I was more inclined to think that it was a fruit of my imagination. And when I should have said: "Go in peace and may God be with you", the following words came to me: "Please, sit down for a moment!" Those present were somewhat surprised. Surely they thought: Now comes another speech or some other remark!'

'Loudly and clearly I told them what I had just experienced while sitting. Now I was eagerly waiting for the reaction of the people. I was surprised. They all got up and welcomed my experience with a warm and long applause. So the idea of a shrine was born. From the beginning, I was looking for an order that was willing to take over the responsibility for the shrine. This troubled me more than the actual building of the shrine. In my search, I heard about Father Gianni and the "Oasis of Peace". I called him immediately. I told him that I was looking for an order for the shrine that would be pastorally active there and pray. He answered: 'Good. Give me two or three days for prayer and I will give you the answer.' And, in fact, on the third day, he agreed. The community "Oasis of Peace" now directs the newly-built Shrine of Our Lady of Sertao.' (The Marian community "Oasis of Peace" came about because of an inspiration, which Father Gianni Sgreva, Passionist and professor of Patrologie, had on January 1, 1985. On this day, he heard in his heart a voice: 'Do you want to surrender to me completely?' Surprised by this experience and not sure what it meant, he returned to Verona, where he was working as a professor and teacher. Then many young people began to come to him. After talks with Cardinal Ratzinger and the Holy Father, he was given permission and began with the novitiate.)

Msgr. Tomasin had also visited Medjugorje and described his experience there as follows: 'The first time I was in Medjugorje was in 1984. A friend, who told me that he had received a great spiritual grace there, suggested that I make the trip. We arrived with our own car. I can still well

The PILGRIM

recall the Communist militia. We arrived at Mostar where we also stayed overnight. One day later, we finally came to Medjugorje. I was very impressed by the landscape. We first went into the church where there were not many people. This is why I was very surprised when, before the beginning of the evening prayer, the church was filling up to the last seat. I saw mainly young people. I felt a deep faith which had nothing to do with fanaticism. I saw many people going to confession. This fact particularly caught my attention. During Mass, I could not understand anything but I saw that there was very deep faith. While many were praying the rosary in church, I was invited to pray the rosary with the visionaries. I was present during an apparition. I was very impressed by the simplicity. The following morning, I got up early and went up Apparition Hill. I prayed for myself, my community and the whole church. In the meantime, many faithful were climbing up Apparition Hill, praying really devoutly. I went to church and remained there praying almost the entire day. This is how I spent my time during my stay in Medjugorje. I did not speak with any of the Franciscans and also not with the visionaries. When I returned home, I felt completely renewed spiritually. Now I understood Mary better and accepted her better as my mother. Now I understood that the Church is being renewed through Her.' 'When I was again named General of the Order, I returned to Medjugore. I traveled via Ancona, accompanied by the local bishop, Msgr. Zanic, who took the opportunity to tell me all about his difficulties. I listened to him attentively. I knew the situation, I knew about the commission and the different opinions. And I also had the same spiritual experiences this time. I returned home and was deeply convinced that many things are happening here, which cannot be explained philosophically or psychologically. The faith and the apparitions are two realities. Nobody can question the fruits of faith in Medjugorje. The presence of God and His grace are obvious and, after sending His grace through the Fathers of the Church, He is now sending it through the Mother of Grace, the Mother of the Sinners, who stood at the cross. For me, this is without a doubt believable. As far as the apparitions are concerned, aside from the conversions and the many other good fruits of faith, there must be still something else. And here we have to wait.'

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

PRESS BULLETIN #93, 06/17/98.

CLOSE TO THE ANNIVERSARY

Honored Friends and devotees of the Queen of Peace! Before us is the 17th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions. When we remember the beginnings, we recall the difficulties, the distrustfulness, the hesitation, the many questions. We also remember the fears. Well, all this is neither that way anymore nor important. Its practically forgotten. Very quickly joy took the upper hand. And once we had yielded our confidence to God through the Queen of Peace, difficulties became completely a matter of

secondary importance. It's hardly worth the trouble to talk about it anymore. There have remained some open questions. There have remained some things that are difficult to explain with human means. Most convincingly of all there has remained God's strength and power. This is all the more meaningful when there is mediated and put before us the consideration of how far away God is from the life of the world and of individuals. **The pilgrims who come to Medjugorje have been convinced by the grace filled activity of God and they continuously return to the source of their experience, the experience that God is powerful.**

The anniversary of the Medjugorje events will again draw tens of thousands of the faithful to the parish of Medjugorje. The multitude of people is an important thing. But the thing we do not need on this kind of occasion is a spectacle and numbers. Pilgrims have already developed the correct sense and are not looking for a spectacle. Therefore more and more for their pilgrimage they choose times when there are less pilgrims, when it is more peaceful and when, not bothered by big crowds, they can form their prayerful moments in peace.

What is primary and most important for this anniversary is to testify to our belonging to the Church and to the Lord, so that the gathering around the Queen of Peace be a promotion of our desires - to put God in the first place. This cannot be substituted by anything else. In this matter parishioners and pilgrims have to become of one heart and justify the trust and the gifts that they have received. This is an occasion for gratitude by which is realized a consciousness that we are not proprietors of, but rather servants of the acts of God. This is an occasion to inquire whether our ways are the ways of Our Lady? Or have we've taken advantage of her name to raise our own views and projects up to the highest place and wrongly taken possession of what is undeserved and not ours?

Dear friends and devotees of the Queen of Peace, let us in these days unite in humble and grateful prayer the way Our Lady expressed it: "The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His Name. . ." (Lk 1:49)

Fr. Ivan Landeka

VISIT OF BRAZILIAN BISHOP

This year in the first week of June the retired Brazilian Bishop Don Silverio Jarbas Paulo de Albuquerque visited Medjugorje. He is a member of the Franciscan Order and from 1970 to 1995 was ordinary for the diocese of Feira de Santana. He spent a week in Medjugorje, accompanied by one of the priests of his diocese.

He briefly summarized the impressions of his stay in Medjugorje: "The strongest impression made on me was the simplicity of prayer and the strong faith of those that I met. There is no kind of fanaticism here. I saw a very great number of young people gathering here. Marian shrines have an important role in the life of the Church."

VISIT OF RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

On June 2, 1998 the Russian Federation ambassador in Sarajevo, Philip Sidorskiy and the OSCE Ambassador for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Vladimir N. Kuznetsov, visited Medjugorje with their escort. In the course of their official travel through Herzegovina they also stopped by in Medjugorje, wishing to get acquainted with the place about which they have heard so much. The Russian officials were introduced to the shrine and engaged in hearty conversation with the Medjugorje Franciscans. During the conversation they showed a special interest in the history of the shrine and in the events connected with the phenomenon of apparitions.

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE of 6/25/98 via Medjugorje Visionaries and Franciscans

Dear Children! Today I desire to thank you for living my messages. I bless you all with my motherly blessing and I bring you all before my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

REFLECTION on Our Lady's MESSAGE of 6/25/98, the Seventeenth Anniversary.

I greet all those who follow the message of Our Lady and with Mary I want to say thank you for following Her messages. Before we begin to reflect on Her last message, I wish to remind us of the message of May. In that message, Our Lady invited us to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit through prayer and sacrifice. We should not forget that this invitation is not only for the Novena to the Holy Spirit but for the entire year, which the Pope has consecrated to the Holy Spirit.

I hope that we, who are living Our Lady's messages, will call upon the Holy Spirit daily to enlighten and renew each one of us, our families, the whole Church and the entire world. Of special importance was the word that we make a decision for God, the Creator, because from this decision follows the decision for our own life, that we accept it as a gift from God, that we protect and love it but that we also

HELP NEEDED:

Volunteer or part-time person with compensation for travel need to set up and maintain a **PFMC Web Site**. Many ideas available but no time to maintain. Decision on method of hosting and service provider still to be finalized.

Volunteer or part-time person with compensation for travel needed to set up and maintain **ACCESS** data base(s) for all **PFMC** records starting with mailing list and moving through inventory and pilgrimages.

Call **Keith** at (609) 722-5047, **Monday thru Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, or (609) 768-9228, evenings and weekends.**

do this with the lives of the others.

Each one of us is created by God, the Creator, out of love and only love can give us the right behavior toward ourselves, the others and toward God. God asks us through Mary that we allow Him to change us and to lead us on the path of truth through His Holy Spirit. So we should fight against pride and egotism in us since they are the greatest obstacles in this change.

Mary teaches us to be humble, a humbleness which she expressed when she said, "God, Your will be done, I am Your humble servant!" When we allow God to change us then we will surely become new persons and receive the strength to fight against the bad and negative things in us and to make room for the new and good to grow within us. This is how we want to begin the 18th year in the School of Our Lady and to continue to live as she invites us in Her messages.

At this time all the visionaries were at home and every day after the evening Mass, they prayed with the pilgrims the Novena by reciting Mary's prayer, "My soul magnifies the Lord ..." and those present answered by singing. It was very beautiful to see Ivan, Marija, Mirjana and Jacov on the altar and to pray with them; they also prayed the Creed and the seven Our Fathers with us.

Ivanka had her yearly apparition. On May 7, 1985, Ivanka had her last daily apparition together with the other visionaries. That evening she received the 10th secret and Our Lady told her that she should remain at home the following day. The apparition, which took place at her home, lasted a whole hour and, like Mirjana, Ivanka was told that she would continue to have the apparition once a year, that is on June 25th, the day of the anniversary. So the first yearly apparition for Ivanka took place 1986 and since then Our Lady appears to her once every year.

This year Ivanka prayed with her family at home and the apparition lasted six to seven minutes. Ivanka said that Our Lady was joyful and Ivanka recommended all people to Our Lady and she gave Her blessing to all. During the apparition Our Lady also spoke to Ivanka about the secrets and invited us all to pray for our families during this time, especially for the families with sick family members. Mary called us to open our hearts and to thank Her Son for the great graces. Finally, Mary gave thanks for our prayers and love. So we have the task to pray even more for the families and in our families and during our prayers we should not forget to pray especially for those families with sick relatives, particularly those with sick children.

We celebrated the 17th anniversary with a big event. There were many pilgrims here during the nine days of preparation for the day of the anniversary. It is very difficult to say how many people were here during these days, but on the day of the anniversary, 250 priests concelebrated Holy Mass and an estimated 50,000 people were present. So we consciously want to say, "Thank You God for these 17 years and for having brought back so

many people toward You through Mary; thank You for all those, who have decided for prayer and in prayer are experiencing peace, and thank You, Lord, for all people who pray, fast and make sacrifices for peace. We ask You with Mary for perseverance on the path with Her."

Our Lady has given us a very short message. The shortest message she has ever given was on October 1991 when the war in Croatia became very strong and she said, "Dear children! Pray! Pray! Pray!" In that message she did not say the sentence which she always says, "Thank you for having responded to my call."

In this message Our Lady says ...

TODAY I DESIRE TO THANK YOU FOR LIVING MY MESSAGES

Thanksgiving is a main theme in Mary's messages. With one exception, Mary says in every message, "Thank you for having responded to my call." It is a surprise for us but also a reason to ask ourselves, whom Mary should really thank. Which one of us can really say that she is thinking of me when she says, "Thank you"? Who has really lived and accepted the messages of Our Lady so that she can thank you? But Mary sees all positive and good things, even when they are small, and for these positive and good things, she is thanking. This should be a reason for us to think about the following:

Thanksgiving is the condition for peace among us and also between us and God. The one who thanks shows that he first of all sees the positive things and gives thanks for it. When we thank each other at home for the positive things, we will have peace. When we do not see the positive things but only notice the negative things, criticize them and talk about them, then we will constantly have conflicts, we will not have peace among us and we will be without joy. Also there will not be peace between ourselves and God. When someone does not find a reason to thank God then we can say that he does not have enough faith. God has created everything, He has given us everything we have and only pride and egotism can make us blind for these things and if we do not find the reason to thank Him, then we will also not be able to pray and then we will also really lose our belief in God and live in mistrust against Him. When we find ourselves in difficulties then we say so easily, "God, why me?" but when everything is going well for us then we so easily forget to thank Him. We are called upon to always be thankful and only if we are humble will we be able to always be thankful. Also, where thankfulness ends, that is where sin begins.

Let us take a quick look at the situation when the first sin took place; we can say that sin began there, where Eve became blind toward all things that God had entrusted to her and Adam and only saw that, which was forbidden, or that, which they did not have. This is also how it is in our own lives; when we are not thankful it means that we do not see the good things and that we are open to conflicts and to sin. It is a great danger for us all when we are only

interested in the negative and talk only about negative things. This is a great danger especially in raising children. We are all somewhat deformed professionally and behave like a teacher with the lesson of the students; there where he finds a mistake, he underlines the mistake strongly with a red pen so that it can be seen. Maybe it should be this way in school but when we underline in our lives only the negative things then peace will not be possible and persons will not be able to develop well, especially the children. **Only the one who sees the good things and gives thanks and talks about it, can educate others well.** Those, who only criticize, lose all authority with the children and in school. I believe the same is true of the priests and the homilies. When the priest only criticizes and never talks about good things in the parish then he also loses all authority to say anything else.

The problem in giving thanks is surely our suffering and our cross when the question arises in our heart, "How can I thank God for my suffering and my cross and should I do this at all?" We can only receive the answer through our faith in front of the cross of Jesus. How often do we thank Jesus for His suffering and for His cross and how often do we bless and praise His cross because through His cross He has redeemed us and the world? We believe that all our suffering, whether we have caused it through our own sin or whether the others through their sin have caused our sin and suffering, can turn to the good.

Did not Saint Paul say that for those who believe everything will turn to the good? And I believe the last test of our faith and our relationship to ourselves, to God and to the others is to begin to believe that all my personal sufferings will turn to the good; when and how - this we have to leave to God. But the person, who also thanks God for his own suffering and cross will be freed from anger and mistrust, from fear and depression, he will be able to live in joy and hope.

Thanksgiving is also the deepest expression of faith and the most beautiful fruit of faith. Mary is a thankful servant of the Lord. When we take a quick look at Her prayer, then we see how she gives thanks. Her soul magnifies the Lord, because the Lord has looked upon Her, as His humble servant. She gives thanks for the history of the people, for all that the Lord has done for Her fathers, and she sees that God has heard the small, the humble and the poor and that He does not honor the great and those full of pride, if they remain in their pride and egotism. Mary gives thanks. She sees God's love and God's guidance throughout Israel's history and she sees it also in Her own life. This is what we all really need.

Once I spoke with one of the visionaries about her experiences of heaven, purgatory and hell. The answer she gave me with regard to heaven I like very much; she said, "In heaven we will be giving thanks continuously when we discover all the things God has done for us and we did not see while on earth. We will need all eternity for this thankfulness." So the great task for us all in this 18th year

of the apparitions is to learn to become thankful, which means that we first of all open our eyes for the positive and good things within us, that we say thanks and through this thankfulness experience joy and peace and so protect ourselves from the negative attitudes, that we discover the good and positive things in others and talk about it and give thanks for it - and only then will we have the courage and strength to handle the negative things within us and the others.

We must continuously thank God for His great love, for His fatherly care but especially we must thank Him for this great gift that He has given us during these times. When we look at the Gospel how Jesus healed 10 lepers and only one of them returned to thank Him, the others did not find the time to do so. Only one out of ten - this is too little; if we question ourselves as to whether we are thankful - maybe it is also the same with us. As we are in the school of Our Lady, it should not remain like that.

Mary continues ...

I BLESS YOU ALL WITH MY MOTHERLY BLESSING

What does this really mean? This includes all Her activities as a mother for us. So it is not only a saying like "God bless you", which is also important, but it is Her presence, Her prayers for us, Her prayers with us, Her intercession for us, Her bringing us before Her Son Jesus; she is our mediator, she is our Consoler, she is the one, who intercedes for us and who makes this pilgrimage with us.

All this is Mary's motherly blessing, Her whole behavior toward us. In the past, she has also said that she takes us in Her motherly lap or protects us under Her motherly cape; we also remember that she once said that we can give Her motherly blessing to others and we must become absolutely aware that we can and should carry this blessing in our families and to all people, but not only as a saying but with our totally new behavior toward the others and toward God.

The word 'blessing' comes from the Latin word 'benedicere', which means 'to speak well, to defend, not to judge, to be there for mankind' and that is the blessing. At this moment I hope it is appropriate to say that we should be careful when we carry blessed objects that we don't slip into some sort of magical behavior or mentality.

Magic means to have a formula by which a person can get God under his power; black magic is when a person has the formula to put evil spirits under his power and white magic is when a person thinks that through a certain prayer or a blessed object he can put God under his power. The blessed objects, Mary's blessing and blessings in general are certainly a protection for us but even more, they are an invitation to become aware how we are really behaving. The blessing should call us to do good, to fight against evil and to change our life. The danger is that someone will search for the formula of the blessing or the blessed objects in order to protect himself to be able to

continue to do bad things and to continue to behave in a negative manner and so through the blessing keeps the space to remain in sin. Mary's motherly blessing is a great protection but an even greater invitation to really behave in a manner befitting Her children.

Finally Mary says ...

I BRING YOU ALL BEFORE MY SON JESUS

This is the situation, which should really make us very happy, we are not alone, Mary knows us, she loves us and she brings us before Jesus. What does she say when she brings us before Jesus? Surely she intercedes for us, she prays for us, she also brings before Jesus our problems, our questions, our doubts, our illnesses, our intentions and this should be a renewed impulse for us, that we let ourselves be brought before Jesus through Mary, that we do not resist or that we do not remain in disobedience, that we go this path with Her so that we are also able to bring others in our prayers with Mary before Jesus.

And so we hope that through Her messages, through Her presence and through Her bringing us all before Jesus, Our Lady will help us to attain a new world. This is really our hope but she said in another message, "Without you I cannot do anything. You are so important to me." Through Her presence, Her words and Her prayers, she has helped many persons to obtain a new behavior. And for this we now wish to pray:

Lord, we thank You that You continue to send us Mary. We thank You for Your love and for every grace You give us, for every word You give us through Her. We ask You now to bless us so that our hearts will be open to Her motherly blessing, that our families, our parents and children, our young people and elderly, the healthy and the sick, the rich and the poor will be blessed and that through this blessing, our families, our communities, the whole church and the entire world will be renewed. We ask for Your blessing so that we can fight against the evil in our life and in the lives of the others. We ask You, O God, in the name of your Son Jesus to bless the visionaries and all who have become witnesses of peace during this time. We ask You to give strength to all those who have become tired on the path with Mary, to all those who are without hope and without peace at this time, to all those who have lost the meaning for life. Especially we bring before You in the name of Jesus with Mary all wounded relationships in our families, in the church and in the world from which then come conflicts and wars. We ask You to heal all so that with Mary, our mother, the Queen of Peace, we will already obtain peace here on earth so that one day we will be able to experience peace in heaven through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fr. Slavko Barbaric

Medjugorje, June 29, 1998

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

PRESS BULLETIN #94, 07/01/98.

THE ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated the 17th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady. Through the liturgy and prayer we immersed once more into the secret of God's presence and the motherly love of Our Lady. More than ten thousand pilgrims climbed the Hill of Apparitions and Cross Mountain, they prayed and celebrated the Eucharist. In front of the confessionals there was an atmosphere of remorse and conversion. Thousands of pilgrims had made their pilgrimage on foot. Among them were many young people and children, but there were also many older people. Many of the faithful came from the most distant parts of the world. This 17th anniversary was like all the previous 16 anniversaries. On this 17th anniversary, Our Lady gave us a short but important message -- a message, which contains thankfulness and warmth, directness and closeness. This time, Our Lady did not ask us to be wiser or more reasonable, but she blessed and thanked us instead. This simplicity, of wanting to be one of us, makes it possible for us to understand more easily how she wanted and was able to open Herself to God from the very beginning and how she was filled with joy, despite the afflictions which then came upon Her one after the other.

Our Lady is not afraid to be one of us.

This year's message gives us the opportunity to reflect on some of Her messages of previous anniversaries. She invited us to pray the rosary in order to fight the evil which Satan wants to inflict on the Catholic Church.

Then came the invitation to make the parish into an oasis of peace, which should be well cared-for and pure. Later she called us to get to know the peace which God gives and the love which surrenders to God and pleases Him. She asked us to live Her messages, she was joyful and she thanked for our prayers, sacrifices and pilgrimages. She also did not forget to call us to conversion.

We thank you, Holy Mother, Queen of Peace!

Fr. Ivan Landeka

17TH ANNIVERSARY of OUR LADY'S APPARITIONS in the PARISH of MEDJUGORJE

During these past 17 years the presence of Our Lady in the parish of Medjugorje has been spread by the pilgrims over the entire world. Despite the atrocities of war in our homeland, the message of peace reached even the most remote parts of the world and thus transformed Medjugorje into a parish of the entire world. This was again confirmed by the fact that on the occasion of the 17th anniversary Medjugorje was visited by about 100.000 faithful. It is almost impossible to mention all the countries from which the pilgrims came to honor Our Lady. The most numerous were from Germany, France, the United States, the Czech Republic, Ireland, England, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Rumania, Korea, Argentina, Mexico, Puerto Rico and from Brazil. The largest single group came from Poland, consisting of about 2.000

pilgrims who were accompanied by more than 50 priests. There was also a great number of Korean pilgrims, of whom many came bare-foot to Medjugorje to pray for peace to Mary, the Queen of Peace.

Due to the pilgrims from the many different languages groups, Holy Mass was celebrated in 16 languages during the mornings on the 24th and 25th of June. Alone on these two days 50.000 holy communions were distributed. On the 24th of June, the eve of the anniversary, Holy Mass was celebrated by **Fr. Miro Sego**, who also gave the homily, and **195 priests from 26 countries** were concelebrating. Approximately 30.000 faithful took part in the celebration of this Holy Mass.

In the early morning of June 24th, the seventh "March for Peace" took place. It began at 7 o'clock in the morning with prayers and the blessing of the pilgrims and started from the Franciscan monastery in Humac. About 7.000 pilgrims took part in this march, accompanying the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar to Medjugorje. Upon their arrival in Medjugorje, the pilgrims gathered in front of the church and said a short prayer together. The idea of this "March for Peace" was initiated in the hearts of the pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje at a time when the war was being waged most heavily in 1992. This march of prayer, which follows a route 13 km long, is the answer to the lack of peace, violence and hate, but also an invitation to true peace and reconciliation.

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

PRESS BULLETIN #95, 07/15/98

THE LONGING for GOD

Today a person could easily become confused by thinking and concluding that God has become more or less unimportant to people in today's world. God is not talked about very much in public life. There are no longer lively debates about whether or not God exists. A kind of silence has developed about a theme which had previously set souls afire throughout the centuries. God is now only being discussed silently and those who speak about God loudly seem to spoil any good sentiment towards Him. Likewise, with their lack of restraint and their superficiality they make God even less interesting and less understandable.

However, this reality is deceiving, although man lives more and more as if the spiritual did not exist and the visible were the only measure of all things. Modern-day man suffers from lack of spiritual values and it is for this very reason that many people go astray and search for a meaning of life. This search, which does not accept the need for God and the Spiritual, can only end in darkness and disappointment.

This concealment leads a person to enslavement at the hands of other mere human beings or even illusionary spiritual movements, which most often end up in a deep abyss. In this world, there is a real lack of places and

people to whom one can reveal one's longing for God and for His closeness.

Medjugorje is a place where people who are searching for God do not hide or disguise their desire for God. They feel that here they may reveal their problems and difficulties and that they will be taken seriously by both God and the Church. This is the greatness and strength of Our Lady's words and messages, which want to lead us to God.

Pater Ivan Landeka

THE NUMBER of HOLY COMMUNIONS

During the month of June 145.000 holy communions were distributed at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. Holy Mass was concelebrated by 3.689 priests from Croatia and many foreign countries, which is an average of 122 priests daily.

SEMINAR for PRIESTS

The Second International Seminar for Priests was held at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace from June 30 to July 6, 1998. About 160 priests from England, Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Poland, America, Spain and Croatia took part. The theme of the seminar was "Priests in the School of Mary". The largest group of about 50 priests came from Poland. During the seven days the priests listened to lectures, contemplated, prayed, celebrated the Eucharist together and climbed the Hill of Apparitions and Krizevac. The seminar was organized by Father Slavko Barbaric and the lecturers included Don Cosimo Cavaluzzo, an Italian priest who especially deals with preaching and helping to organize seminars, the German priest Jörg Müller and Father Jozo Zovko.

STATEMENT of the PARTICIPANTS of the SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS

We 150 priests from 15 countries have participated in the Second International Meeting of Priests, "Priests in the School of Mary", which was held from June 30 to July 6, 1998, in Medjugorje.

At the conclusion of our meeting, we are pleased to announce what we have experienced during these days:

With prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist, the climbing of Podbrdo and Krizevac, lectures arranged for this meeting, we gathered around Mary, the mother of our priesthood, the Queen of Peace, and renewed our priestly vocation and the consciousness of our ministry in the context of preparation for the third millennium.

Deeply thankful to God for everything we have experienced through the Queen of Peace, we announce:

- We remain obedient to the Holy Father and to the entire Church with respect to their position regarding the events of Medjugorje and we await the final judgement of the Church.

- In Medjugorje, we have understood more deeply the sense and meaning of the presence of Mary, our mother,

teacher and pilgrim, who in these times participates in pilgrimages with the pilgrim church, just as the Pope speaks about Her in his documents.

- We have received a real incentive regarding our personal prayer, fasting and the celebration of Holy Mass and a special encouragement regarding to the sacrament of penance and have discovered our priestly duty and power in the battle against evil.

- We return to our parish communities with a great desire to pass on to our faithful our experiences in Medjugorje and with these experiences to more faithfully go on the path of evangelization at the beginning of the new millennium, just as the Holy Father has invited and encouraged us to do.

- We greet all of you with brotherly love and we promise that with our prayer and devoted work we will demonstrate that we are faithful sons of the Holy Church and faithful workers in building Christ's kingdom in the spirit of Mary, the Queen of Peace.

Medjugorje, July 6, 1998

CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

Pr. No 154/81-05922

Citta del Vaticano, Palazzo del S. Ufficio

May 26, 1998

To His Excellency Mons. Gilbert Aubry,

Bishop of Saint-Denis de la Reunion

Excellency,

In your letter of January 1, 1998, you submitted to this Dicastery several questions about the position of the Holy See and of the Bishop of Mostar in regard to the so called apparitions of Medjugorje, private pilgrimages and the pastoral care of the faithful who go there.

In regard to this matter, I think it is impossible to reply to each of the questions posed by Your Excellency. The main thing I would like to point out is that the Holy See does not ordinarily take a position of its own regarding supposed supernatural phenomena as a court of first instance. As for the credibility of the "apparitions" in question, this Dicastery respects what was decided by the bishops of the former Yugoslavia in the Declaration of Zadar, April 10, 1991: "On the basis of the investigations so far, it can not be affirmed that one is dealing with supernatural apparitions and revelations." Since the division of Yugoslavia into different independent nations it would now pertain to the members of the Episcopal Conference of Bosnia-Herzegovina to eventually reopen the examination of this case, and to make any new pronouncements that might be called for.

What Bishop Peric said in his letter to the Secretary General of "Famille Chretienne", declaring: "My conviction and my position is not only 'non constat de supernaturalitate,' but likewise, 'constat de non supernaturalitate' of the apparitions or revelations in Medjugorje", should be considered the expression of

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the personal conviction of the Bishop of Mostar which he has the right to express as Ordinary of the place, but which is and remains his personal opinion.

Finally, as regards pilgrimages to Medjugorje, which are conducted privately, this Congregation points out that they are permitted on condition that they are not regarded as an authentication of events still taking place and which still call for an examination by the Church.

I hope that I have replied satisfactorily at least to the principal questions that you have presented to this Dicastery and I beg Your Excellency to accept the expression of my devoted sentiments.

Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, (Secretary to the "Congregatio", presided over by Cardinal Ratzinger)

This is the summary of the letter:

1. The declarations of the Bishop of Mostar only reflect his personal opinion. Consequently, they are not an official and definitive judgement from the Church.

2. One is directed to the declaration of Zadar, which leaves the door open to future investigations. In the meanwhile private pilgrimages with pastoral accompaniment for the faithful are permitted.

3. A new commission could eventually be named.

4. In the meanwhile, all Catholics may go as pilgrims to Medjugorje.

We can't but be thankful for this long awaited explanation.

(Medjugorje MIR Center via <http://www.medjugorje.org>)

WHAT IS the CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL, BAPTISM in the HOLY SPIRIT, and a LIFE in the SPIRIT SEMINAR?

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is a Vatican supported movement, whose primary purpose is to promote re-release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of our Baptism. The prompting of this re-release happens through *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. The Catholic Charismatic movement began in 1967 with several college students, at a retreat in Pittsburg Pennsylvania, who spent a weekend praying to God for the Holy Spirit. Through this movement, the Holy Spirit has swept around the world, enriching the Church and the spiritual lives of millions. Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has invited Charismatic Renewal to become the *"heart of the church."*

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is prayer for a re-release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are wisdom, discernment, prophecy, tongues, healing, faith and miracles. The purpose of this re-release is to **EMPOWER** Catholics to serve the Church. Baptism in the Holy Spirit leads individuals toward a **DEEPENING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus Christ. These are manifested by an increased presence of the **FRUITS** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**. These are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in their personal lives.

Life in the Spirit Seminars are seminars where speakers provide personal testimonies of how Christ is working in their lives. The following topics are addressed: “God’s Love”, “Salvation”, “New Life”, “Receiving God’s Gift,” “Praising and Growth/Transformation”. Life in the Spirit Seminars are one place that attendees are baptized in the Holy Spirit. You will also experience them at the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center Retreats and Conference. Consider attending the September and February ones coming up.

THE HOLY SPIRIT in OUR LIFE and ACTION

The Human Heart, Soul and Mind

“A ship has sails and rudder;
the wind blows into the sail,
getting the ship to proceed as it should,
so it advances by its sails
and takes its general direction.

Yet this direction could be too vague
and could lead the ship astray at times.

So there is the rudder,
to guide it exactly in its due course
without straying in any way.

Your soul is the ship,
your heart represents the sail,
the Holy Spirit is the wind;
He blows into your will and your soul goes forward,
proceeding towards the goal God proposes for it.

Your mind is the rudder to prevent you,
in the strength and vivacity
of the movement given to your heart,
from departing from the straight line
determined by the divine goodness.”

Venerable Francis Mary Paul Libermann, C.S.Sp.
Second Founder of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost
 (“THE SPIRITANS”, Holy Ghost Fathers, Brothers and
 Associates)

CHARISMATIC CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Charismatic contemplative prayer? “Impossible!” May be our first response. We seem to have already drawn our own picture of each of these spiritualities, perhaps mentally creating a limited and incomplete stereotype of each. Yet, to have the fullness of the Spirit, to earnestly seek oneness with God, we must have *both* spiritualities. One leads naturally into the other, resulting in an overflow of grace which is poured out into the world as active evangelization.

Over the past few years as I have traveled through Europe and across our own country giving retreats of visiting and sharing with other lay communities, both charismatic and contemplative, I have experienced one common thread. There is one word that has been repeated time and time again in prophecy. The Lord is always challenging us, calling us to go deeper. This deepening is not only in our

own personal love relationship with him, but also in our entire spiritual journey, for **our spirits are constantly seeking to rise, always upward, entering the realms of the heavenlies, seeking, always seeking, the creator.** We cannot stand still in our spiritual life. We must be available and flexible when the Holy Spirit calls us to deepen our oneness with himself. Growth and maturity must always be our desire; for, if we stand still, only death can occur.

The means of upward growth is prayer, both charismatic *and* contemplative. **Only when we have discovered this necessary integration can we ascend the heights of the spiritual realm, transcending time as we know it, entering into a place of oneness and intimacy with God.** In prayer we break through into the spiritual realm, being united spirit to Spirit with the divine, triune God. These heights of prayer are known as contemplation. Anything less is superficial, and only touching the surface, keeping our spirits earthbound.

Scripture tells us many times that Jesus himself would withdraw to deserted places to pray (**Luke 5:16**). It also speaks about him rising very early before dawn and withdrawing to a deserted place to pray (**Mark 1:35**). Before choosing the twelve apostles, he departed to the mountains to pray and spent the entire night in prayer (**Luke 6:12**). Therefore, was Jesus’ spirituality not an integration of charismatic and contemplative spirituality?

Let us also look at the early church communities. If the early martyrs were not totally rooted in prayer, fully believing and always seeking to live the apostolic tradition, could they have entered the Coliseum singing praises to their God? They could rejoice only because they had already been invited and led by the Holy Spirit into the inner chamber, the throne room of God. They had an intimate relationship with God before they were asked to lay down their lives, freely accepting God’s will.

Let us finally look at Mary, the one whom God chose as the spouse of the Holy Spirit, the vessel chosen to bring forth Jesus the Messiah into this world. Would she herself have been able to respond as she did so beautifully with the words found in **Luke 1:38, “I am the handmaiden of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word,”** had she not lived in constant union with God?

A God full of mercy and love has likewise called and invited *us* into a relationship with him. It is we who must decide what degree of intimacy with God we wish to pursue. That intimacy can come only through private dialogue with him in prayer.

Scripture says God is Spirit, therefore we must worship him in *spirit and truth*. The very beginning of deepening our relationship with our God must be stirring up the Spirit of God within ourselves. Scripture tells us to enter his courts with praise and thanksgiving. There are many ways to give him praise. Music can aid us in stirring up the spirit. One wonderful way of praising him is lifting our voices to him in our prayer tongues.

We worship him in spirit and truth. What is the truth we seek? God’s truth to us revealed through his word. That is

his dialogue back to us, truth revealed through the Spirit, transforming our minds, our lives into his word, which is truth itself. It is hear that the integration of charismatic and contemplative prayer must intertwine as one, where the Spirit leads us to meet Jesus in the gift of the sacred word, also known traditionally as *lectio divina*.

As we prepare for the third millennium, let us be open to the prompting of the Spirit, who calls us always deeper. Let us seek not the gifts of the Spirit, nor sign and wonders, but seek always first a deeper intimacy with God, who is the giver of these gifts. As we seek him alone, the gifts and signs and wonders will follow abundantly.

In this year of the Holy Spirit, may we not be rigid in our spiritual growth or in our prayer life! Let us be open to the challenge that God is calling us to, and discover how we can seek to integrate charismatic and contemplative prayer in our own lives. We enter God's courts and seek his presence by stirring up his Spirit in our lives through charismatic gifts and praise. We proceed from here into the inner chamber of God's heart through contemplation. Once we have entered this inner chamber, we will seek to remain, but will find ourselves sent forth to live as a holy people of God, empowered to serve, living gospels for all to read.

(from "LAY WITNESS", A Catholic magazine for lay Catholics. , June 1997, with permission. For sample issue, write to 827 N. 4th Street, Steubenville, Ohio, 43952, or call free at 1-800-MY-FAITH)

COME HOLY SPIRIT, RENEW US

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten with Your truth our journey toward the great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

Enable us to witness with ardent faith to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer, who died and rose again for our sake.

He is the one who always comes. He is the Gospel of God's love for humanity, fraternal communion, and of unbounded love.

He is the new shoot that has blossomed in the soil of history; He alone can bring about a genuine renewal of the Church and of society.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

Come, Holy Spirit.

Inflame us with the fire of Your love, so that we will be able to humbly and courageously discern the good and evil present in society.

Help us to listen to Your words with the docile attitude of the disciples, and to be ready, like Mary, the attentive Virgin, to make those words bear fruit in the form of holiness in our personal lives, in our families and in society.

Make us receptive to Christ, who knocks on the door of our heart, and transform us into ardent dwelling places of God.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Pour out the power of Your grace on the Pope and on his Bishops, so that, with evangelical wisdom and apostolic courage, they will be able to show everyone how to

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respond to today's challenges according to the plan of God.

Bestow Your seven gifts on all those called to work in the Lord's vineyard: priests and deacons, those consecrated to the service of witnessing to Your Kingdom, Christian families, and all the faithful.

Work in us, so that our lives might be a sign of a new humanity, reconciled in truth and love, to the praise and glory of the Father.

Come, Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth!

--Pope John Paul II

LISTEN TO MY VOICE; THEN I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND YOU WILL BE MY PEOPLE. (Jeremiah 7:23)

I have been praying all my life, *Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* I ask my self, is God not answering my prayer or perhaps much more likely, am I not listening for the answer to that prayer in my life! The verse of that popular hymn comes to mind also, *Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

It seems to me that the Lord would like me to understand His answer. Perhaps it was here all the time and He wanted to show me *The Way.* I remember it was said, that the early followers of Jesus were called people of *The Way* and that it wasn't until later on at Antioch did they become known as Christians. What is **Your Way** for me at this time Lord?

"Silence," I heard a holy priest once say, "is the main language of the Bible. Never did it say to think." But I remember it does say, *Be still and know that I am God.* That is most difficult for me to do. I do believe, that this is part of the answer to my prayer and perhaps why Mary keeps calling us through her visionaries to "pray with all your hearts."

God, I know, has always been with me every step of the way. When I felt that he was so far from me a sinner, I look back and realize that He was just as close to me as ever. Those times in my life are a strength for me now and for whatever my future may hold.

I have been given the gift to be able to look back and know that I have experienced the merciful love, presence, and forgiveness of God. It was then that I didn't listen and it was then that I wasn't still. Those times were most difficult, but because of them I know with all my heart, as the scripture says, *that nothing can separate me from the love of God.*

God is showing me that He is always calling me to receive "immeasurably more" than I can ask for or imagine in my life. Perhaps, this next step, along His Way for me, is to learn more deeply His language of the Bible. What Lord does this mean for me at this time in my life? Help me Lord to respond to this next step with all my heart and in the fullness of your Holy Spirit! Help me Lord to Rise with your Holy Spirit in prayer above all the distractions of my life and to learn from you! Help me Lord to untie all the bonds that keep me from coming fully into your presence! Help me Lord to live your will as it is lived in

heaven! Help me to *seek first Your kingdom*, for then I believe your Word Lord, *that all else will be given to me!* Help me Lord to understand!

There is a little legend that has been passed down the centuries. It says that the praise for the building of the great Cathedral of Saint Sofia was not given to the Emperor Constantine but to the poor widow Euphrasia, who drew from her mattress “a wisp of straw and gave it to the oxen” that drew the marble from the ships.

I pray Lord, Come O Holy Spirit! Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven and let it begin with me. *Let it be done unto me, according to your Word.* I pray Lord with all my heart, *Speak Lord, your servant is listening!*

(from the thoughts of a PFMC Volunteer, MR)

THE FAMILY, COMMUNION of the SPOUSES

The family as the fulfillment of the relationship “of communion” between parents, the Holy Father continues, represents for them both a *task* and a *challenge*. The *task* involves the spouses in daily living out their original covenant of reciprocal conjugal giving, the will to translate this giving, confirmed by their mutual belonging, into their everyday activity. It is only in their life that they make real and concrete the truth of a love that led them to make of their lives a mutual gift. Living in communion expresses the reality and truth of their conjugal gift in the here and now. Only persons are capable of living in communion and only they are capable of that conjugal gift that is its basic and necessary condition.

The task of the spouses to live out the truth of the mutual gift does not end in the person of the spouse, but, through him, it reaches its immediate goal in the persons begotten by them, and then in all those linked with each one of them. The family as the first social unit thus establishes in society interpersonal relationships that have their beginnings and inspiration in that great expression of love which is marriage.

One characteristic of the truth about the conjugal gift is without doubt the union of the spouses “in one flesh”. Their whole married life must certainly be shaped by that gift, but their union in one flesh is the true and specific expression of that total and original donation. The *Letter* states clearly: **“All married life is a gift; but this becomes most evident when the spouses, in giving themselves to each other in love, bring about that encounter which makes them one flesh (Gn 2:24)”** (n. 12). Therefore, as the **Second Vatican Council** also recalls, this helps them live their whole lives as a gift, that is, making a gift of self to the other, and both giving themselves to their children in everyday life.

It is within this union that spouses are able to become parents. This capacity does not come from without, but belongs to the very nature of this gift. In their self-giving they are able to become parents. “This is a moment of special value both for their interpersonal relationship and for their service to life”. Therefore, the Holy Father states, using an expression of **Paul VI**, “*the two dimensions of*

conjugal union, the unitive and the procreative, *cannot be artificially separated* without damaging the deepest truth of the conjugal act itself” (ibid.).

Fatherhood-motherhood is a decisive element in that fulfillment of the marital covenant in the life of the family. Just as a life that is consistent with that initial gift can deepen and improve the quality of the love that inspired that covenant, a life that denies in everyday practice the truth belonging to the conjugal gift weakens and can even destroy that love. Responsible parenthood strongly contributes and allows the spouses to live the truth of the covenant of conjugal love. “In the conjugal act, husband and wife are called to confirm in a respectable way *the mutual gift* of self which they made to each other in the marriage covenant. The logic of the *total gift of self to the other* involves a potential openness to procreation: in this way the marriage is called to even greater fulfillment as a family” (ibid.).

The destruction of the procreative capacity of the conjugal union, as well as constituting an inconsistency in marriage, attacks the very conjugal gift in it

(“**THY KINGDOM COME**”, August, 1995)

TO the YOUTH: HOW to RESPOND to TODAY’S CHALLENGES

At **Numana** in **Ancona**, from 3rd-6th January, **Fr. Tomislav** held a meeting for the youth following a specific request by them.

“**Respond to the challenges:** was the theme chosen by **Fr. Tomislav** for his talk which is summarized below:

The cage—“When a mouse is kept in a cage for a long time, it dies upon being released, unable to resist. Many people seek God as a refuge and are unable to live. They hide themselves in a hole. This happens to those who seek refuge in a convent and to those who develop within themselves a religious aspect which does not fully blossom: they create for themselves a cage. Those people who do not confront themselves with life’s trials do not fully develop and are not strengthened. God, instead, wants to give to each person a personality which is able to sustain the confrontations with all life’s challenges and be able to find the replies to all life’s questions. Our life is a mystery, but the mystery is illumined by the Holy Spirit.”

Fr. Tomislav used examples to show that the lack of positive replies to life’s challenges leads to attitudes of renunciation and superficiality which block a person from “entering deeply and opening up to the full truth.”

Forms of defiance which impede a positive response—“Not only is remaining in the cage an attitude of indifference, but it is one which destroys, for indifference is part hatred.” Thus, not only do we destroy ourselves with similar attitudes, but we destroy those around us. People who are closed up in themselves generally justify themselves by saying things like: “I don’t know any better; I don’t know what to do,” but in reality behind these expressions are a habit and perhaps a liking for the “cage.”

“Mary,” said **Fr. Tomislav**, “could not understand but she was open to God’s omnipotence, and this aperture allows

one to respond to the world's challenges. Defense defends the evil in us; it defends a sick layer of ourselves. There are three forms of defense: psychological defense, spiritual defense, and Satan-provoked defense with the aim of keeping us in the cage. An attitude of defense can thus favor Satan's work within us.

How to let Jesus respond in us to the challenges—"The living Eucharist: Jesus' work continues to the end of time. We need to give ourselves to Jesus so that He can act in us: give Him your eyes so Jesus can see, give Him your feet so Jesus can walk. Some give everything, even their flesh and blood.

Jesus lives in people, and in these people He continues to forgive and to encourage and to make those in the dark come out. We cannot respond to the world's challenges unless it is Jesus Who does it for us. Jesus in us, in communion with the Holy Spirit, responds to life's challenges...Without aperture to the holy Spirit Jesus cannot even be conceived in us.

When Christians know how to look at the Cross, beyond the Cross, beyond the death of the Son, as Mary did, they are no longer crushed by the world's provocation's. So I say to you: do not run away from trials, for doing so is to run away from yourselves and from those nearest to you: it is to wander aimlessly as Cain did. Rather, live the spirit of aperture there where you are.

Usually people try to run away from trials, but when you are in God your every failure becomes a force which carries you forward. However, when you have everything and when everything goes well for you, you cannot discover or experience this force. Often, in the spiritual life people want to reach a certain level, then rest, as *Elijah* did. But to stop so as to define a spirituality, "a cage," is to remain blocked, and thus you are unable to grow."

A flower in the guitar. On the last day of the meeting a brother from the community found a flower and a note in the chords of his guitar. The note said: "your smiles broke down our resistance. Now that we are more open we look forward to the next meeting, when we will be able to pick up every word!" *Nicola*

(“ECHO of MARY QUEEN of PEACE”, March/April, 1998)

EVANGELIZING CHILDREN

Through the grace of the sacrament of Marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the Faith of which they are the "first heralds" for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one's life.

Education in the Faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family

catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the Faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.

(Catechism, #2225-26)

NEW GROWING RELIGIOUS ORDERS – HAVE YOU THOUGHT of BECOMING a SISTER?

Because of the nonsense that is occurring in many communities of religious, many are well-nigh extinct. However many faithful communities are sprouting up all over the ecclesial landscape. These are in keeping with the Magisterium and fidelity to the Holy Father, and are rich in prayer, contemplation, service and truth. There are other communities other than the list below, but if you are interested in becoming a nun, try contacting the following:

**Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood (contemplative),
400 Pratt Street, Watertown, NY 13601:**

**School Sisters of Christ the King (active), Villa Regina
Motherhouse, 4100 S.W. 56th Street, Lincoln, NE
68522;**

**Disalced Carmelite Monastery of Saint Theresa of the
Child Jesus, 75 Carmel Road, Buffalo, NY 14214**

**Franciscan Sisters of the Spirit of Jesus, Vocation
Director, 1236 N. Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA
70116**

**Passionist Nuns – Saint Louis (contemplative with
strict enclosure) 15700 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO
63011-2300**

**Cloistered Dominican Nuns (apostolic contemplation,
Eucharistic adoration) 1501 Lotus Lane Lufkin, Texas
75904 Telephone 409-634-4233**

**Poor Clare's Monastery 421 South 4th Street Sauk
Rapids, MN 56379-1898 Phone 320-251-3556**

PRIESTHOOD the GIFT of REDEMPTION

Cum Clamore Valido. ...Christ, **“in the days of his flesh, offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears” (Heb. 5:7).** This short passage from the Letter to the Hebrews offers a wonderful synthesis of the theme of the priesthood; first of Christ's priesthood and, in Him, of our own priesthood.

Christ, the only-begotten Son of the Father, is the Eternal High Priest to whom the heavenly Father says: **“You are my Son, today I have begotten you” (Heb. 5:5).** This *today* is eternal. Do we not recite in the Creed: God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, one in Being with the Father? The Father called His eternal Son to the priesthood. **“You are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek” (Heb. 5:6).** And so that this could be fulfilled, the Son, consubstantial with the Father, became

man and was born of the Virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is why, **“in the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him [the Father] who was able to save Him from death” (Heb. 5:7).** How can one fail to see in this passage an allusion to His prayer in Gethsemane: **“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me” (Mt. 26:39).** Although He was not spared the cup, we nonetheless read that **“He was heard for his godly fear. Although He was Son He learned obedience through what He suffered” (Heb. 5:7-8).**

Judged, condemned to death, scourged, and crowned with thorns, He fulfilled His messianic mission on the wood of the Cross. He made Himself **“obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8).** He was “made perfect” precisely through His death and **“became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9).**

Ministerial Priesthood is a Gift and Mystery

The Eucharist perpetuates this sacrifice in the life of the Church. **“My flesh is food indeed,” Jesus says, “and my blood is drink indeed” (Jn. 6:55).** His bloody sacrifice is accomplished in an unbloody manner under the appearances of bread and wine, in fulfillment of the very ancient figure of **Melchizedek, King of Salem**, “priest of God Most High” who, after blessing Abraham, victorious over an enemy coalition, **“brought out bread and wine” (Gen. 14:18).**

During these days, as I recall the 50th anniversary of my priestly ordination, I hear in the depths of my soul the words of the *Ecce Sacerdos magnus*, which highlight so well “the gift and the mystery” of the ministerial priesthood.

Dear brothers in the priesthood, ordained like me 50 years ago! The gift we received by the imposition of the bishop’s hands is a *mystery* of communion which produces communion; this is why I wished to have you beside me on this occasion so full of joy and deep feeling.

I would like these days, during which we meditate together on our priesthood, to reproduce the atmosphere of the Upper Room in intense mutual prayer around Christ, the source of our priestly being. You have come even from very distant regions: Thank you for your presence.

Fifty years after my ordination, the memory of that blessed day flashes before my eyes, in a flood of the most intimate feelings. Once again I see the venerable Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Sapieha, my predecessor in the Metropolitan See and a true father, who by the imposition of hands made me share in Christ’s priestly ministry. In him, I always found the noblest example of solid human virtues and generous dedication to the duties of the Episcopal ministry.

My affection and gratitude embraces all those who helped lead me to the altar: from my family to the parish where I

was born, from the factory surroundings to the underground seminary, from my confessors to the many other priests who were my friends. I gratefully remember all those who helped me discover the treasure of the inheritance of Jesus Crucified, who said: “Behold your Mother,” and encouraged me to take Mary into my interior home. So many people dear to me: men and women, learned and simple! Most of them are now in eternity. I trust that, in God’s light, they are continuing to follow me with an even more helpful and radiant presence.

Fifty years have passed, my jubilant brothers. The words of the Letter to the Hebrews apply to us all: **“For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins” (Heb. 5:1).**

Strength of Renewal Comes from the Tabernacle

To this call we replied: “Here I am!” We answered with conviction and joy, expressing in these brief words the public and solemn proclamation of an earlier “Here I am”: the one which sprang from the depths of our being under the radiant beams of the Holy Spirit’s action when, in a history similar yet different for each one of us, we became aware of the call to extend the one redemptive work of Christ, the Eternal High Priest.

Our “Here I am” expresses our willingness, entrusted into the hands of the bishop who ordained us, to live the precious value of celibacy for the Kingdom as a gift of ourselves “in” and “with” Christ.

“Here I am” expresses the “yes” of service to our brothers and sisters amid apostolic joys and difficulties, in an attitude of detachment and humility.

“Here I am” is the phrase that rises from our inmost depths every day, when celebrating Holy Mass we present the sacrifice of the cross to the Father, for the good of all humanity.

“Here I am” is the answer to the question of meaning which wells up in so many hearts. The strength to renew this gift without reserve comes from a daily pause in front of the tabernacle, where Christ, our strength and our support, is truly present. The tabernacle is our lasting school of authentic renewal, a school of sacrificial love and pastoral energy.

With the imposition of the bishop’s hands and the prayer of consecration, we were, 50 years ago, configured ontologically to Christ the Priest and Teacher, Sanctifier and Shepherd of His people.

We are gathered together in these days to repeat our “Here I am!” to the Lord. With every passing day this must get strengthened within us, as an expression of interior, enduring youthfulness: **“Introibo ad altare Dei, ad Deum qui laetificat iuventutem meam...” (Ps. 43:4).**

As the years pass, little by little our physical strength declines. But our inner strength does not follow physical laws. In fact, the priesthood cannot be reduced to its merely functional aspects. We are ministers of Christ and of His Bride (cf. *Directory for the Ministry and Life of*

Priest, no. 44) and, as long as God so wishes, a formidable task still awaits us. May we never be discouraged by problems and trials, nor succumb to the temptation to repeat Jeremiah's complaint: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am old." The Lord encourages us: **"Do not say 'I am old'; for to all whom I send you shall go, and whatever I command you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Behold I have put my words in your mouth" (cf. Jer. 1:6-9).**

Is there a more sublime vocation than the priesthood?

Dear brothers in the priesthood, our thanks to Christ on this significant day are combined with feelings of humility and prayer for God's mercy. We experience solidarity with all those who are living in ignorance and error, because we too are beset with human weakness (cf. **Heb. 5:2**). This is why each one of us must **"offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people" (Heb. 5:3)**. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we confess our sins at the beginning with the faithful and ask God to forgive us: *Misereatur nostri omnipotens Deus et dimissis peccatis nostris perducatur nos ad vitam aeternam* [May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life].

Thus, day by day our priestly ministry is carried out. Day by day, in a certain sense, we make our lips and hands available to Christ for the administration of the various sacraments, starting with the Eucharistic sacrifice, "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 11).

Can there be a greater or more sublime vocation than this? This is why it is a source of inner joy for me to give thanks to God with you, dear brothers, in such a solemn way, for the ineffable gift of the priesthood. It was right that I, Bishop of Rome, should first make this thanksgiving with Rome's diocesan community—and that took place on All Saints' Day—and then with all of you who represent the universal Church.

Cum clamore valido—with loud cries we raise fervent prayers and entreaties (cf. **Heb. 5:7**) to God the Father and Creator, so that Christ's paschal mystery may protect the world and humanity from all evil. May God likewise grant all of us to hasten the fulfillment of His Kingdom, revealed to us by His only Son.

With these sentiments, let us now sing the *Magnificat*, invoking Mary's motherly intercession and her constant protection: "*Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, sancta Dei Genitrix*" [We fly to thy protection, holy Mother of God"].

May divine grace help us to make every instant of our life a growth in that love which, in time, is recognized by fidelity!

(Reflection of Pope John Paul II marking the 50th anniversary of his ordination, November 1, 1996)

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

Holy and provident Father, You are the Lord of the vineyard and the harvest. And you give each a just reward

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for his work. In your design of love you call men and women to work with you for the salvation of the world. We thank you for Jesus Christ, your living Word, who has redeemed us from our sins and is among us to assist us in our poverty. Guide the flock to which you have promised possession of the Kingdom. Send new workers into your harvest. And set in the hearts of pastors faithfulness to your plan of salvation, perseverance in their vocation, and holiness of life.

Christ Jesus, who on the shores of the Sea of Galilee called the apostles and made them the foundation of the Church and bearers of your Gospel in our day, sustain your people on its journey. Give courage to those whom you call to follow you in the priesthood and the consecrated life, so that they may enrich God's field with the wisdom of your Word. Make them docile instruments of your love in the everyday service of their brothers and sisters.

Spirit of holiness, who pour out your gifts on all believers and, especially, on those to be Christ's ministers, help young people to discover the beauty of the divine call. Teach them the true way of prayer, which is nourished by the Word of God. Help them to read the signs of the times, so as to be faithful interpreters of your Gospel and bearers of salvation.

Mary, Virgin who listened and Virgin of the Word made flesh in your womb, help us to be open to the Word of the Lord so that, having been welcomed and meditated upon, it may grow in our hearts. Help us to live like you the beatitudes of believers and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity to evangelizing all those who seek your Son. Grant that we may serve every person, becoming servants of the Word we have heard, so that remaining faithful to it we may find our happiness in living it.

Amen!

(Pope John Paul II)

DO YOU HAVE ANY RELIGIOUS BOOKS, MAGAZINES, ROSARIES, CRUCIFIXES or HOLY CARDS?

The following ministries are in need of religious items. Many of us have things sitting around, and they could be put to good use. Catholic digest, or any other Catholic magazines as well as prayer cards, and rosaries are BADLY needed in the missions and in prisons at home.

Would you prepare a box and send it to: **Reverend Garfield, House of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, 1275 Trichy Road, Near Sreepathy Theatre, Coimbatore - 641.018, Namil Nadu South India, India** The same are needed in the Central Jail in Los Angeles, California. Send them to **Brother Larry J. Moen C.M.F., Catholic Chaplain, Central Jail, 411 Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.**

LETTERS:

Dear Keith and Kathleen,

I want to thank you for your kindness and consideration with always providing me with a copy of "The Pilgrim". It never ceases to inspire me and it comes at a most timely

moment, usually when I need to focus on Our Lord and Our Lady, not on the difficulties before me.

The messages of Our Lady from Medjugorje are wonderful. They bring me again to Medjugorje and remind me of all the graces and blessings God has poured out on the world. Your prayers at the beginning of the periodical is very helpful in cutting through the pitfalls and snares that sometimes complicate our perspective and prevent us from simply seeing the source of our strength and consolation.

In addition, I love Fr. Slavko's interpretation of the messages for his insights provide a sound theological basis for trust as well as instilling a yearning for prayer and sacrifice for those that don't know the love of God—a central message of Medjugorje.

Moreover, the articles that appear concerning abortion and other relevant issues bring me an acute awareness of what is happening in the Church in these very significant areas, thus allowing me to renew my efforts at prayer and concern for the well-being of others.

In essence, you are helping me to grow in my love for Jesus Christ, the Church and Our Lady, for which I am extremely grateful. Please continue to nourish the Christian community in New Jersey with Our Lady's warmth, love and motherly tenderness.

Very truly yours in Christ
Robert J. Sadlack

Dear Keith and Kathleen and Staff,

I have been blessed by the work of your Center. The news letter comes monthly, and I have all I need to read over the month. It spiritually fills me with wisdom. It must take a lot to find the articles and publish as you do. Thank you and keep them coming.

I have come to your retreats, and it led me to confession after many years of being away. Now, I go to Mass daily, pray my rosary from my heart, and love our Blessed Mother in a way I never thought could exist. And I have received many blessings of the Holy Spirit, including manifestations of gifts I never would have recognized had I not attended last years retreat. I look forward to February's next retreat. I even am saving to go to Medjugorje with you sometime, because I know Our Lady is calling me there.

May God be with you all. I enclose a donation for your new Center, and for the newsletter. And I pray for a donation to come that would take care of all your concerns, and allow you to focus on just the work of Our Lady and the Holy Spirit. I encourage all who read this to help out this beautiful ministry.

Love and prayers,
Peggy

Dear Kathleen and Keith,

God Bless you and the staff for sending the PILGRIM each month. We are pleased to enclose \$5 this month to assist. Our prayers are with you.

In Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Bob and Mary Ann

BOOK REVIEWS

MASS CONFUSION – THE DO'S and DON'TS of CATHOLIC WORSHIP

James Akin, using exhaustive research and quotes, informs the Catholic reader of the crisis in Catholic liturgy. Even priests are bewildered by the contradictory information put out by liturgical "experts". Are you confused as you go to Holy Mass and see one priest do the liturgy in one way, and another in a different way?" What has happened to the universality of the Catholic Church?

This book is a one of a kind and will help the ordinary person to know what is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic in our liturgy. You will be able to confront errors, and write to your bishop about the need for what we have a right to have.

This book cuts through the confusion. It empowers priests and laity to deal with the "liturgical elite." It explains what the Church does and doesn't allow. It distills the answers from a mountain of liturgical documents. It provides information in a clear and concise way. It silences personal "**REINTERPRETATIONS**" of the Church's liturgical law. It documents your **RIGHT** to have Mass celebrated as the Church intended.

Father Mitch Pacwa, S.J. states of this book "Priests are pulled to the "left" and to the "right" by groups with different agendas. This book cuts through the agendas and helps us steer a course toward a liturgy that is valid, licit, joyful, and focused on God rather than on the 'community.'"

You will want a book for yourself, and order one for your parish priest. They may seem expensive at a requested donation of \$15.99, but I can assure you that it will become your liturgical bible, and help you very much.

THE GIFT of the CHURCH

This book by **Monsignor Bob Guste** is an excellent apologetic—defense of the Church for 1998. He is most current. He answers very succinctly and to the point many questions that are in the minds of Catholics today.

Why do we need an institutional Church/Denominationalism is too restrictive—one church is as good as another—isn't it? Proud to be a Catholic gives an answer to this question for so many who are leaving the Church for greener pastures. I can go directly to God for forgiveness, I don't need to go to a mere man. Monsignor Guste answers this burning question with Putting Flesh on His Forgiveness.

Monsignor Guste knows his doctrine. He knows his non-Catholic brethren. One problem after another he responds to with gentleness and clarity. In the chapter "*A Papa for the Family*"—he shows why and how Jesus set up Peter as the head of the Church. He points out how many of our Protestant Brethren would like to have such a mainstay in their churches.

In addition to the four marks of the True Church, one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic, he points out five other marks of the Church: "*Why Mary*", "*Isn't Jesus*

Enough?"; "The Eucharist Just Symbolic or For Real?"; "The Pope and the Church"; "Life and the Act of Love That Leads to Life" (The Good News about birth control), and finally "The Message of the Crucifix". He ends the book in the Epilogue, "Our Mission".

One burning question he puts in this final chapter is: **has it occurred to them (us) that it may not be the teachings of the Church that have to change, but the hearts and lives of us all?**

Here he teaches on the New Pelagianism, which believes in human effort alone and ignores and downplays the supernatural—the work and power of God. This is dangerous! **Pius XII** warned about this. All activity is without any base in the spiritual. **Monsignor** quotes **Karl Rahner** as warning us. He pointed out that "unless we make God's Love and God's Will primary, we no longer will know what is truly good for our neighbor and what it means to sincerely love God's children." He goes on to warn: "the door is open to every kind of aberration under the heading of 'compassion' or 'love'". A prime example is this so-called 'mercy killing'.

In conclusion, I believe that **this book is for those who have left the Church, those contemplating leaving the Church and those still in the church, to understand better why they stayed.** I would also suggest that readers be sure to read the Appendix which is on birth control, natural family planning, third world problems. Here is a wealth of information.

(Father Jim Sauchelli)

SEVEN SURE PATHS to HOLINESS and PEACE

By **Gerald Vann**. Jesus revealed seven paths to holiness. Follow them, He told the people, and you'll bring peace to the world and your turbulent soul will grow calm.

You can learn to travel these seven paths that lead to the heart of God. You'll discover there the holy compassion that alone brings God's peace, healing, and joy to our suffering world. You'll experience the seven sweet blessings of Christ, and having done so, you'll be guaranteed a place in God's kingdom. You will grow in wisdom and holiness, and soon experience the joy that comes from being a disciple filled with truth and compassion of Christ. Requested donation is \$15.95. It is worth reading and praying through.

A LITTLE CATECHISM on the HOLY ROSARY in RELATION to the IMAGE of OUR LADY of GRADALUPE

By **Miguel Guadalupe**, this book reveals unexpected dimensions for those who enter into it through meditation. When prayed, it helps us to understand why Our Lady insistently pleads for its recitation, and it helps us to understand something of its apocalyptic significance. It answers questions of why the cross is found at the beginning of the Rosary, why the Rosary forms a circle, why we call it the Rosary, and what the significance of the beads. Requested donation is \$4.95. This book is perfect for your pocketbook, and to give as a gift.

MARY of NAZARETH

Author **Dr. Kenneth Howell** places before you one of the most pressing needs of the Christian world at the dawn of the third millennium. How can Christians, who have been separated by centuries of misunderstanding and mistrust find unity in their faith? No woman in history has been so honored in some human hearts while being ignored by others. For that reason, no genuine unity can exist among Christians which ignores the central role played by Jesus' Mother in the history of salvation.

This book will explain how troubling Catholic doctrines of Mary are rooted in the biblical testimony. The scriptural meditation will touch your mind and heart as you enter into the beautiful life by which Mary gave the world its Redeemer.

This book is endorsed by **Mark Miravalle**. It is EXCELLENT, and touches the problems in the Church. The requested donation is \$7.95, and it is worth every penny. It is an excellent book to give to family members and to priests.

THE AMAZING SECRET of the SOULS in PURGATORY

By **Sister Emmanuel of Medjugorje**, this little book answers questions such as: What is Purgatory?, How do souls get there?, Who decides if a soul goes to Purgatory?, What are the sins that most lead to Purgatory? How can we help get a soul released?, Are there religions which are bad for the soul? Are there children there? And How can I avoid Purgatory. By **Queenship Publishing Company**, the requested donation is \$4.95

ALWAYS PRECIOUS in OUR MEMORY – REFLECTIONS after MISCARRIAGE, STILLBIRTH or NEONATAL DEATH

What a tragedy it is when a baby dies in the womb or at birth or as an infant. No words of consolation or sympathy can make the pain go away. The unfulfilled dreams for that little one will remain in the hearts and minds of parents and family members forever.

This book is a collection of heartfelt meditations that address the powerful emotions felt by mothers and fathers who have endured the death of their baby.

This book by **Kristen Johnson Ingram** is healing, supportive, full of profound insights, and gives comfort in grieving. Requested donation is \$8.95, and is excellent to leave at a bedside when visiting a grieving family. We cannot recommend it enough.

FOR ALL BOOKS REVIEWED ABOVE, PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP, AND PHONE NUMBER TO THE PFMC. ADD \$3 FOR POSTAGE. YOU MAY CHARGE ON YOUR DISCOVER, MASTERCARD OR VISA. SEND CHARGE NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATE. ORDER WILL BE SENT OUT PRIORITY MAIL.

THE *PILGRIMS* of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a **store**. We operate like a **church pamphlet rack** where you **make selections** and **offer a donation** based on **value** posted or received. We are NOW able to accept credit card payments. Please patronize your local Catholic Book Store as well as the **PFMC**.

COMPLETE ADDRESS — USE RETURN ADDRESS LABEL or STAMP!!!

ALWAYS fully complete any order forms or give us full address with any letter order. Consider using one of the many mailing labels each of us receives in our mail so that we can see your address clearly printed and often with the ZIP+4 which is supposed to speed the mail delivery.

We appreciate the communication so that we can correct our mailing labels and list. ORDER and SPONSOR "**The PILGRIM**" for your favorite religious or priest.

BLESSED OIL

Kathleen has bottles of blessed oil from **Medjugorje** blessed at Holy Mass in **Saint James** and then carried to **Vicka's** house to be present in the room during an apparition. Volunteers transfer the oil to small bottles for you or your prayer group to use as a sacramental. We also have blessed oil from the Little House of Our Lady in **Loreto, Italy**.

Read the articles in the *November* and *December 1994* issues as well as the **Bible** readings for the **Holy Week Christ Mass** about Blessed Oil and Oil of Gladness.

Oil from Medjugorje and Our Lady of Loreto is a sacramental and should be handled as such. It is NOT the same as the oils blessed by the Bishop for official church ceremonies or during administration of the sacraments by a priest.

We request a \$5 donation per small bottle, this covers \$4 for the bottle, packaging and special handling plus \$1 mailing or postage expense.

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD AVAILABLE

We now accept **DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE, MASTER CARD** and **VISA** for all donations to the **PFMC**. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats and for "**The PILGRIM**" or the building fund.

This availability does not come without its cost to us. Every charge card use costs us about 3% of the total charged. Since we had to invest heavily in new equipment and must pay fees beyond the per charge cost to us, there will be 3% **PROCESSING FEE, non-refundable if credit is necessary**, added to each charge card bill that is processed.

BULLETIN NOTICES

We need YOUR HELP, with your **Parish Bulletin Coordinator**. Would you be so kind as to take the following BULLETIN NOTICES to your **Pastor** and / or **Parish Bulletin Coordinator** and ask them to publish these notices for your interest and because you an active parishioner has asked.

Thank you.

CATHOLIC RADIO

Listen to **Dominic Lettieri** and his ***In His Sign (HIS) Ministries*** guests on ***Putting It on the Line, WTMR-AM 800***, Monday thru Friday, 5 PM to 6 PM. Call in on (610) 527-2906 or (888) 34 FAITH [343-2485].

Intensive RETREAT with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ

September 25, 1998, Friday 5:30 PM to 2 PM, Tuesday September 29, 1998. Formation Retreat for leaders in Ministry and all Prayer Groups. \$60 registration with the **PFMC** for the retreat. Book your room yourself at the **Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ** by calling **1-800-HILTONS**. Rooms are \$85 for 2 double beds in a room. Call **Kathleen** at (609) 768-9228 for additional information.

PILGRIMAGE to the SHRINES of ITALY

Join **Father Joseph Sioli, C.O.** as Spiritual Director and **Kathleen Werner** as Coordinator from *November 1 thru 14, 1998*.

Visit Milan, **DaVinci's** painting of the **Last Supper**, **Basilica of Saint Ambrose, Montechiari** and the site of **Rosa Mystica, Padua, Florence, Ravenna, Siena, Assisi, Loreto, Lanciano, Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii, Sorrento, Mugnano and Saint Philomena, Monte Cassino and Rome**. Tour the **Sistine Chapel**, the **Catacombs, Christian Rome** and optional **Ancient Rome**.

Enjoy an audience with **Pope John Paul II**, and celebrate Mass with **Father Sioli** in the **Vatican**.

\$2550 from **Pittsburgh** to **Philadelphia, Milan and Rome** or \$2399 from **Philadelphia** includes all breakfasts and suppers, and a gala farewell dinner.

Call **Kathleen** at (609) 768-9228. Deposit of \$500 plus \$79 insurance must be in by *August 30, 1998*. Book this one EARLY.

One Day RETREAT for MARRIED COUPLES

Saturday, November 21, 1998 **Saint Pius X Retreat House** in **Blackwood, NJ**. Retreat master is **David Haggerty, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.** Cost is \$100 per couple or \$55 per person. This includes Lunch and Supper. Call **Kathleen** at (609) 768-9228.

CALENDARS:

In *August*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **ASSUMPTION (15)**, the Feasts of the **Transfiguration (6)**, **Saints Lawrence (10)** and **Bartholomew (24)** and the Memorials of **Saints Alphonsus Liguori (1)**, **John Vianney (4)**, **Cajetan (7)**, **Sixtus II and Companions (7)**, **Dominic (8)**, **Clare (11)**, **Pontian and Hippolytus (13)**, **Maximilian Kolbe (14)**, **Jane Frances de Sales (18)**, **John Eudes (19)**, **Bernard (20)**, **Pope Pius X (21)**, **Louis of France (25)**, **Joseph Calasanz (25)**, **Monica (27)** and **Augustine (28)** as well as the **Queenship of Mary (22)** and the **Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist (29)**.

In *September*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of the **Birth of Mary (8)**, the **Triumph of the Cross (14)** and **Saints Matthew, Apostle (21)** and **Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (29)**, and the Memorials of **Saints Gregory the Great (3)**, **Peter Claver (9)**, **Cornelius and Cyprian (16)**, **Robert Bellarmine (17)**, **Januarius (19)**, **Cosmas and Damian (26)**, **Wenceslaus (28)**, **Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (28)** and **Jerome (30)** as well as **Our Lady of Sorrows (15)**. Church calendars show Labor Day (7).

AROUND THE PFMC AREA

SPLENDOR of TRUTH CONFERENCE

Saturday, 19 September 1998 – Saint Joseph's University.

RETREAT with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ
Friday, 5:30 PM, September 25, 1998, to 2 PM, Tuesday September 29, 1998. Formation Retreat for Leaders in Ministry and Prayer Groups. \$60 registration with the **PFMC**. for the retreat. Book your room yourself at the **Hilton, Cherry Hill, NJ** by calling **1-800-HILTONS**. Rooms are \$85 for 2 double beds in a room. See calendar item on page 2, bulletin notice on page 27 and enclosed information sheet. Call (609) 768 9228 for information.

The **PILGRIM**

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NON-PROFIT and TAX EXEMPT

Keith and Kathleen Werner,
Co-Directors, 129 Deerfield Avenue,
Atco (Evesham), NJ 08004-2716
(609) 768-9228 FAX: (609) 768-9428



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If there is no time to read it all right now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives.

We operate on divine providence and the kind donations of those who can afford to support us.

PRIESTS! Please note that **HOMILY** ideas have come from priests reading articles in "**The **PILGRIM!****"

