



The PILGRIM

Vol. 11, No. 11 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

November 2000

MESSAGE of 10/25/2000

Dear Children! Today I desire to open my motherly heart to you and to call you all to pray for my intentions. I desire to renew prayer with you and to call you to fast which I desire to offer to my Son Jesus for the coming of a new time – a time of spring. In this Jubilee year many hearts have opened to me and the Church is being renewed in the Spirit. I rejoice with you and I thank God for this gift; and you, little children, I call to pray, pray, pray – until prayer becomes a joy for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(A copy of a message claimed to be given by the Blessed Virgin Mary to Marija Pavlovic Lunetti on September 25, 2000. The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of this Medjugorje message.)

Father Slavko Barbaric's REFLECTION begins on page 23.

A PRAYER



O most Holy Trinity, You who inhabit the souls of the just, dwell in each of us guiding us to Grace.

Instill in us a deep horror of offending Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Show us the power that sin has as it destroys Christ's temple, and deprives us of our intimate friendship with God.

Help us to know that Your presence is an anticipation of the Beatific Vision. Your presence, O Spirit of God, is our invitation to increase constantly the intensity of our personal closeness to God.

He is the one we are called to seek out in the depths of our soul at every moment, of every day of our lives.

AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS on the DEVELOPMENT and HISTORY of CHRIST'S CHURCH



Dean Pulcini will be leading Wednesday night seminars on "DEFENDING YOUR FAITH." He offers a basic understanding of his Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

These interactive seminars help the student to grasp clearly what the Church authentically teaches and aid in dispelling misinformation, misunderstanding, and myths. Persons of other faiths interested in learning about Catholicism are invited to attend as well.

Based on popular demand we are switching these seminars to Wednesday evenings in November. The Wednesday evening seminars are held in the Great Room of Epiphany House from 7 PM to 9 PM.

Dean has a Master's degree in Sacred Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, CT. Scripture, Morality, and Liturgy are his areas of expertise. He is a certified Youth Minister in the Diocese of Camden. As a catechist, he has taught grades 1 through 12 as well as college students in adult education. His combined total experience in the field amounts to over 20 years. He has offered his services within the Dioceses of Camden and Harrisburg, the Archdioceses Baltimore and the Armed Services (formerly the Military Ordinariate), and abroad in the Archdiocese of Munich, Germany.

On line, Dean hosts a Catholic Theology chat room founded to address questions about the Catholic faith.

Active in music ministry, Dean leads the choral group VOYAGE. He has composed hundreds of pieces of

"The PILGRIM" for November 2000 is dedicated to "Our Lady of a Happy Death." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."

music, some of them being accepted for publication. He has produced music albums on tape and CD.

Dean is certified as a Psychiatric Social Worker in the State of New Jersey. For nearly 12 years, he has worked in Camden County, NJ, with homeless persons suffering from mental illnesses.

Some related topics of the course include:

Where Do Catholics Find THAT in the Bible?

The Bible and Sacred Tradition, the two founts of revelation.

Are Good Works Necessary for Salvation?

Justification and salvation: faith alone versus faith and good works.

How Can the Pope Be Infallible?

The history and development of the Petrine Ministry.

Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints?

A proper understanding of the role of the Mother of God and the holy angels and saints of the Lord as well as a review of mediation and intercession; also a study on the use of statues and images and iconoclasm.

Do Catholics still believe in Purgatory?

Understanding the afterlife, sin, reward, indulgences, and intercession.

Aren't the Mass and Other Catholic Practices Rooted in Pagan Rites?

Reviewing the Sacred Liturgy, the sacrificial nature of the Mass, the history and development of the various ecclesiastical rites.

Can the Catholic Church be the "Whore of Babylon?"

A look at the book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) and its relevance.

Why Is Confession Necessary; Why Not Confess Directly to God?

Understanding sin, Penance and reconciliation with God and the Church.

What about ALL the Corruption; from Inquisitions to Sexual Abuse?

A scope of the corruption of mankind and the purity of the Church.

Who Gives the Church the Right to Morally Dictate?

A look at ethics, morality and the obligation of fidelity to Christ.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: In November, 2000, these seminars will begin again from 7 PM to 9 PM on Wednesday nights, i.e. November 8th, 15th, skipping the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, then November 29th, December 6th, 13th, and 20th. They will continue on Wednesday nights in 2001.

Free will offering baskets are out. Suggested offering is \$5 per night. The PFMC display room and library will be open. We would appreciate if you would call 856-768-9228 if you plan to attend.



PRAYER GROUP TO MEET AT EPIPHANY HOUSE - JOIN US ON THURSDAY'S

A prayer group is moving from private homes to the PFMC Epiphany House Great Room and will meet from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM on Thursdays. This prayer group focuses on Marian Prayer, is Charismatic, and prays for Healing. All are most welcome.

BIBLE STUDY - "TYPOLOGY" with PETER DAWSON, 1st and 3rd MONDAY'S at 7:30 PM

Bible study using "TYPOLOGY" lead by Peter Dawson will be held in the Great Room of Epiphany House on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 128. "The Church, as early as apostolic times, [Cf. [1 Cor 10:6, 11](#) ; [Heb 10:1](#) ; [1 Pet 3:21](#) .] and then constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through **TYPOLOGY, which discerns in God's works of the Old Covenant prefigurations of what he accomplished in the fullness of time in the person**

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the PFMC recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged Marian apparitions, locutions and related messages at, and to the recipients from, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the Holy See, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We give total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and its Magisterium.

While those presenters who work with the PFMC are selected for their personal qualifications and commitment to the Church, their comments and presentations are those of individual Catholics and no endorsement by ecclesiastical authority is to be presumed.

of his incarnate Son."

Catechism of the Catholic Church 130.
"TYPOLOGY indicates the dynamic movement toward the fulfillment of the divine plan when 'God (will) be everything to everyone.'[\[1 Cor 15:28\]](#).] Nor do the calling of the patriarchs and the exodus from Egypt, for example, lose their own value in God's plan, from the mere fact that they were intermediate stages."

Mark your calendars for November 20, December 4 and 18. Come as often as you can but don't fear coming if you have missed some of the classes. Peter always does review and will work with you to catch up on what has already been covered.

DAY of RECOLLECTION - NOVEMBER 11, 2000

Father Bing Arellano will hold a Day of Recollection, Saturday, November 11, 2000, 9 AM to 4 PM at Epiphany House. This Sto. Nino Event was arranged by members of the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Prayer Community who will also host the event. It has been scheduled as their Advent Retreat. Father Bing has appeared on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

HANDS ON WORKSHOP – BECOME AN ADVOCATE for INTERCESSORY PRAYER in YOUR FAMILY – 11/18/2000



On Saturday, November 18th, 2000, the PFMC will host a hands on workshop to discover the tools and knowledge to help you begin work on your own family healing. Become your family's greatest prayer advocate or intercessor.

Have you ever wanted to look at patterns of alcoholism, depression, anger / rage, sexual sins, abortion, relationships, addictions, physical and emotional abuse, incest, and patterns of family sins?

Learn how the Holy Mass will help to sever these unwanted patterns of behavior or unloving traits that have been passed down into the present generations of your family. Learn about and work with a Genogram.

This workshop will be taught by several members of

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the Healing ministry serving the Trenton Diocese and led by Norma Finneran from Princeton Junction, NJ.

This workshop will begin promptly at 9 AM and end about 5 PM. It will be held in the Great Room of the Epiphany House. We are limiting the attendance to 60 people. You must bring a bag lunch. Donation of \$35 for materials is requested. Please call the PFMC to make a reservation.

Phone 856-768-9228 for additional information.

VOLUNTEERS for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED



Please call Dotty or Kathleen at 856-768-9228 if you can volunteer to help the PPMC.

We always need help in the PPMC in setting up the programs, particularly in the area of accepting reservations, and program planning.

If you are interested in helping out with the February 2001 Retreat Conference, we need about 40 volunteers. See articles on page 5 and 27. Consider filling out the form on the bottom of page 27 and mailing it in to us.



The Sheraton Four Points Hotel is filling up fast and we will need help finding rooms for the 700 people wishing to attend the February 2001 Retreat Conference. There is a new number, 1-

800-325-3535 for room reservations. We appreciate your help in evangelization.

“The PILGRIM”

As a monthly periodical, “The PILGRIM” is written for individuals who want to deepen their spiritual life. Through articles it seeks to engage its readers in spiritual reflection leading to informed commitment to spiritual growth. Men and women need to know God better than by hearsay, and “The PILGRIM” is attempting to do something about it.

You will be introduced to articles on meditation and prayer, stories of blessings, forgiveness, healing, marriage spirituality, lives of the Saints, the Catholic Church, Sacraments, the Virtues, Silence, and Poems and much more. You will often find book reports that are helpful in Christian life, as well as books and religious articles for you to order.

Retreats, seminars, conferences, or days of recollection, pilgrimages, and prayer groups are announced in “The PILGRIM”. So you will know where to go for an evening, a weekend, or a spiritual escape. We hope that you will enjoy reading “The PILGRIM” over the month’s time. If you do enjoy it, please let us know. We are constantly trying to provide you with material to move you toward a personal relationship with God.

If you have an interesting article, witness, poem or prayer, please send it to Kathleen. It will be reviewed for possible print. If you have a friend who does not

get the newsletter, then share yours with him or her, and have them call us to be placed on our mailing list.

To keep your periodical coming to you please make some kind of contact with us once a year. We update our files, annually, and require that you contact us in writing either by e-mail (PFMCkmw@home.com) or by “snail” mail. If you have any change of address or phone number, please send it to us.

In each newsletter are an offering envelope and a petition slip. All donations are greatly appreciated toward the cost of printing and mailing. We cannot do it without your support, and ask that possibly you make a sacrifice to cover a priest or nuns copy that we send out.

Your petition slips are put in a basket and are prayed for until they are taken with us on pilgrimage and left at a holy place. Often they are taken and given to Pope John Paul II in his office.

NEEDS of the PPMC – CAN YOU HELP US OBTAIN A CART and A CHALKBOARD or EASEL?

The PPMC is badly in need of two utility carts, either 2 shelf or three shelf. If you have one around or can sponsor buying one please contact us. They run about \$230 each. We have no preference – either Rubbermaid or metal.

We also have need of a white marker or chalkboard or an easel with butcher paper for use during our workshops. It doesn’t have to be a big one.

Thank you for considering us.

CHRISTMAS APPROACHES – GIVE A RELIGIOUS ARTICLE to EACH PERSON YOU KNOW THIS CHRISTMAS - BOOKS and RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

The new PPMC offices and support spaces at Epiphany House are usually open Monday through Friday from 10:30 AM to 5 PM. We are also open on nights that we have events in Epiphany House. Come and meet us. Tour the new addition.

In planning for your shopping and giving for Christmas, come and browse our little room for the

right book or religious article to share with a friend, a co-worker, or relative. Make Christmas religious, not just material. Have you given a Rosary out lately? Have you shown someone how to pray the Rosary?

We have lovely statues to place on a mantle, keep at your desk or to put into a car.

You may look over the hundreds of books we have available for you by sitting in our library and looking at each book for materials you might need. We have books, religious articles, medals, rosaries, chaplets, crosses, blessed oil, pictures and statues available in our little display room. Pope John Paul II has blessed all rosaries in Rome.

Be sure to get a book for your home reading and get one for a friend or relative. We also have children's books and coloring books. Do you need a gift for a birthday, Christening, Wedding, or Anniversary? We hope we can help you in finding or ordering just what you need. Please consider coming and browsing. If there is something you want and we don't have it, we can order it for you.

If you cannot come to the new building at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ, then you might look over our book and religious article list and see if you would like to order something by mail.

Any donation over and above the value received is tax deductible and greatly helps the PFMC with its many expenses.

We hope you will remember us when shopping for Christmas.

2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE - Fathers John Hampsch, CMF, Bill McCarthy, MSsA, Bob DeGrandis, SSJ, John McFadden, Michael Semana, Jim Sauchelli and many more – JOIN US



We are receiving many applications now for the 2001 retreat conference. The Four Points at Sheraton is requesting that you make your hotel room reservations NOW in order to have a room at the site of the daily events that start Friday evening and end following the 3 day extension with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ. Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, is returning to join with Father

John Hampsch, CMF, author of "Healing Your Family Tree." Father John McFadden will open the event and bless the facilities. Father Michael Semana will again sing a Healing Mass on Saturday, and will hold a healing concert on Saturday night followed by laying on of hands for healing. Father Jim Sauchelli will join us to help keep things running smoothly.

Music for the weekend will again be provided by REFUGE. Al Barbarino will provide the music for the 3 day extension with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ.

Should the hotel overflow as it has for the last 3 years, participants will be referred to other local hotels nearby. There is a new number for room reservations - 1-800-325-3535.

Please review the enclosed gold flyer. Fill out your application today to register with the PFMC for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE attendance.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

We are seeking loving souls to help out at the February 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. Help is now needed in preparing by assisting to answer phones and take registrations, to post registrations from mail and phone, and enter data into the Access data base (training is available if you have some computer know-how.)

Closer to the RETREAT CONFERENCE we will need helping hands to prepare the packets and

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Typing Team: Sam Berger, Irene Wells, Pat DiMaria and others

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Glenn

Hartman, as well as many of Mary's other beloved priests from the

Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden,

Harrisburg, Metuchen, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and

Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue for

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OFFICE HELP, ASSEMBLY, LABELS and MAILING: Too many wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

nametags, pack up books and religious articles for the book area, load moving vans at the PFMC in Voorhees and unloading them at the Hotel. The same procedure of packing up and moving will be needed at the end of the RETREAT CONFERENCE on Wednesday to get things back to Cooper Road.

At a RETREAT CONFERENCE we need people to help in Registration, Book Area, Hospitality Area for the Priests, and to keep the Confessional and Adoration areas quiet, while helping Priests and RETREAT CONFERENCE participants to make efficient use of the Confessional Rooms.

Please pray on discernment for this. If Our Lady is calling you to help then you can call Kathleen or Dotty at (856) 768-9228 or you can fill out the form on page 27 indicating your preferences as a volunteer for the PFMC 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE.

Thank you and God bless you!

PRIESTS CONFESSORS NEEDED for RETREAT CONFERENCE



Mary's Beloved Priests:

Can you help us with the Sacrament of Confession during the 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE? We have reserved at least six private hotel rooms across from the Adoration Room for the purpose of 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE attendees receiving the Sacrament of Confession. Four overflow stations are set up in the "Sacristy" Room reserved for priests and deacons. That means we can have ten priests hearing Confessions simultaneously in private settings. More priest confessors can utilize other private hotel rooms based on their availability.

We have Bishop DiMarzio's permission to hold this 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE, to celebrate Holy Mass and to have Confessions, as well as 24 hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Confessions can be heard at any time from about 4 PM on Friday, February 23rd, 2001, through about 2 PM on Wednesday, February 28th, 2001. We would love it if you could sign up in advance for the hour or more that you can be with us. Please call Kathleen or Dotty at 856-768-9228.

If you wish to attend certain RETREAT CONFERENCE sessions and hear Confessions at other times, please let us know. We greatly appreciate

priest confessor assistance at any time.

One of the greatest fruits of PFMC RETREATS and the RETREAT CONFERENCE is the spiritual healing through the gift of the Sacrament of Confession.

Over three-quarters of the attendees at PFMC RETREATS and the RETREAT CONFERENCE are believed to receive the Sacrament of Confession during the event. Last year we were privileged to have 19 priests help us with what must have been more than 450 to 500 Confessions.

Would you consider coming and helping this year? Please call Kathleen or Dotty at 856-768-9228.

We will pay for your meals, and welcome you to concelebrate Holy Mass. Should you be coming from a distant area, we will help you with your hotel costs.

If you would kindly consider putting this 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE into your bulletin, we would greatly appreciate your doing so. We would be pleased to provide gold information sheets for your ushers to distribute or to insert into your bulletins.

Thank you! We pray daily for our Beloved Priests.

PRESENCE OF OUR LORD



Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R. and James Monti have published a magnificent book titled "In the Presence of Our Lord, the History, Theology, and Psychology of Eucharistic Devotion".

Unlike books that present the technical aspects of setting up Eucharistic devotion in a chapel or parish, this book focuses on how the Blessed Sacrament has been a source of comfort and faith for countless Christians.

Catholics, for centuries, have answered Christ's plea by placing themselves before His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Many parishes are now instituting the Adoration Hours for their parishioners.

Most Reverend Harry Flynn, D.D., Archbishop of St Paul and Minneapolis stated "I believe that the authors of this fine work have made a penetrating reflection on the great gift of the Eucharist and the history of adoration with which the Church has responded to such a gift. It has tremendous possibilities as an aid in preaching on the Eucharist and untold probabilities concerning the deepening of one's faith in the Lord's presence in this great gift."

If you are interested in ordering this book for yourself or for a priest for Christmas please call us or write to us. The book is \$15.95, plus \$3.20 postage priority mail. It is 331 pages long.

FOR ORDERS – PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ON DONATION SLIPS

When ordering books, tapes or oil, we kindly ask you to NOT place them on the donation slips, but rather use the form inside the newsletter, or write us a separate note.

The donation slips are noted and are then placed in a prayer basket over which we pray daily. They are then taken on pilgrimage with Kathleen or a volunteer coordinator, and are left in a religious place for further prayer. We often do not see the order on the slip as they do not go to our order section, and your order may get lost or not noticed.

THE *IMMACULATE CONCEPTION* and the HOLY SOULS

In union with *Mary Immaculate*, we are called to merciful intercession for the souls in purgatory.

Growing up, I had a very limited concept of purgatory. I thought it was all about punishment. It was better than hell, because the punishment wouldn't last forever, but, while it lasted, it was pretty much the same. Somehow, I had developed an "eye-for-an-eye" understanding of God's justice with little or no understanding of His mercy. If you're bad, God punishes you; if you're really bad, He punishes you forever.

My understanding of the Immaculate Conception was also very limited. I thought "Immaculate Conception" was just a fancy term for a privilege given to *Mary* at a single moment in time--the moment when she was conceived in her mother's womb.

I had dutifully learned (but not understood) that, when the rest of us human beings are conceived, we get Original Sin. No one I knew could even come close to figuring out what THAT was. All we knew was that we all got it and *Mary* didn't. That made her special, but it didn't really seem to have anything to do with us.

Obviously, there's some truth that can be found in all this. But there are deeper realities that are obscured

by it.

Since we're dealing with mysteries here, we will, of course, never fully understand, but Church teaching on both purgatory and the Immaculate Conception is quite clear and consistent, and various popes and saints have offered significant insights.

What has emerged for me is a whole new way of viewing both of these mysteries, and a way of viewing them together.

REALTY #1: Heaven

"God desires everyone to be saved" (1 Tm 2:4).

The Church teaches that God wants all of us to share in His life of love forever. He excludes no one! But "Our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:29). His love is so pure and intense that only the pure can live in it and "see Him as He is, face to face." Thus, before we can enter heaven we must become pure and holy, like God (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1023).

REALTY #2: Hell

"He who does not love remains in death" (1 Jn 3:14).

If God wants us all to be saved, why does hell exist? Because "we cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love Him... God predestines no one to go to hell... To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from Him forever by our own free choice." Hell is thus a state of self-exclusion from communion with God. (*Catechism*, 1033, 1037).

REALTY #3: Purgatory

"...to bring you holy, pure, and faultless into His presence" (Col 1:22).

Purgatory is not a "second chance" to see if you're worthy of salvation. The souls in purgatory are already destined for heaven. They are the holy souls of those who have died in a state of grace but are not yet perfected, and their "final purification" in "entirely different" from the "punishment" in hell (*Catechism*, 1031, 1054).

As **Pope John Paul II** explains, "God, who is Love, judges through love. It is love that demands purification before man can be made ready for that union with God which is his ultimate vocation and destiny" (*Crossing the Threshold of Hope*).

REALTY #4

“After you have suffered, Christ will perfect you” (1 Pt 5:10).

How do holy souls become purified and perfected to the point that they become holy, like God? Through suffering!

Christ Himself was perfected through suffering (Heb 2:10), and **Our Lady** actively participated in His saving mission, “suffering grievously with her only-begotten Son (**Lumen Gentium**, 58).

We, too, must take up our cross (Lk 9:23), and drink the cup of suffering (Mt 20:22). We must all go through a “purgatory” of some sort, either in this life or the next.

REALTY #5

Our growth in holiness is a sharing in Mary’s Immaculate relationship with God.

Pope John Paul II explains that **Mary** was “the first to receive God’s mercy,” and she received it in “a particular and exceptional way, as no other person has” (**Rich in Mercy**, 9). Like us, **Mary** was redeemed by virtue of Christ’s saving sacrifice, but, by a special gift of mercy, she was redeemed in advance of that sacrifice, “fashioned by the Holy Spirit as a new creature” and “adorned from the first instant of her conception with the radiance of an entirely unique holiness” (**Lumen Gentium**, 56).

What does the “entirely unique holiness” of this “new creature” mean for us in the process of our own growth in holiness?

Mary, herself, gave us the clue at **Lourdes**. When Bernadette asked her who she was, she didn’t describe herself as immaculately conceived; she named herself as the Immaculate Conception. Thus she implies that she is not merely holy, but, by the special indwelling of her Spouse, the Holy Spirit, she is holiness itself.

Mary is the unique dwelling place of the holiness we are all called to share. **Pope Pius IX** says that she is “the only one who has become the dwelling place of all the graces of the Holy Spirit,” and the Catechism tells us that, in her, we recognize the “model and source” of holiness (2030). She perfectly reflects God, and this is what we all must do in order to enter heaven.

One of the examples often used in reference to purgatory is the firing of silver in a furnace to remove

all impurities. The process is not complete until the silversmith can see his reflection in the silver.

Purgatory is the furnace of God’s love, in which all the impurities, all the “wood and straw” (1 Cor 3:12) of our lives, are burned away until only the “silver” remains--so that we who are created in the image of God can perfectly reflect that image back to Him, just as **Mary** does. Purgatory is thus a continuing act of God’s mercy, whereby, through **Our Lady’s** intercession, we come to share in her immaculateness and are thus made ready for heaven.

REALTY #6

It is through **Mary Immaculate** that the souls in purgatory are cleansed and released.

Pope John Paul II writes that **Mary** is “the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God’s mercy,” and thus we look to her as the “Mother of Divine Mercy” (**Rich in Mercy**, 9).

The great mercy that God gave to **Mary** (in creating her as the Immaculate Conception), He also wants to give to us through her intercession. **Mary** is the Mediatrix of mercy. In her, “the Holy Spirit fulfills the plan of the Father’s loving goodness” and brings us, the “objects of God’s merciful love, into communion with Christ (**Catechism**, 723).

Theologian **Father Peter Damian Fehlner, FFI**, points out that **Mary** is created immaculate, preserved from all stain of sin, so that she can serve as Mediatrix of all graces. Thus, she becomes, in effect, the instrument of the Holy Spirit, the instrument of Mercy.

“The ultimate in mercy,” **Father Peter** goes on to explain, “is, of course, completing the cleansing of our souls. If we don’t complete it on earth, we have to complete it in purgatory. The way we are cleansed on earth is always through the mediation of Our Lady, and if that is true while we are in this vale of tears, it’s all the more so when we are in purgatory, where we can no longer take any kind of active initiative. Thus, the basic initiative for freeing souls, for completing their purgation, is precisely that of Our Lady.”

What does all this mean for us in practical terms? It means that awe should continuously turn to **Mary Immaculate**, for ourselves and everyone else, offering her all our prayers, works, and sufferings, and entrusting to her our own salvation and that of those who have gone before us. Our prayer for the Holy Souls then becomes a meaningful act of fraternal love

which thus also purifies us. As we pray for the hastening of their purification, we also hasten our own.

(by Vinny Flynn "THE BULLETIN" Fall, 1995)

NOVENA to SAINT MICHAEL and to the NINE CHOIRS of ANGELS

To begin each day of the novena, let us place ourselves in a spirit of deep faith, sincere humility, and penetrating confidence; let us place ourselves in the presence of saint Michael, of our guardian angel, and all the holy angels, and...

Let Us Recite The Penitential Prayer :

"I confess to almighty God...."

(After the "I confess to almighty God", let us recite slowly three Our Father's, three Hail Mary's and three Glory be to the Father's.)

On each day and ending on the 7th Day in honor of the Principalities say:

O Saint Michael, Standard-bearer of salvation, three times holy Prince of the sacred Militia, entrusted by God to organize and lead the angelic guard, worthy of all devotion, of all praise, of all honor, enlighten my interior senses, strengthen my poor heart, shaken by the tempests of this life, lift my spirit, which tends towards the things of this world, up to the heights of celestial Wisdom; straighten my unsteady stride, and do not let me deviate from the path which leads to heaven; heal the wounds on my soul; erase in me the traces of all suffering which cause me miser and misfortune.

Amen.

Next:

Recite four Our Father's, in honor of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, Saint Raphael, and our Guardian Angel.

Finally, we end with the following prayer :

Most glorious saint Michael, Chief and Prince of the celestial Militia, faithful guardian of souls, conqueror of rebel spirits, favored one in the house of God, our worthy guide next to Jesus; you whose excellence and virtue are most prominent, deign to deliver us from all evils, we who turn to you with confidence. Grant that with your incomparable protection, we progress

every day in faithfulness to the service of God.

Pray for us, O blessed Saint Michael, Prince of the Church of Jesus Christ, so that we may be made worthy of his promises.

Let us pray: All Powerful and eternal God, who by an extraordinary goodness and mercy for a shared salvation of humanity, has chosen as Prince of your Church the glorious archangel saint Michael, made us worthy, we implore you, to be delivered, by his benevolent protection, from all our enemies, so that at the hour of our death, they can no longer preoccupy us; and give us the gift of being lead by him into the presence of your powerful and glorious majesty. By the merits of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

<http://www.iipg-queenofpeace.org>)

PRESS BULLETIN #153 – 10/4/2000

WHAT HAS PRAYER TO DO WITH FAITH?

"I believe, because I pray", said Cardinal Ratzinger on one occasion. The experience of that great theologian, who is our contemporary, is the experience of the great men and women of Christianity. For the walk of faith through life, nothing else can take the place of a life of prayer. As we begin the month of October, which in the Church is also called the month of the rosary, it is a precious experience for us.

The praying of the rosary is only a small part of the rich spiritual and prayer heritage of the Church. It is important because of its simplicity and yet one thing more: it takes the key experiences of New Testament salvation history and considers them through Mary's eyes. The one praying the rosary understands it is Mary who takes him by the hand and that, yet once more while praying, all that is recalled together.

Father Ivan Landeka

NUMBER OF COMMUNIONS AND CONCELEBRATIONS

During September in the shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje 160,000 Holy Communion were distributed and there were 3206 concelebrations at Holy Masses by priests from home and abroad, that is

107 per day.

Going by the number reported it is evident that there were really a lot of pilgrims. To that we can add that they came to Medjugorje from all parts of the world.

VISIT OF ITALIAN BISHOP

At the end of September retired bishop Monsignor Janez Moretti was in Medjugorje for a two-day visit. Before retirement Monsignor Moretti served as Apostolic Nuncio in Brussels, Belgium.

Published by: Information Center MIR - Shrine of the Queen of Peace, 88266 Medjugorje.

Internet: <http://www.medjugorje.hr>

PRESS BULLETIN #154 – 10/18/2000

WHAT DOES PRAYER HAVE TO DO WITH LIFE?

"In the camp, we prayed together frequently, and that was something very, very important ...I have a great trust in God, from which emanates a basic optimism." (Werner Wallert, hostage for many months on the island Jolo). We often think of prayer as being a separate part of our life, which hardly influences our daily life, our work, successes or failures, if at all. It seems to be much easier to pray only when difficulties arise, rather than when everything goes according to our wishes. But let us be honest: Is it too little, when we pray in times of distress? And what if this prayer brings forth optimism?

Father Ivan Landeka

Published by: Information Center MIR - Shrine of the Queen of Peace), 88266 Medjugorje.

ON JOURNEY WITH MARY TOWARDS ETERNITY

Mary's call is always special in the sense that though it is not new, when it is said by our Blessed Mother it takes on the freshness and fragrance of spring water, of fresh bread. A breath of fresh air! Do not forget that here on earth yours is a journey to eternity. Though we should know this, we have forgotten it or think about it only occasionally.

How many things in the world would change if only everyone realized that our life is a journey to eternity! There would be so fewer worries if only we held our gaze on heaven, our home, instead of on the earth, our temporary abode (2 Cor 5:1)! Much oppression, violence, injustice, abuse and crime, both on a personal level and a social one, have their roots in the idea of life bound to the earth. This idea also creates false idols, and human lives are literally sacrificed to these idols, the victims being mostly young people and children.

But it's not a matter of comparing different models of life, it is rather remembering that we are truly God's children, and that the price paid for us was so high that no one or no nation could afford. The ransom paid was the crucifixion and death of Jesus, our Lord and God.

"A person who through baptism has died and risen in Christ" (Col 3:1-3) cannot ignore this. We belong to God in Jesus Christ. The reality of this can be experienced only if we are open to God's love. If we allow His love to touch us in the depths of our hearts and souls, and if we abandon all egoism and sin which act like shields and impede His love from reaching us. Just think how many times Mary has begged us to open ourselves and surrender to God's love! There is no true conversion without faith in the love that God has for each of us and without an open heart on our part to the action of grace.

May your joy be only in the discovery of God in daily prayer. This joy is experienced by those who truly enter into communion with God; by those who when they pray do not recite formulas, but speak with God. It is possible to discover God because Mary says so; all it takes is to follow her teachings faithfully. Moreover, the word "only" indicates the exclusiveness in the relationship with God. "God is a jealous God" (Ex 20:5) and "wants us completely for Himself. In this relationship our needs are not mortified; they are satisfied" (Mt 6:33).

Discover God in daily prayer. That is, live each day in His presence, rest in Him, take off the heavy worldly yoke to put on His which is sweet and light (Mt 11:28-30); and do this daily, not just on particular occasions. Each moment of our day must be immersed in prayer; it must take on form, substance and meaning from this intimate and constant relationship with our Creator so that even the most humble of our activities become fruitful and worthy of eternity.

Hence, use this time and pray, pray, pray. Time spent

in prayer is never wasted, but is highly productive. In fact, God is close to you in prayer and through prayer. In other words, prayer is a place and means of meeting God. Could we desire more?

“Created in the image of God” (Gen 1:27) we are called to realize this image in us. This is what the journey to eternity is about; it is what gives meaning to our lives, consolation to our suffering, hope to our humanity. This is our journey; and we should invite those close to us to the same journey. Mary always asks that we live her messages, and in the past she has asked us to spread them. We must witness first with our lives, then with words. Walking alongside God is possible in all situations, circumstances and environments; and this journey is the most fascinating one we could ever experience, it is true human promotion, it is peace and joy, it is salvation (starting in this world), it is experiencing heaven on earth.

(Nuccio - ECHO of MARY, Queen of Peace, 153
September-October 2000 - Yr. 16 #5, Echo on the
NET: <http://www.webexpo.it/medjugorje>)

LAST WILL and TESTAMENT of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus revealed this interior Prayer offered to His Father minutes before his death – as told by Our Blessed Mother and reported by Venerable Maria Agreda of Spain between 1655-and reprinted from the “Mystical City of God, biography of Our Lady, Book 3, Chapter 22, pages 665-672)

“My Eternal Father, in My and Thy Name and for Thy Glorification, I make My Last Bequest according to My human will:

1.0 To My Most Blessed Mother —

To Her I constitute My sole and universal.

Heiress of all the Gifts of Nature.

She also shall receive My gifts of Grace and Glory.

My Mother shall be the Mistress and Possessor of all the Universe.

I desire that She be Mistress of both Angels and Men to have over them full possession, dominion, and command, requiring constant service and obedience of all.

The demons shall fear Her and be subjected to Her Will.

I command that all the irrational creatures, the Heavens, Stars, Planets and Elements and Living Beings be subject to Her, exalting and glorifying Her with Me.

I wish that She be the Treasurer and Dispenser of all the Goods in Heaven and on the Earth.

It is My desire that whatever she ordains and disposes in My Church for My children (the sons of men) shall be confirmed by the Holy Trinity.

She shall receive whatever She may ask for mortals now, afterwards and forever.

2.0 To My Faithful Holy Angels—

I hereby assign as habitation the Highest Heavens as their proper and eternal abode.

I shall provide them with joys of the eternal vision and fruition of Our Divinity.

I desire that they be given eternal enjoyment in Our Company and Friendship.

I decree that they recognize the Blessed Mother as the legitimate Queen and Lady

The Holy Angels shall serve their Queen, accompany and attend upon Her.

3.0 To My Just and Chosen Children – who by My Grace saved themselves by imitating Me, doing My Will and obeying My Holy Law.

Next to My most pure Mother, I appoint My children as inheritors of all My mysteries.

I restore on them all My Sacramental treasures, My blessings and the special mysteries hidden in the Holy Scriptures.

I bequest My Humility, meekness of heart, virtues, faith, hope and charity.

I issue My cherished friends My prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

I freely give them My Divine gifts and favors obtained from My cross, labors, contempt, poverty and nakedness.

I proclaim that to obtain my inheritance, I assign to mankind the trials I have chosen for Myself as a pledge of My friendship in order that they may undergo them with JOY.

I also offer them My protection and defense, My holy inspirations, My favors, powerful assistance, My

blessing, My justification, according to each one's disposition and degree of "LOVE".

I promise to be to them a Father, a Brother and a Friend and they shall be My chosen and beloved children.

I appoint them as the inheritors of all My merits and treasures without limitation.

I desire that all who dispose themselves shall partake of the goods of My Holy Church and of the Sacraments.

I shall give to those who should lose My friendship, they shall be able to restore themselves and recover My Graces and Blessings through My Cleansing Blood.

I have given each of My faithful open intercession of My Mother and of the Saints. Those seeking her shall be recognized as Her children and shield as Her own.

I wish that My angels shall defend them, guide them, protect them, and bear them up in their hands lest they stumble. If my faithful should fall, they shall help them to rise.

My faithful and chosen ones shall stand high above the wicked reprobates and demons, that they shall be feared and obeyed by My enemies.

I command that all the rational and irrational creatures shall serve them.

I command that all the influences of the stars and planets shall favor them and give them life. The Earth, its elements and animals shall sustain them.

I desire that all the creatures that are Mine and serve Me, shall be theirs, and shall serve them as My children and friends.

I require that the blessings of My faithful shall be in the Dew of Heaven and in the Fruits of the Earth.

I wish to hold with you faithful My delights, to communicate with them My secrets, converse with them intimately and live with them in My True Church. I will manifest Myself in the species of Bread and Wine as an infallible pledge of the eternal happiness and glory promised to them.

It is by My Holy Eucharist that I make them partakers and heirs of Heaven. I desire that they may enjoy it with Me in Paradise by perpetual right and in unfailing beatitudes.

4.0 To the Unfortunate and Justly Damned

I proclaim that they shall be permitted to possess as their portion and inheritance the "desires of the flesh and the eyes."

I give them pride in all they possess and all they can eat. To be satisfied with the dust of the Earth proclaimed as their riches.

I wish them to be satisfied with the fumes and the corruption of the flesh and its delights. They shall seek the vanity and presumption of the world.

I gave them all they have so diligently labored and applied all their energies of their mind and body. They have used God's blessings in their occupations, consuming all their powers and gifts in their own pursuits.

Their rejection is because of their own free will choosing deceit, despising the Truth I have taught them in the Holy Law. They have rejected the Law inspired by My Grace, they have despised My teachings and My blessings.

Their condemnation is because they have listened to My and their own enemies of sin and corruption. They have accepted deceit and have loved vanity, wrought injustice, and followed their ambitions.

The reprobates are given My Justice as they sought their delights in vengeance, persecuting the poor, humiliating the just, mocking the simple and the innocent.

The reprobate earned his treatment as he strove to exalt himself and desired to be raised above all others in following the laws of injustice.

Since the wicked have done all these despicable things in opposition to My Divine Goodness and remain obstinate in their malice, **I DISINHERIT THEM** of My friendship and glory.

Since the wicked have renounced the rights of Sonship merited to them by My sacrifice, I disinherit from My inheritance by giving them the transitory goods which they the have chosen.

I desire that just as Abraham separated the children of the slave, setting aside some possessions for them and reserving the principal heritage for Isaac, the son of Sarah. I hereby set aside the eternal claims of the wicked separating them from My company, My mother, My angels and My saints.

5.0 To the Evil Ones –

I eternally condemn the demonic forces and the wicked reprobates to the eternal dungeons and the

fires of Hell in the company of Lucifer whom they have freely served. I proclaim the worst punishment for their evil by depriving them forever of all **HOPE** of obtaining any relief.

This is, o my father, the gifts and sentences I pronounce as the head and judge of men and angels. This is my testament made at my death, this is the effect of my redemption. It is my will that each one is rewarded with that which he has justly merited according to his works. All will be judged in accordance with thy incomprehensible wisdom in the equity of thy "strictest justice".

(Venerable Maria Agreda of Spain between 1655- and reprinted from the "Mystical City of God, biography of Our Lady, Book 3, Chapter 22, pages 665-672))

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a store. We operate like a church pamphlet or bookrack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. See the enclosed four-page order form for a partial listing of items that can be obtained from the PFMC through donations. We carry these items because of requests from pilgrims and other readers of "The PILGRIM." If you wish to order, please fill out your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card and mail to PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4896.

If you do not have an order form, call us at 856-768-9228 with a FAX number or mailing address and we will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card. We take DISCOVER (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (Cirrus) or VISA (PLUS) Charge Cards.

The PFMC is a lay Ministry made up of dedicated Roman Catholics. It is totally dependent upon financial donations. Every person working in the PFMC is a volunteer for Our Lady's work of converting souls to her Son, Jesus.

The PFMC is permanently approved as an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code Section 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt religious association which can accept tax deductible contributions or donations in relation to its organizational functions. These

functions include pilgrimages, retreats, days of recollection, presentations, Bible Study, Rosary making, books, and religious articles.

Enclosed is a donation slip and envelope for you to use. We rely on Divine Providence.

We operate the PFMC and all of our programs on donation only. We ask you to remember us in a special way as you pay your bills. Please place the slip and envelope with your bills or in your checkbook.

You are the hands of Jesus and Our Lady. Your help is important. We want to thank all of you who have been faithfully supporting the PFMC. Your donations have meant that we have been able to touch so many people through "The PILGRIM," through retreats and conferences.

We are grateful for every donation that helps us cover the printing and mailing of "The PILGRIM," the heat, water, insurance, and setting up of programs. We are excited with how Our Lady is guiding us for the year of 2000. We cannot do it without you.

WE DO NEED VOLUNTEERS - If you are interested in doing some typing, light bookkeeping, answering phones, working with books, working on conferences and retreats or "The PILGRIM," please call us at 856-768-9228 and give us your phone number and name.

We need regular daily or weekly help and help once a month – whatever you can give.

We will give you a good orientation, and make use of the gifts that God has given you.

We want to keep the PFMC open from 10 AM to 5 PM daily. In order to do this we need a solid list of volunteers we can count on to meet their scheduled times.

Please come and see the new PFMC. We know you will enjoy what you see and finding a way of helping out.

Thank you and God bless you,

Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff

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



Always complete your address on 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. ORDER and SPONSOR "The PILGRIM" for your favorite religious or priest.

PHONES – PLEASE BE PATIENT, ALLOW 8-9 RINGS for a MESSAGE MACHINE



The PFMC phone system at Epiphany House has been set up so that all previously used numbers ring through Epiphany House.

When no one is at Epiphany House (856) 768-9228 and (856) 753-9252 ring over to new phone lines at 129 Deerfield Avenue.

When the ring through is active because no one is picking up before 4 rings at Epiphany House, some extra rings will be heard before you can leave a message.

Please be patient and wait at least 8 or 9 rings.

BOOKS NEEDED for OUR LIBRARY



We are seeking OLD books on Our Lady, on the Eucharist, Priesthood, Sacraments and Holy Mass for our library.

If you have some, particularly if priests have some on their shelves or stored away in boxes, we would love to have them. Please send them to the PFMC. We would be grateful.

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD



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

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to cut out or copy one or more of following BULLETIN NOTICES and then take them to your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator?

Ask them to publish these notices to support the events for which you have an interest. It does wonders when a parishioner asks for a bulletin notice as compared to the thousands of requests that come in from outside the parish.

If you can work with us to promote devotion to Jesus through Mary in your parish, please contact us and we will assist you in any way we can.

We are always looking for Parish representatives to join with the nationwide organization called Medjugorje in America, which exists on a network of regional, diocesan, area, and parish representatives.

Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it.

Cut out any or copy one or more of the following:

BIBLE STUDY - "TYPOLOGY" with PETER DAWSON - 1st and 3rd MONDAY'S at 7:30 PM

Bible study using "TYPOLOGY" as discussed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and lead by Peter Dawson will be held in the Great Room at Epiphany House of the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

7 PM to 9 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS on the HISTORY and DEVELOPMENT of CHRIST'S DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH

Dean Pulcini will be teaching a course called "DEFENDING YOUR FAITH" which will offer a basic Orthodox understanding of the Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

The Wednesday evening programs from 7 PM to 9 PM will be held in the Great Room at Epiphany House of the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC).

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

PRAYER GROUP

Held in the Great Room at Epiphany House of the PFMC every Thursday from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. All are invited.

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

HEALING WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 18, 2000, in the Great Room at Epiphany House of the PFMC, 9 AM – 5 PM. Bring bag lunch. Donation for materials \$35. Call 856-768-9228 for reservations, information or directions.

SAINT VERONICA – HOWELL, NJ

Kathleen will be speaking at Saint Veronica Parish in Howell, NJ, on Tuesday, December 12, 2000.

For details, call Saint Veronica Parish, 732-363-4200.

PFMC 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE

“IF I BUT TOUCH HIS CLOTHES, I SHALL BE CURED” (Mk 5:28)

Reserve the weekend of February 23rd, 24th and 25th 2001 for the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE at the Four Points Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. The main speaker will be Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. Doctor Junie and Mrs. Sarah Irizari who gave up their respective careers in the Philippines to evangelize their Roman Catholic Faith will introduce Saturday night's Healing Service. The 3-day extension on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit will feature Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J.

For a GOLD information sheet with registration form, call the PFMC at 856-768-9228 or visit the PFMC web site at:

<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

Please make ROOM RESERVATIONS NOW on the list with the Four Points Hotel, 1-800-325-3535.

Please pre-register for the 20001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE with the PFMC as soon as you receive a GOLD information sheet with registration form.

Thanks again for your efforts with BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS on behalf of PFMC AREA EVENTS.

We just got word that Saint Peter Parish in Merchantville, NJ will be having Vespers and Benediction every Sunday during the month of November at 5:30 PM.

Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff

MARIAN SHRINE or PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS

K eith and Kathleen are always willing to schedule presentations to prayer group, Altar Rosary Society, Legion of Mary or other parish group meetings. The experiences and continuation of ministry for Our Lady in this time of graces and manifestation of Our Lord's Mercy are shared through videotape, witness and/or slide presentations followed by a question and answer session.

There is no charge. Free will offerings are accepted especially for books, tapes and religious articles which are made available at the presentation sites just like they are at the PFMC which operates like a church book rack.

Kathleen will be speaking at Saint Veronica Parish in Howell, NJ, on Tuesday, December 12, 2000. The program is being planned around the 7 PM Evening Holy Mass. For details, call Saint Veronica Parish, 732-363-4200.

RECURRING EVENTS HELD in the GREAT ROOM at EPIPHANY HOUSE of the PFMC:

**BIBLE STUDY - “TYPOLOGY” with
PETER DAWSON - 1st and 3rd
MONDAY'S at 7:30 PM**

**7 PM to 9 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT
SEMINARS on the HISTORY and
DEVELOPMENT of CHRIST'S
DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH**

**PRAYER GROUP every THURSDAY
from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM.**

THE INSPIRATION of READING the LIVES and LITERATURE of the SAINTS

The lives of the saints teach us about the struggle for holiness. The stories of flesh-and-blood human beings, who, despite their human frailties, struggled to do the will of God provide hope and inspiration for our lives.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, discovered his vocation while reading about the lives of Saint Dominic and Saint Francis. Ignatius, a courageous and worldly Spanish soldier, was severely wounded by a canon ball at the Battle of Pamplona. He was brought to a mansion to begin the slow process of recovery and healing. The only reading material available in the house was lives of the saints, not exactly the usual Spanish romances that Ignatius preferred.

He read about the zeal and heroic sacrifices of various saints and began to wonder whether he might be a saint as well. All of the energy and focus he used to be a courageous Spanish soldier and to elevate himself socially at the Spanish Court would now be focused to promote the Kingdom of God.

In the prayerful heart of Ignatius was born the Jesuit order and the counter-reformation as well as all sorts of creative faith ventures and initiatives. Ignatius discovered his mission for the Church while reading and meditating on the lives of the saints.

We too draw inspiration and fortitude by reading the lives and literature of the saints. They struggled with patience and with their tempers. They struggled with temptation and discouragement. It was in the discovery of their own frailty that they at the same time discovered the power of Christ working inside them.

The lives of the saints are filled with mistakes, sins and failures. Saint Peter was an impulsive and cowardly man who had a knack for saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. Saint Paul persecuted Christians and was an accomplice in the murder of Saint Stephen. Saint Augustine was a selfish and restless young intellectual who arrogantly used other people. Saint Teresa of Avila was a garrulous cloistered nun with a superficial prayer life. Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Vincent de Paul struggled with quick-trigger anger.

Through gradual healing and strengthening of the Holy Spirit, these people learned from their mistakes

and failures and their sins to mistrust themselves and to trust completely in the power of Jesus Christ working within them. They threw off their light loves, their superficial attachments, their vices and their illusions into the bonfire of the Holy Spirit where they were purified.

The saints approached their weaknesses with humility. They realized that they were being formed in the image of Christ right in the crucible of their mistakes. With time and God's grace, they became more and more single-minded in dedicating their lives to Christ. They received the courage to persevere in their struggles, to trust not in themselves but in the strength and power of Christ.

The distinguishing mark of the saints is not so much their lack of faults or perfectly balanced temperament and personalities. It is rather their willingness and urgency to rise after a fall. It is their courage in fighting the good fight.

The saints take all that they have to give--their characters, their hopes and dreams, their talents and weaknesses, their affections, their life circumstance and particular time in history--and pour them into the chalice of God's will, mingling them with the blood of Christ's suffering.

For those of us who have a tendency to go over and over our mistakes in our minds, for those of us who become discouraged and indulge in self-pity, for those of us who have given up on the possibility of curbing our tempers or becoming more patient with our spouse and our children, we turn to the saints.

They are our friends. Their writings and biographies are concrete signs of their intercession for us at the throne of God. They are beacons of light and hope. They teach us that we too can profit from our mistakes and begin anew.

(by Bishop Michael Saltarelli "THE CATHOLIC
VISION NEWSLETTER" Wilmington, DE, Sept.
1996)

BAKHITA, FORMER SLAVE, PRESENTED AS MODEL OF FREEDOM

VATICAN CITY, OCT 1, 2000 (ZENIT.org). - Christians everywhere now have a model of sanctity in a former Sudanese slave who has become a "brilliant advocate of genuine emancipation," John Paul II said

on the day he canonized Giuseppina Bakhita.

Born in Sudan in 1869, she was kidnapped and enslaved at 7 by Arab traders. The name Bakhita, which means "fortunate," was given to her by her captors. She was bought and sold five times before 1882, when she was bought by an Italian consular agent and taken to Italy.

She worked as a nanny, heard about Christianity, and eventually was baptized in 1890. Three years later she entered the Congregation of the Canossian Sisters, and lived in their convent in Schio in northern Italy, doing menial tasks. While there, her fame for sanctity grew.

She died Feb. 8, 1947, and for three days, an uninterrupted line of mourners filed passed her coffin.

According to the Pope, the example of this "humble daughter of Africa" reminds the world of the urgency to work effectively "to liberate girls and women from oppression and violence and restore their dignity in the full exercise of their rights."

The Holy Father's thoughts were with the Sudanese, where slavery continues to be a reality in the south of the country, because of the Islamization promoted by the north. Sudan is "lacerated by a cruel war," the Pope added. The war has gone on for 17 years.

"Once again," John Paul urged, "on behalf of suffering humanity I appeal to those responsible: Open your hearts to the cry of millions of innocent victims and begin on the road of negotiation. I ask the international community: Do not continue to ignore this immense human tragedy."

The Pope invited the whole Church "to invoke the intercession of Saint Bakhita upon all our persecuted and enslaved brothers and sisters, especially in Africa and in her native Sudan, that they may know reconciliation and peace."

<http://www.zenit.org/english/>

KATHARINE DREXEL IS SAINT AGAINST RACISM

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 1, 2000 (ZENIT.org). - Katharine Drexel is one of the most amazing figures among the 123 new saints canonized today by John Paul II.

The Holy Father pointed out how Katharine, who came from a wealthy Philadelphia family, was moved

by the poverty and lack of hope she saw among the Indians and blacks in the United States.

From her parents she learned that her family's possessions were not for them alone, but to be shared with the less fortunate. As a young woman, she began to devote her fortune to missionary and educational work among some of the poorest groups in the United States.

"Later, she understood that more was needed," the Pope said. "With great courage and confidence in God's grace, she chose to give not just her fortune but her whole life, totally, to the Lord."

She eventually founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, to spread the Gospel message and Eucharistic life among Indians and blacks. Along with her companions, she established a missionary center and some 60 schools, especially in the American West and South.

Her most famous foundation was Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. At that time, no Catholic university in the South was prepared to admit colored students.

Katharine Drexel taught her religious sisters a "spirituality based on a praying union with the Lord in the Eucharist and in the service of the poor and victims of racial discrimination," the Pope said.

"Her apostolate served to highlight the growing concern over the need to combat all forms of racism through education and social service," the Bishop of Rome added.

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THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE and the HISTORY of the JUBILEE

In the Catholic tradition, the Jubilee year is a great religious event. It is the year of the remission of sins and the punishment for sins; it is the year of reconciliation among enemies, of the conversion and the penitence of the sacrament.

The Jubilee is commonly called the "Holy Year" not only because it begins, progresses and concludes with solemn sacred rites, but also because it is destined to promote the sanctity of life. In fact, it was instituted to consolidate the faith, favor the works of solidarity and the fraternal communion inside the Church and in society, and to recall and stimulate the believers

toward a more sincere and coherent profession of faith in Christ, the only Savior.

During the Holy Year, the faithful can acquire the Jubilee indulgence that coincides with the remission before God of the temporal punishment for already pardoned sins, which the Church conceded to individual Christians through the fulfillment of certain deeds determined by the pontifical authority. From the theological point of view, the Jubilee is defined as a “solemn plenary indulgence conceded by the Roman pontificate with special faculty for the confessors in favor of the faithful.”

The Jubilee Year traces its origins to the Old Testament. The Law of Moses determined that there would be a special year every fifty years for the Jewish people: “You will declare holy the fiftieth year and you will proclaim the liberation of the country for all of its inhabitants. Everyone will go back to his own property and family. The fiftieth year will be jubilant. You will not sow nor harvest, as the fields will produce by themselves, nor gather the grapes to make wine from the un-pruned vines. Since it is the Jubilee, you will hold it sacred. You may, however eat the products of the earth. In this year of the Jubilee, everyone returns to possess his own” (Book of Leviticus).

The celebrations were announced by the sound of a ram’s horn, which in Hebrew is called “Jobhel”, from which the word Jubilee is derived. The celebration of this year brought, among other things, the restitution of the earth to the ancient proprietors, the remission of debts, the liberation of slaves and the fallow of the land.

In the New Testament, Jesus presents himself as He who fulfills the ancient Jubilee, having come to “preach the year of the grace of God” (Isaiah). The Jubilee therefore expresses joy, because the Christian community is full of joy for the rescue that springs from penitence, from confession, from communion and from prayer.

Rome will be the place in which, according to the intentions of the Pontificate of the Church, the “Coming Third Millennium” will be celebrated

“Aperite mihi portas iustitiae”, with these words on Christmas Eve before the Jubilee Year, the pope knocks three times with a silver hammer at the holy door, walled up since the end of the previous Holy Year. Then the penitentiary cardinal knocks, and when the wall which covers the door is removed, some penitentiaries wash the threshold of the Holy

Door. Then the pope crossed the doorway carrying a candle in his left hand and a cross in his right hand. This ritual was repeated in the other Patriarchal Basilicas in Rome (San Giovanni in Laterano, Santa Maria Maggiore and San Paolo Fuori Le Mura) where the archpriests will open the respective Holy Doors.

The Jubilee Year is either ordinary, when tied to a regular schedule, or extraordinary, when it has been declared for some event of particular importance. There have been twenty-five regular Jubilees celebrated; the Holy Year 2000 became the twenty-sixth. The tradition of declaring a Jubilee dates to the 16th century; their duration varied from a few days to a year. The last extraordinary Holy Years of this century were declared in 1033 by Pope Pius XI for the 19th centennial of the Redemption, and in 1983, by John Paul II to celebrate 1950 years since the Redemption. In 1987, Pope John Paul II also declared a year in honor of the Virgin Mary.

The Holy Year 2000 assumed a special importance because it will celebrate the 2000-year anniversary of the birth of Christ. It was the first Holy Year that fell between the end of one millenium and the beginning of another: Pope Boniface VIII declared the first Jubilee Year in 1300. The Jubilee 2000 served as a great prayer of praise and gratitude for the gift of the Incarnation and Redemption of the Son of God.

The same John Paul II has explained the reason for the Holy Year in the apostolic letter “Tertio Millennio Adveniente”: “the two thousand years since the birth of Christ represent an extraordinary Jubilee, not only for Christians, but indirectly for all of humanity.”

(from “The Holy Year 2000 – the Great Jubilee,
Lozzi Roma, edizioni turistiche)

CONDITIONS for GAINING the JUBILEE INDULGENCE

**Some fundamental passages from the Bull of
Indication of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000**

“Incarnationis Mysterium”

A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day in accordance with required conditions:

After worthily celebrating sacramental confession, can receive or apply the gift of the plenary indulgence during a suitable period of time, be applied for ourselves or in suffrage to the souls of the deceased even daily, without needing to go to confession again;

Participation in the Eucharist, which is required for all indulgences, should properly take place on the same day as the prescribed works are performed;

The witness of communion with the Church, manifested by prayer for the intentions of the Roman Pontiff, and also by acts of charity and penance.

The Places where one can receive the plenary indulgence of the Jubilee:

In Rome, if they make a pious pilgrimage to: The Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican, the Archbasilica of the Most Holy Saviour at the Lateran, the Basilica of Saint Mary Major and the Basilica of Saint Paul on the Ostian Way, and there take part devoutly in Holy Mass or another liturgical celebration such as Lauds or Vespers, or some pious exercise (e.g., the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, the recitation of the Akathistos Hymn in honour of the Mother of God). Furthermore, if they visit, as a group or individually, one of the four Patriarchal Basilicas and there spend some time in Eucharistic adoration and pious meditations, ending with the "Our Father", the Creed, and prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. To the four Patriarchal Basilicas are added, the following further places, under the same conditions: The Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Basilica of Saint Lawrence in Campo Verano, the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love, and the Christian Catacombs.

In the Holy Land, (the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, or the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem or the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth).

In other Dioceses, fulfilling the conditions aforementioned, to the Cathedral Church or to other Churches or places designated by the Ordinary.

In any place, if they visit for a suitable times their brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty (the sick, the imprisoned, the elderly living alone, the handicapped, etc.), and fulfilling the usual spiritual and sacramental conditions and saying the usual prayers. The faithful will certainly wish to repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, since on each occasion they can gain the plenary indulgence, although obviously not more than once a day.

The plenary indulgence of the Jubilee can also be gained through:

Actions expressing the penitential spirit. Such as abstaining for at least one whole day from unnecessary consumption (e.g., from smoking or alcohol, or fasting or practicing abstinence according to the general rules

of the Church and the norms laid down by the Bishop's Conferences) and donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor; supporting by a significant contribution works of a religious or social nature (especially for the benefit of abandoned children, young people in trouble, the elderly in need, foreigners in various countries seeking better living conditions); devoting a suitable portion of personal free time to activities benefiting the community, or other similar forms of personal sacrifice.

N.B. Everything that you want to know regarding the Great Jubilee you can find in the official site of the Central Committee for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000: www.jubil2000.org

INDULGENCES

1471 The doctrine and practice of indulgences in the Church are closely linked to the effects of the sacrament of Penance.

What is an Indulgence?

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of the redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and

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the saints.”

“An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.” Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead.

The Punishments of Sin

1472 To understand this doctrine and practice of the Church, it is necessary to understand that sin has a *double consequence*. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the “eternal punishment” of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the “temporal punishment” of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain.

1473 The forgiveness of sins and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sin, but temporal punishment of sin remains. While patiently bearing sufferings and trials of all kinds and, when the day comes, serenely facing death, the Christian must strive to accept this temporal punishment of sin as grace. He should strive by works of mercy and charity, as well as by prayer and the various practices of penance, to put off completely the “old man” and to put on the “new man.”

In the Communion of Saints

1474 The Christian who seeks to purify himself of his sin and to become holy with the help of God’s grace is not alone. “The life of each of God’s children is joined in Christ and through Christ in a wonderful way to the life of all the other Christian brethren in the supernatural unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, as in a single mystical person.”

1475 In the communion of saints, “a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things.” In this wonderful

exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others. Thus recourse to the communion of saints lets the contrite sinner be more promptly and efficaciously purified of the punishment for sin.

1476 We also call these spiritual goods of the communion of saints the *Church’s treasury*, which is “not the sum total of the material goods which have accumulated during the course of the centuries. On the contrary the ‘treasury of the Church’ is the infinite value, which can never be exhausted, which Christ’s merits have before God. They were offered so that the whole of mankind could be set free from sin and attain communion with the Father. In Christ, the Redeemer himself, the satisfactions and merits of his Redemption exist and find their efficacy.

1477 “This treasury includes as well the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are truly immense, unfathomable, and even pristine in their value before God. In the treasury, too, are the prayers and good works of all the saints, all those who have followed in the footsteps of Christ the Lord and by his grace have made their lives holy and carried out the mission the Father entrusted to them. In this way they attained their own salvation and at the same time cooperated in saving their brothers in the unity of the Mystical Body.”

**(“CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH”
United States Catholic Conference, 1994)**

PRAYER of ENTRUSTMENT to the VIRGIN MARY

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 8, 2000 (ZENIT.org). - Here is a translation of the prayer that Pope John Paul II used to entrust the world and the millennium to Mary.

1. “Woman, behold your Son!” (John 19:26). As we near the end of this Jubilee Year, when you, O Mother, have offered us Jesus anew, the blessed fruit of your womb most pure, the Word made flesh, the world’s Redeemer, we hear more clearly the sweet echo of his words entrusting us to you, making you our Mother: “Woman, behold your Son!”

When he entrusted to you the Apostle John and with him the children of the Church and all people, Christ did not diminish but affirmed anew the role which is his alone as the Savior of the world.

You are the splendor which in no way dims the light of Christ, for you exist in him and through him. Everything in you is fiat: you are the Immaculate One, through you there shines the fullness of grace. Here, then, are your children, gathered before you at the dawn of the new millennium. The Church today, through the voice of the Successor of Peter, in union with so many Pastors assembled here from every corner of the world, seeks refuge in your motherly protection and trustingly begs your intercession as she faces the challenges which lie hidden in the future.

2. In this year of grace, countless people have known the overflowing joy of the mercy which the Father has given us in Christ. In the particular Churches throughout the world, and still more in this center of Christianity, the widest array of people have accepted this gift.

Here the enthusiasm of the young rang out, here the sick have lifted up their prayer. Here have gathered priests and religious, artists and journalists, workers and people of learning, children and adults, and all have acknowledged in your beloved Son the Word of God made flesh in your womb. O Mother, intercede for us, that the fruits of this Year will not be lost and that the seeds of grace will grow to the full measure of the holiness to which we are all called.

3. Today we wish to entrust to you the future that awaits us, and we ask you to be with us on our way. We are the men and women of an extraordinary time, exhilarating yet full of contradictions. Humanity now has instruments of unprecedented power: We can turn this world into a garden, or reduce it to a pile of rubble. We have devised the astounding capacity to intervene in the very well-springs of life: Man can use this power for good, within the bounds of the moral law, or he can succumb to the shortsighted pride of a science which accepts no limits, but tramples on the respect due to every human being.

Today as never before in the past, humanity stands at a crossroads. And once again, O Virgin Most Holy, salvation lies fully and uniquely in Jesus, your Son.

4. Therefore, O Mother, like the Apostle John, we wish to take you into our home (cf. John 19:27),

that we may learn from you to become like your Son. "Woman, behold your children!" Here we stand before you to entrust to your maternal care ourselves, the Church, the entire world. Plead for us with your beloved Son that he may give us in abundance the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth which is the fountain of life. Receive the Spirit for us and with us, as happened in the first community gathered round you in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (cf. Acts 1:14).

May the Spirit open our hearts to justice and love, and guide people and nations to mutual understanding and a firm desire for peace.

We entrust to you all people, beginning with the weakest: the babies yet unborn, and those born into poverty and suffering, the young in search of meaning, the unemployed, and those suffering hunger and disease. We entrust to you all troubled families, the elderly with no one to help them and all who are alone and without hope.

5. O Mother, you know the sufferings and hopes of the Church and the world: Come to the aid of your children in the daily trials which life brings to each one, and grant that, thanks to the efforts of all, the darkness will not prevail over the light.

To you, Dawn of Salvation, we commit our journey through the new millennium, so that with you as guide all people may know Christ, the light of the world and its only Savior, who reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

*(Delivered by John Paul in Saint Peter's Square,
<http://www.zenit.org/english/>)*

A BIT of HUMOR

In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth. And the Earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

And Satan said, "It doesn't get any better than this."

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit,"

and God saw that it was good.

And Satan said, "There goes the neighborhood."

And God said, "Let Us make Man in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creepy thing that creepeth upon the Earth."

And so God created man in His own image; male and female created He them. And God looked upon man and woman and saw that they were lean and fit.

And Satan said, "I know how I can get back in this game."

And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so man and woman would live long and healthy lives.

And Satan created McDonald's. And McDonald's brought forth the 99-cent double cheeseburger.

And Satan said to man, "You want fries with that?"

And man said, "Super size them." And man gained 5 pounds.

And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair.

And Satan brought forth chocolate. And woman gained 5 pounds.

And God said, "Try My crispy fresh salad."

And Satan brought forth Ben and Jerry's. And woman gained 10 pounds.

And God said, "I have sent thee heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them."

And Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter.

And man gained 10 pounds and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

And God brought forth running shoes and man resolved to lose those extra pounds.

And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2.

And man gained another 20 pounds.

And God said, "You're running up the score, Devil." And God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition.

And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the

starchy center into chips and deep fat fried them. And he created sour cream dip also.

And man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol.

And Satan saw and said, "It is good." And man went into cardiac arrest.

And God sighed and created bypass heart surgery.

And Satan created HMOs.

(from Bernadette S. - Volunteer)

RADIATING GOD'S LOVE

Dear Lord,

Help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go.

Flood my soul with Thy spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that my life be only a radiance of Thine.

Shine through me, and be so in me. That every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me--but only Thee O Lord!

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as Thou shinest;

So to shine as to be a light to others.

The light O Lord will be all from Thee;

None of it will be mine; it will be Thou, shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise Thee in the way Thou dost love best, by shining on those around me.

Let me preach Thee without preaching, not by words but by example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do.

The evident fullness of the love my heart bears to Thee.

AMEN

(By Mother Teresa adapted from Cardinal Newman "CATHOLIC WOMEN OF ZION"

October 1996)

“DOMINUS IESUS”

VATICAN CITY, OCT. 1, 2000 (ZENIT.org). - Before reciting the Angelus, at the end of the Mass celebrated for the canonization of the blessed in Saint Peter's Square, John Paul II spoke to those present about the recent "Dominus Iesus" document:

The saints who were raised today to the glory of the altars urge us to look at Christ. They lived rooted in faith in him, the redeemer of all men, the only-begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father and has revealed him (see John 1:18). The saints invite us to confess him joyfully, to have a heartfelt love for him, and to witness to him.

With the declaration "Dominus Iesus" (Jesus is the Lord), which I approved especially at the summit of the Jubilee Year, I wished to invite all Christians to renew their adherence to him in the joy of the faith, unanimously witnessing that he is, today and also tomorrow, "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Our confession of Christ as the only Son, through whom we ourselves see the face of the Father (see John 14:8), is not arrogance that shows contempt for other religions, but the joyful recognition that Christ showed himself to us without any merit on our part. And, at the same time, he has urged us to continue to give that which we have received and also to communicate to others that which was given to us, because the Truth that was given and the Love that God is belong to all men.

We confess with the Apostle Peter "that there is salvation in no other name" (Acts 4:12). The "Dominus Iesus" declaration, in the wake of Vatican II, shows that with this the salvation does not come to be denied to non-Christians, but explains its ultimate source in Christ, in whom God and man are united. God gives light to all in a way appropriate to their interior and environmental situation, granting them saving grace through ways known to him (see "Dominus Iesus," VI, 20-21). The document clarifies the essential Christian elements, which do not obstruct the dialogue, but show its basis, because a dialogue without foundations would be destined to degenerate into empty verbosity.

The same is also true for the ecumenical question. If with Vatican II, the document declares that "the one Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church," it does not intend with this to express little regard for the other churches and ecclesial communities. This conviction is coupled with the understanding that this is not human merit, but a sign of the fidelity of God

who is stronger than human weaknesses and sins, which we solemnly confessed before God and men at the beginning of Lent. The Catholic Church suffers, as the document states, by the fact that true particular churches and ecclesial communities, with precious elements of salvation, have separated from her.

Thus the document expresses once again the same ecumenical passion that is at the basis of my encyclical "Ut Unum Sint." It is my hope that, after so many mistaken interpretations, this heartfelt declaration will finally be able to achieve its clarifying function, as well as that of openness.

May Mary, to whom the Lord on the cross entrusted to all of us as Mother, help us to grow together in faith in Christ, redeemer of all men, in the hope of salvation, offered by Christ to all, and in love, which is the sign of the children of God.

[\(http://www.zenit.org/english/\)](http://www.zenit.org/english/)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of OCTOBER 25, 2000

I greet all those who are hearing and trying to follow Mary's messages. As usual I want to remind us of what Our Lady told us in September 2000. Mary called us to open ourselves to prayer until prayer becomes a joy. If one asks oneself how does one open oneself to prayer and how prayer can become a joy, then the answer is very simple. One has to pray for the love and for the experience of God's love for us as Mary prayers with Mirjana every 2nd of the month. This is because only love can open the heart and it is love that makes every encounter a joyful encounter. It is this way here among us people but it should still be this far more often when it comes to an encounter with God because He after all loves us infinitely. When we have love for God in our hearts, then all possible problems with prayer simply vanish and no longer exist. Then Mary called us to renew prayer within the family, thanking, I would think, all parents who by way of Medjugorje got the strength, the courage as well as the will to decide for prayer and to bring it into their families. Mary repeats this message often and in several messages calls upon the families to pray together and this means that she does not accept our excuses, and instead wishes of us all to really take these messages seriously and to find the time for prayer in the families. So we should also pray that our families may really decide for prayer. Mary also called us to form prayer groups, this having been her wish

from the very beginning so that they may become like a chain around the world and in that way may help her to put into reality the plans with which God entrusted her. The first group which included some of the visionaries and their friends was formed on July 4, 1982 and is still meeting today. Then after this many other prayer groups came into being around the whole world who also loyally follow Mary's messages. Prayer groups help their members to experience togetherness and its accompanying joy, just as it also helps its members to remain in God's will and thereby to become joyful witnesses to God's love for us. Was one to ask oneself how one forms a prayer-group, then the answer is equally simple. Once someone has decided for prayer, then he has already put the primary condition into reality because the one who decides for prayer will certainly also find someone else who will be willing to prayer a Rosary, read some Holy Scripture or just ponder the word of God once a week and to ask for God's blessing. This then becomes the content of a prayer-meeting. The time for this should last between an hour and an hour and a half, and Jesus said wherever two or three meet in His name, there He will also be among them. So, already with two people who are praying the prayer-group has already begun. Then Mary again told us that she is with us, and this is in fact the only new message that is given us here in Medjugorje. Mary's special presence here is the only way that one can explain Medjugorje, because there simply is no other way to explain it. And we surely know how many people tried to explain Medjugorje in other ways, but without Mary's special presence here the other attempts of explanation simply make no sense. Then Mary gave us a very loving expression, that being that she carries each of us in her heart – the same heart that carried and loved Jesus – and we are all at home in this heart. So all of us should work at helping Mary and thereby allowing her to carry each of us in her heart. This happens when we accept her programs and follow her messages. She then gave us her motherly blessing, and this means that Mary, simply the way she is, is a blessing for us and thereby also wishes us to become a blessing for all others. In the hope that we really follow this message, we ought to pray for one another so that all of us can, through the experience of God's love for us, stay loyally on the Mary's path.

In these last few weeks Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti is again here in Medjugorje with her children. Vicka is also here at home. Ivanka, Mirjana and Jacov are living their normal lives with their families, are speaking with the pilgrims, and, as already mentioned,

Ivanka has again begun to speak with pilgrims after many years of remaining rather secluded. Ivan is in the USA with his family and is participating at several conferences and is giving his testimony there.

In the entire last month we have really had very many pilgrims from all over the world. At the moment we have many groups here from Italy, Austria, France, America, England and Ireland, and also some from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Roumania, and also from Lebanon and Korea. We also have many Priests here and lately we have also had 6 Bishops here as pilgrims. Bishops Cirilo Almario, Nestor Carino and Leo Drona from the Philippines, Bishop Joseph Das from India, Bishop Nicodemus Kirima from Kenya and Bishop Florencio Olvera from Mexico. Medjugorje is alive, and its messages is being carried along in many hearts and this is confirmed for us by the great number of pilgrims.

Here I want to announce that next February 8 through 11 we are organizing the 1st International Conference for Christian Couples, and this will have the name: COUPLES IN THE SCHOOL OF THE HOLY FAMILY. The idea is very simple. We wish to help all families to understand and also to live Mary's messages. We all know how important the family is and when the parents deepen their faith in view of the Holy Family, then they will also more easily be able to help their children to do the same. We already know that the PRIESTS' MEETING is held in the first week of July and just finished 5 years already; the INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PRAYER FESTIVAL is held in the first week of August, and so we decided that something should also be offered to the family. This is only the first announcement and so we will be watching how things move along. The number of participants will be limited due to the space available to about 500 couples, and every couple that wishes to attend will take care of their own housing but should still contact the Parish Office. And I invite all of us to pray for this intention, so that many families respond and that they will all be heavily blessed through their participation at the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CHRISTIAN COUPLES.

TODAY I DESIRE TO OPEN MY MOTHERLY HEART TO YOU

First we may ask ourselves what this may mean. The answer, I believe, is quite clear. When a mother says this to her children, this then means that she is expressing everything that she has in her heart and then hopes that it will be understood and become a help for the children. This is certainly also a simple

expression of love and of trust of the mother toward her children, and so this is also a way of understanding Mary's words.

AND TO CALL YOU ALL TO PRAY FOR MY INTENTIONS

In these 19 years and 4 months Mary has tried to place different intentions in our hearts, and first of all the intention of peace. How often did she tell us to pray for peace in our hearts, in our families, in the Parishes, in the Church and then also in the whole world? Her intention is also the conversion of all people which then means a return to God. She called us to pray and to fast; and we especially ought to remember her intention when she, along with Mirjana, on the 2nd of each month prays for all the non-believers which means for all those who have yet to experience God's love, so that they may all experience it and through this experience may all find their way back to Him. It is her intention that we receive her motherly blessing and thereby can also become a blessing for all others. This, in very brief, means that we ought to build new relationships with ourselves, with the others as well as with nature and also with God. And in this balance of these good relationships a person can come to live in true peace. Mary also spoke of her heart in September's message. The motherly heart in which she carries us all is the loving, trusting and loyal heart that also carried, loved and taught Jesus, and I am entirely certain that these words of Mary's will spur us on again to do everything possible in order to help her. She often said: "Dear children, I need you, without you I can do nothing." These words can help us to understand that we are the Church, that we all members of Christ's body and therefore are in fact responsible for and also need one another as St. Paul teaches us.

I DESIRE TO RENEW PRAYER WITH YOU

In these words we should, I believe, recognize two really important things. First she wants us to become renewed in prayer and therefore that we simply pray. She afterall called us to pray until our lives become a prayer, and that we constantly pray without ceasing. This constant prayer without ceasing is possible because everything can become a prayer and here we mean that everything can turn to become an encounter with God. When we out of love for God and for the others serve the others with the gifts that God gave us, then this is truly also a prayer. And when we ourselves become renewed in prayer, then Mary can renew the prayer within us. Everyone who personally has begun to pray will certainly also renew prayer in his family.

Sometimes things move very slowly and with great difficulties in certain families, but it is already enough that only one has been renewed in prayer so that the whole family will eventually also be renewed in prayer. All those who have already formed prayer-groups are doing exactly that which Mary is asking for in this message. Prayer has been renewed in and through these prayer-groups in the Parishes, in the Communities and in all of the Church. So here we have been given a special assignment -- not only that we ourselves pray but also that through our prayer others can again come to prayer and thereby have the prayer in all the Church become renewed. Gratefully we are able to say that through the Medjugorje pilgrims many families have again begun to pray, and many prayer-groups have been formed who then in their Parishes hold Prayer Meetings and Retreats. Parishes also exist where Medjugorje pilgrims have organized perpetual Adoration, and all this is exactly what Mary wants.

AND TO CALL YOU TO FAST

...and in this message she very clearly also tells us...

WHICH I WISH TO OFFER TO MY SON JESUS FOR THE COMING OF A NEW TIME – A TIME OF SPRING

We must all be very careful how we understand these words "A NEW TIME – A TIME OF SPRING". Often one hears a new time being talked about in terms of a "New Age" which in no manner of speaking signifies the same thing as is meant here in Mary's message. The NEW TIME about which Mary is speaking here only comes about by way of our prayers and fasting, and was someone to overlook prayer and fasting and only speak about a NEW AGE, then this can become an entirely wrong way of thinking. This NEW TIME does not come about the way it is generally spoken of and expected in esoteric circles. According to the NEW AGE theory this NEW AGE will just come about due to a certain constellation of the stars. Mary, on the other hand, speaks of the NEW TIME which can only come about due to the conversion of souls which then open themselves to God and as soon as God enters a heart and takes the first place in it, there a NEW TIME has already begun. So all this may certainly not only be seen externally because Jesus afterall says that it is first of all inside you, and so inside every person, when he has decided for love, for mercy and for goodness, and for all those new relationships in the family or in the community, then this NEW TIME already exists. This NEW TIME really already started with Christ's Coming and then

His Resurrection, and so it is already alive and is being realized in many hearts. This I wish to emphasize here with a small example... The other day a pilgrim told me that it had paid off to come here to Medjugorje and when I asked her what she meant by this, she then answered that during the Healing Prayer she suddenly became aware that all the disputes within her family did not only originate from her husband and from her children, but that they also originated from her. Until then she had accused her husband and children for all their disputes, but now she understood that she too was responsible for much of it. When she goes home she will now apologize to all of them, and will also promise that she never again wishes to argue and cause disputes with them. If she can follow through with this promise to her family, then one can already speak about a NEW TIME in her family. If many people decide on a NEW TIME in this manner, then this time has already come. So we may not think in the terms of a dramatic way for this NEW TIME to arrive and everyone who speaks about this in the way that Mary does here should first pray and fast very much. If this does not happen then we will somewhere start running in a wrong direction. One could say a lot of things regarding fasting, and a few of these I wish to repeat here. Fasting is a Biblical practice as well as a Biblical message in both the Old and the New Testament and it has been practiced and taught during all of Church History. But we also know that fasting -- not only the practice of fasting but also the sense for it -- was almost lost in recent times and especially in the 40 years since Vatican II. This means that when someone starts to fast he will bump into much resistance and many misunderstandings. Mary called for prayer and fasting from the very beginning and she connected this with the primary message of peace when she told us that with prayer and fasting wars and natural catastrophes can be averted. Jesus Himself practiced and spoke much about fasting. The Pope calls for and speaks about fasting in His Encyclical THE GOSPEL OF LIFE when he speaks about the culture of life and the culture of death, and he says that the culture of death has far more things and that it is working everywhere, but that the culture of life can be stronger because we after all have the strongest things possible in prayer and in fasting. And as Jesus told us one can also send away evil spirits with prayer and fasting that one can in no other way send away. The Pope says that with prayer and fasting evil can be recognized and fought far more easily than without them. So fasting serves the health of the body and the soul of the whole person and is therefore good for the physical body as well as the mind and soul. So when

we renew our decision for prayer and for fasting and then make a gift of them for Mary to offer to Jesus for this NEW TIME, then really only she knows exactly what this means. For us remains to work hard, to listen to and then to live her messages.

IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR MANY HEARTS HAVE OPENED TO ME

When we hear this we must thank and praise God for all the open hearts that this Jubilee Year has brought about. It was the Pope's wish for this Jubilee Year that every Christian prepare himself anew to encounter the Trinity -- the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit -- in the Holy Eucharist. Many people responded and have again renewed their prayer-life and have again begun to pray, fast, go to Confession, and to attend Mass more often and also to attend Adoration. Hearing what Mary says here is a true joy because the purpose of this great Jubilee Year was exactly that hearts were meant to move anew, and all preparations for this year had the same purpose. If we now think back over these last three years, we can remember the years of the Spirit, the Son, the Father and this year as the Year of the Holy Eucharist, then we know how the Pope wished of us to prepare for thus Jubilee Year and certainly many hearts again opened themselves and this, of course, is only the result of God's grace. Then Mary says...

AND THE CHURCH IS BEING RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT

Here we must be clear that every one of us is a member of the Church and therefore as much as we are renewed so is the whole Church renewed.

I REJOICE WITH YOU AND I THANK GOD FOR THIS GIFT

Here it is certainly appropriate to say that Mary already a long time ago called us to pray to the Holy Spirit every evening before Holy Mass, and this we will also continue to do. I can only recommend to every prayer-group as well as every individual pray-er that they constantly pray to the Holy Spirit so that this renewal may also continue and bring forth many good fruits; and also to thank God because the gifts conversion, of the renewal of the Church, of these apparitions and of Mary's special presence here in these times are really big. But the last line of Mary's message tells us clearly that we may not yet even think of a triumph.

AND YOU, LITTLE CHILDREN, I CALL TO PRAY, PRAY, PRAY -- UNTIL PRAYER

BECOMES A JOY FOR YOU

Prayer is always an encounter with God that should really always be joyful because when we meet a loving person then our heart will always feel joy. So all we are left with is to give one another the trust and say to one another "decide for prayer, take the time, it is Mary's intention and wish", and her wish is really our need – our need to meet God in prayer. When her wish is peace then it is our need to overcome all distress and wars, and instead to have and to live in true peace. And so that it may also become this way, let us pray...

God, our loving Heavenly Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus whom You sent us to save us and who opened His heart to us on the Cross, we ask you along with Mary who opens our hearts, give us the grace that we love You and out of this love can pray and then carry all Mary's intentions in our prayers. Renew in us the spirit of prayer, and renew prayer in our families, our prayer-groups, and in all the Church. Give us the grace of prayer and fasting so that we begin to do it with love and that Mary can then offer it to Jesus for this new time. God, our Father, speak one word and free each of us, our families, our communities, the Church and the whole world from all that which hinders or could hinder the coming of this new time. Free us of all of satan's kingdom of lies, of violence, of death, and of all that is evil, so that Your Kingdom of

love, goodness, mercy and justice may come. Father, in this Jubilee Year, may you with Your love touch all human hearts so that we can enter the New Millenium ready and able to live in this world as Your children. Renew the Church in Your Spirit and make her the witness of love and of peace in this world, and bless the Pope, all Bishops and Priests, all Communities, all those baptised, all Christian denominations so that we may through the love of the Holy Spirit become one to announce You in the world as being our Father. Give us the spirit of joy and gratitude so that we may recognize these gifts and thereby become grateful for them. And with Mary we ask You to bless us all and give all of us peace, so that we may become carriers of peace and then serve every life with Your love, and may it be this way.

Amen.

Fra Slavko Barbaric
Medjugorje; October 28, 2000

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



We are seeking loving souls to help out at the February 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE.

Please fill out the coupon below to be a volunteer.

Thank you so much.

I WANT to HELP OUR LADY and JESUS at the FEBRUARY 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE

Name: _____

Please sign me up as a volunteer in the following area(s):

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PREPARATION DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY:

- _____ Answer phones and perform general office work
- _____ Record Registrations
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Phone Number: (____) _____

Please complete this form and send to Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

CALENDARS:

In *November*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **ALL SAINTS (1)**, of the **Dedication of Saint John Lateran (9)** and **Saint Andrew the Apostle (30)**, and Memorials of **Saints ALL SOULS (2)**, **CHRIST the KING (22)**, the Feasts **Martin de Porres (3)**, **Charles Borromeo (4)**, **Leo the Great (10)**, **Martin of Tours (11)**, **Josaphat (12)**, **Frances Xavier Cabrini (13)**, **Albert the Great (15)**, **Gertrude the Great (16)**, **Margaret of Scotland (16)**, **Elizabeth of Hungary (17)**, **Rose Philippine Duchesne (18)**, **Cecilia (22)**, **Columban (23)**, **Clement I (23)**, **Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (24)** as well as **Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro (23)**, the **Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome (18)**, and the **Presentation of Mary (21)**. Church calendars recognize **Election Day (7)**, **Veterans Day (11)** and **Thanksgiving Day (26)**. Father Bing Arellano will hold a **Day of Recollection (11)**, 9 AM to 4 PM at Epiphany House. **Genogram Workshop (18)** at Epiphany House.

In *December*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (8)** and **CHRISTMAS (25)**, the Feasts of **Our Lady of Guadalupe (12)**, **Saints Stephen (26)**, and **John, Apostle and Evangelist (27)**, **Holy Innocents (28)** and **Holy Family (31)** and Memorials of **Saints John of Damascus (4)**, **Nicholas (6)**, **Ambrose (7)**, **Damasus I (11)**, **Lucy (13)**, **John of the Cross (14)**, **Peter Canisius (21)**, **John of Kanty (23)**, and **Thomas Becket (29)** and **Blessed Juan Diego (9)**.

Remember the Holy Souls throughout the month of November and plan to do something special for Our Lord, Our Lady and the Holy Family during Advent.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Try to participate in daily Holy Mass or make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament during your travels to and from work or on errands.

Reserve the weekend of February 23rd, 24th and 25th 2001 for the PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE at the Four Points Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 with Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. The 3-day extension on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit will feature Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J.

Please make your ROOM RESERVATIONS on the list with the Four Points Hotel, **1-800-325-3535**, NOW and plan to pre-register for the RETREAT CONFERENCE with the PFMC using the gold information sheet with registration form inserted in this issue of "The PILGRIM."

For more information, call the PFMC at 856-768-9228.

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:



<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

If you wish to see pictures of the twins or related Werner family information, visit:

<http://www.geocities.com/keithwerner>

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If there is no time to read it all 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!"

