



The PILGRIM

Vol. 12, No. 1 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

January 2001

MESSAGE of 12/25/2000

Dear Children! Today when God granted to me that I can be with you, with little Jesus in my arms, I rejoice with you and I give thanks to God for everything He has done in this Jubilee year. I thank God especially for all the vocations of those who said 'yes' to God completely. I bless you all with my blessing and the blessing of the newborn Jesus. I pray for all of you for joy to be born in your hearts so that in joy you too carry the joy I have today. In this Child I bring to you the Savior of the your hearts and the One who calls you to the holiness of life. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

Annual message to Jakov Colo on 12/25/00 begins on page 25, PRESS BULLETIN begins on page 26.

A PRAYER



Oh God, Word made flesh, Unblemished Host, Sacrament most holy, Almighty God of majesty and might, the thought of Your greatness overpowers us, and Your love inflames our hearts. In our own insignificance, our weakness, our frail human nature, You fill us with Thy sweet affection. You console us in assisting all afflicted and in pain.

Lord, you show us that sanctifying grace fills us with beauty and perfection, and enables us to see the beauty of your grace in other creatures. It leads us away from the ugliness of sin, life's torments, daily fears, and the imprisonment of suffering. Most Holy One, You are a faithful Lover of souls.

Teach us tender compassion. Allow us to reverence You with the adoration due You. Bring us into loving solicitude of peace, holiness, humility, patience, and charity. Teach us to ponder Your Divine Light. AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

A YEAR 2000 THANKYOU

We want to thank each of you for your prayers, your support, your kind notes and letters, and the financial support that has helped us so very much. Without YOU we would have no reason to be here. But there has been a need for spiritual support rooted deeply in our Catholic faith life. So, we are here for you all.

It has been a wonderful year of growth and blessings here at the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC). This time last year we were not even in our new building, and now we are snugly settling in, and getting our programs going.

We are planning more programs for 2001, and will keep you informed so you can be part of building your faith life.

Our prayer group meets every Thursday afternoon at 12:30 PM. You are home in time to greet your children from school. We hope that we can get a Cenacle prayer group started in 2001.

You are seeing the changes in "The PILGRIM," and we hope that you are enjoying them. Many articles have been sent to us, and we are ever grateful for them. We want "The PILGRIM" to reflect articles that readers can enjoy and find a personal message as well as teach. If you have any suggestions for future issues, please send them in writing to us.

Our display areas have been set up. We have beautiful statues, medals, and many books available for you.

"The PILGRIM" for December 2000 is dedicated to "Our Lady, Ark of the Testament" See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE ..."

Come and enjoy resting and reading in our upstairs "great room" and if you find a book you like, we have it in stock for your consideration, or we will order it for you. Our book order forms have been in our newsletters, and we encourage you to look them over.

Retreat days are being scheduled, and we hope to get one day a month scheduled for a day of quiet and teaching. We thank Father Jay Bowden and Father Jim Sauchelli who have generously given of their time to hold a few retreats for us, and they have offered to do so again this year.

Our pilgrimages are planned for 2001, and we hope that you will enjoy looking at them and consider traveling on one or more this year. We hope to expand our pilgrimage department to give you complete pilgrimage support and information.

Dean Pulcini has started our wonderful Apologetics program, and January 3rd he will again start up the classes on every Wednesday evening from 7 PM to 9 PM.

Our Bible Study with Pete Dawson is taking off on the first and third Wednesday of each month. For the month of January he will meet on January 8th and January 22nd. In February it will be held on the 6th and 20th. We do hope that you will make a commitment in the year 2001 and join us for one or both of these classes. You will not be disappointed.

Don't forget our RETREAT CONFERENCE February 23 through 25, 2001, and the 3-day extension February 26 through 28 2001. This is our 10th year of holding retreats in our local area. A RETREAT CONFERENCE is an experience you will enjoy and grow from spiritually.

Again, thank you for everything. We hope we can continue to be part of your life and you ours. The Marian Center is truly a blessing, and we thank God for it every day.

God Bless you,

**(Kathleen, Keith, and the entire volunteer staff of
the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC))**

2001 PILGRIMAGES



This year will be an exciting time for our pilgrimages as we fill each month with a new opportunity to see the world through the eyes of Our Lady.

All of our groups will leave from Philadelphia or Newark. Every pilgrimage will have a priest assigned with it and we will offer a daily full spiritual program. A pilgrimage coordinator, trained in pilgrimages, rooming lists, and pilgrim needs, will accompany each pilgrimage. This allows the priest to fully assume the spiritual needs of the group. There will always be a pilgrimage coordinator who will tend to any problems that might come up.

We have insurance available for all pilgrimages. We always recommend that pilgrims carry insurance.

A full time American speaking guide will accompany us. Land transportation is in comfortable air-conditioned motor coaches. Unless otherwise noted, breakfast and supper is included so that pilgrims do not have to worry about finding reasonably priced and nutritious meals.

We hope that you will review the following dates and itineraries, and especially our very competitive prices. We will be using name airlines. The only catch is that you are asked to sign up 45 days ahead . . . later sign up dates will be attempted to be accommodated, but it is very very important to sign up as soon as the spark of your prayer leads you to go.

LOURDES and PARIS

MARCH 20 (Tuesday) to **MARCH 25** (Sunday)

Visit the Miraculous Baths, Mass at the Grotto where our Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette in 1858.

Tour Paris and visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal on Rue du Bac. This is where Saint Catherine Laboure lies incorrupt and where she received the miraculous medal.

COST \$1,085 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

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

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

FATIMA

APRIL 17 (Tuesday) to **APRIL 25** (Wednesday)

Our Spiritual Director is Father Jay Bowden of Epiphany Parish in Brick, New Jersey. We will fly TAP from Newark to Lisbon. Visit the Eucharistic Miracle at Santarem. Walk the Stations of the Cross where the angel brought the children Eucharist. Enjoy a tour of the village of Austral with Holy Mass at the little church where the children were baptized. See the eucharistic candlelight procession at night.

One day pilgrimage to Coimbra where Sister Lucy lives in the Carmelite Convent. Holy Mass will be celebrated.

A full day excursion to the walled city of Obidos, and on to Alcobaca and the magnificent Monastery of Batalha. Then on to the little ocean village of Nazare where the only original statue of Our Lady nursing the Baby Jesus can be viewed.

One day tour of Lisbon and its magnificent Cathedral.

COST: \$1299 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

A TASTE of CENTRAL EUROPE

GERMANY/CZECH REPUBLIC/HUNGARY

MAY 22 (Tuesday) to **MAY 31** (Thursday)

Visit Berlin, Dresden, Prague (Holy Infant of Jesus: Sto. Nino), Prachatice (birthplace of Saint John Neumann), Budapest with a Danube River Cruise.

Price \$2,150 plus \$70 tax Double Occupancy

IRISH TRADITION - IRELAND

JUNE 18 (Monday) to **JUNE 27** (Wednesday)

Visit Shannon, Cliffs of Moher, Burren County, Galway, Croagh Patrick, Our Lady of Knock, Dublin, Waterford, Killarney, Limerick and Clonmacnoise.

COST: \$2,175 plus \$70 Double Occupancy

LOURDES, PARIS and NEVERS

JULY 13 (Friday) to **JULY 20** (Friday)

Flying Air France for three nights in Lourdes and three nights in Paris. In Lourdes, visit the Miraculous Baths with Holy Mass at the Grotto where our Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette in 1858.

Tour Paris and visit the Shrine of the Miraculous

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Medal at Rue du Bac. This is where Saint Catherine Laboure lies incorrupt and where she received the Miraculous Medal. Visit the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), Notre Dame, and much more.

Day trip to Nevers where Saint Bernadette lies incorrupt.

COST \$1899 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

Single Supplement \$299

7 NIGHTS MEDJUGORJE, 2 NIGHTS MAKARSKA on the ADRIATIC SEA with OVERNIGHT in ROME

AUGUST 8 (Wednesday) to **AUGUST 18** (Saturday)

Join this wonderful Summer pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. We will fly with either Alitalia or Swiss Air into Split, Croatia, and return via Dubrovnik, Croatia. This pilgrimage is perfect for teachers and families.

Stay in a very clean and comfortable private home very close to the Church of Saint James. After visiting Cross Mountain, Apparition Hill, and the visionaries, participating in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Oasis of Peace, and a full rich 7 nights in Medjugorje, you will travel by bus to the sea town of Makarska. Spend two relaxing nights on this hidden Rivera of Europe. Swim all day in the Adriatic Sea.

Free time in Dubrovnik before departure for Rome. Visit the Basilica of Saint Blaise and climb the ancient walls of the City. Shop in specialty shops or sit and enjoy a cup of coffee where sailboats visit.

1 night overnight in Rome – evening free

COST: \$2299 (Double Occupancy) including taxes.

Single supplement \$299

JUST MEDJUGORJE with OVERNIGHT in ROME

NOVEMBER 9 to **NOVEMBER 18**

If you know of a priest who would like to be a spiritual director on this pilgrimage, please have him call Kathleen at 856-768-9228

This is a pilgrimage for those who want the ultimate in spending quiet time just in Medjugorje. Your family house is one block from Saint James Church. You will have an English speaking guide, private transfer

The PILGRIM

bus, and a full spiritual experience. Your 7 days will be spent visiting the visionaries, daily mass, confessions, climbing Apparition Hill, and climbing Cross Mountain. Because this is the more quiet time of the year in Medjugorje, you will find plenty of time to spend in quiet meditation, and enjoy the presence of Our Lady.

We will fly on Alitalia into Rome and transfer to Croatian Air to and from Split. You will be bussed into Medjugorje. On return you will fly out of Split on November 17 and spend the night in Rome. Supper will be in a local restaurant near the hotel. Free time in the evening will allow you to see Rome by night, and in the early morning.

All taxes, both Croatian and Italian, are included.

COST: \$1499 (Double Occupancy) INCLUSIVE

ROME AND ASSISI

NOVEMBER 10 (Sunday) to **NOVEMBER 16** (Friday)

Audience with the Holy Father (if held) – Saint Peter's Basilica, Ancient and Christian Rome Tour, Sistine Chapel and entrance fees, the Coliseum, and excursion to Assisi.

COST: \$1,265 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

**Kathleen Werner and Pilgrimage Coordination
Volunteer Staff**

2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE – JOIN US



We are receiving many applications now for the 2001 retreat conference. The Four Points at Sheraton is requesting that you make your hotel room reservations NOW in order to have a room at the site of the daily events that start Friday evening and end following the 3 day extension with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ. Overflow hotel room arrangements have been made with the Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, at the same overnight rates.

Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, is returning to join with Father John Hampsch, CMF, author of "Healing Your Family Tree." Father John McFadden will open the event and bless the facilities. Father Michael Semana will again sing a Healing Mass on Saturday, and will hold a healing concert on Saturday night followed by

laying on of hands for healing. Father Jim Sauchelli will join us to help keep things running smoothly.

Music for the weekend will again be provided by "REFUGE" led by Pete Mazsack with Friday night Holy Mass music by "VOYAGE" led by Dean Pulcini. Al Barbarino and Geraldine McSorley will provide the music for the 3-day extension with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ.

The Sheraton Four Points Hotel is filling up fast and the 700 people wishing to attend the February 2001 Retreat Conference need to make reservations as soon as possible. Should the Sheraton Four Points overflow, as it has for the last 3 years, participants will be referred to other local hotels nearby. There is a new number at the hotel for room reservations - 1-800-325-3535.

Please review the enclosed gold information sheet and registration form today to register with the PFMC for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE attendance.

VOLUNTEERS for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED



Please call Dotty or Kathleen at 856-768-9228 if you can volunteer to help the PFMC. We always need help in the PFMC in setting up the programs, particularly in the area of accepting reservations, and program planning. If you are interested in helping out with the February 2001 Retreat Conference, we need about 40 volunteers. Consider filling out the form on page 27 and mailing it in to us.

We appreciate your help in evangelization.

PRIESTS CONFESSORS NEEDED for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE



Mary's Beloved Priests: Will you help us with the Sacrament of Confession during the 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE? We have reserved at least six private hotel rooms across from the Adoration Room for the purpose of 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE attendees receiving the Sacrament of Confession. Four overflow stations are set up in the "Sacristy" Room reserved for priests and deacons. That means we can have ten priests hearing

Confessions simultaneously in private settings. More priest confessors can utilize other private hotel rooms based on their availability.

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

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

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

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

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

Would you consider coming and helping this year?

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Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Glenn Hartman, Father

Joseph Szolack, as well as many of Mary's other beloved priests from

the Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden,

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

Please call Kathleen or Dotty at 856-768-9228.

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

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

Thank you! We pray daily for our Beloved Priests.

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

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

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in both 128 and 130, discusses "TYPOLOGY" as shown in the November 2000 issue of "The PILGRIM."

Come as often as you can but don't fear coming if you have missed some of the classes. Peter always does review and will work with you to catch up on what has already been covered.

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

Dean Pulcini will be leading Wednesday night seminars on "DEFENDING YOUR FAITH" in the Great Room of Epiphany House from 7 PM to 9 PM. He offers a basic understanding of his Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy. These interactive seminars help students to grasp clearly what the Church authentically teaches and aid in dispelling misinformation, misunderstanding, and myths. Persons of other faiths interested in learning about Catholicism are invited to attend as well.

With a Master's degree in Sacred Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, CT. Scripture, Morality, and Liturgy Dean has plenty of background for these seminars. On line, Dean hosts a chat room founded to address questions about the Catholic faith.

Active in music ministry, Dean leads the choral group VOYAGE. He has composed hundreds of pieces of music, some of them being accepted for publication. He has produced music albums on tape and CD.

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

Some related topics of the course include:

Where Do Catholics Find THAT in the Bible?

The Bible and Sacred Tradition, the two 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

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

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

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

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

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

Who Gives the Church the Right to Morally Dictate?

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: These seminars run
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from 7 PM to 9 PM on Wednesday nights. Free will offering baskets are out. Suggested offering is \$5 per night. The PFMC display room and library will be open. We would appreciate if you would call 856-768-9228 if you plan to attend.

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP MEETING AT EPIPHANY HOUSE



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

NEEDS of the PFMC

The PFMC is badly in need of two utility carts, either 2 shelf or three shelf. If you have one around or can sponsor buying one please contact us. We have no preference – either Rubbermaid or metal.

We also have need of a white erasable marker board and an easel with butcher paper for use during our workshops. They don't have to be a gigantic.

Thank you for considering us

PLEASE DON'T WRITE ORDERS 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 order forms enclosed inside "The PILGRIM" or write us a separate note.

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

PRESENCE OF OUR LORD



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

Devotion". Unlike books that present the technical aspects of setting up Eucharistic devotion in a chapel or parish, this book focuses on how the Blessed Sacrament has been a source of comfort and faith for countless Christians. Catholics, for centuries, have answered Christ's plea by placing themselves before His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Many parishes are now instituting the Adoration Hours for their parishioners.

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

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

THE FORK

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order", she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house

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

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

We plan to completely review and purge the bulk mailing list in March. If you have not corresponded with us in over a year, your name will probably be dropped from our bulk mailing list.

There is no "subscription" fee. We do ask for free will donations to support "**The PILGRIM**" and the operations of the **PFMC**.

If you know someone who would enjoy the "**The PILGRIM**," please ask them to contact us at the address printed in the box on page 5 or near the mailing label on the last page.

to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favorite Bible.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" came the pastor's reply.

This is very important," the woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say.

That surprises you, doesn't it?" the woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The woman explained. "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, "Keep your fork". It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's with the fork?". Then I want you to tell them:

"Keep your fork....the best is yet to come."

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing, another favorite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand.

Over and over, the pastor heard the question "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

Show your friends how much you care. Send this to everyone you consider a FRIEND even if it means sending back to the person who sent it to you.

And keep your fork!

(Bernadette)

PRAYER for the WORKING WOMAN

Lord Jesus, as I enter this work place, I bring Your presence with me. I speak Your peace, Your grace, and Your perfect order into the atmosphere of this office. I acknowledge Your Lordship over all that will be spoken, thought, decided, and accomplished within these walls.

Lord Jesus, I thank You for the gifts you have deposited in me. I do not take them lightly but commit to using them responsibly and well. Give me a fresh supply of truth and beauty on which to draw as I do my job. Anoint my creativity, my ideas, my energy, so that even my smallest task may bring You honor.

Lord, when I am confused, guide me. When I am weary, energize me, Lord, when I am burned out, infuse me with the light of the Holy Spirit. May the work that I do and the way I do it, bring hope, life, and courage to all that come in contact with me today. And, Oh Lord, even in this day's most stressful moments, may I rest in You. In the mighty Name that is above all Names, in the Name of my Lord and Savior Jesus, I pray, Amen.

Please pass along to other Christian woman that you know out in the work force. God Bless.

(M. Dorothy Lyons, Internet)

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

When in sorrow, call John 14.

When men fail you, call Psalm 27.

If you want to be fruitful, call John 15.
 When you have sinned, call Psalm 51.
 When you worry, call Matthew 6:19.
 When you are in danger, call Psalm 91.
 When God seems far away, call Psalm 139.
 When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11.
 When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23.
 When you grow bitter and critical, call I Corinthians 13.
 Paul's secret to happiness, call Colossians 3:12.
 For understanding of Christianity, call II Corinthians 5:15-19.
 When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31.
 When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 11:25-30.
 When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90.
 When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8:1-30.
 When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121.
 When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67.
 For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55.
 When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1.
 For how to get along with fellow men, call Romans 12.
 When you think of investments and returns, call Mark 10.
 If you are depressed, call Psalm 27.
 If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37.
 If you are losing confidence in people, call I Corinthians 13.
 If people seem unkind, call John 15.
 If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126.
 If you find the world growing small and yourself great, call Psalm 19.
 Alternate numbers:
 For dealing with fear, call Psalm 34:7.
 For security, call Psalm 121:3.
 For assurance, call Mark 8:35.

For reassurance, call Psalm 145:18.
 Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day! Pass it on.
(Bernadette)

YOUR LITTLE BIRD, MARY, for YOU to KEEP and CHERISH

Blessings come in many forms. An article in "National Geographic" several years ago painted an incredible picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked the bird over with a stick. Upon doing so, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety, but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had singed her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live. Psalms 91:4 says: "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."

(Terra M. Fox, Internet)

THE NEED for VOCATIONS

The need for vocations to the priesthood and religious life is a constant concern for the Church today, especially for the office of bishop which is responsible in the particular local church to call forth vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Last Sunday, I had the opportunity to meet the new seminarians for the Diocese of Camden and bestow and call to candidacy three men in the final stages of preparation for the Sacrament of Orders. This year we are blessed through the efforts of Father Joseph Szolack, Vocations Director, and Sister Dorothy Aloisio, Assistant Vocations Director, in having 11 men as new seminarians. All of these men will be attending Saint Charles Seminary, either in the College or Theology division. Meeting with them and their

families for the first time is always a great experience, because it is from families that vocations come.

The current lack of vocations is based on many factors. Given my own research background, my dream is someday to do what is called a regression analysis on the problem, looking at how different variables contribute to the cause of the factors of this reality. We are dealing not so much, I believe, with a spiritual problem, but rather a sociological one which in some ways can be analyzed. I am sure that the Lord is calling many young men and women to labor in His vineyard. However, for various reasons in today's society young people and others are not able to respond in a positive way to the divine call to church vocations. A sermon on vocations today is much more difficult. The obstacles to be overcome and making decisions are formidable. I believe, however, this study must wait for an opportune moment.

In the meantime, the Diocese of Camden is doing all that is possible to call forth vocations. By this September, we will be opening the Nazareth House as a house of formation and discernment. God has blessed us with seven applicants for this year's opening class. Under the able direction of Father Roger McGrath, who is returning to the diocese after several years of service with the Sulpicians, a religious community which specializes in priestly education and formation. Father McGrath is uniquely suited for guiding the House of Formation as we develop our program. It will be assisted by Father Joseph Szolack who will also be a resident at Nazareth House. A note of interest is the name we have given to this house of discernment and formation. It was at Nazareth that Jesus grew in wisdom and age and lived a rather secluded life. So, too, at this house of Nazareth will those discerning grow in wisdom and will be able to do it in relative peace in seclusion, not burdened by many of the distractions that today's world offers.

The parish vocations committees, which I have asked each parish to establish, are means of cultivating vocations; first through prayer and then through identification of those who might have priestly and religious vocations. I am very happy that almost 115 parishes have vocation committees and are actively pursuing prayer and discernment for candidates. Many are conducting projects called "Called by Name;" where specific individuals are identified and presented to the pastor as potential candidates for the priestly and religious life. As a follow-up to this project, we have Project Andrew and Project Miriam which have at its core meeting with the Bishop of the

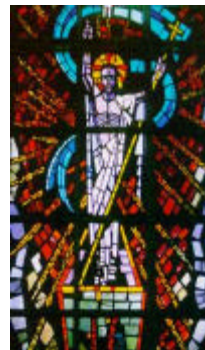
diocese who officially in the name of the Church invites people to discern their vocations. Project Andrew is geared for men, while Project Miriam is geared for woman. I already have conducted one Project Andrew at an afternoon where I prayed and had lunch with several potential candidates. One of them is already entering Nazareth House. It is also my desire to assist women in religious communities in establishing similar houses of discernment and formation, perhaps even on an inter-community basis where young women can also pray and discern their vocations. It is so important that the Church call forth the vocations, so that the talent and energy that can be used in the service of the Gospel will give the Church in our generation and for generations to come the leadership it needs.

We have been blessed this year with 11 new seminarians and 7 men entering our house of discernment. Please continue to pray for vocations, that we may be blessed with an abundance of priestly and religious vocations in our own diocese, so that we can share our abundance with others.

Peace be with you.

(Bishop DiMarzio – Star Herald. 2000)

NAZARETH HOUSE



A place of discernment and formation for men aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. The Diocese of Camden has begun a new formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to priestly formation.

A man's vocation is a mystery that needs to be challenged, investigated and above all, given to prayer. The true calling originates with God and is up to each man to be willing to listen to the Lord and answer with trust. Although vocation is often seen as a personal decision, a religious vocation is always discerned in the context of the Church community. The man who is discerning his path in life should be entrusting himself to the Holy Spirit for guidance and must be open to competent people whom God uses to aid a man in hearing that voice within his soul.

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men

between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff will provide them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service.

Men who want to investigate whether God is calling them into priestly formation will have the opportunity to live the structured life of the seminarian. Without the full commitment of enrolling in a Seminary, a discernment student will share the formation community life for one academic year from mid-August until the end of May. During this time of human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation, the man would decide if he should apply to his sponsoring diocese to be considered as a seminarian.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org
Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden
631 Market Street, Camden, NJ 08102
(856) 756-7900 ext. 5266.
or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, your divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His vineyard. We earnestly beg You to bless our Diocese and our world with many priests and religious who will love You fervently, and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to Your Son's Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray that their lives may be always centered on our Eucharistic Lord, and that they may be devoted sons and daughters of Mary, our mother, in making You known and loved that all may attain Heaven. Bless our families and our children and choose from our homes those whom You desire for this holy work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(from Nazareth House brochure)

CAMDEN DIOCESE, VOCATION OFFICE, DISCERNMENT WEEKEND, 1/19-21/2001

This weekend retreat will provide a prayerful opportunity for men and women, 18 to 35, to consider the Priesthood, Brotherhood, and Religious Life. It will be held at Saint Pius X Retreat Center
Volume 12, Number 1 – January 2001

from Friday, 19 January 2001, through Sunday, 21 January, 2001. The cost is \$40 but there may be sponsorship available through the PFMFC.

For more information, call the Vocations Office at 856-756-7900 Ext. 5266.

(Bulletin, Church of Saint Lucy, Blue Anchor, NJ)

PRAYER to KNOW ONE'S VOCATION – K of C

Lord Jesus, up until now you have been quietly preparing me to be your disciple. Now the time of preparation is ending. I seem to hear you say to me as once to Peter: "Will you also go away?" You were saddened then by friends who failed you. But Peter did not fail. "Lord," he said, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

I stand with Peter. Through prayer and counsel, show me, Lord, where it is in your vineyard that you want me to serve. Then give me strength to be faithful.

Mary, Mother and Model, help me to respond in generous love to the call of your Divine Son.

(Card 1874-a, Vocations Committee – Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus [K of C])

DAY of DISCERNMENT

Come and join the Sisters of Villa Walsh in Morristown, NJ, to pray, meditate and learn how to discern your vocation in life. This special day is open to all young ladies ages 17 and up. Available dates are: January 13, February 10, and March 10. An offering of \$5 includes lunch. Please call Sister Jane at 973-538-2886 Ext. 146 for more information.

(Bulletin, Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church, Merchantville, NJ)

PRAYER for VOCATIONS - Pope John Paul II

Holy Spirit . . . It is You who open the heart and the mind to the Divine Call; it is You who make effective every impetus toward good, toward truth, toward charity . . . Open the hearts and minds of men, so that a new flowering of vocations may show forth the fidelity of your love, and all may know Christ, the

true light come into the world, to offer to every human being, the sure hope of eternal life. Amen.

(from Card, ©1999, NCCV, 1-800-671-NCCV)

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

Plan now to attend the annual World Marriage Day Brunch at the Renault Winery in Egg Harbor. The speaker this year will be Father James Otto. Cost is \$40 per couple. Time is 12 PM to 2:30 PM. Reservations must be received by the Office of Family Life by Friday, January 26, 2001. To make reservations, please call 856-756-7900, Ext. 6264.

(Bulletin, Saint Peter Church, Merchantville, NJ)

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of Your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Card 1874-a, Vocations Committee – Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus [K of C])

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

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

If you do not have an order form, call us at 856-768-9228 with a FAX number or mailing address and we

will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card. We take DISCOVER (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (Cirrus) or VISA (PLUS) Charge Cards.

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

The PFMC is permanently approved as an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code Section 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt religious association which can accept tax deductible contributions or donations in relation to its organizational functions. These functions include pilgrimages, retreats, days of recollection, presentations, Bible Study, Rosary making, books, and religious articles.

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

You are the hands of Jesus and Our Lady. Your help is important. We want to thank all of you who have been faithfully supporting the PFMC. Your donations have meant that we have been able to touch so many people through "The PILGRIM," through retreats and conferences. We are grateful for every donation that helps us cover the printing and mailing of "The PILGRIM," the heat, water, insurance, and setting up of programs. We are excited with how Our Lady is guiding us for the year of 2000. We cannot do it without you.

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

We 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 these scheduled times. We need regular daily or weekly help and help once a month – whatever you can give. We will give you a good orientation, and make use of the gifts that God has given you.

Please come and see the new PFMC. We know you

will enjoy what you see and find a way of helping out.

Thank you and God bless you,

Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff

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



Please complete your address on any order forms or 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.

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD



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

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



The PFMC phone system at Epiphany House has been set up so that all previously used numbers ring through Epiphany House. When no one is at Epiphany House (856) 768-9228 and (856) 753-9252 ring over to new phone lines at 129 Deerfield Avenue. When the ring through is active because no one is picking up before 4 rings at Epiphany House, some extra rings will be heard before the answering machine picks up and allows you to leave a message.

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

BOOKS NEEDED for OUR LIBRARY



We are seeking OLD books on Our Lady, on the Eucharist, Priesthood, Sacraments and Holy Mass for our library. If you have any, particularly if priests have any on their shelves or stored away in boxes, we would love to have them. Please drop them off at the PFMC. We are grateful.

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it. Please copy or cut out any one or more of the following BULLETIN NOTICES:

PFMC 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE

"IF I BUT TOUCH HIS CLOTHES, I SHALL BE

Reserve the weekend of February 23rd, 24th and 25th 2001 for the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE at the Four Points Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. The main speaker will be Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. Doctor Junie and

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Sarah Irizari who gave up their respective careers in the Philippines to evangelize their Roman Catholic Faith will introduce Saturday night's Healing Service. The 3-day extension on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit will feature Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. For a GOLD information sheet with registration form, call the PFMC at 856-768-9228 or visit the PFMC web site at:

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

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

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

BIBLE STUDY –

1st and 3rd MONDAY'S at 7:30 PM

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

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

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

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

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

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

PRAYER GROUP

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

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

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

Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff

**MARIAN SHRINE or
PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS**

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

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

NOAH IN THE 20TH CENTURY

A nd you thought you had problems with the Township, can you imagine Noah building an ark in the 20th century. The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "Noah, in six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are destroyed. But, I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build an ark." And, in a flash of lightning, he delivered the specifications for the ark.

"OK," Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints, "I'm your man." "Six months and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You better have my ark completed or learn to swim for a long, long time!"

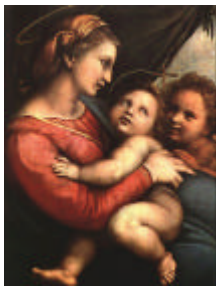
Six months passed, the sky began to cloud up, and the rain began to fall in torrents. The Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping, and there was no ark. "Noah!" shouted the Lord, "where is My ark?" A lightning bolt crashed into the ground right beside Noah. "Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best, but there were some big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the ark's construction, but your plans did not meet their code. So, I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a fire-sprinkler system. My neighbors objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning

board. Then I had a big problem getting enough wood for the ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch them, so no owls. Next, I started gathering up the animals but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to me taking along only two of each kind. Just when the suit got dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. "Then, the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plan. I sent them a globe! Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire. The IRS has seized all my assets claiming that I am trying to leave the country, and I just got a notice from the state that I owe some kind of use tax. Really, I don't think I can finish the ark in less than five years."

With that, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you are not going to destroy the world?" he asked hopefully. "No, said the Lord, "the government already has."

(M. Dorothy Lyons, Internet)

HAVE CONFIDENCE that MARY KNOWS OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS



Mary is Mother of men she knows all their spiritual needs. It is a principle admitted by all theologians that the happiness of the blessed in heaven would not be complete if they did not know what happens on earth to the extent to which it concerns them by reason of their

office, their role, or their relations with men. Such knowledge is the object of a legitimate desire which must find its satisfaction in beatitude, and with all the more reason when the knowledge they desire is of men's spiritual needs and is therefore desired in charity: it is in charity that the saints desire men's salvation so that they may glorify God with them for all eternity and share thus in their happiness.

Fathers and mothers, for example, know from heaven

the needs of their children, especially those which bear on their salvation. The same may be said of the founders of religious institutes. With all the more reason may the same be said of Our Lady, who has the highest degree of glory after her Son: as Mother of all men she must know everything which bears directly or indirectly on the supernatural life which she has been commissioned to give us and to nourish in us.

This universal knowledge, certain and detailed, of all that concerns our destiny--our thoughts, desires, the dangers in which we are, the graces we need, temporal affairs which have some connection with our salvation--is a prerogative which belongs to Mary because of her motherhood of God and her spiritual motherhood of men.

Knowing our spiritual needs and even the temporal needs which are connected with our salvation Mary is obviously impelled by her great charity to intercede for us. If a mother but suspects that her child needs her help she flies to its side. There is no question here of Mary's acquiring new merits in heaven but simply of her obtaining that her merits--and her Son's--be applied to us at the appropriate moment.

("THE MOTHER of the SAVIOUR" by Father Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., Tan Books)

CONFIDENCE in SEEKING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Confidence in grace our last words can bear development. Total trust in God is not merely a confidence in an abstract principle, true as that principle may be. It is an interpersonal certainty based on the entire integrity of persons we know well and love deeply. We have the repeated assurances in Scripture of exquisite divine care for the least of us, even to the falling of a single hair. We see in heroic

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass in the area that you are located, call 1-800-MASS-TIMES or 1-800-627-7846.

If you have access to the Internet and don't already have it book marked, type in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) www.masstimes.org in the white box near the top of your browser.

people how impossibilities become possible through the power of grace--how humility is combined with towering talent (*Aquinas* and *Bellarmino*), how the chains of long indulged impurity are broken (*Augustine*), how love for worldly pleasure is dissolved like mist before the sun (*Francis*), how weak men and women are empowered to face death with joy (*Maria Goretti*, *Thomas More*). Of ourselves we can do nothing. With God we can do anything--anything noble, good, pure, worthy of praise (Phil. 4:8).

(from "SEEKING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION" by
Thomas Duban, S.M., Servant Publications,
available via *PFMC*)

LISTEN TO THE WHISPER

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and spun the Jag back to the spot from where the brick had been thrown.

He jumped out of the car, grabbed some kid, pushed him up against a parked car and began shouting what was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?" Building up a head of steam he went on. "That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

"Please, mister, please. I'm sorry, I didn't know what else to do" pleaded the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car.

"It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the executive,

"Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and God bless you," the grateful child said

to him.

The man then watched the little boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long walk back to his Jaguar....a long, slow walk. He never did repair the side door. He kept the dent to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention. God whispers in your soul and speaks to your heart. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has to throw a "brick" at you. It's your choice:

Listen to the whisper-or wait for the brick

(from Bernadette off the Internet)

LITANY of MARY of NAZARETH - WOMAN of GRACE and TRUTH

Glory to you, God our Creator...*Breathe into us
new life, new meaning.*

Glory to you, God our Savior...*Lead us in the way of
peace and justice.*

Glory to you, healing Spirit...*Transform us to
empower others.*

Mary, wellspring of peace...*Be our guide.*

Model of strength...

Model of gentleness...

Model of trust...

Model of courage...

Model of patience...

Model of risk...

Model of openness...

Model of perseverance...

Mother of the Liberator...*pray for us.*

Mother of the homeless...

Mother of the dying...

Mother of the non-violent...

Widowed Mother...

Mother of a political prisoner...

Mother of the condemned...

Mother of the executed criminal...

Oppressed woman...*Lead us to life.*

Liberator of the oppressed...

Marginalized woman...

Comforter of the afflicted...

Cause of our joy...

Sign of contradiction...

Breaker of bondage...

Political refugee...

Seeker of sanctuary...

First disciple...
Sharer in Christ's ministry...
Participant in Christ's Passion...
Seeker of God's will...
Witness to Christ's Resurrection...

Woman of mercy...**Empower us!**
Woman of faith...
Woman of contemplation...
Woman of vision...
Woman of wisdom and understanding...
WOMAN OF GRACE AND TRUTH...
Woman, pregnant with hope...
Woman, centered in God...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God;
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray --

Mary, Queen of peace / we entrust our lives to you. /
Shelter us from war, hatred / and oppression.
Teach us / to live in peace, / to educate ourselves / for peace.
Inspire us to act justly, / to revere all God has made, /to respect the gift of life, / to promote human dignity. / Root peace firmly in our hearts / in our souls, / in our neighbors, / and in the world.
Amen.

(unknown)

DON'T BE MAD AT MOTHER

Don't be mad at mother When her patience seems
Neath the thousand little duties That
she does for childhood's sake ; If she scolds a bit
when worried, If her temper seems to slip; Her brow
may wear a wrinkle But a smile is on her lip.

Don't be mad at mother If she seems a little cross:
It's a privilege she possesses As the manager and boss;
And perhaps beneath her worry – And her temper
stern and ill – She's the same old lovely mother With a
heart that loves you still.

Don't get mad at mother When the cares and worries
seem To fret and arouse her – Maybe mother has her
dream, And it fades as yours does often, And her
many plans go wrong – And she can't be always
smiling, nor forever hum a tune.

**(Originally from the Baltimore Sun, reprinted from
THE MARYFAITHFUL July-August, 1988)**

OLD JIM

A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day, decided to pause by the altar and see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened, a man came down the aisle, The minister frowned as he saw the man hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was kinda shabby and his coat was worn and frayed, the man knelt, he bowed his head, then rose and walked away. In the days that followed, each noon time came this chap, each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap. Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear, He decided to stop the man and ask him, "What are you doing here?" The old man said, he worked down the road. Lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power. "I stay only moments, see, because the factory is so far away; as I kneel here talking to the Lord, this is kinda what I say:

"I just came again to tell You, Lord, how happy I've been, since we found each other's friendship and You took away my sin. Don't know much of how to pray, but I think about You everyday. So, Jesus, this is Jim checking in today."

The minister feeling foolish, told Jim, that was fine. He told the man he was welcome to come and pray just anytime.

Time to go, Jim smiled, said "Thanks." He hurried to the door. The minister knelt at the altar, and met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed, in his heart, he repeated old Jim's prayer:

"I just came again to tell You, Lord, how happy I've been, since we found each other's friendship and You took away my sin. Don't know much of how to pray, but I think about You everyday. So, Jesus, this is checking in today."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Jim hadn't come. As more days passed without Jim, he began to worry some. At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill. The week that Jim was with them, brought changes in the ward. His smiles, a joy contagious. Changed people, were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had. The minister stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and with a winsome smile; "the nurse is wrong, she couldn't

know, that in here all the while everyday at noon He's here, a dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

"I just came again to tell you, Jim, how happy i have been, since we found this friendship, and I took away your sin. Always love to hear you pray, I think about you each day, and so Jim, this Jesus checking in today."

If this blesses you, pass it on ... many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart. May God hold you in the palm of His hand and Angels watch over you

(Unknown Author)

THE SPIRIT IS TRUTH

If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the TRUTH about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

(John 14: 15-17)

OFFENSES AGAINST TRUTH

Christ's disciples have "put on the new man, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph 4:24). By "putting away falsehood," they are "to put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander."

(Eph 4:25, Pet 2:1)

FALSE WITNESS AND PERJURY

When made publicly, a statement contrary to the truth takes on a particular gravity. In court it becomes false witness. When it is under oath, it is perjury. Acts such as these contribute to condemnation of the innocent, exoneration of the guilty, or the increased punishment of the accused. They gravely compromise the exercise of justice and the fairness of judicial decisions.

Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury.

He becomes guilty of rash judgment who; *even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor;*

of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them.

of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them.

To avoid rash judgment, everyone should be careful to interpret insofar as possible his neighbor's thoughts, words and deeds in a favorable way.

Detraction and calumny destroy the reputation and honor of one's neighbor. Honor is the social witness given to human dignity, and everyone enjoys a natural right to the honor of his name and reputation and to respect. Thus, detraction and calumny offend against the virtues of justice and charity.

Every word or attitude is forbidden which by flattery, adulation, or complaisance encourages and confirms another in malicious acts and perverse conduct. Adulation is a grave fault if it makes one an accomplice in another's vices or grave sins. Neither the desire to be of service nor friendship justifies duplicitous speech. Adulation is a venial sin when it only seeks to be agreeable, to avoid evil, to meet a need, or to obtain legitimate advantages.

(from the "Catechism of the Catholic Church"

NO LIE CAN COME from TRUTH

Children, these are the last days; you were told that an Antichrist must come, and now several antichrists have already appeared; we know from this that these are the last days. Those Rivals of Christ came out of our own number, but they had never really belonged; if they had belonged, they would have stayed with us; but they left us, to prove that not one of them ever belonged to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and have all received the knowledge. It is not because you do not know the TRUTH that I am writing to you, but rather because you know it already, and know that no lie can come from the TRUTH.

(First letter of John 2:18-21 "Daily Roman Missal"
Sunday Visitor 1994)

LIE NUMBER ONE: DIVINATION

We've all experienced it. For the faithful servant of God, Satan harasses one and make life appear to be very difficult. He is known as Satan who deceives, entices, enslaver, tormentor (brings into bondage and oppression), driver of human beings away from God, or definer even if one is are baptized. A major tactic of Satan is to attack our minds and thoughts. He wants to deceive us for **"...there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."** (Jn 8:44)

All knowledge comes either from God, from human beings, or from Satan. We hear all three voices at times in our life. Through the gift of discernment, a gift of God through prayer and listening, we are able to sort out which voice is **TRUTH**. One of the great lies embraced over the centuries is through divination, a pseudo-science of predicting future events or exploring past events through occult means. Such persons are seeking knowledge that is "not attainable through human or godly means.

One such means of divination is the Ouija board. Here there is contact with spirits that establish bondage to a board for every decision. The bondage can come by innocently playing it. It comes often in the form of desire for money, possessions, or deeper experiences of the spirit world (occult).

In seances, there is an attempt to reach the spirit world for knowledge. Demonic spirits have knowledge and can imitate voices and appearances of people who have died. **They are not the true voice of God.** People want so much to find out the future or the unknown that they will establish bonds with the unknown to satisfy their desires. Any contact with the spirit world is very dangerous and a sin.

Tarot cards is a form of deception to gain knowledge about someone or events in a person's life that is not possible through humans or God. Tarot card readers believe the cares are magical. They are of the occult and are wrong to use for any purpose.

With palm reading one tries to tell the future through lines in the hand. Palmistry is very very popular and is again used to tell the future. It is fortune telling that is forbidden in the Scriptures. (**Dt. 18:10**)

Astrology is the forecasting of earthly and human events by observing and interpreting the fixed stars, sun moon and planets. In Colossians 2:8, we are reminded by Paul "See to it that no one makes a prey

of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ."

Divination, whether from Ouija board, tarot cards, seances palmistry, astrology, channeling etc. is never "just for fun of it all, or to try it just once serious offense and deception because one is seeking knowledge from a supernatural source other than God. It is to practice disobedience to the first commandment, and places us in rebellion to God. They are not in God's TRUTH. They break God's covenant with us.

Activity in seeking out freedom from divination requires us to seek out God's forgiveness through deliverance and repentance. A skilled priest will walk one through release from occult world and its harm to the soul. It requires us to once again seek God's truth through the prophets in the Bible, and through the lives of the Saints and Mary. It requires us to deeply look at our relationship with God, and to seek out a loving, trustful, personal, and truthful relationship with Him.

(by Kathleen Werner, Editor)

TIME to COMMUNICATE WHAT CATHOLICISM IS (TRUTH) and IS NOT (DECEIT)

Those who have the office of teaching in the Church--and I do mean the Pope and the bishops--teach us the true principles which are non-compromisable, because they come from God: that is to say, from objective reality.

These principles are few in number. They do not require stacks of policy statements. But for us believers, these few principles are rooted in the self-revelation of a Supreme Being who knows who He is and who knows what He wants from us.

I'm afraid sometimes that this God--objective, self-defining, Father, Judge, and Sovereign over all the nations--gets trampled these days by herds of competing candidates for divinity. In fact, let me just survey three of them.

First, there's the American god, who fell into a coma right after writing the Bible (King James Version, of course), and then woke up just in time to establish the United States of America as God's chosen people. Amerigod's cross is purely decorative and invariably

wrapped in the Stars and Stripes, and Amerigod's main sacrament is the political Prayer Breakfast.

Amerigod's Consistent Ethic consists in being consistently pro-Pentagon. The worshipers of Amerigod have never seen a weapons system they didn't like. Their prophet was Harry Truman--"Hey! He did what he had to do!" And they find it the most natural thing in the world to serve God and mammon simultaneously. Although the old obsolete biblical God said it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, Amerigod has revealed that free enterprise has solved this difficulty--by developing really small camels and really BIG NEEDLES.

Then there's the Spirit of Feelgood. This god has one great commandment, "Actualize Thyself." The Spirit of Feelgood wants us, above all, not to have a negative self-concept. He--or she--doesn't talk much about sin, but finds everything to be an opportunity for personal growth. "Are you finding your spouse very, very difficult and you'd like to marry somebody else? That would be personal growth. "Or: "You're romantically attracted to somebody of the same sex? That could be very growthful!" Feel good spirituality really transforms peoples lives. I know that when I was into it, it certainly transformed mine, though it took me a while to realize I was being transformed into a self-actualizing, self-affirming, self-empowering, self-basting turkey.

Turning now to the newest translation of the Bible--the Reversed Standard Version--we find a really interesting deity. Being very sensitive to sex and gender issues, this deity is not a Trinity, but a Sex-tet: the Mother-Father, the Son-Daughter, and the Holy She-it. I'm serious. It's right there in the Book of Deuteronomy. The Mother-Father god inspires great devotion. For instance, many of his-or-her followers have devoted the last 20 years of their lives to the Great Pronoun Reformation. Talk about powerful social movements!

Unlike the boring old biblical God, these new ones--Amerigod, the Spirit of Feel good, and the Mother-Father Genderblender--can virtually guarantee you a whole lot of powerful religious experiences. The latter two are all over Catholic retreat houses, where for a couple of hundred bucks you can have a fabulously spiritual weekend. These houses have very talented committees of laicized clergy and clericalized laity producing censored, strait-laced, bowdlerized versions of sacred texts.

But sometimes it's a little bit awkward. Holy, holy, holy--hmmm--Lady God of Hostesses?"

I know one Church that spent \$14,000--no joke--just to get new hymnals that would be entirely purged of offensive pronouns. They don't do shelter work and they don't do pregnancy aid, but they have such sensitive liturgies! The poor get poorer, and the rich get, uh, ritual.

I worry that we are too devoted to "spiritualities" and not enough devoted to Our Lord the Holy Spirit: not an Energy, not a Force, not a Cosmic Vibration, but a person: Our Lord the Holy Spirit. The Lord and Giver of Life.

This is the Lord who spoke through the prophets. This Lord, Our Lord, the Holy Spirit, makes no distinction between sexual morality and social justice. This is the Lord who says, "It's abominable for a man to lay with a man," and who also says, "I command you to be openhearted with the poor, with the widow, the orphan, and the immigrant." This is the Lord who says, "I hate divorce," and who also says, "I hate hands that shed innocent blood."

The real Consistent Ethic is nothing but Catholic doctrine, and the real Seamless Garment is nothing but your own baptismal garment.

So: Do you renounce Amerigod? I do renounce him. Do you renounce the Spirit of Feel good, and all his works? I do renounce him. Do you renounce the Motherfather and Genderblender gods, and all their empty promises? I do renounce them. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth? I do believe.

Only a real God can give you a real Church, and only a real Church can give you a real Consistent Ethic.

(from an article of the same title in the July-August 1996 issue of "New Oxford Review" by Juli Loesch Wiley)

LIVING the TRUTH

When we seek everything in what God has made Jesus and Mary to be to us, we are living the greatest and most fundamental truth in creation, namely, that **the creator is the only source of every good and that the creature has nothing it has not received from its creator.** Sanctity is humility, living the **TRUTH**, for that alone is real. Hence, the more

perfectly we seek everything in God and not in ourselves, then we are living the **TRUTH** more fully and the greater is our sanctity and union with God in loving friendship.

As Saint Paul tells us. “We do not have to go up to heaven to bring Christ down nor go down into the depths to bring him up; we have only to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and we shall be saved, (cf **Rom. 10:6-9**) We have only to accept all that God is giving us in Jesus and Mary with faith, hope and love. We must believe that it is real; we must trust that if we strive to keep our wills in conformity with God’s will, we will certainly obtain everything God has promised us in Jesus and Mary in spite of every obstacle and setback. Above all, we must love God by esteeming what He is giving us in Jesus and Mary and by keeping our habitual will always centered on doing His will.

(from “*Veritatis Splendor*”, Pope John Paul II)

WALK SAFELY in TRUTH and AGAINST the DARKNESS

Take action against the many who call evil good and good evil. Take action against the monster of indifference and vice. Blasphemies, insults, and derision’s must not upset us. We must remain firmly and constantly at the foot of the Cross in union with the Immaculate Conception. We must walk safely against the darkness produced by errors, false principles, and by the spirit of immorality. The Cross is Our only defense. Represented by John, we were all placed under the protection of Mary as our Mother on Mount Calvary. Let us invoke this Mother of Sorrows to give us the strength and constancy to live the remainder of our days, faithful to our duties, and always to defend the sacred rights of Holy Mother, the Church.

(Pope Pius IX 184)

SAINT AUGUSTINE of HIPPO - THE TRUTH of the BLESSED EUCHARIST

Augustine’s teachings on the Blessed Eucharist are sublime. They are inseparable from his theology of the Mystical Body, a theology that deserves much

study since it so admirably unites the doctrines of Christology, the Sacraments, the Moral life, and other areas of Faith so often isolated from each other today (thanks in large part to the Protestant Revolt). He often refers to the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, as “the Whole Christ.” The very Catholic concept of Holy Communion being the principle of our union with Jesus--which is both a physical and a spiritual union--has beautiful expression in the Poet-Doctor of Hippo: “That bread that you see on the altar and that has been sanctified by the word of God is the Body of Christ. That chalice--rather, that which the chalice contains--has been sanctified by the word of God and is the Blood of Christ. Through these things the Lord Christ wished to entrust to us his Body and his Blood, which he shed for us unto the remission of sins. If you receive them well, you are that which you receive. The Apostle says, “One bread and we, the many, are one body.” (*Sermon CCXXVII: On Easter Sunday*)

In another place he says, “We did not know him in the flesh, yet we have deserved to eat his Flesh and to be his members in the Flesh.” (*On the Gospel of Saint John, 31-II*). Many members of various Protestant denominations consider that Communion is a sort of sign of Christ’s abiding spiritual presence among us: purely a figurative reality. Catholics, of course, take the words of Our Lord literally, when he said “This is My Body...” In talking to these Protestants, I have found it strange how many of them, wishing not to appear to deny these words, saying things like, “...well. we have communion, too” an “I *do* eat his body.”

To find out if the Protestant actually believes what he seems to be saying, I have asked something like this: “Well, if it is Christ’s body, can you worship it? Could you put it on an altar and bend your knees before it? Could you put it in a tabernacle and pray to it?” Usually at this point, the Protestant changes the subject. He doesn’t want to give the only answer that he can really give, “no,” because that would show that he does not believe he is eating the Body of Christ. Few Protestants actually believe that the bread they eat and the wine (or *grape juice!*) they drink is really His Sacred Body and Blood. They reduce the Eucharist to a symbol. But the Early Church did not believe that the partaking of this Bread was merely a symbolic spiritual event. To prove it, here is Saint Augustine speaking of the *adorability* of the Blessed Sacrament. (We should note here that the word *adore*

***From the Housetops” from the Sermon 130,
Migne 38,726, by Brother Andre Marie, M.I.C.M.)***

THE EUCHARIST and the FAMILY

Cardinal Edouard Gagnon, former president of the Pontifical Council for the Family and presently president of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, spoke at a Catholics United for Faith conference in the fall of 1993, in which he made an appeal for greater devotion to the Real Presence as a means of keeping the family together. He pointed out that Pope John Paul II is fostering belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist to “save the family.” The Cardinal asked the rhetorical question, “Where is Christ?”

In reply: “He is in the Eucharist...in the Mass, in our churches and we have to put the Eucharistic Christ back in our lives...It is the first thing parents should tell their children. It is never too soon to teach your children about the Eucharist...I say it is a duty to tell your child. Their whole life and their eternal life depends on Christ.”

We have forgotten that the Catholic Church was recognized everywhere for the presence of God in the Person of Christ in the tabernacle...We should all work to reopen our churches...If the churches are open, the people will come.”

The Cardinal then went on to give an example of the fruits of Eucharistic adoration:

There is a parish in Ottawa, Canada, where a priest was appointed. He had tried everything to attract people to church. Yet, the church was almost empty. There were only 20-30 people at Mass on Sunday. But the priest did not get discouraged. He invited those few people to Perpetual Adoration. He told them that we suffer because our brothers and our children are not here. So, let's do something! Let's have Eucharistic Adoration! So, they started that.

After three years the small community grew with people who were attracted to the Eucharist because it is there that the loving heart of Jesus is present, ready to inflame our hearts and the church was full every Sunday. Two years ago, nine boys had gone to the seminary to become priests, just because they had rediscovered the Eucharist. So, I think it is important to go back to the Eucharist, and give a real place to the Eucharist in our lives and in the lives of our families.

**(EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, Special Edition,
1996)**

MEMORARE to OUR LADY of the SACRED HEART

***Remember, O Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
the unlimited power which thou possesses
over the Heart of thine adorable Son. Full of
Confidence in thy merits, I come to implore
thy protection. O sovereign mistress of the
Heart of Jesus, of that Heart which is the
inexhaustible source of all graces, and which
thou canst open at thy pleasure, and cause all
the treasures of love and mercy, of light and
salvation which this Heart encloses, to descend
upon men, grant me, I beseech thee, the favor
which I solicit. No, I cannot meet with a
refusal, and because thou art my Mother, O Our
Lady of the Sacred Heart, favorably receive my
prayer and vouchsafe to hear me.***

Amen.

(Courtesy of “PAX CHRISTI USA -ERIE, PA)

TRUST

The way to direct fear is to trust in God. Not only does the Old Testament constantly advise us to trust God through historical accounts, prophetic writings and the psalms, but Jewish mystical writers counsel us in the same way. The medieval Jewish mystic **Joseph Kinichsi** in the book call “**Shakel Hakodesh**” wrote: “If you have the help of God, the dry wood of the forest will bear you fruit until you say ‘enough’: but if He who is above is not with you, then even the garden trees will not bring forth fruit.”

Can we even cite all the passages in the New Testament that call for trust in God in the face of terrible fear, even in the face of **Calvary**? The Gospels make it clear that trust does not mean that we shall go through the world easily. In the midst of the vicissitudes and pains of life, however, God will give us what we need to be saved.

Trust sustained Our Lord Jesus Christ through his active and demanding Apostolate in the face of unbelievable odds, even when He was rejected and betrayed. Trust went with Him to **Calvary** and it was there when He came out of the tomb. I looked through the Gospels for words that would epitomize the Messiah's trust during His passion and death. There are many such quotations. The following from **Saint John's** Gospel sums up Our Lord's whole teaching on trust during His own hour of dread and fear. I offer it for your meditation.

"The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If any one serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him." (Jn 12:23-26).

The trust of Christ during His life and passion set the tone for the long periods of persecution endured by His disciples and followers for three hundred years. Through the centuries the trust of the young man with the divine vision who saw His work crumbling and His life destroyed by evil men on Good Friday has added to His prayer a realism and power that nothing but His own cross could do. "Thy will be done" is the very foundation of Christian trust. **CONFIDENCE.**

("STUMBLING BLOCKS STEPPING STONES"
by Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R., Paulist Press,
available through **PFMC**)

AN ACT of TOTAL ABANDONMENT and LOVING CONFIDENCE in OUR LADY

S*weet Virgin Mary! My Queen and my mistress! My kind and loving Mother, in thee have I put my hope, I shall not be*

confounded.

Sweet Virgin Mary, I do firmly believe that from thy throne in Heaven thou ever watchest over me and over all who hope in thee; I am so thoroughly convinced that I shall never want for anything, if I expect all things from thee, that I am resolved to live in the future without the slightest uneasiness, relying entirely on thee.

Sweet virgin Mary, thou hast obtained for me this unshakable confidence. I render thee a thousand thanks for so precious a grace. henceforth I shall dwell in peace close to thy most pure heart, mindful of nothing but of loving and obeying thee, while thou wilt take care of me and of all that concerns me.

Sweet Virgin Mary, let the children of the world expect happiness from their riches or their talents; let others rely on the innocence of their life, on the rigor of their mortification's, on the fervor of their prayers, on the number of their good works; as for me, a poor sinner who has but the weak love of his heart, I place my hope in thee alone, dear Mother, after God, and the foundation of my hope is my entire confidence in thy maternal goodness.

Sweet Virgin Mary, the wicked may take away my reputation and the little I possess; sickness may deprive me of my strength and of the power of working for thee. Alas, my tender Mother, I may even lose thy good graces by committing sin; but never, no never, shall I lose my loving confidence in thy motherly goodness. I shall preserve it unshaken until my last sigh, and all the efforts of hell will be powerless to rob me of it. I shall die, sweet Mother, repeating thy blessed name and placing all my confidence in thy Immaculate Heart.

What can be the reason of my being so certain that I shall never lose hope in thee, if not because thou, O sweet Virgin, hast taught me that thou art all mercy and nothing but mercy?

Yes, I am sure, my good and loving Mother, that I shall always call upon thee, because I know that thou wilt ever console me: I shall always thank thee, because thou wilt ever relieve me; I shall always serve thee, because thou wilt ever

help me; I shall always love thee and have confidence in thee, because thou wilt ever love me; I shall always obtain from thee all that I need because thy munificent charity will ever exceed my hope.

Yes, it is from thee alone, O sweet Virgin, that, in spite of my unworthiness, I hope and expect the only favor which I desire, to be with Jesus in time and in eternity. That grace can come from thee alone, because my Divine Savior has chosen thee to grant me all His favors and to conduct me safely to Him. It is thou, my Mother, who having taught me to share the humiliations and sufferings of thy Divine Son, wilt open for me the gates of Heaven to praise and bless Him, near thee and with thee, for ever and ever. Thou art my CONFIDENCE, thou art the only foundation of my hope.

**(“THE REIGN of JESUS through MARY” by
Gabriel Denis, S.M.M., Montfort Publications,
available via PFMC)**

BISHOP MCCARRICK MOVES TO WASHINGTON DC

Pope John Paul II appointed a new Archbishop for Washington, DC, on Tuesday as he accepted the resignation of Cardinal James Hickey who turned 80 last month.

Cardinal Hickey will be succeeded by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark, New Jersey, who is 70 years old and has headed the Newark archdiocese since 1986. Hickey was named to head the Washington Archdiocese in 1980 and was named a Cardinal in 1988. He tendered his resignation on his 75th birthday, according to Canon Law, but continued serving at the pleasure of the Holy Father.

Archbishop McCarrick could be named a Cardinal as soon as February, when the Pope is expected to hold a new consistory with the College of Cardinals becoming depleted of voting members by death and retirement. Archbishop Edward Egan of New York, who succeeded the late Cardinal John O'Connor earlier this year, is also expected to be granted the honor as well.

McCarrick, who was born in New York City, became a priest in 1958 and received a masters degree from

The PILGRIM

the Catholic University in Washington. He served as rector of the Catholic University of Ponce, in Puerto Rico, from 1965-1969 and returned to New York City in the 1970s to serve as secretary to the late Cardinal Terence Cooke. He was appointed Bishop of Metuchen, New Jersey, in 1981.

(VATICAN, Nov. 21, 00 (CWNews.com))

VATICAN LABELS PROPOSED EUROPEAN UNION CHARTER OF HUMANS RIGHTS (A.K.A. THE EU CONSTITUTION) AS “GODLESS”

The London Times reported: "The Vatican stepped yesterday into the controversy over the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be adopted at the European Union summit in Nice next week, saying that it was a 'godless' document.

It emphasized that among other concerns the charter would cause moral and social harm' by sanctioning homosexual unions and making it easier for homosexual couples to adopt children...

Yesterday Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Pope's right-hand man as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith - the modern successor to the Holy Inquisition - said the charter upheld family values in theory, but in promoting the rights of homosexuals it had 'departed from the beaten track followed by the moral history of humanity'. He said: 'We find ourselves faced with the destruction of the image which man has always had of himself.' He added it was regrettable that 'God and our responsibility before God' had not been 'anchored in the European constitution'..."

(Vatican - Dec. 2, 2000)

OBITUARY for FATHER SLAVKO by FATHER DIETRICH VON STOCKHAUSEN, MEDJUGORJE, SUNDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2000

Dear Father Slavko! Here next to your coffin, I want to thank you in the name of the many priests from the German speaking countries, as well as those from all over the world, who have come to Medjugorje and have found a deepening of their faith here.

I want to thank you for the innumerable young people, who here in Medjugorje experienced their spiritual vocation, or who newly discovered their faith in God's love for them. Through your straightforward, committed and exemplary life, demonstrated in the celebration of the Eucharist, in your homilies and in the written words contained in your books, you have shown and passed on to others a profound testimony of God's love for us - His children - and for His creation.

Here in Medjugorje you not only perceived the Gospa's call, but you have made yourself into a convincing tool of her call for conversion and for the faith. Thus you have shown to all pilgrims, who came here, that we need the loving hand of Our Heavenly Mother in this world to find our way to God become much easier and to walk it with far more awareness. You have shown us the way to encounter God in this world in truth and in reality. In celebrating Holy Mass, through the many confessions you took, in celebrating the Eucharistic Adoration, through explanations of Holy Scripture and all the other sacraments you showed us the way. Talking in many of the major world languages in innumerable encounters with pilgrims from all over the world and through your books, which also have been translated into many languages, you have allowed people to share your very profound and ardent trust in the fact, that He really is the Father who loves all of us unceasingly.

Through your sudden death on mount Krizevac, between the 13th and the 14th Station of the Cross, all of us have once more become aware, that the loving Father in heaven has accepted the offering of your life, offered up together with Mary, who herself has offered up her dead son to the Father at the 13th station. Early every morning, you daily went up one of the two mountains, the Krizevac or the Podbro, always with your rosary in your hand, and thus you started your day

And the fact that the day of your burial is on the feast day of Christ the King, is also a sign for us, that Christ the King and Lord of your life has accepted your life and that Mary the Queen of Peace was allowed to lead you into her son's Reign of Peace.

In yesterday's message, Our Heavenly Mother announced that you were reborn into heaven. And thus you obviously have chosen and been gifted with the better part of life, a life which as the faithful terrestrial helper of the Queen of Peace you have

certainly earned and our hearts rejoice for you. But the Gospa also says in this message that in you we have gained a faithful intercessor in heaven. And so we ask you, that in your heavenly life as well you will continue to be always there for us - just as you were there for everybody here in Medjugorje. Once again - thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your friendship, your love and your exemplary life.

See you again in Heaven.

(translated by Felicity and offered to members of a
Medjugorje Internet Prayer Group
<http://www.iipg-queenofpeace.org>)

ANNUAL APPARITION to JAKOV COLO, DECEMBER 25, 2000.



At the last daily apparition to Jakov Colo on September 12, 1998, Our Lady said to him that he will have an apparition once a year on December 25, for Christmas. It was like that this year. The apparition began at 3:20 PM and lasted 10 minutes. Our Lady came joyful with baby Jesus in her arms. She blessed everyone and gave a message:

“Dear children! Today when Jesus is born and by His birth brings immeasurable joy, love and peace, I call you, in a special way to say your ‘yes’ to Jesus. Open your hearts so that Jesus enters into them, comes to dwell in them and starts to work through you. Only in this way will you be able to comprehend the true beauty of God’s love, joy and peace. Dear children, rejoice in the birth of Jesus and pray for all those hearts that have not opened to Jesus so that Jesus may enter into each of their hearts and may start working through them – so that every person would be an example of a true person through whom God works.”

<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

CHRISTMAS

“These days, we are celebrating the coming of the Lord. According to our human standards, if we were asked to prepare no less than the reception of God Himself, what would the setting be? What would we undertake?” (J. Turcinovic)

This is the question we have to face at Christmas. A surprising question, as surprising as the unusual ways God chooses to come and to speak to us. Christmas brings a good surprise: we all feel that throughout the year, we could live with one another and with God in a better, more meaningful and in a less complicated way. This is why Christmas is an exceptional feast.

Elisabeth, the mother of Saint John the Baptist, had a pleasant surprise – of another type, through another Visitation – the coming of Mary: “And whence is this to me, that the mother of my lord should come to me?” (Luke 1,43)

Such a Visitation, pleasant and challenging, was accorded the parish of Medjugorje. Millions have come to “see this thing which is come to pass” (see Luke 2,15), and they found Jesus in the sacrament of Reconciliation and in the Eucharist, in fasting and in prayer.

Blessed Christmas to you who have found Him and to you who seek Him!

Fra Ivan Landeka

FATHER SLAVKO’S BURIAL

Father Slavko Barbaric was buried November 26th in the local cemetery of Medjugorje “funeral mass, concelebrated by some 150 priests and assisted by more than 10.000 faithful, was presided by Monsignor Ratko Peric, Bishop of Mostar.

All speeches held at the funeral are published on our web-pages: <http://www.medjugorje.hr>.

FATHER SLAVKO’S WORK IS ALIVE

Humanly in deep sorrow, but carried by Christian hope, we wish to tell to all pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje that God’s work, started through Father Slavko Barbaric, continues to live on through his collaborators who followed Father Slavko’s inspirations throughout the years.

For all information linked with Father Slavko’s work, please contact the parish priest, Father Ivan Sesar and the Parish Office.

Thanks and praise to the Lord for having given to Medjugorje such a man, priest and Franciscan.

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of November, 40,000 Holy Communion were distributed and 1,144 priests from this country and from abroad concelebrated at Holy Mass in the shrine of the Queen of Peace.

STATESMEN from SLOVAKIA

On Tuesday November 7th, two statesmen from Slovakia visited Medjugorje: Jan Petrik, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Slovakia in Croatia and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Pavol Danic, consul in Zagreb. In their conversation with the parish priest of Medjugorje, they manifested their interest in the history of the apparitions in Medjugorje and, in a special way, in Slovakian pilgrims coming to this place. They visited the sanctuary and expressed their gratitude for the care the Franciscan friars accord to Slovakian pilgrims. They wish to maintain good contacts with the Sanctuary in order to be able to offer the best possible information to all those who are interested in visiting Medjugorje. After their visit to the parish, they visited Sister Elvira’s therapeutic community for former drug addicts. It is an international community, representing about 10 different nations at the moment – among them also some Slovaks.

AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR’S VISIT

Dr. Gerhard Jandl, Austrian ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina, came to Medjugorje on November 27th. During his visit, he spoke of his interest in the history of the events of Medjugorje and also for the Austrian pilgrims coming to this place.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS

About 100 American soldiers, members of SFOR based in Tuzla, came to Medjugorje with their military chaplain on November 21st. They celebrated Holy Mass and climbed Apparition Hill.

We are most pleased to see that soldiers recognize Medjugorje as a place of prayer and of peace.

14 FRANCISCAN PROVINCIALS

On November 23rd, Franciscan provincials from 14 provinces, situated in Slavic countries – the Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, headed by fra Antonio Ricci, Definitor General and Delegate of the General Direction of the Franciscan Order, came to Medjugorje.

After their meeting, which took place this year in the Franciscan monastery in Slano, they came to Medjugorje get better acquainted with the life and work of Herzegovinian friars, members of the herzegovinian province, the hosts of this year's meeting. They visited Mostar, Siroki Brijeg and Humac, and came to Medjugorje in the afternoon. They visited Sister Elvira's community for former drug addicts and also the Mothers' Village, which takes care of orphans and children from broken families. They concelebrated Holy Mass in St. James' church.

This year's theme of the meeting was the announcing of the Gospel and witnessing the Gospel today.

Their meeting with the above-mentioned communities and their participation in the evening program in church made them understand that the Word of God is announced powerfully in Medjugorje in three different ways: prayer, the care for former drug addicts, for abandoned and neglected persons. In their conversation with the friars from Medjugorje, they emphasized their interest in the events of Medjugorje

and for the pilgrims coming from their countries. They expressed their gratitude for the pastoral care given to their pilgrims in Medjugorje.

FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The atmosphere of prayer, peace and community characterized the shrine of Medjugorje due to a large number of pilgrims that visited for the feast day of the Immaculate Conception. Local pilgrims came from all parts of the country, while the most numerous foreign pilgrim groups were from Italy.

On the day itself, the Rosary for Peace was prayed on Apparition Hill. Several thousand took part in the evening Holy Mass celebrated by Father Miron Sirkic, Professor of Canon Law and Franciscan Theology at Sarajevo.

Published by: Information Center MIR - Shrine of the Queen of Peace, 88266 Medjugorje.
<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



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

Please fill out the coupon below to be a volunteer.

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

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

PREPARATION DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY:

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- ☐ Stuffing packets and fixing nametags
- ☐ Packing up materials for the conference.
- ☐ Loading and/or unloading of trucks.

AT THE CONFERENCE:

- ☐ Registration Area
- ☐ Book Area
- ☐ Confessional/Adoration Area
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Loading and/or unloading of trucks.

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**Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC),
61 Cooper Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963**

CALENDARS:

Plan to do something special for Our Lord, Our Lady and the Holy Family as you enjoy the New Year 2001.

In *January*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *Mary, Mother of God (1)*, *Epiphany of the Lord (6/7)*, the Feasts of *Baptism of the Lord (14)* and *The Conversion of Paul (25)*, and Memorials of *Saints Basil the Great (2)*, *Gregory Nazianzen (2)*, *Elizabeth Ann Seton (4)*, *John Neumann (5)*, *Hilary (13)*, *Anthony, Abbot (17)*, *Fabian (20)*, *Sebastian (20)*, *Vincent (22)*, *Francis de Sales (24)*, *Timothy (26)*, *Titus (26)*, *Angela Merici (27)*, and *John Bosco (31)* as well as *Blessed Andre Bessette (6)*. Most Church calendars show *Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday (16) (observed) (15)* and *Inauguration (20)*.

Pray that the Forty-Third President of the United States of America will be a God fearing, moral, family man who will stop the wrong choices in America and promote life. Pray for a healing amongst the voters of this great nation particularly for those who are bitter that the candidate who had the majority of the popular vote did not obtain the majority of the electoral vote.

In *February*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of *ASH WEDNESDAY (28)*, the Feasts of *Presentation of the Lord (2)*, *Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (17)*, and *Chair of Saint Peter (22)*, the Memorials of *Saints Blase (3)*, *Ansgar (3)*, *Agatha (5)*, *Paul Miki and Companions (6)*, *Jerome Emiliani (8)*, *Scholastica (10)*, *Cyril and Methodius (14)*, *Peter Damian (21)* and *Polycarp (23)* as well as *Our Lady of Lourdes (11)*. Most Church calendars show *Presidents' Day (19)* and *Saint Valentine's Day (14)*.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

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

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

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

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

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:



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

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

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

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If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We operate on divine providence and the kind donations of those who can afford to support us. PRIESTS! Please note that HOMILY ideas have come from priests reading articles in "The PILGRIM!"

