



The PILGRIM

Vol. 11 No. 8-9 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) August-September 2000

Our Lady's MESSAGE of 7/25/2000 via Marija Pavlovic Lunetti and the Franciscans at Medjugorje
Dear Children! Do not forget that you are here on earth on the way to eternity and that your home is in Heaven. That is why, little children, be open to God's love and leave egoism and sin. May your joy be only in discovering God in daily prayer. That is why, make good use of this time and pray, pray, pray; and God is near to you in prayer and through prayer. Thank you for having responded to my call.

Father Slavko Barbaric's REFLECTION begins on page 23

Our Lady's MESSAGE of 8/25/2000 via Marija Pavlovic Lunetti and the Franciscans at Medjugorje
Dear Children! I desire to share my joy with you. In my Immaculate Heart I feel that there are many of those who have drawn closer to me and are, in a special way, carrying the victory of my Immaculate Heart in their hearts by praying and converting. I desire to thank you and to inspire you to work even more for God and His kingdom with love and the power of the Holy Spirit. I am with you and I bless you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.

We will print Father Slavko Barbaric's REFLECTION next month. See note on page 26

A PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Love for You motivates my life. Help me to detach from objects of my choice. I present myself to You helpless and totally unable to do anything on my own. Your cruel crucifixion brought to me infinite Mercy and Hope. I surrender myself, all that I have and am to Your Sacred Heart. Instill in me a profound horror of sin and an ever-greater desire for holiness. May I make acts of reparation through acts of love for your great sufferings and humiliations?

Mary, intercede to bring Jesus to many lives who presently live lives apart from Him. Refine us all in your fire of Divine Flames. Allow LOVE to sear into our souls.

AMEN.

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

COMBINED AUGUST-SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Due to the end of July and early August commitments of many of the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) volunteers, there was no AUGUST issue of "The PILGRIM." This combined August - September 2000 issue of "The PILGRIM" contains some information that should be reviewed as soon as possible. This is particularly true if you wish to go on the pilgrimage to Medjugorje leaving Sunday, 24 September 2000 and visiting Rome for the

"The PILGRIM" for August - September 2000 is dedicated to the "Our Lady of Sorrows." The Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ." is on page 3.

Cannonization of Blessed Katharine Drexel on Sunday, 1 October 2000 as well as the Collegial Consecration of the World and Russia on Sunday, 8 October 2000.

SEMINARS and WORKSHOPS for PRIESTS and DEACONS - PLEASE HELP US

The PFMC will again host three days of seminars and workshops for priests, deacons and seminarians. Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. will be the speaker on "Healing in the Sacrament of Holy Orders." Father has given hundreds of seminars to religious. He has been so gracious to come to the Delaware Valley this year. Father is a dynamic speaker and has touched millions of hearts. He is a great teacher and evangelist with charisms of the Holy Spirit.

We hope that you will help us and give the enclosed flyer to a priest or deacon or seminarian in your area. Possibly you or your prayer group will offer to sponsor someone for this series of seminars and workshops with a \$199 donation. We know many would come if you would help them.

This series of seminars and workshops will be held at the Holiday Inn on NJ 70 opposite the Garden State Park in Cherry Hill, NJ from Wednesday, September 27th at 9 AM thru the Friday, September 29th about 1:30 PM. The PFMC will make hotel arrangements and provide registration assistance. The flyer only needs to be filled out with the donation and mailed to the PFMC at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963. The donation covers the hotel room overnight expenses for the 2 nights as well as for meals including snacks.

Thank you for your help. God Bless You.

PRAYER and FASTING NEEDED for the PRIEST and DEACON SEMINARS and WORKSHOPS

Father Hampsch has requested that all of our readers pray and fast for the period *September 27th to 29th, 2000*. It is through prayer and fasting that the hearts and minds of the priests and deacons will be deeply touched. Father said his best seminars occur when there is this deep intercession by others.

Fasting is a most powerful weapon used by Christ to destroy Satan. Fasting gives strength to prayer against Satan. It is as necessary as prayer, and its purpose is to gain holiness for the love of God. We direct our hearts and minds to God in an attitude of dependence and total abandonment. Fasting is our open rejection of the devil's attempts to make us all gluttons. Fasting enables us to fill our minds with holy thoughts on the goodness of the Lord. We subdue our vices and we strive for greater perfection and sanctity.

We invite all priests and deacons to come to this wonderful three days with Father Hampsch. Father has held many many of these events for religious and is most anxious to be here in New Jersey this year. We still have openings for these seminars and workshops. Please call 856-768-9228 or fax your application to 856-768-9428.

PILGRIMAGE DEPARTING SEPTEMBER 24, 2000 and RETURNING OCTOBER 9, 2000 - MEDJUGORJE, CANNONIZATION of BLESSED KATHARINE DREXEL, JUBILEE PAPAL BLESSING in ASSISI for the FEAST of SAINT FRANCIS, 2 DAY RETREAT, and the COLLEGIAL BLESSING of the WORLD and RUSSIA in ROME – 15 SEATS AVAILABLE.

Have you ever felt you were called to a very special pilgrimage to Medjugorje?

Keith and Kathleen will lead this pilgrim group to the parish of Saint James in Medjugorje for an experience of prayer and peace in the love of Our Lady. This parish is made up of several tiny farm villages in a valley between mountains in western Bosnia-Herzegovina, They would love to have you join them as they travel in pilgrimage to meet with the visionaries and experience the Holy Mass that stirs the heart into reconciliation and conversion.

They will return to Rome for the beautiful Canonization of Katharine Drexel on October 1, 2000. If you have never been to a Beatification or Canonization it is an experience you will never forget.

While in Rome, a guide and our escort will help you to enjoy tours of the Catacombs, Holy Mass in the Vatican, and sight seeing and prayer at the major Basilicas and Churches. See the Sistine Chapel and the magnificent fresco's of Michaelangelo.

For the feast of Saint Francis on October 4, 2000, the Holy Father will be going to Assisi. We stay in the Hotel Windsor, inside the walls of Assisi near the great Basilica of Saint Francis. We will be part of the blessing and enjoy the walled city of Assisi in its entirety.

Returning to Rome, we will be staying at a Catholic Religious Retreat House called "Mondo Migliore". Nestled on a lake, you will be offered 2 days of retreat or, if you so choose, be on your own to further explore Rome and its surroundings.

We will try to organize a visit to Rome on Saturday, October 7, 2000, to join with the Holy Father in a Rosary for Life in support of all of the Life Chains world-wide.

We are told that about 4000 bishops will be meeting in Rome for the Papal Collegial Consecration of the World and Russia to Our Lady on Sunday, October 8, 2000. This will again fulfill the Fatima message request. We have arranged to be there for this monumental blessing.

The donation for the pilgrimage covers Swiss Air to and from Rome, Croatia Air to and from Split, Croatia, hotels and housing in double occupancy rooms throughout, all breakfasts and suppers, USA, Italian and Croatia taxes, escort throughout and guides for all tours, air conditioned motor coach, and much more. Please see enclosed flyer.

It must be noted that on all of our pilgrimages we offer private rooms throughout the pilgrimage for a reasonable fee called a "single supplement." We encourage those who snore or who are smokers to utilize this "single supplement" option for the comfort of the other pilgrims.

Our Spiritual Director, Father Joy Chacko, is a dynamic priest who loves his priesthood. He has a great gift of ministry, and he takes special notice of the soul's put in his care. You will love him. He will offer Holy Mass, hear confessions, and offer a full spiritual program to you daily.

You must call us IMMEDIATELY at 856-768-9228 and have total payment available either by check or credit card. Do not miss out on this pilgrimage of a lifetime.

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD ACCEPTED

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

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

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION with MARY

Father Jay Bowden, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Brick, NJ, will hold a day of recollection on Mary on Thursday, October 26, 2000 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the PFMC. Please call to make a reservation for the day. Father has held several days of recollection for us, and has a true devotion to Our Lady. A free will offering would be appreciated.

WALK in the FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS - A PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LAND - NOVEMBER 1 through 14, 2000 – Last Month to Sign Up - Scripture will Dance Alive After This Pilgrimage

Receive the Jubilee Blessings of walking in the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land. Keith and Kathleen will again lead a 14 day pilgrimage through the beautiful churches, and places of Israel and Jordan.

Have you ever wanted to see these places, to walk on Holy ground, to bathe in the waters of the Jordan, or renew your marriage vows in Cana? Join Father Jim Sauchelli on this pilgrimage that will help you to make the Gospels come alive for the rest of your life. We will pilgrimage to each location and will be combining the scriptures with Holy Mass as well as time for private prayer.

PLEASE BOOK EARLIER IF YOU WANT TO GO ON PILGRIMAGE THIS JUBILEE YEAR!

We cannot emphasize enough that because of the large numbers of people leaving for Europe for the Jubilee Year, hotels and airlines are overbooked and requiring names as well as deposits to hold confirmed space. The airlines and hotels are asking for names for all Jubilee Year pilgrimages. We will need to release unnamed airline seats and rooms on pilgrimages where we do not have names and deposits to cover the airline and hotel deposits at 60 days and 30 days before departure.

Please, if you are thinking of a pilgrimage this year, and a renewal of your commitment to Our Lady and Our Lord with special Jubilee Blessings, look over the above pilgrimages and call us immediately.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FATHER HAMPSCH SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP and for the 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED

Please call the PFMC if you can volunteer to help out for the above events. Our February conference needs about 40 volunteers. We also need help in the PFMC in setting up the programs, particularly in the area of accepting reservations, and program planning. If you are interested this year, please call Dotty or Kathleen at 856-768-9228. We appreciate your participation in evangelization.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A PILGRIM DIES, WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME, THURSDAY NIGHT SEMINARS ON THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHRIST'S DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH AND IT'S CONTINUING ROLE IN HUMAN LIVES	4
DECISION OF MEDICAL BOARD AT THE VATICAN FURTHERS CANONIZATION CAUSE OF BLESSED KATHARINE DREXEL	5
OUTLINE OF THE CANONIZATION PROCESS, WHO IS KATHARINE DREXEL.....	6
THE CAR.....	7
THE 2000 REVISION OF THE <i>INSTITUTIO GENERALIS MISSALIS ROMANI</i> , NO SMALL MIRACLE.....	8
THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS - A SERMON ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE AND RESPOND - STAY ON THE MAILING LIST	9
WHY NOT BECOME JOYFUL PEOPLE?	10
THE PERFECT HEART	11
HAVING A CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE - MIRACLES WILL HAPPEN IF YOU HAVE A CHILDLIKE JOYFUL TRUST.....	12
HOW TALL THIS SOUL MUST STAND – A STORY OF THE HEART.....	13
MARY'S ASSUMPTION – FOR LOVE OF OUR LADY..	14
CONFIDENCE IN MARY'S INTERCESSION.....	15
PROMISES OF CONSOLATION TO CHRIST, PRESS BULLETIN 146, JUNE 28, 2000.....	16
PRESS BULLETIN 147, JULY 12, 2000, PRESS BULLETIN 148, JULY 26, 2000, PLEASE HELP THE PFMC EVERY MONTH.	17
PRESS BULLETIN 149, AUGUST 9, 2000, REFLECTION ON OUR LADY'S MESSAGE OF JUNE 25, 2000.....	18
REFLECTION ON OUR LADY'S MESSAGE OF JULY 25, 2000.....	22
REFLECTION ON OUR LADY'S MESSAGE OF AUGUST 25, 2000, <i>PILGRIMS OF FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)</i>	25
COMPLETE ADDRESS — USE RETURN ADDRESS LABEL OR STAMP!!!, FOR ORDERS – PLEASE DO NOT PLACE THEM ON DONATION SLIPS, BOOKS AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES - THE NEW BUILDING IS OPEN	26
BOOKS NEEDED FOR OUR LIBRARY, PHONES – PLEASE BE PATIENT, ALLOW 8-9 RINGS FOR A MESSAGE MACHINE, BLESSED OIL NOTICES FOR PFMC AREA EVENTS	27
CALENDARS:, AROUND the PFMC AREA, INTERNET, MARIAN PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS.....	28

DONATIONS and VOLUNTEERS ARE NECESSARY to KEEP the PFMC OPEN

When we have expenses in the world we turn to you for your help through funds you donate. We all work as volunteers. . None of us are paid any salary or income from the funds you donate. Our Lord rewards each of us in His own special way. We count on all of you who so love "The PILGRIM," the retreats, the Bible study, and the annual RETREAT CONFERENCE, who enjoy getting the rosaries, and who so ask for intercessory prayer to help.

There are so many expenses for the facilities from which we work. We have been handling our first bills for operations from 61 Cooper Road. We are asking you to not forget us with donations for continuing operations.

We very much need your help. PLEASE don't forget us.

When we needed so much to get into the new facilities, you all responded with such fine help. Now we appeal to you again. Please place the enclosed envelope with your monthly bills, and consider tithing to us monthly.

Monthly we pay for "The PILGRIM" and all of our expenses to run the various PFMC ministries. We hope to provide you with much more in the year 2001. If you cannot come to donate your time, you could help us so much with your generosity. Thank you so much.

A PILGRIM DIES

Our apologies in not publishing the sudden death of a very dear pilgrim, and father of Linda Howard. Raul Nieves, husband of Eugenia Nieves, died on 5/28/2000. He always had a funny story to tell, and had a gift of laughter. He was always very lovable and a humble man. Linda was blessed to be at his hospital bedside when he quietly slipped away into the Lord's arms. All the grandchildren had been able to say good-bye to him. So many priests, who stopped by to see him in the hospital, had blessed him.

We did not hear of his death until recently. Our deepest prayers and healing for the whole family, and we know all those who went on pilgrimage with Raul and his wife will pray for his soul.

This little story is written in comfort and love for Linda and all the family.

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see;
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
We didn't get to say.
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.

The PILGRIM

But as I turned to walk away,
A tear fell from my eye,
For all my life, I'd always thought,
I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for,
So much yet to do,
It seemed almost impossible,
That I was leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays,
The good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared,
And all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday,
Just even for awhile,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you
And maybe see you smile.
But then I fully realized,
That this could never be,
For emptiness and memories,
Would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things,
I might miss come tomorrow,
I thought of you, and when I did,
My heart was filled with sorrow.
But when I walked through heaven's gates,
I felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me,
From His great golden throne,
He said "This is eternity,
And all I've promised you."
Today for life on earth is past,
But here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow,
But today will always last,
And since each day's the same day
There's no longing for the past.
But you have been so faithful,
So trusting and so true.
Though there were times you did some things,
You knew you shouldn't do.
But you have been forgiven
And now at last you're free.
So won't you take my hand
And share my life with me?
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.

(Author unknown)

THURSDAY NIGHT SEMINARS on the HISTORY and DEVELOPMENT of CHRIST'S DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH and IT'S CONTINUING ROLE in HUMAN LIVES

Dean Pulcini will be teaching a course called "CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS – DEFENDING YOUR FAITH" which

will offer a basic understanding of the Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

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

Dean Pulcini holds a Master's degree in Sacred Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, CT. His areas of expertise lie in Scripture, Morality and Liturgy.

He is also a certified Youth Minister in the Diocese of Camden. As a catechist he has taught grades 1 through 12 as well as college students and adults. 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.

Dean is also active in music ministry and leads the group VOYAGE. He has composed hundreds of pieces of music, some of them being accepted for publication. He has produced several albums.

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

Some related topics of the course will include:

Where Do Catholics Find THAT in the Bible?

The Bible and Sacred Tradition, the two fonts 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.

The Thursday evening programs will be held in the Great Room of Epiphany House. They will begin on the first Thursday of October 2000, the fifth, and continue every Thursday evening from 7 PM to 9 PM.

A free will offering will be accepted. The PFMC display room and library will be open. We would appreciate your call to 856-768-9228 if you plan to attend.

DECISION OF MEDICAL BOARD AT THE VATICAN FURTHERS CANONIZATION CAUSE OF BLESSED KATHARINE DREXEL

BENSALEM, PA (OCTOBER 7, 1999) - Katharine Drexel moved closer to sainthood today when a medical board meeting at the Vatican decided that there is no natural cause for the cure of a 17 month-old child's deafness.

The child was born with nerve deafness in 1992. This condition was confirmed by medical tests in September 1993. In November the child's family learned that prayer to Blessed Katharine resulted in the miraculous restoration of

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TYPING, PROOFREADING, ASSEMBLY and MAILING: Too many wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

hearing to Robert Gutherman's right ear. The family then began praying to Blessed Katharine that the child might hear. When, in March, a teacher at the pre-school the child was attending recognized a change in the child's responses, new hearing tests were administered. The child was found to have normal hearing in both ears.

The next step in the process of canonization, by which the Catholic Church officially recognizes an individual as a saint, is the convening of a board of theologians who will decide whether or not the healing of the child's deafness was a result of prayer to Blessed Katharine. Should they find this to be so, a board of Cardinals and Bishops will then meet to determine whether or not this is a case that should be recommended to Pope John Paul II as miraculous. Only the Holy Father can make that determination

If the Pope decides that a miracle has occurred through intercession to Blessed Katharine, he may then choose to canonize her, and she will become only the second native born American Saint (after Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton).

John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia introduced Katharine Drexel's Cause for Canonization in Rome in 1964.

"The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament are both pleased and excited by the announcement from the Vatican. We hope this announcement, and the ensuing events, will lead to many to imitate Katharine's life of prayer, and work for an end to the racism and greed that encourage systems which discriminate, deprive and oppress those who are most vulnerable," said Sister Monica Loughlin, President of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Katharine Drexel was a Philadelphia millionairess who became a Catholic sister. Inspired by a profound love for God, she chose to live a very poor life while investing her entire fortune (about \$20 million) and her whole life in service to the Native American and African American poor throughout the United States. She founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who continue this service today in 48 ministry sites in twelve states and Haiti.

OUTLINE OF THE CANONIZATION PROCESS

In Catholic faith before someone is named a saint there is a process that must be followed. Below is an outline of the canonization process.

Major Stages

Servant of God (Venerable) This stage requires that a candidate lived a life of faith and morals.

Beatification (Blessed) requires an extraordinary event that is recognized as miraculous by the Church.

Canonization (Saint) requires a second extraordinary event that is recognized as miraculous by the Church.

Steps to Beatification

Beatification requires recognition by the Church of an

extraordinary event, that is one that cannot be explained according to the laws of human science and is attributed to a Divine intervention through the meditation of the Servant of God who has been invoked by the faithful. Such recognition by the Church has to go through several successive stages:

A) The gathering of all the evidence: historical, clinical documentation, and deposition of witnesses.

B) Critical study of all the evidence and writing by the Postulation of the "Positio" that proves the extraordinary nature of the event.

C) Examination of the "Positio" by the Medical Board of Specialists in the case of a physical event.

D) Assessment by the board of Theologians.

E) Meeting of Cardinals and Bishops who are members of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Steps to Canonization

Requires the recognition by the Church of an event that is extraordinary and occurred after the Beatification, and is examined in the same steps as above in Beatification.

WHO IS KATHARINE DREXEL

Francis Anthony and Hanna Langstroth Drexel gave birth to their second daughter Katharine, on November 26, 1858. One month after Katharine's birth, Hanna passed away. For two years, Katharine and her older sister Elizabeth were cared for by their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel. In 1860, Katharine's father, a well known banker and philanthropist, remarried Emma Bouvier and in 1863 a daughter, Louise was born. The three children were raised in a home of deep faith and tender love

In 1870, Mr. Drexel purchased a summer home, Saint Michel, in Torresdale, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth and Katharine taught at the Sunday School that Emma Drexel began for the children of employees and neighbors. They spent two afternoons a week helping their mother to service the poor. Their pastor was Reverend James O'Connor, formerly the rector of Saint Charles Seminary, and later the bishop of Omaha, Nebraska. He became a cherished family friend, and Katharine's spiritual director. The girls were educated by tutors, and their parents took them on tours of the United States and Europe

When Katharine was twenty-one, her mother developed cancer, and Katharine nursed her through three years of intense suffering. During this time, the thought of religious life came to her constantly and forcibly. After her mother's death, she wrote for counsel to Bishop O'Connor. As to her call to the religious life itself, he advised her to "Think, pray, and wait."

Mr. Drexel died in 1885. By the terms of his will Katharine and her sisters were, during their lifetime, beneficiaries of

the income from his estate. Through the great Indian missionary, Monsignor Joseph Stephan, Katharine became acquainted with the sufferings of the American Indians. With her two sisters, she visited the reservations to see conditions and needs. She began to build schools on the reservations, supplying food, clothing, furnishings, and salaries for teachers. She also found priests to serve the spiritual needs of the people. As she became aware of the suffering of the Black people of the South and East, she extended her charity to them. Throughout her lifetime, through the Bureau of Colored and Indian Missions, she encouraged and financially supported missions throughout this country and abroad.

On February 12, 1891, Katharine Drexel pronounced her vows as the first Sister of the Blessed Sacrament. With thirteen companions, she returned to Saint Michel. In 1892 they moved to Saint Elizabeth's Convent in Cornwell Heights, Pennsylvania. The burden of administration and guidance of her congregation in the Eucharistic spirit, the total gift of self, rested on her for forty-four years.

Missionary work began with the opening of a boarding school for Black children, and then one among the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. In 1902, Saint Michael's School on the Navajo Indian reservation, was opened. As the years passed, boarding and day schools were opened in the East, the Midwest, and in the rural and urban areas of the South and Southwest. In 1917, a school to prepare teachers was established in New Orleans, which received a charter in 1925 as Xavier University of New Orleans

In 1935, Mother Katharine suffered a severe heart attack, and for the next twenty years lived in prayerful retirement. Her interest and love for the missions deepened, until her death on March 3, 1955. She is interred in the crypt of the Motherhouse Chapel, the Blessed Katharine Drexel Shrine. In the opinion of her contemporaries, she was truly saintly. It was their belief that she was singled out by God's grace. She was a source of inspiration, a model for imitation.

Blessed Katharine established many ministries from 1891 until her death in 1955. She led a life devoted to uplifting the minds and spirits of Native and African American women, men, and children. Founding and staffing schools for both Native and African Americans throughout the country became a priority for Blessed Katharine and her congregation. During her lifetime, she opened, staffed, and directly supported nearly sixty schools and missions. Blessed Katharine also founded Xavier University of Louisiana, <http://www.xula.edu>, the only predominantly Black Catholic institution of higher learning in the United States.

Blessed Katharine's Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament have joyously and faithfully continued her work for Eucharistic social justice since her death in 1955, despite no longer having her financial resources. Blessed Katharine's

inherited wealth was disbursed according to her father's will to various charities, not including the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; the congregation was founded after her father's death. John Cardinal Krol formally opened the Cause for Canonization in 1964. Her Cause has advanced. As of October 7, 1999, regarding a healing under investigation, the Medical Board at the Vatican in Rome stated: "There is no natural cause for the cure attributed to Blessed Katharine Drexel." [She will be canonized as a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church on October 1, 2000, in Rome.]

<http://www.katharinedrexel.org>

THE CAR

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with the young man's name embossed in gold.

Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to his son. He was needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago.

With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly father which is in heaven, give to those who ask Him?"

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words...PAID IN FULL. How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

(from internet – mvmurphy92)

THE 2000 REVISION of the *INSTITUTIO GENERALIS MISSALIS ROMANI*

On Holy Thursday, 2000, Pope John Paul II approved the revised *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani*, popularly known as the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The present revision replaces the 1975 edition of the *Institutio Generalis* and is now available in Latin from the Vatican Press and in an English language study edition from the NCCB Secretariat for the Liturgy. This summary is offered to our readers in order to provide an introduction to some of the new aspects of this important liturgical document.

In order to make the study translation available to as wide an audience as possible, the Secretariat for the Liturgy has prepared an 8 1/2 x 11" unbound, three-hole punched and shrink-wrapped edition. Copies may be ordered at \$12 per copy by mailing a check payable to *BCL to Institutio Generalis*, NCCB Secretariat for the Liturgy, 3211 4th St, NE, Washington DC 20017. Dioceses wishing to reproduce the text at their own expense may do so by paying a fee of \$5 per copy.

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/liturgy/current/romanmissalind.htm>

[We will make every effort to obtain permission to reprint this material so our readers can see it on paper. Here is a brief description from the NCCB Internet Site:]

At the outset, it is important to understand that the revised *Institutio* stands in direct continuity with the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) of the Second Vatican Council, and the former General Instruction on the Roman Missal (*Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani*) of 1975. As with both these seminal documents, the prescriptions of the new *Institutio* are to be seen as concrete ways of specifying and underscoring the nature and importance of the sacred liturgy in the church's life (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 5).

The structure of the *Institutio* remains largely unchanged, though there are some significant exceptions. The number of paragraphs has been increased from 340 to 399. A ninth chapter of new material regarding "Adaptations which are the Competence of Bishops and Conferences of Bishops" has been developed in the light of the Fourth Instruction on the Implementation of the Constitution on the Liturgy (March 29, 1994).

The introduction to the *Institutio* (1-15) contains the theological and spiritual rationale for what follows. These paragraphs deserve special attention because they show how this new document is an organic outgrowth of what has occurred since Vatican II in the reform of the liturgy, and they contain important theological insight about the central place of the Eucharist in the life of faith. As with the prior edition of the *Institutio*, its first chapter contains a general reflection on the "Importance and Dignity of the Eucharistic Celebration." The second chapter then examines the "Structure, Elements and Parts of the Mass." The third

chapter ("Offices and Ministries in the Mass") is divided into three sections also found in the previous edition, dealing with the role of the ordained, the gathered faithful and special ministries. A fourth division has been added to the new edition, addressing the "Distribution of Roles and Preparations for the Celebration."

Chapter four ("Different Forms of Celebration") has been significantly restructured. The first section regarding "Mass with a Congregation" is now divided into four parts: "Mass without a Deacon" (previously, "Basic Form of Celebration"); "Mass with a Deacon" (previously, "Functions of the Deacon"); "Functions of the Acolyte" and "Functions of the Reader." Part III (previously, "Mass without a Congregation") is now entitled "Mass at which only one Minister Assists."

Chapter five ("The Arrangement and Furnishing of the Church for the Celebration of the Eucharist") is now divided into three sections: I. "General Principles", II. "Arrangement of the Sanctuary for the Sacred Synaxis" (formerly, "Arrangement of the Church"), and III. "The Arrangement of the Church." The structure of chapters six, seven and eight remains substantially unchanged.

In other instances, paragraphs have been added which conveniently collect rubrical information found elsewhere throughout the *Institutio* or otherwise found in the Order of Mass. An example of this is found at number 90, which provides a convenient summary of the concluding rites.

While much of the revision in the new edition is stylistic and editorial, bringing greater precision to the *Institutio*, many of the changes are introduced to nuance or enhance the meaning of a particular passage. For example, the adjective "sacred" is added regularly to such words as ministers, celebrations, hosts, vestments and action, in keeping with the *Institutio*'s own general admonition that "[a]nything out of keeping with the sacred is to be avoided." (344) Likewise, the adjective "profound" has been added to the word "bow" in most instances and the adjective "liturgical" to the word "assembly" when suggested by the context.

Other more substantive changes are described under the following five categories: I. The Bishop, Priest and Deacon; II. Lay Ministers; III. Ritual Changes; IV. Sacred Things and V. Adaptation.

Committee on the Liturgy National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/liturgy/current/revmissalisromanien.htm>

NO SMALL MIRACLE

This story goes back quite a few years, the early fifties. It is a story of faith - belief in a miracle.

I had developed planter warts on both feet. They were

extremely painful, like trying to walk with several sharp stones digging into your feet. I was being treated by a podiatrist, but no matter what he tried, it did not work. The pain was hardly bearable.

Finally, I remembered that I had some dried rose petals that had been touched to a first class relic of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower. I decided to put some of the petals in a sock and put it on the foot that was affected the most. Before getting into bed, I knelt down on the side of the bed and begged Saint Theresa to heal my feet.

When I woke up and got out of bed, to my great relief there was no pain. I got up on my bed, pulled off the sock and examined my feet. I was thrilled to discover that all the planter warts had disappeared from both feet, not just the one exposed to the rose petals.

I told my family and friends about my miracle and they were happy for me. But they doubted a miracle had happened. I heard things like, "Warts at times disappear on their own." I did not care then, nor do I now because I know the Little Flower had given me one of her "roses", and I was overjoyed and very grateful.

(by Barbara Schmit, "International Newsletter of the Association of Christian Therapists, May/June 2000)

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS - A SERMON ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

In writing down the Holy Gospels, each Evangelist, in conveying the facts, sees Jesus from his own perspective. Each one catches unique facets of the Son of God, whose reality is too great for anyone to capture totally.

For instance:

Saint John strongly reveals Christ's divinity.

Saint Luke shows Jesus compassion and love for the poor.

Saint Mark reveals Jesus as the great prophet who roars like a lion.

Saint Matthew is clear to show the humanity of Christ. He also presents Jesus as the New Moses, who came to establish the New Covenant. Just as Moses would give us the 10 Commandments, Jesus would give us the fulfillment of the Law.

As Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the 10 Commandments, so Jesus presents His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus makes greater demands on men than did the Law of Moses. But He also bestows the needed grace to fulfill these demands.

The Sermon starts out with the beatitudes. Jesus then tells us that we are salt and light. We must give flavor and light to the world. He tells us that our holiness must surpass that of the Scribes and Pharisees. Then we come to today's Gospel.

The very first Jesus talked about is anger, hatred, and

reconciliation. Our Lord being God knew our human nature. He knew what hatred, hurt, division and anger could do.

It started very early on in the Church. Peter tells us in the Epistle to

Be of one mind

Be compassionate

Suffer with

Offer up

Love one another

Be merciful

Be humble

Return a Blessing for an insult.

If we seek to do well, keep from evil and seek peace, we will receive a blessing in return.

Just this week, in the lessons from Matins, there was a reading from Pope Saint Clement, the 3rd successor of Saint Peter who died around 99 AD I quote

"Why are there strife and passion, schisms and even war among you? Do we not possess the same spirit of grace, which was given to us, and the same calling in Christ? Why do we tear apart and divide the body of Christ? Why do we revolt against our own body? Why do we reach such a degree of insanity that we forget that we are members one of another?"

Do not forget the words of Jesus Our Lord: "Woe to that man: it would be better for him if he had not been born rather than not scandalize one of my chosen ones. Indeed it would be better for him to have a great millstone round his neck and to be drowned in the sea than that he lead astray one of my chosen ones."

Your division has led many astray, has made many doubt, has made many despair, and has brought grief upon us all.

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And still your rebellion continues . . .

We should put an end to this division immediately. Let us fall down before our master and implore his mercy with our tears. Then he will be reconciled to us and restore us to the practice of brotherly love that befits us.

A person may be faithful; he may have the power to utter hidden mysteries, he may be discriminating in the evaluation of what is said and pure in his actions. But the greater he seems to be, the more humbly he ought to act, and the more zealous he should be for the common good rather than his own interest." (Clement I - Letter to the Corinthians)

Jesus tells us that anger and hatred against our brother is just as evil as murder. Murder ends a life swiftly. Anger and hatred inflict pain and anguish for years and years. Murder kills the body, while anger and hatred wound the soul greatly and can destroy it.

Jesus exhorts us to forgive and be reconciled before we offer our gifts and prayers at the altar. As we say in the Lords Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". This is not just a suggestion. It is a command. Hatred, fighting, factions, mistrust, schisms, all of these things are gravely sinful.

The liturgy today gives us a chance to reflect first on anger and second on reconciliation.

Anger is a feeling of rage and hatred that arises from what we perceive as injustice. Everybody is angry about everything these days. We see road rage, protests, shootings, smear campaigns, calumny, rumors . . . you name it – it exists.

But by the grace of Jesus Christ and only by His grace we can confront anger and hatred rationally and we can prayerfully overcome it.

First we must step back and calm down. We can write a letter and let it sit for 24 hours. We think, respond, and don't react.

We must distinguish between the incident or error and the person who performs the incident or who holds the error. You have heard of hate the sin, but love the sinner. We should work with methodical and persistent resolve to eradicate errors and falsehoods. But we must do so with the desire not to destroy our enemy. We must hope for and pray for the conversion of our enemy. We must love the enemy, which affects unity. Hatred of an enemy only brings about further separation and more enmity.

To hate anyone is gravely sinful. We must analyze the situation and act in good rational ways to solve the problem, fight the problem, and forget the problem. You can win every little battle and loose the war.

What about reconciliation? Love of those who oppose us or harm us, control of anger, and a desire for true union in Christ must manifest itself

- a. In a Spirit of forgiveness
- b. In ordinary signs of respect
- c. In assistance in cases of necessity

Forgiveness: Love of enemies can never include hatred and revenge. Positively it demands a readiness to reconcile with the offender if he truly tries to make up for the offense.

If a person won't admit any wrongdoing, no pardon is possible. Even God can only forgive those sins for which we repent.

But as God is always ready to forgive the sinner as soon as he converts, so a man must reconcile with his enemy as soon as he repents.

We must also humbly admit that rarely is one side right and one side wrong. Therefore this should soften our hearts and perhaps spur us on to initiate the reconciliation.

Finally forgiveness does not wipe out debts. The offender has the obligation to restore the damage caused, and the offended party has a right to demand it.

Respect: A requirement for love of enemies is a response to greetings. Ordinary signs of civility must follow. These things may open the way to reconciliation or at least avoid causing scandal. Pray for those who have offended us.

Manifestation of Love: must be shown to those who have harmed us. Give assistance in case of necessity. In instances of extreme necessity a person is bound to help one's enemy just as we are bound to help any one else. Saint Paul says "if your enemy is hungry, feed him: if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good."

Finally, be patient, and pray for God's grace. IT is not easy to get over hurts. With Gods grace it can happen in an instant. In the end, hated and unforgiveness, grudges, and revenge hurt us. These hurts close us up. They fill us with resentment. They rob us of joy. They nag us. These feelings will come around and strike us when we least expect, and then WHAT DO WE GAIN?

Let us now ask ourselves:

Do we hate anyone?

Do we wish evil on anyone?

Do we hope for revenge?

Do we constantly tear down and criticize?

Let us pray for our enemies, pray for reconciliation for we are about to present our gifts at the Altar.

(Sermon by Father Robert Pasley, 7/2000, Our Lady's Chapel, Berlin-Cross Keys Road)

WHY NOT BECOME JOYFUL PEOPLE?

One of the saddest things in my life is to preach to so many Christian groups, especially in parishes, and to see...what

good people and yet what joyless people, face someone who is preaching about the indwelling Trinity. I'm always kind of telling them, "Look, it's not enough that you give an intellectual assent to a truth revealed by God, that the Trinity dwells within you. You must experience this. It must be not just an intellectual assent, but a response to God's great love for you. God wants to live in you and God does live in you, and why don't you wake up from your sleep and why not become a joyful people?"

It's all there brothers and sisters. You don't have to ask God to come into you. You don't have to ask God to love you. It's for you to wake up. When Jesus preached, he said, "Wake Up! The Kingdom of God is breaking in upon you. It's in me. I have come to bring you into the Kingdom of God."

And what is that Kingdom of God? Not some far away place that you hope you'll arrive at after you pop out of Purgatory like popcorn. You go to this place called Heaven. Heaven is relationships. It's relating as a child of God to the uncreated energies that are not things that God gives us. That's why we're not excited. We get things called "Sanctifying Graces," but they'd never transform us until we know that God is uncreated energies of love dwelling in us and that God is the giver of life. God isn't a God of the dead, but a God of the living. God came to give us Jesus, the Divine Physician, who is healing love.

It's only love that heals. We know that at the root of so many of our disturbances is fear. The opposite of love is not really hatred. Hatred is a part of fear. Fear is disbelief that God truly loves me and an ignorance of how beautiful I can be in that unique manifestation on the face of the earth and for all eternity in Heaven of God's perfection. No one else in the whole world, past, present or future, could ever manifest as you can when you know how beautiful you are in the indwelling Jesus Christ who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

How few of us ever realize that we're to experience what Jesus said in John 14:23, "If you keep my commands, I and the Father will come and abide in you." We'll make our mansion in you. You're a temple of God, more glorious than the temple Solomon built. Yet, here we are, cringing with fear and loneliness, bitchy and crabby people.

We receive Our Lord in the Eucharist on Sunday and we come out and we get in that parking lot and we'll not only run over our brother Catholics, but we'll ecumenically take on the world, Jews, Muslims, and anybody who gets in our way. Look Out! What have we received if we haven't become what we have eaten? The deacon always says, "Go, this Mass is ended." I want to cry out, "No, it just begins! Live it! Be what you have eaten! Be what you've touched! You've come into the burning bush, now be on fire! Why not be totally fire!"

Dear brothers and sisters, I don't know whether you've seen

the play or the movie, "Jesus Christ Superstar." I'll never forget that one scene where you find Jesus in the desert and all of a sudden people come out like slimy lizards, rodents and things from the desert. Like an ocean of evil, they come gliding over Jesus. They just submerge him in this blanket of brokenness. Jesus is deluged, sucked down in the midst of so much physical, psychological, spiritual suffering. Jesus is yelling piteously, "No there're too many of you. I can't heal you all." The good news is Jesus is God. Jesus is the Love incarnate in human flesh of the heavenly Father's love, Who we could never see. Colossians 1:15 says, "He is the image of the unseen God."

We can never love Jesus enough, but he can't be outside. He must be within for that's what love is. Union of two who now become one and in the oneness we find our uniqueness, our differentiation. Love differentiates as it unites. It is never passive. In the very union, love makes you into your beautiful self. Jesus was the light, as we read in the prologue to Saint John's Gospel he said, "Do you believe I can make you see? Do you believe I can heal your darkness, take away your sins?"

(Edited from a talk "Transformation in Light" by Father George Maloney, S.J. with permission)

THE PERFECT HEART

One day a young man was standing in the middle of the town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered and they all admired his heart for it was perfect. There was not a mark or a flaw in it. Yes, they all agreed it truly was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen. The young man was very proud and boasted more loudly about his beautiful heart.

Suddenly, an old man appeared at the front of the crowd and said, "Why your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine."

The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. It was beating strongly, but full of scars, it had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces put in, but they didn't fit quite right and there were several jagged edges. In fact, in some places there were deep gouges where whole pieces were missing.

The people stared -- how can he say his heart is more beautiful, they thought?

The young man looked at the old man's heart and saw its state and laughed.

"You must be joking," he said. "Compare your heart with mine, mine is perfect and yours is a mess of scars and tears."

"Yes," said the old man, "yours is perfect looking but I would never trade with you. You see, every scar represents a person to whom I have given my love - I tear out a piece of my heart and give it to them, and often they give me a

piece of their heart which fits into the empty place in my heart, but because the pieces aren't exact, I have some rough edges, which I cherish, because they remind me of the love we shared. Sometimes I have given pieces of my heart away, and the other person hasn't returned a piece of his heart to me. These are the empty gouges -- giving love is taking a chance. Although these gouges are painful, they stay open, reminding me of the love I have for these people too, and I hope someday they may return and fill the space I have waiting. So now do you see what true beauty is?"

The young man stood silently with tears running down his cheeks. He walked up to the old man, reached into his perfect young and beautiful heart, and ripped a piece out. He offered it to the old man with trembling hands.

The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart and then took a piece from his old scarred heart and placed it in the wound in the young man's heart. It fit, but not perfectly, as there were some jagged edges.

The young man looked at his heart, not perfect anymore but more beautiful than ever, since love from the old man's heart flowed into his.

They embraced and walked away side by side.

(Author: Unknown)

HAVING A CHRISTLIKE ATTITUDE - MIRACLES WILL HAPPEN IF YOU HAVE A CHILDLIKE JOYFUL TRUST

So many books and prayers focus on the sufferings of Jesus. They describe His torment and glory in great detail, but few reflect on the pleasure and joy, which Jesus embraced and experienced in His holy humanity. He was a man like us in all but sin.

"He always had the nature of God, but He did not think that by force He should try to become equal with God. Of His own free will He gave up all He had and took the nature of a servant. He became like man and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death on the cross." (Philippians 2 vs. 6-8)

Who is this man who knows us so well? Who is this man who fed the multitude, was hungry himself, who feasted with those He was with, who faced a cruel death of suffering, who was called a glutton and a drunkard, who ate with the poor and the rich? Who was this man who walked the villages, became tired and rested, who fished with the poorest of fishermen, who roasted the fish and feasted on the beach? Who is this man who drank wine, prayed as the Jews did, and who laid hands on people and healed them without seemingly knowing them?

When one ponders these few things of Jesus life, we realize that our Savior took pleasure in the very things of the earth that give us pleasure too. He was not one who was aloof from us, but one who mingled with even the most poor and

the greatest of sinners. If we look to His sufferings, should we not also look to Him as He embraced the pleasures and joys, as He lived the fullness of His humanity?

Jesus was alive to all kinds of sensory experiences. Can you not imagine Him as a baby suckling on His mother's breast or giggling as His mother tickled Him as she changed His diaper? What of His first baby steps holding on to His father's hand? I am sure He learned the skilled craft of pounding wood pegs into holes with a hammer, or the making of little chairs to be used at the hearth while cooking. And what about the times He played ball with other little children, or learned His first prayers! Would He not have chased a butterfly among the lilies of the field or watched a honey bee in His mother's garden? When at the river, could you not imagine Him building a small mud pie, or jumping in for a cool swim? As we do, Jesus stood in awe as He took pleasure in watching a bird fly and His mouth watered at the smell of fresh bread baking in the oven. He must have wondered at seeing tiny seeds growing from the ground into shafts of wheat flowing in the mysterious wind that He could hear and feel but not see.

Jesus tested His mother and father as He left the caravan to teach in the temple. He didn't even tell His parents where He was going! Have you ever pondered His excitement at making His bar mitzvah, as He passed from teen to manhood! "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52). In the desert He was tempted in the flesh by Satan himself. Jesus was fully alive, fully human, and living out Who He was called to be in His Father's plan.

Our spirit within us testifies to the same pleasures and joys, temptations, and sorrows that Jesus experienced. We are filled with awe at the birth of a child, the beauty of a wedding feast, or the feel of tears that flow down our cheeks with sad or joyful news? Are we not tired after long days of being with others? Do we not then escape to our own little desert to rest and be alone, whether it be our own home, or a quiet bedroom? Are we not tempted by Satan himself in so many matters or the sins of the flesh? Are we not forced to choose?

Do we not pray over a hospital bed for healing of the person lying there? Do we not put our arms around one who is hurting? We know the pride of a moment that has an eternal quality about it, or when the Holy Spirit fills us with God's touch of life and grace. And what of the cherished gift of a friend affirming our friendship? We experience gratitude and happiness in receiving it, and it makes the giver happy.

These are but a few of the pleasures and joys that are gifts of God. To take these gifts and savor their goodness as Jesus did is an act of surrender to the Divine Lover. This surrender is an affirmation to God of our acceptance of His loving relationship with Him. Could we then shut out what

our God offers us as if it were some kind of trick or test? Will we instead accept these gifts with gratitude, knowing that our God delights in our delight! We become pleasure receivers rejoicing in our experiences of life's goodness. Thus, we are moved closer to God Himself. We take pleasure in the gifts of God, the same gifts given by the Father to His only begotten Son.

As we yield to the love of God, He actually shares in our life experiences, waiting and watching what we will do with them. We share in His magnificent creation. He carries us along not only in our sufferings, but He celebrates with us in our joys. He delights in our childlike approach to Him. He is our Lover. As with any lover, He desires for His beloved a deepening love for the ordinary and simple things of daily life. Life becomes like a gentle wave embracing our Creator. We see with the eyes of a surrendered child seeing life for the first time. When all this is true we can say with great joy, "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).

(By Kathleen Werner, Co-Director PPMC)

HOW TALL THIS SOUL MUST STAND – A STORY OF THE HEART

Our house was directly across the street from the clinic entrance of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. We lived downstairs and rented the upstairs rooms to outpatients at the clinic. One summer evening as I was fixing supper, there was a knock at the door. I opened it to see a truly awful looking man. "Why, he's hardly taller than my eight-year-old," I thought as I stared at the stooped, shriveled body. But the appalling thing was his face - lopsided from swelling, red and raw. Yet his voice was pleasant as he said, "Good evening. I've come to see if you've a room for just one night. I came for a treatment this morning from the Eastern Shore, and there's no bus 'till morning." He told me

he'd been hunting for a room since noon but with no success, no one seemed to have a room. "I guess it's my face...I know it looks terrible, but my doctor says with a few more treatments..."

For a moment I hesitated, but his next words convinced me: "I could sleep in this rocking chair on the porch. My bus leaves early in the morning." I told him we would find him a bed, but to rest on the porch. I went inside and finished getting supper. When we were ready, I asked the old man if he would join us. "No thank you. I have plenty." And he held up a brown paper bag. When I had finished the dishes, I went out on the porch to talk with him a few minutes.

It didn't take long to see that this old man had an oversized heart crowded into that tiny body. He told me he fished for a living to support his daughter, her five children, and her husband, who was hopelessly crippled from a back injury. He didn't tell it by way of complaint; in fact, every other sentence was prefaced with thanks to God for a blessing. He was grateful that no pain accompanied his disease, which was apparently a form of skin cancer. He thanked God for giving him the strength to keep going. At bedtime, we put a camp cot in the children's room for him.

When I got up in the morning, the bed linens were neatly folded and the little man was out on the porch. He refused breakfast, but just before he left for his bus, haltingly, as if asking a great favor, he said, "Could I please come back and stay the next time I have a treatment? I won't put you out a bit. I can sleep fine in a chair." He paused a moment and then added, "Your children made me feel at home. Grownups are bothered by my face, but children don't seem to mind." I told him he was welcome to come again. And on his next trip he arrived a little after seven in the morning. As a gift, he brought a big fish and a quart of the largest oysters I had ever seen. He said he had shucked them that morning before he left so that they'd be nice and fresh. I knew his bus left at 4 A.M. and I wondered what time he

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had to get up in order to do this for us.

In the years he came to stay overnight with us there was never a time that he did not bring us fish or oysters or vegetables from his garden. Other times we received packages in the mail, always by special delivery; fish and oysters packed in a box of fresh young spinach or kale, every leaf carefully washed. Knowing that he must walk three miles to mail these, and knowing how little money he had made the gifts doubly precious.

When I received these little remembrances, I often thought of a comment our next-door neighbor made after he left that first morning. "Did you keep that awful looking man last night? I turned him away! You can lose roomers by putting up such people!"

Maybe we did lose roomers once or twice. But oh! If only they could have known him, perhaps their illnesses would have been easier to bear. I know our family always will be grateful to have known him; from him we learned what it was to accept the bad without complaint and the good with gratitude to God.

Recently I was visiting a friend who has a greenhouse. As she showed me her flowers, we came to the most beautiful one of all, a golden chrysanthemum, bursting with blooms. But to my great surprise, it was growing in an old dented, rusty bucket. I thought to myself, "If this were my plant, I'd put it in the loveliest container I had!"

My friend changed my mind. "I ran short of pots," she explained, and knowing how beautiful this one would be, I thought it wouldn't mind starting out in this old pail. It's just for a little while, till I can put it out in the garden." She must have wondered why I laughed so delightedly, but I was imagining just such a scene in Heaven. "Here's an especially beautiful one," God might have said when he came to the soul of the sweet old fisherman. "He won't mind starting in this small body."

All this happened long ago - and now, in God's garden, how tall this lovely soul must stand. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7b)

The star catcher grinned and whispered a plan,
"I'll catch all the stars that I possibly can.
Then give them to all of my friends
so they will truly see how sparkling
and special they are to me."

(from Bernadette)

MARY'S ASSUMPTION – FOR LOVE of OUR LADY

Christians have observed our Lady's Assumption into heaven from very early ages as her principal festival. True observance with a spirit of exultant joy. Indeed, this spirit seems to pervade the whole month of August, which is perfumed and beautified, as it were, by the singular honor and glory given to Mary in being taken up into Heaven, body and soul, by her Divine son.

In contemplating this most beautiful mystery of the Mother of God, even though we should be filled with the highest spiritual rapture, we could but faintly conceive or realize what each succeeding anniversary means.

When Mary entered Heaven, the whole celestial court took on unusual splendor. The Sacred Heart of Jesus beat with a new joy because His Blessed Mother had passed from earth to His Divine embrace. It overflowed with gladness, because He could repay Mary for those years of trial and privation and suffering which she had endured when she shared with Him the work of the Redemption of the human race. With a pride that was becoming to God, He placed the crown of dignity on her head, Queen of the angels and saints, second in glory and power to God alone.

PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LAND "WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS," 1 -14 NOVEMBER 2000

✂-----✂-----✂	
Name: _____	Room With? HLP 11/2000
Address: _____	Date of Birth (DOB): ____ / ____ / ____ Age: ____ Month / Day / Year (Kept Confidential)
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\$500 Deposit (\$250 Non-Refundable) Enclosed: •	\$2899 PPM Total Package Payment Enclosed: •
Single Supplement \$475 • (Advised for Smokers/Snorers)	Traveler's Insurance at Cost Desired: Yes • No •
Help me with add-on air from: _____ to JFK, New York, NY. A detailed itinerary for this HLP will be provided.	
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Your "Signature" indicates understanding and acceptance of the terms and conditions of this **HLP** as well as that you are mentally and physically capable of making this **HLP**. Reservations cannot be accepted without signature and either deposit or full payment.

"DOB" and "Age" are used to match you with a room mate if NO "Room with?" preferences are provided.

HLP 11/2000

The PILGRIM

Page 14 **Volume 11, Number 8-9-August-September 2000**

The Blessed Trinity rejoiced in bestowing the greatest honor and glory on Mary in reward for her faithful and humble cooperation in the Divine Plan of Redemption. The Eternal Father made her partaker of His power, the Eternal Son of His wisdom, and the Holy Ghost of His love.

The angels rejoiced and blessed God with songs of praise. The whole angelic host united in triumphant hymns. The Heavenly mansions re-echoed with the beautiful canticle that resounded from choir to choir as the saints proclaimed: "Thou are the glory of Jerusalem! Thou art the joy of Israel! Thou art the honor of our people."

Holy Mother Church, in the celebration of this feast each year, proclaims in her beautiful antiphons and hymns the glorious scene as an event actually taking place, in order that we may participate in the graces and joys of the festival in Heaven. There is a sublime and holy truth underlying the mystery of this feast, and the Holy Mother Church would bring it to the minds of her children in its most beautiful form. It is this: **The glory of Mary's Assumption is measured by the depth of her humility on earth.**

In this mystery of the Most Holy Mother of God in our souls we learn to appreciate more deeply the value of the hidden, interior life, of the life of union with God in our souls, of which Mary is the most perfect copy of the Divine Pattern, Jesus.

We see by the eyes of faith how Mary, upon her entry triumphant and glorious, into the Heavenly Jerusalem, is crowned Queen not only of the angels, but of the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles, the martyrs, the confessors, the virgins and of all the sanctity. How effectively does this not teach us that multifarious external works do not constitute the essence of holiness?

In her humble cottage, in the almost unknown village of Nazareth, Mary rose to sublime sanctity and it was LOVE that worked her perfection. It was love alone that made her Queen of the angels, of the patriarchs, of the prophets, of the apostles, of the martyrs, of the confessors and of the virgins. So vehement was Mary's charity and zeal for God's glory, that, even though she did not preach to the multitudes, as did the apostles, she was crowned their Queen. So much did her heart suffer for souls in union with her Crucified Son, that despite the fact that her body was not submitted to the horrible torments of the rack, the gridiron or other instruments of torture, despite the fact that apparently many other martyrs suffered more than she, she was justly crowned the martyr's Queen. In reality her sufferings were immensely more than theirs together. Because her virtues surpassed in every way the heroic virtues of all the saints, she is the Queen in every rank and class of God's saintly heroes.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin presents to us a very special occasion for considering Mary's virtues, which are the most worthy object of our imitation. Mary triumphs as the Immaculate Virgin and the Mother of Jesus because of her sublime purity. She is crowned the omnipotent Queen,

because on earth she was a servant, the obedient handmaid of the Lord. She is of all creatures the most exalted in Heaven. She was the most humble on earth. She, who observed the lowliest poverty and renounced all things in life, now possesses complete dominion over all things and is the Dispensatrix of all God's graces and riches. Mary triumphed by walking the way of the Cross in the footsteps of her Divine Son. Now she sits at His right hand, the Queen of angels and men. All generations of the past have called her Blessed and all generations of the future will continue to do so, as she, the Queen of prophets, foretold.

If we imitate our Heavenly Mother in her humility, in her poverty, in her obedience and in her purity of life, we shall merit, like her, the reward of Heavenly glory and shall celebrate her praises and contemplate her glory throughout all eternity.

In honor of her, let us remember that she is all loving towards us and all powerful to help us. She rejoices in having us come to her to seek her intercession, especially when we seek her aid in order to be faithful to the Divine commandments and to the practice of her virtues.

Just as Jesus longed for the time when His Blessed Mother would take her place at His side in eternal glory, so Mary longs also for the moment when each of her children shall be admitted to the celestial mansions and take the place her Divine Son has prepared for him.

The feast of Mary's Assumption should make us here on earth homesick for Heaven. It should fill our hearts with a longing for the happy day when we, too, will share in its eternal blessedness. Therefore this feast should cause us to look forward to a happy death, which we may indeed hope for if we place our life and our death in Mary's hands.

(from the Pastor's Corner, by Father Anthony Manuppella, Pastor, Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church, Merchantville, NJ, August 13, 2000, with permission)

CONFIDENCE in MARY'S INTERCESSION

Even during her life on earth, Mary appears in the gospels as distributing graces. Jesus sanctifies the precursor through her when she comes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Through her he confirms the faith of his disciples at Cana by performing the miracle for which she asked. Through her He confirms John's faith on Calvary, saying: 'Son, behold thy mother.' Through her finally the Holy Ghost gave Himself to the Apostles, for we read in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts I, 14) that she prayed with them in the Cenacle while they prepared themselves for the Apostolate and for the light and strength and graces of Pentecost.

With still greater reason is Mary powerful in her intercession now that she has entered heaven and has been lifted up above the choirs of the angels. The Christian sense of the faithful assures us that a mother in heaven knows the spiritual needs of the children she has left behind her on earth, and that she prays for their salvation. It is a universal practice in the Church for the faithful to

recommend themselves to the prayers of the saints in heaven. As Saint Thomas says, when the saints were on earth, their charity led them to pray for their neighbor. With still greater reason do we say that in heaven they pray for their neighbor since when their charity is inflamed by the beatific vision it is greater than it was on earth. Their charity in heaven is uninterrupted in its acts and proceeds from a fuller realization of human needs and the value of life eternal.

The Council of Trent defined that the saints in heaven pray for us and that it is useful to invoke them (Denz. 984). Their merits and their expiation have ceased but not their prayer -- no longer a prayer of tearful supplication but one now of intercession.

Saint Paul tells us that Our Blessed Lord does not cease to make intercession for us. He is the principal and necessary intercessor. But Jesus Himself wishes that we should have recourse to Mary so that our prayers may have greater value through being presented by her.

As Mother of all men Mary knows the spiritual needs of all men, knows all that concerns their salvation. Because of her immense charity she prays for them. And since she is all-powerful with her Son because of the love by which they are united, she obtains from Him all the graces for which she asks -- that is to say, all the graces we receive.

This power of Mary's intercession is proclaimed by the faithful each time they recite the Hail Mary.

("THE MOTHER of the SAVIOUR" by Father Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., Tan Books and Publishers, INC., available through PFMCI)

PROMISES OF CONSOLATION TO CHRIST

We promise for the future that

R: We will console Thee, O Lord.

For the forgetfulness and ingratitude of men, **R:**

For the way Thou art neglected in Thy Holy tabernacle, etc.
R:

For the crimes of sinners, **R:**

For the sacrileges which profane Thy Sacrament of Love,
R:

For the irreverence displayed in Thy presence, **R:**

For the coldness on the part of Thy children, **R:**

For their contempt of Thy loving invitations, **R:**

For the faithlessness of those who call themselves Thy friends, **R:**

For the bad example we have given, **R:**

For the abuse of Thy grace, **R:**

For our long delay in loving Thee, **R:**

For our past sins, **R:**

For our own unfaithfulness, **R:**

For our indifference in Thy service, **R:**

For keeping Thee waiting at the door of our hearts, **R:**

For Thy sighs and tears, **R:**

(on a prayer card)

PRESS BULLETIN 146, June 28, 2000.

CELEBRATING THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY'S APPARITIONS IN THE PARISH OF MEDJUGORJE

During the last 19 years Our Lady's presence in the parish of Medjugorje has spread through the pilgrims to the whole world. In spite of the events of war that struck our homeland, now, thank God, Our Lady's message of peace has reached to the farthest corners of the world and made Medjugorje a world parish. That was confirmed by the presence of more than 100 000 of the faithful who visited Medjugorje for the 19th anniversary. We will report only those with the most numerous groups: Germany, Italy, Canada, Reunion, Ireland, Belgium, Slovenia, Portugal, USA, France, Singapore, Italy, Argentina, Slovakia, Hungary, England, Holland, Poland, Korea, Switzerland, Czech Republic and, of course, Croatia. Exceptionally numerous were also our pilgrims from home many of whom came barefoot to Medjugorje to pray to Mary, Queen of Peace, for peace.

Because of the different language groups holy masses on the mornings of the 24th and 25th of June were celebrated in 15 languages. During the same two days of the 24th and 25th of June, 66 000 Holy Communions were distributed.

The evening mass of the 24th of June for the vigil was presided by Father Miljenko Steko with 125 priests concelebrating. There were about 15 000 of the faithful present at the holy mass. The evening mass on the anniversary itself was presided by Father Mate Dragicevic. About 30,000 of the faithful participated and 150 priests concelebrated from twenty countries.

NEW TELEPHONE AREA CODE

In the following quarter the telephone area codes will be changed in the regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In place of 088 still valid for a couple months, all those who now call Medjugorje will use 036.

It is already possible to use 036.

[From U. S. dial 011-38-7-36, in Europe, dial 00-38-7-36]

The more important telephone numbers at the shrine of the Queen of Peace are:

Information Office: 651-988

Parish Office: 650-206, 650-310, or 651-333

Fax: 651-444

Radio: 651-100,

Fax: 651-300

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

PRESS BULLETIN 147, July 12, 2000.

THE HEREAFTER

The man has always wandered what a future holds in store for him? In the past he would merely associate the future with great expectations. but, the contemporary man, although completely focused towards the future, bears many fears for yet pending issues. Indeed, one is to feel frightened at all social levels of incoming uncertainty.

So, the church is bound to challenge: what the future holds in store for her?

In the latest message, the holy mother-queen of peace, has explicitly drawn a link between the two issues: prayer and future; prayer as spiritual mood has strength to mould the life, time and future. Martin Luther said on one occasion: today, i am very busy, but i ought to pray at least 5 hours". An old monk had given yet another recommendation: "if you cannot pray, if only you go and watch your brother praying".

Father Ivan Landeka

<http://www.medjugorje.hr>

PRESS BULLETIN 148, July 26, 2000.

YOUTH FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

From time immemorial the saying is valid: "Youth are the hope of the world". That is an incontestable truth. Thus it was for all times, and also today. It was especially revealed at a time of crisis. Today is also a time like that. The world today is tinged with different obscurities and confusions. Ideals are destroyed, values trampled. Before youth most often stands the monotony of everyday events for which it does not pay to go through any trouble. Youth today therefore are in great danger of quickly getting old. Many look at youth with fear and skepticism. Older people know how to speak up how it was different in their time, how they were younger in their youthful years. Youth put the blame on their elders, proclaiming especially how nothing is offered to them, how they are not taken seriously, how nothing is expected of them. And in that they are completely right. The greatest pain for youth is that nothing is expected of them. The Church in this Jubilee Year is especially proclaiming the role of youth, exhorting that youth be allowed actively to take their place in society. The Church thereby really is only illuminating the words of the Lord Jesus who said: "If you would be perfect, sell what you have and give to the poor and then come and follow me!" (Mt 19:21). We should help youth to grow, not only in age but even more in wisdom and grace. If the Church and society take that position, then there's no need to fear for youth. Then they will be the hope of the world and that will be a hope that becomes reality.

Father Branko Rados

STATEMENT OF THE PRIESTS-JUNE RETREAT

At the end of the seminar they issued this joint statement which we here present completely:

We, the 272 Roman Catholic priests and seminarians, religious and secular, are gathered here from 30 different countries, serving in the most diverse ministries, together with some representatives of the Greek Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Church, for the fifth priests' retreat on the theme: "Priest - Man of the Most Holy Trinity and Servant of the Lord's Body." We listened to several talks by Father Daniel Ange, Father Rufus Pereira, Father Martin Ramoser, Father Manjackal, Father Cosimo Cavaluzzo, Sister Elvira Petrozzi, Father Jozo Zovko and Father Slavko Barbaric.

During this year of the Great Jubilee we desire to rejoice in being children of God, in being chosen by the Lord and consecrated in his priesthood. We are happy for all the gifts the Lord has given through his Church, entrusting us with his own Son Jesus now already for 2000 years.

We are grateful that he made us servants of his Body and his Blood, witnesses of his mercy, men who give life to the world by giving it God, a God made present who is bestowed in the sacraments.

As sinners, unworthy of the mysteries entrusted to us, we seek forgiveness of all those people we have offended, disappointed or saddened, beseeching them to call on God's mercy both with us and for us.

If we have also obscured the face of Jesus in his Church, we henceforth desire to do everything to make it radiate, intensifying our own consecration.

We have come accordingly to let ourselves be fully renewed in the Holy Spirit, yielding to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we received at our priestly ordination. We have come to receive from the Father's heart through the hands

PLEASE HELP the PFMC EVERY MONTH

Please, will YOU make a commitment to help us by **TITHING at least \$2 per month** to the **PFMC**. We need your help in the printing and mailing of "**The PILGRIM**" and in the management of the **PFMC**. If everyone who receives "**The PILGRIM**" would tithe \$2 a month, we would not have any difficulty in maintaining the monthly newsletter and meeting the **PFMC** expenses. Please fill out your prayer request/donation slip and use the enclosed envelope to return it to us. We thank you for your help each month..

Your donation slips and prayer intentions are placed beneath the crucifix in the **PFMC** prayer room and prayed for every day. We then take them with us on our next pilgrimage to **Medjugorje**. We will place them on the altars where we celebrate Holy Mass and leave them at an apparition site, usually with **Vicka**.

of Mary, Queen of Peace, a new burst of love for Jesus, a new zeal, a new apostolic thrust.

We desire to become worshippers in love with Jesus in the Eucharist, thus courageous apostles of the Love that gives Life, ready even to lay down our own lives in order to protect life and rescue love.

We thank God for the mystery of our Church. We desire to love her as Jesus loves her and, ready to shed our blood for her, to work with all our strength for her Unity, for the communion of the sister Churches, in the fullness of love and truth, so we can all know the joy of faith.

We affirm our loyalty in heart and soul to the Holy Father, the servant of communion, the warrantor of Truth and the champion of life.

We affirm our love for the divine Truth revealed in God's Word which nourishes us everyday, and our fidelity to the great Tradition that is alive in the Church of the East and the West.

We desire to be servants of the poorest, the most fragile, of the people that life has wounded the most, so that divine love may shine forth and so people may touch the heart of God.

We desire to be consumed without restraint to offer the truth that sets free to the most poor, for whom hope and life is lacking: to those who yet do not know that God loves them. We desire to radiate the Gospel and do all that is possible to be able to give divine life to youth that are so lost.

We thank God for the fortitude of the martyrs of this century which by wars and totalitarian regimes has caused more deaths than all the preceding centuries, especially among our brother priests. We not want our infidelity to render their blood unfruitful, rather on the contrary, to bear fruit, comporting ourselves proudly and worthily of these our elder brothers. Are we not the Sons of their tears, their prayers, their love? Of one thing we are certain: we are grateful to their blood, shed out of love, for the great outpouring of the Spirit that is renewing the whole Church.

And finally, we bless the Lord who confides our priesthood and our ministry to the Holy Mother of God, the Mother of Christ's priests, the Mother of the Church, the Queen of heaven and earth, the Queen of Peace and Reconciliation.

We have come here to thank her for the countless fruits of this pilgrimage place which we have established with the faithful in all of our countries. We thank her for all the signs of her Motherly Presence at this decisive time of passing from one millennium to another. She constantly reminds us of the Gospel, she leads lost children toward the Father, she points us to our future: the return in glory of our Savior who will transform our lowly bodies into His Glorious Body.

In expectation of our final Resurrection, may Mary keep us

faithful to the end and make saints of us for the joy of the whole Church on earth and in heaven. Amen.

Medjugorje, June 30 - July 6, 2000.
Participants in the fifth Retreat for Priests
<http://www.medjugorje.hr>

PRESS BULLETIN 149, August 9, 2000.

REST

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while!" (Mk 6:31) So Jesus says to his disciples. During these summer days a lot of people talk about rest. Some, where they will go and how they will spend their vacation. Others will say, not again this year is it possible for us to go anywhere. Pupils, students, retired workers talk about a rest. Vacation is all the more tied to traveling and all the more connected with periods when there are no special obligations. Rest as a part of everyday is not sufficiently observed. And, maybe right there is the origin of many kinds of fatigue. From the beginnings of civilization rest is linked to both religious and pious contents and makes the rest complete. Sabbath in Judaism, Sunday in Christianity are unthinkable without religious content.

Father Ivan Landeka

<http://www.medjugorje.hr>

REFLECTION on OUR LADY's MESSAGE of JUNE 25, 2000

Dear Children! Today I call you to prayer. The one who prays is not afraid of the future. Little children, do not forget, I am with you and I love you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.

Dear friends, I greet you all most sincerely from Medjugorje. We have just celebrated the 19th Anniversary of Mary's presence here, and it was really a great festival. Before we begin with our thoughts about this month's message, I again would like to remind us of what Mary said to us in May when she wanted us to prepare ourselves for this anniversary. She told us that she rejoices with us and then called us to a spiritual renewal. The Jubilee Year and the time of these apparitions are both reasons for such a spiritual renewal. On the one hand, the Pope is untiringly calling us to a renewal in this time and on the other Mary, with her presence here for 19 years, has been doing the same. Thanks to God many people have during these 19 years come here and have experienced what it means to renew themselves spiritually, and we must hope that this will also continue in this way. Because we were also back in May preparing ourselves for Pentecost, Mary also asked us to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we would be able to witness with joy to those who are still far from their faith. So, God wishes to give us the gifts with which we then can take up this assignment. For this we must pray as

Mary has been praying this with Mirjana on the 2nd of each month since August 2, 1987, but then also to witness with our lives, our words, our actions and all our relationships. We also wish to remember that Mary asked us to pray for the love that will make us capable of coming nearer to the others in each situation. Only love has the strength to knock down the walls that separate us from the others. Love is capable of removing all hindrances so that we become near to one another -- in the family, men and women, parents and children, and in general, where-ever we meet people. Of course we all want people to be near to us and so we should, from our side, also want and do everything possible to be near to the others around us, because it is according to this that we will be, let us say, judged on the last day. It is only this that will determine whether we reach the Heavenly Kingdom or whether we will not. Then the combined gift of wisdom and love will give us the capability of overcoming all difficulties that we may encounter every day. Sometimes we get the impression that they are not to be resolved and we might become frustrated, but we still have the good advice to pray for these two gifts and we also have the assurance that we will conquer these difficulties. Then Mary also told us that she is praying to Jesus for each of us, and I hope that we will not forget to pray for a filling of the Spirit every day and here it concerns the gifts of love and wisdom.

We have celebrated the 19th Anniversary in a grand way. We had an enormous number of pilgrims from all over the world and it is natural that for such festivals that we would have the most Croatians. This resulted in there being up to 35,000 people at the evening Mass on the 25th and on the 2 days -- the 24th and the 25th -- we had about 70 Franciscans hearing Confessions more or less all day long. For the evening Mass over 150 Priests concelebrated and this made it, by any standards at all, a great day of prayer, and for this we must be really grateful. I also wish to mention that Archbishop Franic of Split, who has all along done so much for Medjugorje, was also here with us for 3 days and again gave his testimony that he believed in Mary's presence here all along.

At the moment all the visionaries are here in Medjugorje. Marija came with her family from Italy. Vicka, Jacov, Ivan, Mirjana and Ivanka are also all here. We also made a Novena and something special about it was that after Holy Communion one of the visionaries -- usually Marija or Ivan -- prayed the Magnificat, or My Soul Praises the Greatness of the Lord, and then everyone responded with singing. In this way we wished to thank God for the graces that Mary gave us during this time.

As you all know, Ivanka had her last daily apparition on May 7, 1986, and that day Mary confided the 10th secret to her, then told her that she would appear to her again annually, and that this would be on each anniversary --that being, of course, each June 25. This was not the case on

June 25, 1986, probably because her daily apparitions had stopped so close to that anniversary. This year Ivanka again had her annual apparition. She was praying with her husband and her children and, as you all know, after her daily apparitions had ended she had decided to pull herself more or less into quiet seclusion with her family. She wanted no publicity and that is why no-one else was able to be present. Ivanka said that Mary was joyful and that she spoke to her about the 6th secret, but the secret, of course, remains a secret. She also told us that there had been a short message which was...

"I introduced myself as Queen of Peace. Again I call you to peace, to fasting and to prayer. Renew prayer in the families and receive my blessing."

To this message one can say only one thing... Mary reminds us that she came to us as Queen of Peace, but she is also reminding us to pray and to fast in order to have peace. This we certainly do not wish to forget, but rather to remain steadily with this primary message. And again, the Lord only knows exactly how many times, but still Mary is again calling us to renew prayer in the families. This needs no commentary. All parents should absolutely begin, if it is not possible already in the mornings, to meet with their children in the evenings for a Rosary, and I hope that we all have received this blessing because this should not depend on where we are, whether here on the church grounds or out in the Parish somewhere or somewhere else in the world. Here I now wish to say, thank you Mary that you are loyal, that you accompany all of us, that you speak to us and I thank you for your blessing.

On June 26 we had a Donars Conference which included 200 people from 13 countries who were representatives of different organizations which, since the war broke out here, have helped us generously. It was wonderful to hear what our friends have done for our people in need, but all of them also told us that they, due to Medjugorje, had again found their way to their faith and that it is they that should really be thanking us because they had received more in their having come here than what they, in the meantime, have been able to give us. We thank, in the name of all those many recipients, all those who have untiringly been able to help. Here we speak on behalf of all the orphans, all the refugees, all those who had lost their homes and who, through the outside help, were again able to rebuild them. One can see and recognize all this in the first two Joyful Mysteries, in that they had heard and followed an Annunciation -- Mary is with us. In the 2nd Mystery, Mary then goes to help Elisabeth and in the same way the pilgrims, after the first Mystery where they had met with God, then had hurried to help those in need. We are extremely grateful for this testimony of love of neighbor and it was beautiful to hear that they had not limited themselves to the Catholics alone but stepped in for all the needy people which here included Moslems, Serbs and all

the others. This was a great testimony for our Catholic -- this only meaning Universal -- love, and may God bless them all.

Mary gave us a really short message and its themes are prayer, fear, and Mary's presence and love.

TODAY I CALL YOU TO PRAYER

After even 19 years one can certainly still say that Mary called us to prayer in every single message, and she did again for this festival. Prayer is the primary instrument with which we travel with Mary to God. If we wish to summarize everything, Mary called upon us to take the time, and this, when seen externally, means that she wants us to pray three Rosaries, to go to Mass, to Confession, to Adoration, and to fast and read Holy Scripture. We should also pray individually, as families and as prayer groups. So she wants much quantity from us and this especially for those who had not at all prayed before or just a very little, but this she also repeated constantly. She also told us the times when to pray -- in the morning, during the day and again in the evening -- but in the end she also wants all our lives and everything that we do to become a prayer. We have also often reflected upon all of this. When she told us to pray with the heart she thereby touched upon the inner elements of prayer. With that call for praying with the heart, one must distinguish two things. 1) We can immediately begin praying with the heart when we accept with love all that she is telling us. So, when we take the time, when we really pray independent of how we feel inside, then that is already praying with the heart. The decision to pray no matter whether we are feeling something is to pray with the heart because we are praying out of love, whether we are distracted or not, or whether we are receiving what we want or not. I wish here to repeat my advice never to judge one's own prayer, and never to say that it was not good. If we have done what Mary wants of us in the external way and thereby prayed with the heart, then we have already done all that we are able to do. 2) The inner aspect of praying with the heart is then able to happen by itself and will also be given to us, but we are not able to open the heart like we would with a key and then say "now we are praying with the heart", but we can say "now I am taking the time pray". What then happens is something else again. But if we do not bother to take the time for prayer, then this other inner aspect of pray will absolutely never happen. Mary wants our prayer to become a joyful encounter with God. It can be this because always when we are with someone who loves us and whom we love, we are - even when we are suffering -- always joyful because we are always, no matter how we are doing, joyful when someone who loves us visits us. If it is this way among us, then it is even more so this way when it concerns God. God loves us immeasurably, so when we encounter Him, then it simply must concern a joyful encounter. Mary called us also to a way of prayer that in fact changes our intentions.

The PILGRIM

In our prayer we are able to be egotistic and this even completely so, and that is if we only pray when it is we who want or need something. In another message Mary told us not to seek God according to our needs but to seek God because of His love for us. This mirrors what her Son, Jesus, said when He told us to first seek the Kingdom of Heaven, God's Kingdom, and that all else will then be given to us. But still it so often happens to us that we seek everything else but not at all the Heavenly Kingdom. This way we are so easily discouraged and stop praying because we come to think that God does not give us what we want. We are permitted to pray for everything, but to always also say "Thy will be done". We should seek God who loves us because He loves us, so that our yearning, which only love can cause, keeps pushing us to prayer.

THE ONE WHO PRAYS IS NOT AFRAID OF THE FUTURE

This most certainly is true. Because prayer, as we now know, is an encounter with God who loves us, who knows us, who is merciful, who after all created us and in His hand is our past, our present and our future, and when we think about the word 'credo' we must also remember that it simply means 'to give the heart'. When we have given our heart to the loving God, then there is only love in our hearts and any fears no longer have room there, and it is also this way when we trust in God because we know that He loves us and this too should send away all fear. But, our experience also tells us that many people these days are still living in fear -- in fear for their own lives or for material things, in fear for the fate of the world, while many parents are also fearful for their children; but Mary gives us the most certain key with which we to escape all fear, and that is with prayer. But when we think about fear in the context of what Mary is saying here, then we can say several things.

First there is a fear that comes from illness and especially in much mental illness there exists a panicky fear, and there one must listen well to a Doctor and also do what he says, but, at the same time, one should very consciously begin to pray more.

Then there are fears that come out of our past wounds, for example when someone had problems with their father or with a Priest or with any sort of teacher. Then he might be fearful of authority figures that he is not even able to explain. There one ought to speak more about inner healing by way of prayer.

Then there is fear that quite naturally and also most often of all comes because of sin. The first experience of human fear was once Adam and Eve had sinned. They were unable to bear God's presence because they had broken something, because they had simply made themselves guilty by breaking a Law or a Commandment. And it is there that most roots of fear were able to grow. Also when we are

often not aware of or do not even know the Commandments, always when we have done something wrong something inside us is wounded, and then fears follow. So, one also can say that fear comes due to the absence of the loving person. Why this person is absent is again due to sin when someone has turned away from the family or has, due to other reasons, seen humanly, done something that caused either the child's father or mother to be absent, and then the child will remain full of fears. The absence of the loving person is always a reason for fear, so what delivers us from fear is again the presence of that loving person. It is for this reason that forgiveness, reconciliation and ability to ask for forgiveness are so very important and the most certain ways of entering the realm of a loving presence again and thereby becoming safe and free of any fears.

When one thinks even more about fear, then one can in general say that the more one loses freedom of sin, the more one will be in fear. When someone has lost his freedom of sin by way of alcohol, drugs, bad habits, immoral behavior, a refusal to reconcile, a search for material, for success or for power, then when one does not find what one thought one would, it will again cause new fears in us. Fears which come about due to the loss of our freedom of sin lead us to aggressions, violence, injustice, constant competition, and to jealousy, envy, greed and other imbalances, while all these again are only attempts to regain what one has already lost and what one only thinks one wants. It is here that one so easily gets caught in a devilish circular and thus also endless dance. The way to break out of this aimless circle is to regain our inner freedom and then always becoming more and more free, finally needing less and less, so that one can again become humble and then fears will no longer find any space inside us.

Fear also finds a cause in our, so to say, spoiled behavior, when we insist on having that which we are not getting or have not deserved and here again fears come in. Just as an example for clarity... The student who has not studied will go to the examination in fear of a poor grade and when such a person comes to us and complains about his fear, then we may not just console him in perhaps saying that tomorrow the professor will be in a better mood and so it will then go well, but rather say "the fear is a normal reaction to the true situation, sit down, start working and then you will be freed from this fear". And often in our lives we act exactly this way. We are not ready to exert ourselves but then we become fearful of not getting what we were looking for and are fearful of something bad. When we speak of fear then we can say that every one of us has experienced different fears in different ways. God knows this and therefore someone once said that on 365 occasions throughout the Bible the expression, 'have no fear, peace be with you, I am with you', is written. Jesus repeats such words especially often after the Resurrection, and so this is decisive for us

right now. When we begin to pray and thereby encounter our loving God, we will then absolutely overcome our fear of either our past or of our future. This will not mean that we will no longer have any problems when we pray, but we will simply be carrying them and experiencing them in a different way. It is always important to know that we ought to place our pasts into the merciful hands of God and our futures into His love and His protection and simply always do whatever we are able to do. From this point of view, when one looks at the Sacraments one can then see how they help us in all this. Baptism brings us back into God's eucharistic love in a special way and Confession brings us back to reconciliation. The other Sacraments confirm and strengthen this for us and each time deepen our understanding for this love of God for us. It is the Sacrament of Confession that in a special way frees us of any fears because we, through the Priest are insured that God has forgiven us and that He embraces us as a merciful father always does. I believe that it is not exaggerating when one says that fear grows more and is more present where Confessions no longer are happening. One reason for the presence of fear is that this can come due to the proximity of evil spirits, and so when someone is fearful of the cross, of holy objects and of the church, and therefore cannot come close to them, then this might be a symptom and a reason for us to attend to it from this direction. One ought to be careful when proposing a diagnosis concerning the presence of exaggerated and panicky fears, but for whatever deeper reason one still ought to come to a Priest and then to seek further what is causing this. One thing we must always remain aware of is that we may all come to God because He is our loving Father, and even when we have sinned He primarily still sees His own child, His son, His daughter, and only then what has happened there. This must give us all the assurance that we too, as does the Psalmist, can say that God is our haven, our safety and our shepherd, and that we ought to fear nothing. At the end Mary tells us...

DO NOT FORGET, I AM WITH YOU AND I LOVE YOU ALL

Forgetfulness can become a great problem because when we have forgotten what God has already done for us just because something that we have been wanting from Him has not been given, then we are in danger of losing faith, love, hope, peace, and everything else. How often have we been called throughout the Bible not to forget God's great deeds? If we forget, then this can become a danger that we might soon lose everything. If we forget what others have done for us then one little problem can soon wound and destroy all the other good relationships that we have and thus have many people distance themselves from each other. The only other possibility is really gratefulness, because whoever is grateful does not forget and therefore we do not wish to forget that Mary is with us, that she loves us and

that she has already done so very much for us all. Her loving presence alone is also a great help in becoming free of all fears, and therefore many people have throughout these 19 years testified that they have had the experience of true peace here. This does not come from nothing or somehow by itself, but rather because she, as our mother, is present here, because she is praying for us and because she loves us all. Our hearts feel this even when we are unable to see or feel her presence and her help. I also hope that we all remain thinking people and thereby also to stay grateful and mindful of what God has, due to the intercession of Mary, already done for each of us. If only one such thing is forgotten then this alone can again throw us back into the darkness of fear. Now let us all pray...

God, our Father, in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ, and with Mary, the Queen of Peace, we wish to thank You for all the graces and gifts that You have given us and especially for the many times that You have told us "have no fear, I am with you". We bring before You all those situations when we experienced fear and also all reasons out of which this fear arose. We ask You on behalf of all those people who out of reasons of illness experience fears or who due to sin still need to be healed or who have fears from the influence of evil. Father, in the name of Your Son, we ask You to speak one word and free each of us from all fears, so that we all may come before You in complete freedom and then stay before You constantly. Free us of everything that distances us from You and that keeps You distant from our lives. Bless us all and especially the parents who are fearful for their children and all those who are fearful of the future, so that we all can live in and become witnesses to peace. With the intercession of Mary, the Queen of Peace, give us the grace that we may be able to remain loyal on the path to peace along with Mary and that we may never again forget that she is with us and that she loves us. Mary, we all promise you that we will remain loyal to you and accompany you to the Father through Jesus. Thank you, Mary, for your presence, for your love, for your intercession and for your blessing. Along with you, Mary, we ask our Father, in the name of your Son, for all people who at the moment are at the hour of their death and who are afraid, so that they may be consoled. Now we wish to bring before you all those situations in which we will still be fearful, so that we may become yet more conscious of your presence and that you are leading us to our Father. We also give you our hour of death so that that hour may become a loving encounter with the Father through Jesus Christ. So may it be.

Amen.

Fra Slavko Barbaric

Medjugorje, June 28, 2000

<http://www.medjugorje.org/sb0600.htm>

REFLECTION on OUR LADY's MESSAGE of JULY 25, 2000

Dear Children, Do not forget that you are here on earth on the way to eternity and that your home is in Heaven. That is why, little children, be open to God's love and leave egoism and sin. May your joy be only in discovering God in daily prayer. That is why, make good use of this time and pray, pray, pray; and God is near to you in prayer and through prayer. Thank you for having responded to my call.

I greet all of those who hear and who are trying to follow Mary's messages. First let us again look back to what Mary told us on the 19th Anniversary. In that short message she only once again reminded us of prayer. We all know that Mary mentions prayer more in her messages than she does anything else. There is no message in which she does not mention prayer. The goal of the apparitions is peace and therefore she introduced herself as the Queen of Peace, but she speaks the most of prayer because prayer - prayer meaning also Confession, Mass, Adoration, and fasting - is the main tool toward achieving true peace. When we encapsulate everything in a few points, then

1) Mary wants us to take time. When one does not take the time, then everything else just falls into the water and has no meaning at all. Nothing can happen if we do not take time for prayer. If we constantly make excuses that we do not have time, then this is simply not the truth. We have the time. The key for having the time is not the hours of the day, but is love. Whoever has love also has time. When one asks oneself how much time one has then the answer for this is the evening program here in Medjugorje, and so about three hours. Perhaps at home one cannot take these three hours in a row but one most certainly can take some time in the morning, at noon and then again in the evening. This should sometimes include Holy Scripture or another religious book, and when one does this then three hours come together very easily.

2) Mary wants us to pray individually, in our families and in prayer groups. All of this always begins with our own decision to pray. Even when no-one else on earth is praying, then we can always decide to pray and then begin to do so. Whoever begins to pray will certainly also experience that his family will eventually join them and that someone will then wish to start a prayer-group. It is often easier to begin or to find a prayer-group than it is to have one's family to join in, and this is because people who wish to pray come to prayer-groups. There where someone decides to pray a Rosary or to read some Holy Scripture with someone who is sick or who is alone has, in so doing, already started a

prayer-group.

3) Mary wants us to change our motivation toward praying. This means that many people only pray when they need something and this is then pure egotism because such a pray never lasts long because when we do not get what we want we stop. When we do not get what we want we then are in danger of stopping with the belief that God one way or the other does not answer our prayers. Mary said in one message: "Seek God not according to your needs but for His love." When the inner motivation for prayer comes from our love for God and our liking to be with Him, when we love being with Jesus and Mary in joy, sorrow and glory in praying the Rosary, when we like hearing the word of God in Holy Scripture, when we like being with Jesus in the Eucharist, then the true motivation has been able to develop. Once this has happened then everything else can also happen and we then can also ask for and expect everything. Only when our love for God pushes us can we continue to pray and then also pray constantly. The fact that Mary prays with Mirjana on the 2nd of every month for non-believers -- this meaning for those people who have yet to experience God's love -- shows how one can solve the problem. She is praying for the experience of love and then, when one has received this love, one can also begin to pray. Mary has been praying for this beginning in the opening of our hearts and this is the reason why so many people have found their way to prayer here in Medjugorje. This beginning comes from the experience of love.

4) Mary has often said that we should pray with the heart. As soon as we pray out of love, the prayer with the heart begins, but for us, when we are at the beginning, it is also important to know that the external aspect of this prayer with the heart rests in our hands while the inner aspect does not. When we hear Mary calling us to prayer with the heart and we, out of love and even when we do not yet know how to pray, decide to pray the Rosary, read the Bible and attend Holy Mass every day then, even if nothing at all is happening inside us, we will still have our start at praying with the heart. When we do this then the inner aspect of prayer with the heart can also begin to grow. This can easily be compared to the growth of a plant. If someone asks me when the flower will bloom, I must admit I do not know, but I did do everything needed externally so that it will do so. I prepared the ground, planted the seed, brought water and accompanied the plant throughout its growth, and hope that she will one day open and carry wonderful blossoms. This is the way with our prayer with the heart. We can take care of the external needs but the inner aspect is a growth that only God can arrange. And we must really pray that we may experience love so that prayer, the way Mary has taught us here, can then also happen. Finally she wants nothing except that we have through her Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit have a good relationship with God the Father. Mary also told us that those who pray have

no fear of the future. When we begin to pray the way that Mary has called us and the way it has here been described in very short terms, then prayer will become an encounter with God -- God who created us, Who loves us, Who knows everything about us, even when, as Jesus says, a small hair falls from our head, and when we have developed complete trust in the Father, then certainly all fears will also leave us. We will no longer be in a fearful condition because of our past because we know that God is merciful, and neither for our future because we give everything to Him. In this time when many people are really spreading much fear, so much more should we open ourselves to God and let Him free us of all fears, and then give us peace in which to live, and then to spread this peace, which only He can give us, to all the others. We may never forget that fear is nearly always the result of sin, either ones own sin or the sin of another or of our surroundings. If we now leave away pathological fear, then we can really say that through prayer we can be freed of all fears, and especially in the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist because it is in these Sacraments that God's loving presence is to be felt. And precisely the loving presence is the freeing presence from all fears. This is why Mary says: "I am with you and I love you." So, whoever knows that Mary is with him and that she loves him also has but one more reason not to live in fear but rather in peace and in joy, and may it also be this way.

At the moment Ivan with his family and Vicka are here at home, while Marija is coming for the Youth Festival. These three are the ones that still have their daily apparitions while Mirjana, Jacov and Ivanka are also all here in Medjugorje with their families. As always one can say that they are living a completely normal life. Ivan and Vicka are the ones who speak with the pilgrims the most.

This month, since the 19th Anniversary, we have had many pilgrims from all over the world, not in huge numbers but still from everywhere. Of particular mention is the Retreat for Priests in Mary's School where about 300 came from some 30 countries. Everything went well and the many Priests were very satisfied with the whole program. At the end a Declaration came out in which all the Priests said that they all wished to follow Mary as mother of the High Priest. It is certainly important that all the Priests who joined us had good experiences for their own lives but also in the lives of the pilgrims who were here at the same time. In the Parish we also had a Faith Seminar with Father James and Sister Margarita which about 600 people attended and then the last day was open and several thousand came for that. We know that many graces, including inner as well as external healings, were received. We are all very grateful for all these meetings and we recommend in the prayers of the pilgrims especially the program for the Priests because we all know how important it is when the Priests open themselves completely and then

accept Mary's plans which are simply to bring all of us to Jesus - Jesus who is the only one Who gives the world true peace. We are now preparing for the Youth Festival and I recommend to everyone who reads these pages to pray for all who will be coming here with their inner needs and also for all those who will be assisting to make this Prayer Festival a great period of graces. As far as what we know we are expecting a good number. This month Mary is calling us...

**DO NOT FORGET THAT YOU ARE HERE ON EARTH
ON THE WAY TO ETERNITY AND THAT YOUR HOME
IS IN HEAVEN**

It is a truth of our lives that we are pilgrims here on earth. We know from where we have come. God has created us out of love and we also know where we are going - to our eternal home. This life here on earth is really only an introduction and a preparation for eternal life. That is why it is important for us to remain on this path, that we keep the right conditions on this path which is Jesus Christ, and the conditions are what He said about Himself: "I am the way, the truth, the light and life." Without light we cannot see, without truth we take wrong paths, and without the life that He gives, we are dead. For the path here on earth it is important that we retain inner freedom and that we do not get stuck to anything or anybody, and here there are many dangers that people close themselves and then hang onto themselves or onto other people, other ideologies and the material. All this hinders the path toward our eternal home. When we remain really conscious that we are on this path, that our life here on earth will some day come to an end, and that death is only a transition, then it will be much simpler to remain on the right path. Then it will become much easier to forgive, to love, to be merciful, to be good, because we know that everything is transitory, but when we forget this, then we will lose ourselves somewhere. Everyone who hates, who is selfish, who is dependent has already lost himself and will not be able to keep going. That is why so many people today are really empty internally or sad or depressed and no longer can find the purpose of life, because they do not wish to take the path that Jesus has shown us. When Mary asks us to fast and to fast with bread and water, she is trying to awaken us and make us conscious of and help us to cross that bridge, because over the centuries and throughout the history of the Church it was always the pilgrims who over weeks, months or even years passed from town to town as pilgrims. Pilgrims are those who travel to places where God showed Himself and on these pilgrimages the people could only take food that lasted and that was bread and along with it also water. So when we hear that we are supposed to fast with bread and water for two days, then we may deduce from this that Mary's intention is, in this fashion, to make us freer and so that we also behave like the pilgrims that we are. In this Jubilee Year and in all the years since the beginning of

these apparitions, the Pope has often spoken about all of us being pilgrims and then called all Christians to visit holy places and especially the Holy Land and Rome in this Jubilee Year. Mary, as the one who comes to Medjugorje every day, is in a manner of speaking also a pilgrim and through her being a pilgrim she has also moved many people to knowingly become pilgrims and we must again be grateful for these 19 years and one month of her presence here and that many people by way of her presence have really accepted this way of the pilgrim because they have accepted the path of our faith. And we must really remain conscious that our eternal home is in Heaven. Then Mary says...

**THAT IS WHY ... BE OPEN TO GOD'S LOVE AND
LEAVE EGOISM AND SIN**

If we really love God, and because of it then open ourselves to His love, then it is the love of God that will lead us on this path. And Mary is praying that the love of God may be experienced by all those who have not yet experienced it. While those who have already experienced the love of God will then, due to their yearning for Him, pray, fast and go to Holy Mass and Adoration out of love and purely because God loves us and then we will of course seek Him with all our hearts. When we hear of Saint Paul's experiences, he says that he would like to die in order to be with Jesus but, if it is meant to be, he is also willing to continue to spread the message. He, of course, also had had special experiences and that is why he could write that the human eye cannot see, the human ear cannot hear and that the human heart can never comprehend what God has prepared for us in Heaven out of His love for us. Once we have been touched by God's love in that way, we will certainly untiringly go on Mary's path to Jesus. Mary mentions egoism and sin in general that can hinder us on this path or that can close us from God's love. Egoism is to be closed inside oneself, to depend only on oneself and to place oneself in the middle of everything with one's own program, with one's own thoughts and will without wishing to accept God's plans for us. Every person who behaves egotistically has distanced and removed himself from the path and will therefore one day have to live in a dead-end, in a cul-de-sac, in darkness and finally in death. Sin itself distances us from people and from God and it is always the result of sin that people remain alone. And it is one of the primary rules of being human that people are never doing well when they are alone. So, God is Emmanuel, God with us, God who accompanies us, God who is constantly with us and therefore we should all be open to Him. Then Mary says...

**MAY YOUR JOY BE ONLY IN DISCOVERING GOD
IN DAILY PRAYER**

When we meet someone who loves us, then we will be joyful, and joy is always connected with love. Joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and to discover God in our daily

prayers is really a great assignment that Mary is presenting to us, but it is then also her great intention that we all ask God that He may give us the grace that we may encounter Him in our daily prayers with joy. Here we may also think of something that is to be found in love but that in a way may even sound as though it is a contradiction. When one loves then one really has two contradictory feelings. When one loves someone then one is always close to them and this even when they are far from them physically -- in our feelings and in our heart we are with them and we can never have enough of that loved person; and that is why we also always find ourselves distant from them. Here we have the contradiction, we are close to them but we feel distant from them while we are distant from them, but still feel close to them. This we find especially among the Saints and the true mystics who always lived inside this tension that always pushed them forward. Saint Paul also writes about this when he says that he was taken by Jesus Christ but always stretched himself forward in order to take Him. So if Saint Paul is taken, then what else is he able to take? This is precisely the love that had taken him and that was so close to him; but because he always wished to come closer to it, he also always felt distant from it. For this grace we should also pray. Then at the end Mary says to us...

THAT IS WHY, MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS TIME AND PRAY, PRAY, PRAY; AND GOD IS NEAR TO YOU IN PRAYER AND THROUGH PRAYER

In Mary's messages we have constantly received calls to prayer and this three-fold call is also not the first time. Mary is untiring with this call to prayer, and for this reason we should simply continue to pray so that we may accept prayer, to take time for prayer and constantly to turn toward God in prayer, so that we may feel His proximity in and through prayer. It is especially important that we feel this presence of God in Confession and in the Eucharist. We are at the height of summer and many people are on their holidays and it is here that we should be even more aware than otherwise that we should consciously take more time for God. And when we do so we may also not forget that this is a time for us. While I really wish everyone beautiful as well as restful days during their holidays, I also invite all of you to again pray with us. . .

Almighty and Eternal God, in the name of Your Son and with Mary, we wish to thank You for our lives. We also thank You for our path while here on earth and ask You, give us the strength that we may stay on Your path, that we may accept Your Son, Jesus, as our way, our truth, our light and our life, that we may find our way through all cloudiness, all problems and difficulties and that we may stride directly toward our eternal home. Give us the grace, that we may, once we go across the threshold of death, come to meet Your love and Your mercy, and

that we may reach You in our home. Awaken in us a deep yearning for You, O Father, and for Your love. With Your Holy Spirit, open wide our hearts for Your love and in the name of Your Son, we denounce egoism and sin and everything else which hinders us from our path to You. Give us a deep yearning that we may constantly discover You in prayer and that it will develop as our joy to meet You as Father of Jesus Christ. Through the joy of Your love, free us of all sorrow, meaninglessness, sadness, depression and all other negative feelings, and give us the strength to forgive and to ask for forgiveness, so that we may remain loyally on the path to You along with Mary. Give us all a renewed spirit of prayer, so that we may accept with joy and take seriously the three-fold call of Your humble servant, and then stay in prayer loyally. Bless, O Father, all those who are praying, so that they may meet You. Bless all those who no longer pray and have taken wrong paths in their lives, enlighten them, and give them Your love, open their hearts, so that they may return to Your love, so that they may return onto Your fatherly lap. We also ask You for our deceased who died in wars, violence and accidents, so they, who You had prepared with Your Son, may come to You. Mary, help us to remain loyal, so that we may some day live in peace and joy with you and all the Saints in Heaven. So may it be. Amen.

Fra Slavko Barbaric

Medjugorje, July 27, 2000

<http://www.medjugorje.org/sb0700.htm>

REFLECTION on OUR LADY's MESSAGE of AUGUST 25, 2000

Due to space limitations and a recent history of delays in receiving the English version of this REFLECTION, we are not going to wait until after Labor Day to publish this issue of "The PILGRIM." The REFLECTION on the AUGUST message will appear in the October issue along with the REFLECTION on the SEPTEMBER message.

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a store. We operate like a church pamphlet or book rack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. See the center section of the July issue of "The PILGRIM" for a partial listing, four pages, of items that can be obtained through donation. 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.

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 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 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 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

FOR ORDERS – PLEASE DO NOT PLACE THEM 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 go to a separate department from our order section, and your order may get lost or not noticed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

BOOKS AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES - THE NEW BUILDING IS OPEN

The new PFMC offices are open Monday thorough 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 building.

You may look over the thousands of book 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. All rosaries have been blessed by Pope John Paul II.

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.

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.

We hope to have a fine library for the lay person as well as religious to reference.

Please send them to the PFMC. We would be grateful.

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, particularly at night and on weekends, (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.

BLESSED OIL

Kathleen has bottles of blessed oil from Medjugorje blessed at Holy Mass in Saint James and then carried to Vicka's house to be present in the room during an apparition. Volunteers transfer the oil to small bottles for you or your prayer group to use as a sacramental.

Read the articles in the November and December 1994 issues as well as the Bible readings for the Holy Week Chrism Mass about Blessed Oil and Oil of Gladness. If you no longer have these articles or never received them, you may request copies from the PFMC.

Oil from Medjugorje is a sacramental and should be handled as such. It is NOT the same as the oils blessed by the Bishop for official church ceremonies or during administration of the sacraments by a priest. People being blessed should not be misled into thinking that blessing by the laity in any way replaces blessing by a priest, whose Holy Hands are consecrated by the Bishop in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

We request a \$5 donation per small bottle. This covers \$3 for the bottle, packaging and special handling plus \$2 mailing or postage expense.

NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to 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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Want a wonderful, gentle paced 14 day pilgrimage, November 1st through 14th, to see where Jesus walked in the Holy Land and Jordan with a requested donation of \$2899 to include all morning and evening meals, transportation, overnight accommodations and full spiritual program? We are planning to stay overnight in places that will provide an atmosphere for a year 2000 pilgrimage you will never forget. We currently have 30 seats available. We are now taking applications.

If you are interested, please send your application and a \$500 deposit to Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963.

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

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

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. 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, 1-800-257-8262, NOW and plan to pre-register for the RETREAT CONFERENCE with the PFMC as soon as the you receive an information sheet with registration form.

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

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

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

Keith and Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff

CALENDARS:

In *September*, the Church celebrates the Feasts: **Birth of Mary (8), Triumph of the Cross (14)** and **Saints Matthew, Apostle (21), and Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (29)**, and the Memorials: **Peter Claver (9), John Chrysostom (13), Cornelius and Cyprian (16), Januarius (19), Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (20), Cosmas and Damian (26), Vincent de Paul (27), Wenceslaus (28), Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (28)** and **Jerome (30)** as well as **Our Lady of Sorrows (15)** and **U.S. Labor Day (4)**.

In *October*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of **Saint Luke, Evangelist (18)** and **Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles (28)** and the Memorials of **Saints Francis of Assisi (4), Bruno (6), John Leonardi (9), Denis and Companions (9), Pope Callistus I (14), Hedwig (16), Margaret Mary Alacoque (16), Ignatius of Antioch (17), Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and Companions (19), Paul of the Cross (20), John of Capistrano (23), Anthony Mary Claret (24)** as well as **The Guardian Angels (2), Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)** and **Our Lady of the Rosary (7)**. Church calendars show **Columbus Day (9)**.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Try to participate in daily Holy Mass or make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

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. The main speaker will be 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.

The PILGRIM

Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)
A Religious Association, Inc. - NON-PROFIT and
IRS Code 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT
Keith and Kathleen Werner,
Co-Directors, 61 Cooper Road,
Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963
(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428



Please make your ROOM RESERVATIONS on the list with the Four Points Hotel, 1-800-257-8262, 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>

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS

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

Keith 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.

Page 28 Volume 11, Number 8-9-August-September 2000

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Thursday, 9/7/2000**

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PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY!!

If you do not desire to read "The PILGRIM," please give it to a Marian prayer group or return it to sender. If address has changed, please send a change of address.

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



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

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