



The PILGRIM

Vol. 12, No. 11 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

November 2001

MESSAGE of 10/25/2001

Dear Children! Also today I call you to pray from your whole heart and to love each other. Little children, you are chosen to witness peace and joy. If there is no peace, pray and you will receive it. Through you and your prayer, little children, peace will begin to flow through the world. That is why, little children, pray, pray, pray, because prayer works miracles in human hearts and in the world. I am with you and I thank God for each of you who has accepted and lives prayer with seriousness. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(Message claimed to be given by the Blessed Virgin Mary to Marija Pavlovic Lunetti. The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of this message to an alleged visionary from Medjugorje.)

A PRAYER



Dearest Lord, Help us to let go of all the things we are not really in control of. We are so powerless in our daily activities, relationships, and desires. You Lord are in charge of everything and we need to let go.

In letting go, we will fear less and grow in trust of You. You know the outcome of our lives. Open our hearts and minds to the benefits of surrender. Help us to accept and no longer deny, grow and live for the present and future, and not regret the past. You Lord are our ALL. AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

FALL CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Dean Pulcini has begun his Wednesday evening seminars on Introduction to Scripture. The seminars are held in the Great Room of Epiphany House at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. They begin at 7 PM and end about 9 PM. We welcome you to join us for this semester's most interesting, informative, and challenging seminars. Build up your Faith, and learn about the origins of the Bible, and History of the times. Please call 856-768-9228 for more information.

"The PILGRIM" for November 2001 is dedicated to "Our Lady, Ruler of Angels and of Men." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE ..."

CHRISTMAS and the PFMC



We are asking you to remember us generously for Christmas this year. We are now grappling with an annual budget for the operations of the PFMC from Epiphany House. The down turn in the stock market has apparently affected not only the nation's economy but also the contribution of those who receive "The PILGRIM." We have not wanted to curtail our operations or the mailing but we see little choice unless we receive increased and regular contributions.

Please, if you can contribute a donation in your Christmas Card, we will be most grateful. Also, any petitions enclosed will be prayed over at a Christmas Holy Mass for the staff. They will also be brought on pilgrimage with us in the spring.

Also remember to come to Epiphany House at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ and browse over the many books, statues, medals, and religious goods. They will make wonderful gifts for friends, neighbors, and relatives. And for everyone's socks, there is a always a little stocking stuffer. The pre-Christmas hours will be from 10 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday except on Wednesdays till 9 PM.

Think about signing someone up for the March 2002 Retreat Conference as a Christmas gift. What a spiritual gift to enrich anyone's life. Based on our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, donations for gifts to others may be considered tax deductible.

Thank you and God be with you.

DAUGHTERS of RUTH: A SUPPORT GROUP for WOMEN

Irene F. Atwell, M.Ed., LPC, has a private practice specializing in Individual, Family and Group Therapy. She has worked in the clinical field for over three decades. Her skill and expertise are significant in working with families and groups. She developed and facilitates the Tuesday Night Family Group, which has continued for over a decade. She has developed and implemented groups for the Mentally Ill and Chemically Addicted. She has worked for Catholic Charities as the Family Systems Specialist for 16 years. Irene will conduct a support group for women here at the PPMC.

The support group is called the "Daughters of Ruth", and is for women who are learning to define themselves, learning new coping skills, developing confidence in their skills, and entering into new life roles expecting a change. Many women experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, panic feelings, frustration and mood swings related to daily life stressors or work environment.

Women have concerns about marital relationships, parenting, as well as unresolved conflicts related to their family of origin. Issues of abuse, dependency, co-dependency and so much more . . . remains significant, and women need and want a safe place to discuss and reconcile these concerns.

Group members will have the opportunity to explore various issues, learn relaxation exercises, learn how to implement imagery and heal old wounds, discuss and reconcile past and present conflicts.

DATES: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2001
through the month of February 2002.

TIME: 6 PM – 8 PM

WHERE: PPMC, Epiphany House
61 Cooper Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043

GROUP FEE: \$15 PER SESSION

Call 856-665-0959 for Irene Atwell to sign up for this support group for Women. This group will be limited to 15-20 persons.

TRAGEDY of 9/11/01



Dear Colleague:

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, dozens of humanitarian groups quickly mobilized to offer help to the victims in the form of blood donations, clean water, food, clothing, shelter and even money.

Planned Parenthood weighed in with a most bizarre offer. Its New York affiliate announced that it would provide free reproductive health services, including free abortions, to women affected by the attack.

(Population Research Institute pri@pop.org)

MET in the STAIRWELL



You say you will never forget where you were when you heard the news, September 11, 2001. Neither will I.

I was on the 110th floor in a smoke filled room with a man who called his wife to say "Good-Bye."

I held his fingers steady as he dialed. I gave him the peace to say, "Honey, I am not going to make it, but it is OK. . . I am ready to go."

I was with his wife when he called as she fed breakfast to their children. I held her up as she tried to understand his words and as she realized he wasn't coming home that night.

I was in the stairwell of the 23rd floor when a woman cried out to me for help.

"I have been knocking on the door of your heart for 50 years!" I said. "Of course I will show you the way home-only believe on Me now."

I was at the base of the building with the Priest ministering to the injured and devastated souls. I took him home to tend to his Flock in Heaven. He heard my voice and answered.

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the PPMC 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 PPMC 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.

I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer. I was with the crew as they were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the believers there, comforting and assuring them that their Faith has saved them.

I was in Texas, Kansas, London. I was standing next to you when you heard the terrible news. Did you sense Me? I want you to know that I saw every face. I knew every name-though they did NOT all know Me. Some met me for the first time on the 100th floor. Some sought me out in their last breath. Some couldn't hear me calling to them through the smoke and flames,

"Come to Me...this way...take my hand."

Some chose, for the final time, to ignore Me. But, I was there. Most of you were not in the Towers that day. However, if you were there in that explosive moment in time, would you have reached for Me?

September 11, 2001 was not the end of the journey for you. But someday your journey will end. And I will be there for you, as well. Seek Me now while I may be found. Then, at any moment, you know you are "ready to go."

I will be in the stairwell of your final moments.

My name is Jesus.

(LtlFlwr1@aol.com)

RETREAT CONFERENCE - MARCH 8, 9, and 10, 2002



Father Robert DeGrandis and Father John Hampsch will conduct the 11th Annual PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. It will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ. This is a 14 floor hotel on NJ Highway 70 at Cuthbert Road near the Cooper River. This hotel is about four miles west where the PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE was held for the past five years and that much closer to Philadelphia. NJ Transit bus routes stop at this hotel and it is not far from the Garden State Race Track stop on the AMTRAK route between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. The conference, food and room facilities are tremendous.

You have 2 steps to guarantee your room and a seat at this RETREAT CONFERENCE.

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1. Please make your hotel room reservations NOW by calling 1-856-663-6666 or call 1-800-HILTONS. We have 300 rooms reserved and already almost 150 rooms are already booked. Rooms for 1 to 4 persons are \$89 per night with rollaway beds at a flat \$15 one-time set-up fee for the duration of your stay. The rooms are large and come with 1 King Size bed or two double beds. There are several entire floors of non-smoking rooms so make your desires known with your reservation. If we book 300 rooms before 2/8/02 they may open more of the over 400 rooms to us. We'd like to secure most of the hotel rooms for the

RETREAT CONFERENCE so we can have a truly RETREAT environment.

2. Fill out the appropriate reservation form on the four-page information sheet within this issue of "The PILGRIM" or made available through prayer groups and parishes. Send the form with payment information to book your RETREAT CONFERENCE reservation with the PFMC. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards as well as personal checks or money orders.

Please note that the four page information sheet provides reservation forms for the RETREAT CONFERENCE, the YOUTH TRACK which runs simultaneously with the RETREAT CONFERENCE, and the 3 DAY EXTENSION (3DX) to the RETREAT CONFERENCE.

Call 856 768-9228 if you need addition information.

DOROTHEA DeGRANDIS SUDOL - 3 DAY EXTENSION (3DX) "HEALING OF MEMORIES" - March 11, 12, and 13, 2002

Join Dorothea DeGrandis Suldo and her brother, Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J., for the 3-DAY EXTENSION (3DX) to the PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. This dynamic duo is such a gift to all that want to enter into Gods generous heart and ask for healing in their lives.

Make your reservations for your room at the HILTON and with the PFMC NOW. The process described above for the RETREAT CONFERENCE is followed for the 3DX with the only difference being use of either the 3DX registration form if only coming for the 3DX or showing the desire to be present for 6 days on the main RETREAT CONFERENCE registration form.

Dorothea was born in Lowell, MA. She has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal since August 15, 1970. She has served as a core Group Member in her home parish of Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Lowell. During the early stages of renewal she held and led weekly prayer group meetings. From 1970 to 1977, Dorothea was involved in lay Witness Missions as a team member and also in "Faith at Work." She is a member of the Association of Christian Therapists. Dorothea has given numerous workshops and seminars on Healing, Inner Healing

and the Charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They were held in the Eastern United States (including New Jersey, Connecticut and New York), Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Dakota, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Ohio, Michigan, Canada, England, Scotland, Australia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the West Indies.

She has also given Days of Renewal, Weekend Retreats and Leadership Training conferences. Dorothea has been a guest on many regional television and radio "talk shows." As the guest speaker she has spoken to "Women Aglow Chapters" throughout the country. She has been a main speaker at Regional Charismatic Conventions in Boise, Idaho; Wichita, Kansas; Great Falls, Montana and Memphis, Tennessee.

A gifted teacher as well as a dynamic and captivating speaker, she has produced many audio tapes and albums. She has written three books on her many experiences and one on her own inner healing experiences.

Dorothea leads her own Inner Healing Ministry. She has worked extensively and continues to work with her brother Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J., in his Healing Ministry. We have had them work together at previous PFMC annual RETREAT CONFERENCE events and look forward to this 3DX.

FACING TRAGEDY and SUFFERING with FAITH



The United States of America experienced a great loss of human life. Thousands were killed or hurt or traumatized. Buildings were destroyed or damaged.

It was an enormous attack on humanity.

It was an enormous attack on civilization.

It was an enormous tragedy.

We were in shock; we were in disbelief; we were astonished. We were saying, 'surely, this cannot be, this makes no sense.' We were left with awful haunting questions. 'How can we live with it? How can we walk through it?'

War, captured the power of faith and the power of belief in the presence of God so well when she said, "I still believe in spite of everything that people are good at heart... and when I look up to Heaven, I think that peace and tranquility will return again."

Saint Theresa of Lisieux said, "I do not fear any cross because I know that when a cross comes to me, You, Jesus, always come too."

(by Msgr. Thomas Morgan, pastor of Christ the King Parish, Haddonfield, NJ. Catholic Star Herald, Sept 21, 2001, page 14. Father Morgan is a NJ licensed clinical psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and a NJ certified school psychologist.)

DIVINE MERCY CRUSADE



In this issue of "The PILGRIM" you will find a little crusade companion pledge form. We ask you to fill it out and send it in pledging your prayers for our country.

The Knights of Mercy began a prayer Crusade for America in 1999, asking devotees of the Divine Mercy devotion to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for their home communities in our own nation, especially abortion

Almost overnight the book became a runaway best seller. Obviously many people are perplexed by tragedy, suffering, and pain that comes from an unfair world.

For Rabbi Kushner, the answer was clear. God does care in an unjust, unfair world. God allows suffering and violence, which often comes from rage and a sense of martyrdom. At other times it can come from telling ourselves that 'things should not be the way

The Christian faith does not pretend to take the mystery out of tragedy, or suffering, or life or the cross. The Christian faith does not pretend to answer why something happens. It never has and it never will. The Christian faith does not deny tragedy and does not explain tragedy. It does not prevent tragedy nor does it avoid tragedy. The Christian faith looks squarely in the face of tragedy and suffering. It allows us to live with tragedy and to walk through tragedy triumphantly and hopefully.

Jesus, Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero, and many others offer us the testimony of their own lives; that through faith in God they faced tragedy in all its forms; that through faith in God they have lived with tragedy and that through faith in God they have walked through tragedy triumphantly.

Anne Frank, a victim of the Holocaust, and one of the prominent figures to emerge from the Second World

The PILGRIM is normally a Monthly Publication of the
Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)
A Religious Association, Inc.

Non-Profit and **IRS** Code 501 (c)(3) Tax-Exempt
61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963
(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

DISTRIBUTION: To more than 2300 addresses in most of the 50
United States (U.S.), U.S. territories and many foreign countries.

President / Editor: Kathleen Werner,

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Youth Ministry: Joanne Niece, Networks: Bob Van Horn

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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,

Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and

Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org, Vocations

Director, Diocese of Camden, advises on discerning vocations.

PRINTERS: Jim Toudy, Brian James (856) 829-3787
OFFICE HELP, ASSEMBLY, LABELS and MAILING: Too many
wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

and other crimes against the value of human life. With the horrible terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) and Pentagon, interest has increased with the added intention of beseeching God's protection from terrorism.

Each Crusade Companion Pledge will be perpetually placed in the Daily prayers and Mass Intentions of the Knights of Mercy.

The Knights of Mercy is a private association of the lay faithful (according to the Code of Canon Law,) and is completely loyal to the teachings of the Holy Roman Catholic Church and the Supreme Pontiff.

(Gerard Luft, Director, Confraternity of the Knights of Mercy. E-mail at knightsofmercy@netscape.net)

A SPECIAL REQUEST to the DIVINE MERCY CRUSADE COMPANIONS

"And he that shall overcome and keep My Works unto the end, I will give him power over the nations" (Rev2:26)

Many of the cities and towns of Europe with their histories steeped in antiquity, are blessed with Patron Saints, who unceasingly defend their home communities with their constant prayers before the throne of Almighty God. Yet we in the new world still await the Canonization of many of the holy men and women of our past, and do not have such a rich treasure as a "home town Saint".

So we are asking each Crusade this November, to pray to their patron name Saint (or Blessed) and to consecrate their home community to the constant intercession of their Heavenly Defenders. Below is a humble prayer (for private recitation) you might consider using:

ACT of CONSECRATION of ONE'S HOME COMMUNITY to THEIR PATRON NAME SAINT

Glorious Saint (or Blessed)_____, whose name I am blessed to have received at Baptism, I beseech thee, in thine constant intercession for me, to include my home community of _____, as if each and every soul here was as a beloved member of mine own family. Please unite with the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of All Saints, Saint Joseph, Pillar of

Families, her most chaste spouse, my Guardian Angel and all the Holy Souls in purgatory that God has graciously released in response to my prayers for them, and obtain for us: God's constant protection from all spiritual and physical dangers; the eternal salvation of our souls; and that each and every one of us may be included in the flock of God's own elect, through Jesus Christ, whose Divine Continenence, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, thou gazes upon forever in that Beatific Vision. Amen.

(knightsofmercy@netscape.net)

PETITION DONATION SLIPS

All petition and donation slips found in "The Pilgrim" will be taken to Medjugorje and prayed over at each day's Holy Masses. Kathleen will then take them back with her to Rome, where they will be left in the office of the Holy Father. Each day the Holy Father takes all petitions he gets and prays for them at his daily Holy Mass.

If you would like us to take your petition to Medjugorje and Rome with us, please send it in immediately upon reading this. This will be your last chance this year to personally have petitions prayed for at Holy Shrines.

Petitions received after November's departure will be saved and taken on our spring pilgrimage.

Thank you and God bless you. Kathleen

A PRAYER of MOURNING

Almighty and ever-loving God, in You we place our trust and hope. Violence and cruelty can have no part with You. You guide everything with wisdom and love. Hear the prayers we offer for those who lost their lives in the attack on America.

May Your love and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe the tears from our eyes and remove the fear from our hearts.

Look also with favor on families and friends who mourn the victims and comfort them in their loss. Console them in the hope that all who trust in You will find peace and rest in Your Eternal Kingdom. Bless them with Your presence and surround us all with Your love.

Guide those in authority, O Lord. By the wisdom of our leaders and integrity of our citizens may harmony

be restored and justice be served. Allow our leaders to strive in this time of despair for what is right and just.

Calm this terror that threatens us. Grant that peace, the fruit of justice and charity, may reign in America and throughout the world. AMEN

(Prospect Hill Co 1-800-586-1951)

NJ BISHOPS on CATHOLIC VOTER RESPONSIBILITY

October 22, 2001

Dear Members of the Catholic Community:

As another election approaches, we, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, reach out to encourage you to vote and to exercise that right in accordance with consciences formed in the light of your faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. As bishops, we are most aware of our primary responsibility as teachers of faith and morals to help people follow God's laws and do His will. We have always made it clear that we never intend to instruct people on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates and we do not do so today.

In 1998, as members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, we adopted a statement, *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*. In that document, we noted our obligation to remind all Americans, including political leaders, and especially those who are Catholics. We said: "No public official, especially one claiming to be a faithful and serious Catholic, can responsibly advocate for or actively support direct attacks on innocent human life." Thus, we consistently call upon all candidates to exercise genuine moral leadership by supporting laws that promote respect for the human person at all stages of life from conception to natural death.

We also call upon Catholic voters to use their voting privilege to reflect a choice of candidates who respect and sustain the dignity of all human life. Such choices make clear to all candidates that life issues are a determining factor in our voting decisions.

We pray that Catholics will exercise their vote for Governor and members of the Legislature in the context of Catholic moral teaching. Exercising the right to vote is not only a moral obligation, but also should be a manifestation of our faith. As Catholics we must commit ourselves to carry the values of the

Gospel and Church teaching into the public square. As citizens we have every right to conscientiously participate in the selection of the leaders who will guide our state in the days ahead.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio
Bishop of Camden

Most Reverend Frank J. Rodimer
Bishop of Paterson

Most Reverend John M. Smith
Bishop of Trenton
Apostolic Administrator of Metuchen

Most Reverend Andrew Pataki
Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic

Most Reverend Joseph Younan
Bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance Diocese

Most Reverend David Arias
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

Most Reverend Paul G. Bootkoski
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

Most Reverend Dominic A. Marconi
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

Most Reverend Charles J. McDonnell
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli
Auxiliary Bishop of Newark

<http://www.rcan.org/news/102201pr.htm>

READ THIS BEFORE YOU VOTE

We urge those Catholic officials who choose to depart from Church teaching on the inviolability of human life in their public life to consider the consequences for their own spiritual well being, as well as the scandal they risk by leading others into serious sin.

We call them to reflect the grave contradiction of assuming public roles and presenting themselves as credible Catholics when their actions on fundamental issues of human life are not in agreement with Church teaching. No public official, especially one claiming to be a faithful and serious Catholic, can responsibly advocate for or actively support direct attacks on innocent human life. No appeal to policy, procedure,

majority will or pluralism ever excuse a public official from defending life to the greatest extent possible.

(“Living the Gospel of Life” U.S. Catholic Bishops)

LIFE and DIGNITY of the HUMAN PERSON

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. The conviction that human life is sacred and that each person has inherent dignity that must be respected in society lies at the heart of Catholic social teaching. Calls to advance human rights are illusions if the right to life itself is subject to attack. We believe that every human life is sacred from conception to natural death; that people are more important than things; and that the measure of every institution is whether or not it enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

**(Faithful Citizenship,
National Conference of Catholic Bishops)**

POLICY STATEMENT on PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS

It would be misleading to assist pro-choice politicians with a platform to promote their views for fear that others would falsely conclude that the Church at least tolerates their position.

Therefore:

1. Public honors of any type should not be bestowed on such persons, by any parish or diocesan institution.
2. Invitations are not to be offered to such persons to be speakers at public events or in educational programs, nor given recognition or approval by parishes or diocesan institutions;
3. Such persons should not be proposed to exercise any ministry or hold any office in the Church or in any parish, even as an honorary chairperson.

It is incumbent upon us as moral guides and pastors to make certain that the Church’s teaching is proclaimed clearly and is explained by presenting the theological and rational arguments against abortion.

Rising above other issues is our moral responsibility to respect and sustain human life from conception to natural death. In this context, we know that support and promotion of abortion is always wrong and can

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never be justified. The Church’s teaching about the sacredness of human life must be a priority for all Catholics.

**(Most Reverend John M. Smith, Bishop of Trenton,
New Jersey, July 24, 1999, reaffirmed July, 2001)**

DO IT AGAIN, LORD

Dear Lord,

We're still hoping we'll wake up.
We're still hoping we'll open a sleepy eye and think,
What a horrible dream.

But we won't, will we, Father?
What we saw was not a dream.
Planes did gouge towers.
Flames did consume our fortress
People did perish.
It was no dream and, dear Father,
We are sad.

There is a ballet dancer who will no longer dance
And a doctor who will no longer heal.
A church has lost her priest,
a classroom is minus a teacher.
Cora ran a food pantry.
Paige was a counselor and
Dana, dearest Father, Dana was only three years old.
(Who held her in those final moments?)

We are sad, Father.
For as the innocent are buried, our innocence is buried
as well.
We thought we were safe.
Perhaps we should have known better.
But we didn't.

And so we come to You. We don't ask You for help;
we beg You for it.
We don't request it; we implore it.
We know what You can do.
We've read the accounts.
We've pondered the stories and now we plead,
Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

Remember Joseph?
You rescued him from the pit. You can do the same
for us.
Do it again, Lord.

Remember the Hebrews in Egypt?
You protected their children from the angel of death.

We have children, too, Lord.
Do it again.

And Sarah? Remember her prayers? You heard them.
Joshua? Remember his fears? You inspired him.
The women at the tomb? You resurrected their hope.
The doubts of Thomas? You took them away.
Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

You changed Daniel from a captive into a king's counselor.
You took Peter the fisherman and made him Peter an apostle.
Because of You, David went from leading sheep to leading armies.
Do it again, Lord,
for we need counselors today, Lord.
We need apostles.
We need leaders.
Do it again, dear Lord.

Most of all,
do again what You did at Calvary.
What we saw here on that Tuesday, You saw there on that Friday.
Innocence slaughtered.
Goodness murdered.
Mothers weeping.
Evil dancing.

Just as the ash fell on our children, the darkness fell on Your Son.
Just as our towers were shattered,
the very Tower of Eternity was pierced.
And by dusk, heaven's sweetest song was silent,
buried behind a rock.

But you did not waver, O Lord. You did not waver.
After three days in a dark hole,
You rolled the rock and rumbled the earth
and turned the darkest Friday into the brightest Sunday.
Do it again, Lord.
Grant us a September Easter.

We thank You, dear Father,
for these hours of unity.
Disaster has done what discussion could not.
Doctrinal fences have fallen.
Republicans are standing with Democrats.
Skin colors have been covered by the ash of burning buildings.
We thank you for these hours of unity.

And we thank you for these hours of prayer.
The Enemy sought to bring us to our knees and succeeded.
He had no idea, however,
that we would kneel before You.
And he has no idea what You can do.

Let Your mercy be upon our President, Vice President, and their families.
Grant to those who lead us wisdom beyond their years and experience.
Have mercy upon the souls who have departed and the wounded who remain.
Give us grace that we might forgive and faith that we might believe.

And look kindly upon Your church.
For two thousand years You've used her to heal a hurting world.
Do it again, Lord. Do it again.
Through Christ,

Amen

(www.my-tgif.com)

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS SEASON

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the Master of the house is coming.’” (Mk. 13:33)

O Jesus, your voice sounds through the house of my world: Be on your guard! Stay awake!

Yet I hardly hear you. Busy with so much, I go about the things I do like a servant trapped in household routine, hardly giving a thought to what my life is about. My spirit within has grown tired and you, my God, seem far away. How can I hear your voice today?

Speak to my heart during this season of grace, as you spoke to your prophets and saints. Remind me again of the journey you call me to make and the work you would have me do. I am your servant, O Lord. Speak to me in this holy season and turn my eyes to watch for your coming.

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.

AMEN

**(Christmas Prayers and Customs by Victor Hoagland,
C.P. Regina Press, New York 1990)**

PAPAL WORDS on DEVOTION to OUR LADY of the ROSARY

POPE JOHN PAUL II:



Show your devotion to Mary by celebrating Her feasts, by daily prayer in Her honor and especially the Rosary, and by imitating Her life. May that devotion grow stronger every day.” (Manila, 17 February 1981)

The Rosary is the prayer through which, by repeating the Angel's greeting to Mary, we try to draw considerations of our own on the Mysteries of Redemption, from the Blessed Virgin's meditation. Her reflection began at the moment of the Annunciation, and continues in the glory of the Assumption.” (L'Osservatore Romano, October 1983)

“The Rosary is rightly be defined as Mary's Prayer; the prayer in which She feels particularly united with us. She Herself prays with us. The Rosary embraces the problems of the Church, of the See of Saint Peter, the problems of the whole world. In it, we also remember sinners, that they may be converted and saved.” (Address at Fatima, 13 May 1982)

“Turn to Mary most holy, your heavenly Mother; pray to Her with fervor, especially by means of the Rosary. Invoke Her daily, in order to be authentic imitators of Christ in our day.” (Nuaro, Italy, 19 October 1985)

“It was thanks to the Lord that I was not assassinated. I said that the first time on the occasion of the feast of Virgin of the Rosary. I say it again now, at Fatima, which speaks so much to us about the Rosary.. The Rosary is and ever shall be a prayer of thanksgiving, of love and of confident entreaty, the prayer of the Mother of the Church! I have come on pilgrimage to Fatima, like most of you, dear pilgrims, with the Rosary beads in my hand, the name of Mary on my lips, and the song of the mercy of God in my heart.” (Fatima, 12 May 1982)

OTHER POPES

Pope Leo XIII on the Holy Rosary - “Since, therefore, it is clearly evident that this form of prayer is particularly pleasing to the Blessed Virgin, and that it is especially suitable as a means of defense for the Church and all Christians, it is in no way wonderful that several others of Our Predecessors have made it

their aim to favor and increase its spread by their high recommendations.

Thus, Urban IV. testified that “every day the Rosary obtained fresh boon for Christianity.” Sixtus IV. declared that this method of prayer “redounded to the honor of God and the Blessed Virgin, and was well suited to obviate impending dangers;” Leo X. that “it was instituted to oppose pernicious hierarchs and heresies;” while Julius III. called it “the glory of the Church.” So also Saint Pius V., that “with the spread of this devotion the meditations of the faithful have begun to be more inflamed, their prayers more fervent, and they have suddenly become different men; the darkness of heresy has been dissipated, and the light of Catholic faith has broken forth again.”

Lastly, Gregory XIII, in his turn pronounced that “the Rosary had been instituted by Saint Dominic to appease the anger of God and to implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Moved by these thoughts and by the examples of Our Predecessors, We have deemed it most opportune for similar reasons to institute solemn prayers and to endeavor by adopting those addressed to the Blessed Virgin in the recital of the Rosary to obtain from her son Jesus Christ a similar aid against present dangers.”

SAINT NICHOLAS



Saint Nicholas, the 4th century saint who inspired our modern figure of Santa Claus, was born near Myra, a port on the Mediterranean Sea serving the busy sea lanes that linked the seaports of Egypt, Greece and Rome. Ships sailing these waters, laden with grain and all kinds of goods, found safety in the port from raging storms and menacing pirates.

Nicholas came from one of the city's wealthy merchant families, but he was not spoiled by his family's wealth. His mother and father taught him to be generous to others, especially those in need. So Nicholas came to see that helping others makes one richer in life than anything else.

One day, by chance, Nicholas heard about a rich man in Myra who lost all his money when his business failed. The man had three lovely daughters, all

wishing to get married, but he had no money for their marriage. Besides, who would marry them, he thought, since their father is such a failure? With nothing to eat, the man in desperation decided to sell one of his daughters into slavery. At least then the rest of them might survive.

The night before the first daughter was to be sold, Nicholas, with a small bag of gold in his hand, softly approached their house, and tossing the gold through an open window, quickly vanished into the darkness.

The next morning, the father found a bag of gold lying on the floor next to his bed. He had no idea where it came from. "Maybe it's counterfeit," he thought. But as he tested it, he knew it was real. He went over the list of his friends and business associates. None of them could possibly have given him this.

The poor man fell to his knees and great tears came to his eyes. He thanked God for this beautiful gift. His spirits rose higher than they had been for a long time because someone had been so unexpectedly good to him. He arranged for his first daughter's wedding and there was enough money left for the rest of them to live for almost a year. Often he wondered who gave them the gold.

By the end of the year, the family again had nothing, and the father again desperate and seeing no other way open, decided his second daughter must be sold. But Nicholas, hearing about it, came by night to their window and tossed in another bag of gold as before. The next morning the father rejoiced, and, thanking God, begged His pardon for losing hope. Who, though, was the mysterious stranger giving them such a gift?

Each night afterwards the father watched by the window. As the year passed their money ran out. In the dead of one night he heard quiet steps approaching his house and suddenly a bag of gold fell on to the floor. The father quickly ran out to catch the one who threw it there. He caught up with Nicholas some distance away and recognized him, for the young man came from a well-known family in the city.

"Why did you give us the gold?" the father asked.

"Because you needed it," Nicholas answered.

"But why didn't you let us know who you were?" the man asked again.

"Because it's good to give and have only God know

When the bishop of Myra died, the priests and leading people of the city along with the neighboring bishops came together in their cathedral to select a new bishop. They prayed and asked God to point out who it would be. In a dream, God said to one of them that they should all pray together the next morning. Someone would come through the cathedral door as they prayed. He should be their choice.

It was Nicholas who entered the cathedral the next morning. Immediately, the people of the city named him their bishop, for they knew that this unassuming person, whose good deeds they had learned about, was meant by God to lead them.

As bishop of Myra, Nicholas seemed more aware than ever of people's needs. He would appear all over the city offering help to anyone in difficulty, then quietly disappear without waiting for thanks. He shunned publicity. Still, his reputation as a holy man grew and grew, even spreading to distant cities that had never seen him.

He was especially interested that families had enough to eat and a good place to live, that children got ahead in life, and that old people lived out their lives with dignity and respect. He always loved the sailors living so dangerously on the sea. Without their ships, people everywhere would be without food and other goods they carried for trade.

Yet, it is as a lover of children that Nicholas is best remembered today. While he lived, he gave the little ones he met small gifts – some candy, a toy. His kindness, which always managed to surprise them, touched their hearts, and they learned from this holy man what a beautiful thing giving is.

In the figure of Santa Claus, whose name and activity Nicholas inspired, which have this saint with us today.

**(Christmas Prayers and Customs by Victor Hoagland,
C.P. Regina Press, New York 1990)**

THE CROSS

Steel girders in the shape of crosses were left standing after the collapse of the World Trade Towers. They are a reminder to some that God has felt our pain.

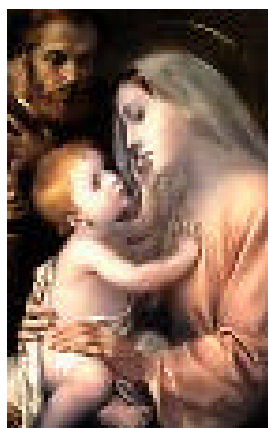
Wednesday, 10/3/01, a large 20 foot tall cross was hoisted by crane and mounted on top of a 40 foot high cement crosswalk (which was once a pedestrian overpass).



Thursday, 10/4/01, at noon, the workers stopped to gather around, watch and pray as a Franciscan, Father Brian Jordan, blessed the cross with holy water. He said, "Behold the glory of the cross at Ground Zero. This is our symbol of hope, our symbol of faith, our symbol of healing."

(ruthjoyce@msn.com, Reuters Photo Gallery)

CHRISTMAS - TIME to REFLECT upon WHAT WE BELIEVE



If someone were to ask us what we believe, most of us would likely use one of the four creeds as the basis for our response. Of the four creeds—

Creed of Pius IV, (published 1564 in a papal bull *Iniunctum nobis*), Athanasian Creed (7th Century Council of Autun), Apostle Creed (Used by the Apostles in the early Church at the baptism of adults. See Acts

8:37.), and Nicene Creed (Council of Nicaea AD 315)—the Nicene Creed (Creed of the Trinity) is probably the one most of us would use. Since it is also the Creed of the Mass, it is the one most familiar.

If someone asked, "Who is God?" Most of us would answer by referring to God the Father and to Jesus Christ. A few might even talk of God as Mother. Hardly anyone would answer, "the Holy Spirit." God the Holy Spirit is the forgotten God among Catholics. It is a fact that more Catholics pray to Mary for intercession than to the Holy Spirit who is the giver of life, and present among us. This is about to change as Pope John Paul II has called the Church to the Holy Spirit in 1998 in preparation for the new millennium.

Christmas is also a celebration of the power of the Holy Spirit. By the action of the Holy Spirit in Mary, the Father gives the world Emmanuel, "God with-us" (Mt 1:23). While Mary is important as the mother of Jesus, it was by the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus was born of her (Luke 1:35). Catholic doctrine concerning the Trinity holds that the Holy Spirit is the Love eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son. "To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy

Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." (Catechism 685) The Holy Spirit is the reason we are alive: "the giver of Life." He is the cause of all that is good in the world. "The Holy Spirit is at work with the Father and the Son from the beginning to the completion of the plan for our salvation" (Catechism 686).

While adoring the Holy Trinity, life-giving, consubstantial, and indivisible, the Church's teaching also professes the distinction of the persons. When the Father sends his Word, he always sends his Breath. In their joint mission, the son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable. "To be sure, it is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him" (Catechism (689). It is this Holy Spirit living in us and in whom we live, who enables us to call God our Father, to proclaim that Jesus is Lord, and to put an end to our "living in the flesh" of the body (Rom 8:13). It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to understand the wisdom of God (1 Cor 2:10), who supports us in our weakness and when we do not know what to say, he even prays for us (Rom 8:26).

The term "spirit" translates the Hebrew word *ruah* which, in its primary sense, means breath, air, or wind. Besides the proper name of "Holy Spirit," which is most frequently used in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Epistles, we also find in Saint Paul the titles: the Spirit of the promise, the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Lord, and the Spirit of God. In Saint Peter, we find the title "the Spirit of glory" (Catechism 693). The Holy Spirit, by whatever name we choose, is whom the Father through Christ the head of the Church pours out on us, his members, builds, animates, and sanctifies the Church. "She is the sacrament of the Holy Trinity's communion with men." (Catechism 747)

In the New Year, the Church will direct many opportunities to learn about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit working through the faith-sharing communities of Renewal 2000 will cause a revival in the land. We can prepare by praying to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words (Rom 8:23).

In the New Year, we can prepare for a spiritual enlightenment by the Spirit by remembering that the Holy Spirit is the cause of all that is good in the world. To see the Holy Spirit and feel his presence, we need

only look around us. Yes, there is still evil, but there is far more that is good, honorable, and beautiful in ourselves and in others that make this Christmas a time for rejoicing and a New Year filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Veni Creator!

(Father Joe Landi is a Parochial Vicar at Saint Cecilia's Parish, San Francisco, the Archbishop's Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal, the Board Chair of Sierra Point Credit Union, South San Francisco, and is the Editor of the San Francisco Charismatics)

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - PATRONESS of the AMERICAS and the UNBORN



From December 9, 1531, through December 12, 1531, Juan Diego, now Blessed Juan Diego saw Our Lady on Tepeyac Hill outside of what is now Mexico City. On December 12, 1531, Juan Diego's uncle Juan Bernadino was visited by Our Lady and healed of his illness in Tolpetlac, Mexico, a few miles further outside of Mexico City where he was staying in one of Juan Diego's houses. Our Lady

came to stop the killing of innocent men, women and children as sacrifices to the serpent god, Quetzlcoatl. The Spanish government and Franciscan Bishop Zumarraga thought Mary had identified herself as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Modern research shows that she told Juan Diego that she was "the woman who will crush the serpent" which is reflective of Genesis 3:15. The image she left us on the "tilma" was "with child" as was the woman of Revelation 12:2. Even though the apparitions and messages to Juan Diego were never studied and "approved" as apparitions and messages are today, there was communication with church authorities in Spain and eventually to the Holy Father, Pope Paul III concerning how to handle the thousands of Aztec baptisms that were being requested. There were not formal hearings on the happenings of 1531 until 1666. These were based on the nearly nine million recorded baptisms between 1531 and 1546. While the Catholic Church was gaining members, the Church of England was being martyred to the earthly needs of King Henry VIII.

Pope John Paul II was the first pope to visit Tepeyac Hill and that was on 1/27/79.

(“Dictionary of Mary” Catholic Book Publishing Co.)

THE POINSETTIA - CHRISTMAS NOVENA – CHRISTMAS MEAL



The poinsettia, from Central America, with its bright, star-like flowers, is a natural reminder of the Star of Bethlehem. Other plants that bloom during this season are images also of the Root of David that flowered with new life.

Many nations have contributed a rich mosaic of Christmas customs. Among the Latin peoples, the Christmas novena, nine days of prayer before Christmas, is a popular tradition.

The Christmas meal after midnight Mass, in which all the family participates, is traditional among the French. Among the Slavic peoples on Christmas Eve, the father of the family breaks the feast day wafers of bread and gives them to the members of his household, while wishing all the peace of Christmas.

**(Christmas Prayers and Customs by Victor Hoagland,
C.P. Regina Press, New York 1990)**

THE PILGRIMAGE of JOHN PAUL II to GUADALUPE



In the homily pronounced at the Cathedral in Mexico City (January 26), the Pope asked the Virgin of Guadalupe to bestow on the Mexican people who “love her with deep devotion” the gift of fidelity in the dimensions of searching, acceptance, coherence, and perseverance which once animated her own fidelity.

In the homily during the Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe (January 27), John Paul II gave this historical summary: “Ever since the time that the Indian Juan Diego spoke of the sweet Lady of Tepeyac, you, Mother of Guadalupe, have entered decisively into the Christian life of the people of Mexico.”

At the conclusion of the address given at Puebla on January 28, 1979, for the Opening of the Third General Assembly of Latin American Bishops, the Holy Father said: "The fact that this meeting of ours is taking place in the spiritual presence of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is venerated in Mexico and in all the other countries as the Mother of the Church in Latin America, is for me a cause of joy and a source of hope. May she, the 'star of evangelization,' be your guide in your future reflections and decisions. May she obtain for you from her Divine Son:

the boldness of prophets and the evangelical prudence of pastors;

the clear-sightedness of teachers and the reliability of guides and directors;

the courage of witnesses, and the calmness, patience, and gentleness of fathers."

(from "Dictionary of Mary," Catholic Book Publishing

THE TILMA of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE



At Tepeyac Hill, God's Mother expressed her greatest privileges as Immaculate Mother of God through the language of symbols or hieroglyphics. The canvas on which our Lady painted her portrait is a cloth which measures 66 inches in length, and 41 inches in width, made up of two panels, held together today by a single cotton thread; and the Image is 4 feet, 8 inches tall. The cloth was made from the cactus fiber from the maguey plant.

The tilma, approaching the Third Millennium, seems destined to last indefinitely as it already is approaching 500 years of existence.

Artists and scientists examining this canvas have been surprised to find that there is absolutely no sizing used to prepare the canvas to hold the paint. They note too that the fabric although it is all one and the same piece of material, exhibits on its right and wrong sides

distinctly different, even completely opposite characteristics.

On the back, the cloth is hard, rough and firm. On the front side on which the Holy Image appears is smooth, glossy and as soft as silk. No one can determine exactly how the paint adheres to the cloth, because it appears as though it were "lain on", despite the fact that there is not a single brush stroke visible.

This puzzling problem was apparently solved in 1963 by the members of the management of Kodak de Mexico, S.S. They concluded that the Sacred Image was created in such a way as to anticipate modern photography, i.e., the Image is like a photographic film on the cloak.

Four mediums of art were used to produce this portrait. For artists, humanly speaking, it is an artistic contradiction. The hands and face are executed in oil; the mantle in water colors; the tunic, the Angel and the clouds which frame it were done in tempera; while the border was done in fresco. Several painters tried to make improvements in the past. Extra angels were painted in the clouds. They later fell off. The sun rays were turned black. We see then, that no one can alter the original painting.

The miraculous image was exposed for more than a century from 1531 to 1647 in an open chapel for the veneration of the faithful. It was touched, kissed, and handled by thousands. It was subjected to the humidity, the smoke from thousands of candles, and the nitrous atmosphere. Still the Image remained unharmed.

It is providential that just when more and more people of Hispanic origins are moving to North America that Our Lady of Guadalupe, so dear to these peoples, is becoming better known and loved in the United States and beyond. Recall the words Our Lady spoke to Juan Bernardino, uncle of Juan Diego, when she cured him: **"My Image shall be called Immaculate Virgin Holy Mary, and it will stamp out the worship of the stone serpent."** (The Indians then worshipped a stone serpent.)

Our Lady appears surrounded by rays of the sun. She hides the sun, whose rays are seen behind her. This indicated to the Indians, who worshipped the sun as their god, that she was more powerful than the sun. She is standing on a burned-out crescent, which was the Indian pictograph for Quetzalcoatl, their feathered serpent god, whom they worshipped with a religion of fear, and whom they appeased by offering the precious gifts of thousands of human sacrifices each year. This

told the Indians that the Lady was more powerful than their serpent god; that they need no longer offer human sacrifices. Their relief from the bondage of human sacrifices was a contributing factor in their conversion, and especially when they learned that Our Lord sacrificed Himself on the Cross for their salvation and perpetuated the Sacrifice in the Mass.

Mary appeared as a mestizo, not as an Indian or Spanish woman. The portrait has neither the white complexion of a Spaniard, nor the brown of an Indian. It is pearl gray in color, resembling the color of the children of the first generation of union between the white and Indian races. In other words, Our Lady chose to demonstrate in this way that she is the Mother of European, the Indian and of all Mankind. She is the Universal Mother, Mother of all nations and races. However, the cincture worn around her waist is a symbol of perfect chastity.

The blue-green color robes are reserved for royalty and decorated with 46 stars. The Lady is more powerful than all the stars that the Indians worshipped as gods. However, on our Lady's mantle, stars have the added the significance of her being the Queen of Heaven. Different pointed stars have different meanings. An eight pointed star, which is found in the painting of Tepeyac Hill, means holy baptism and regenerating gifts God gave the Indians in such profusion through Our Lady. Scholars of the Tepeyac Hill image repeatedly report that the Indians saw in the image the call to holy baptism and regeneration to new life we know as sanctifying grace—a sharing in the life of God.

Mary is Queen of the Universe and whereas to the ancients the stars told much of the mystery of God, Mary is far greater than all else in creation. And the God she prays to is greater than she herself.

This Woman was not a goddess to be worshipped because her hands are folded in prayer herself. Her head is bowed in reverence to One yet higher. Indians were used to looking for symbolism. Her hands joined together in prayer, she separated the small finger from the other three, indicating that the Indians must believe in the One True God in Three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

A Golden brooch with a small black cross in the center is seen about Our Lady's neck. This was the same cross the Indians saw on the banner of Hernando Cortez and the Spanish ships. This told the Indians that the religion which Cortez and the missionaries

brought to their shores was her religion. They learned that the True Invisible God had taken a human form, that he was born of the Virgin Mary, that he suffered horrible tortures and that he died for the salvation of the human race. They marveled at the great mysteries of God. The Son of God, a Divine Victim. No human sacrifice could be equal to the Victim of the Man-God and one who loved mankind so much. The Indians embraced the religion of this Woman and gave up their pagan human sacrifices. The Blessed Virgin's prophecy to Juan Bernardino had become a fact. The worship of the stone serpent was soon ended.

There was tragedy in the spread of English pioneers and their descendants in North America marked by broken treaties and great injustices brought by greedy and venal political leaders steeped in the idea of "Manifest Destiny." The persecution of a culture or a race is criminal and immoral.

The importance of this miraculous image of Tepeyac Hill which occasioned widespread and rapid evangelization of millions, is seen in the message immediately obvious. 1) Mary is the Ever Virgin Mary, 2) Mary is the Mother of God, 3) Mary is the Immaculate Conception, 4) Mary has great power to crush the head of the Serpent and 5) Mary has great power over Satan.

The need and importance of these five points is as relevant today as in 1531. If we realize that it was through her miraculous portrait that Mary was able to evangelize eight million pagan Indians in just seven years' time, the greatest conversions in the history of the Church. How much more can she accomplish today to convert Russia and other lands after the spirit

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE and RESPOND – STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST

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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.

of atheism was enforced upon millions and the spirit of materialism and consumerism conquered the so-call free West.

In her message at Tepeyac Hill there were no predictions of disasters, wars, or punishments. There was emphasis on her role as our heavenly Mother. She came to remind us of the significance of the last words of our Lord from the Cross, “Behold your Mother” (Jn 19-27). As Jesus gave us His Mother as our very own from the Cross, so from Tepeyac Hill Mary gave us her portrait to remind us always that she is our loving Mother always present.

(from “THE MARY BOOK” by Ft. Robert J. Fox)

IF GOD HAD VOICE MAIL

Most of us have now learned to live with “voice mail” as a necessary part of our daily lives.

But think what it would be like if GOD decided to install voice mail! Imagine praying and hearing the following: “Thank you for calling Heaven:

For English, Press 1 –

For Spanish, Press 2 –

For all other languages, Press 3

“Please select on of the following options: -

For Requests, Press 1 –

For Thanksgiving, Press 2 –

For Complaints, Press 3 –

For all other inquiries, Press 4

“I am sorry, all of our Angels and Saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us, and we will answer in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.”

“If you would like to speak to: The Father, Press 1, Jesus, Press 2, Holy Spirit, Press 3.

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, Press 4 now.”

“To find a loved one who has been assigned to Heaven: Press 5, then enter their Social Security number, followed by the “pound” sign.

If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666.

“For reservations to Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, followed by the numbers 3-1-6.”

For nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth, life on other planets and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

“Our computers show that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.”

“The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

Please pray again on Monday after 9:30 a.m.”

“If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.”

“Thank you, and have a

(Bernadette-E-Mail 8/27/01)

HOW TO INSTALL LOVE

Customer Service (CS) Rep. : Yes, Ma'am, how can I help you today?

Customer: Well, after much consideration, I've decided to install LOVE. Can you guide me through the process?

CS Rep. : Yes, I can help you. Are you ready to proceed?

Customer: Well, I'm not very technical, but I think I'm ready to install now. What do I do first?

CS Rep. : The first step is to open your HEART. Have you located your HEART ma'am? Customer: Yes I have, but there are several other programs running right now. Is it okay to install while they are running?

CS Rep. : What programs are running ma'am? Customer: Let's see, I have PAST-HURT.EXE, LOW-ESTEEM.EXE, GRUDGE.EXE, and RESENTMENT.COM running right now.

CS Rep.: No problem. LOVE will gradually erase PAST-HURT.EXE from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. LOVE will eventually overwrite LOW-ESTEEM.EXE with a module of its own called HIGH-ESTEEM.EXE. However, you have to completely turn off GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM. Those programs prevent LOVE from being properly installed. Can you turn those off ma'am?

Customer: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

CS Rep: My pleasure. Go to your Start menu and invoke FORGIVENESS.EXE. Do this as many times as necessary until GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM have been completely erased.

Customer: Okay, done. LOVE has started installing itself automatically. Is that normal?

CS Rep. : Yes. You should receive a message that says it will reinstall for the life of your HEART. Do you see that message?

Customer: Yes I do. Is it completely installed?

CS Rep. : Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other HEART's in order to get the upgrades.

Customer: Oops. I have an error message already. What should I do?

CS Rep. : What does the message say?

Customer: It says "ERROR 412 - PROGRAM NOT RUN ON INTERNAL COMPONENTS." What does that mean?

CS Rep. : Don't worry ma'am, that's a common problem. It means that the LOVE program is set up to run on external HEARTS but has not yet been run on your HEART. It is one of those complicated programming things, but in non-technical terms it means you have to "LOVE" your own machine before it can "LOVE" others.

Customer: So what should I do?

CS Rep. : Can you pull down the directory called "SELF-ACCEPTANCE"?

Customer: Yes, I have it.

CS Rep. : Excellent. You're getting good at this.

Customer: Thank you.

CS Rep. : You're welcome. Click on the following files and then copy them to the "MYHEART" directory: FORGIVE-SELF.DOC, REALIZE-WORTH.TXT, and ACKNOWLEDGE-LIMITATIONS.DOC. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching any faulty programming. Also, you need to delete VERBOSE-SELF-CRITIC.EXE from all directories, and then empty your recycle bin afterwards to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

Customer: Got it. Hey! My HEART is filling up with new files. SMILE.MPG is playing on my monitor right now and it shows that PEACE.EXE, and

CONTENTMENT.COM are copying themselves all over my HEART. Is this normal?

CS Rep. : Sometimes. For others it takes a while, but eventually everything gets downloaded at the proper time. So, LOVE is installed and running. You should be able to handle it from here. One more thing before I go.

Customer: Yes?

CS Rep. : LOVE is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everybody you meet. They will in turn share it with other people and they will return some similarly cool modules back to you.

Customer: I will. Thanks for your help. By the way, what's your name?

CS Rep. : You can call me the Divine Cardiologist, also known as The Great Physician, but most call me God. Most people feel all they need is an annual check-up to stay heart-healthy, but the manufacturer (Me) suggests a schedule of daily maintenance for maximum efficiency. Put another way, keep in touch.

(Bernadette 7/11/01)

BATTLING the DEVIL, the FLESH and the WORLD

"Therefore take unto you the Armor of God...and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Eph 6:13, 17)

Most studies of those criminals who have been classified delusionally insane report that these tormented souls accuse "voices in their heads" or "etheric signals" as being their motivation to commit the crimes they have done. The ironic part of their stories is the truth of outside demonic temptation being the instigator of so many crimes against the Law of God and Man. Most of us have been brought up from our earliest Catechism lessons with the truth that we are constantly assailed by the three evil spirits: The Devil, the flesh and the world.

Our Lord Jesus had overcome these temptations with His Word alone, during His Divine Retreat into the desert. God's Word changes nature as we know; it creates from nothing, and brings meaning to chaos (see **Genesis 1**).

In Baptism we are united in Jesus' anointing as Priest, Prophet and King. In Confirmation, we are anointed as

Warriors of Christ, and are given the Fullness of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's Will in the World.

Our King of Mercy has chosen to grant His ordained Priests the power to be an "Alter-Christi", forgiving sins and changing Bread and Wine into His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. They do so, not of their own merits and holiness, but because they Act in His Name, their Holy Tasks accomplished, because in the authority given to them, it is Christ Himself who accomplishes their Sacramental duties. In those Priests who are assigned by their Bishops as Exorcists, it is not they who command demons to leave possessed souls, but Jesus Christ Himself, in Whose Name they act.

In a much smaller, and more personal way, Jesus gives us the Power to drive away the temptations of the Devil, the flesh and the world, by using His All Powerful Word in His Name. So when the Devil takes to flight upon our utterance of "Begone Satan", it is not because of our merits, but the FAITH that we put into Jesus' promise to always be there to protect us; in using God's Word, we Hope and trust that it is Jesus Himself who utters that rebuke, and drives the devil, the flesh and the world away from us.

Yet even the Prince of Apostles, Saint Peter, had endured uncertain Faith, and half hearted hope. How many times did our Lord wonder at The Apostles, saying "ye men of little faith". If the Apostles, Martyrs, and Saints of the past had failed many times in trusting in God and putting their complete faith in His, how can we, so little compared to their great examples, dare to have enough faith to say "begon Satan" and expect the devil to flee?

Where our faith lacks, we must turn to those who faith have been completed: the Saints. And we should especially turn to the Queen of Saints herself, that Immaculate Virgin, our Mother Mary. The Hail Mary is one of the best defense against uncertain faith. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort taught that the Word of God combined with the praying of the Hail Mary is a burning sword that pierces the heart of even the most hardened sinner.

So when the Devil tempts you with PRIDE or PRESUMPTION, as he did when he dared our Lord Jesus to hurl himself off the Temple, presuming the angels would catch Him, join with our Lord, and say: "Thou shalt not put the Lord thy God to the test!"(Mt 4:7) And then ask our Mother Mary to increase your faith in God's all-powerful word, praying "Hail Mary, Full of Grace the Lord is with thee..."

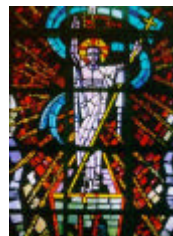
When you are tempted with lust, or a friend has fallen to immorality, or you have become sick of the pornography that wraps it evil ethereal fingers into the mind of our children through TV and, especially the Internet, then unite with Jesus, who in the desert defeated the temptations of the Flesh with His life giving Word: "Not in bread alone doth man live, but in every word that proceeds from the Mouth of God!" (Mt 4:4) And then turn to Mary for an increase of strength, praying "Hail Mary, Full of Grace..."

And when you are tempted with falling to human respect, or are overcome with fear of terrorism from our enemies, or are sick of the twisted importance that the world places on so many things of naught, unite with Jesus in the desert who victories over the world, rebuking Satan's offer of world dominion and national treasures as He commanded: "The Lord thy God shalt thou adore, and Him only shall thou serve!"(Mt4:10) And then draw all the grace you need to strengthen your faith in God's All-Commanding Word, as you cry out to your Mother: "HAIL MARY..."

Fight the temptations of the devil, the flesh and the world with the Word of God and the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary!!!

(knightsofmercy@netscape.net)

VOCATIONS 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.

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. It now houses the Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org,
Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden,
Nazareth House,
300 Cuthbert Boulevard,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
(856) 910-4930 or FAX: (856) 662-8917
or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>

BEAUTIFUL HANDS of a PRIEST

We need them in life's early morning,
We need them again at its close;
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,
We seek them when tasting life's woes

When we come to this world, we are sinful,
The greatest as well as the least;
And the hands that make us pure as angels,
Are the beautiful hands of a Priest.

At the altar each day we behold them,
And the hands of a king on his throne
Are not equal to them in their greatness,
Their dignity stands all alone.

And when we are tempted and wander
To pathways of shame and of sin,
It's the hand of a Priest will absolve us
Not once, but again and again.

And when we are taking life's partner
Other hands may prepare us a feast,
But the hands that will bless and unite us
Are the beautiful hands of a Priest.

When the hour of death comes upon us,
May our courage and strength be increased;
By seeing raised over us in blessing
The beautiful hands of a Priest.

(Bernadette-internet)

THE PUMPKIN

A recently baptized lady was asked by a co-worker what it was like to be a Christian. She replied, "It's like being a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then He cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then, He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

(Charlotte C.)

IMPORTANCE of APPARITIONS of the BLESSED VIRGIN of GUADALUPE on TEPEYAC HILL



The fact that the apparition occurred at the beginning of a new people's history is a clue to what it was to mean for the Mexican nation. It has left its mark on the consciousness of the Mexican. The Virgin of Guadalupe has figured in all the stages of the national history as well as in the simple, unhurried life of the Mexican people. Guadalupe, apparition and all, has become one of the established values of Mexico, jealously guarded by everyone as a national treasure.

The reason for this can be found in a number of significant details:

"In this image, miraculously imprinted on the *tilma* of Juan Diego, Our Lady wore a cincture marking her pregnancy. The Aztecs took this as a sign that Mary came to them with her Son not yet born. They interpreted the whole image in a symbolic manner. It was like a book that showed them the way to the true God. The missionaries could point out and explain, with the help of this image, many truths of the faith and use it as a guide to introduce the Indians to religious ideas that were new to them yet in some respects similar to their own.

"At Guadalupe, Mary took pains for detail. The place she chose, the hillside of Tepeyac, had a special meaning for the Indians. Tepeyac was the site of a temple built to honor the mother of a pagan god. Our Lady's desire was for construction of a temple to the Mother of the true God.

"The place she chose, her cincture, the name she gave herself; her love and attention expressed in the gift of her image on the garb of one of their own; the revelation of her motherly care: all this let the Indians know, that she truly was their Mother. They called

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.

Tonantzin,' i.e., 'Our Mother,' and sometimes Teotenantzin,' i.e., 'Mother of God'"

("Dictionary of Mary" Catholic Book Publishing Co.)

JOB DESCRIPTION

Tell the dying world how they can live through Jesus Christ

NUMBER OF AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

Unlimited----Preachers, teachers, singers, musicians, disciples, etc.

Exception: The position of Boss has already been filled by the Holy Spirit.

QUALIFICATIONS: Must have previously sinned and been blood washed. Must be willing to press toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

EXPERIENCE: None necessary

EDUCATION: Holy Spirit will teach you all things

BENEFIT PACKAGE: SALARY: My God (the employer) shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

INSURANCE: Access to the Master Physician.

PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDES: Love, joy, peace, patience, long suffering. . . A Lawyer, A Comforter, and Wonderful Counselor.

RECOMPENSE for COMPLETING the JOB ASSIGNMENT: The most important benefit, ETERNAL LIFE with the employer.

DEADLINE to APPLY: Before the return of Jesus Christ (Date unknown, wise NOT to hesitate.)

NOTE: Satan and demons need not apply.

(Bernadette)

"I HOLD YOU IN THE PALMS OF MY HANDS"

I dreamt that I was dancing for God. It was on a sheet that God was moving and I was letting myself be led.

Although I saw nobody, I heard the voices of people who were advising me to be careful and to bear in mind that the obstacles in my way could do me harm. But I kept answering very happily that I wasn't afraid, that it was God who was making me dance.

And it was true. There were times when it seemed as though I was going to crash into something, but my dance would always change direction in an unforeseeable way, but smoothly.

I was making no effort to dance or to avoid these obstacles. I couldn't hear music. I was just letting myself be led and the movements of the sheet had the effect of unsettling me. But at the same time of making me adopt postures like those of classical ballet, it seemed to be that the dance was beautiful.

There was a moment in which the sheet was shaken strongly. This made me leap high. But, I didn't lose confidence and shortly afterwards the dance continued. Suddenly, the sheet was agitated powerfully again and I found myself launched into space. Up and up I went, and I started to think that perhaps I had been mistaken and my dance was only a whim. But I immediately remembered that I had been dancing for God and that it was He himself who was making me dance.

If He wanted me to come to a crash then all I had to do was accept it and keep trusting. I knew that He was looking after me. I remained like that, propelled through the air, for some time, and then I felt that I was falling.

I landed on my feet, with my knee a little bent, as if I was performing a gesture of reverence. On raising my head I saw before me, looking at me as if they had nothing else to look at, the eyes of God. And I knew in that moment that all of my dance, including the great leap into space, had occurred in the same place that I was now on the palms of Gods hands, which He was holding before His eyes."

(by C.A.H.M. Home of the Mother # 96, September-October 2000)

THE ONE WHO DOES GOOD

The one who does good only out of fear,
is worthy of nothing
and doesn't last long.

The one who does good only out
Of habit, if he doesn't fall backwards,
Not will he advance much.

The one who does good by force,
Keeps the peel and scorns the fruit.

The one who does good without enthusiasm,
Goes to get water without a vessel.

The one who does good in order to appear
Good, only succeeds in making noise.

The one who does good out of vainglory,
Will never taste real victory.

The one who does good out of avarice,
Grows ever more in malice.

The one who does good with negligence,
Looses the fruit and loses the land.

The one who does good with discretion,
Is left without fruit and without peace.

The one who does good only because he feels like it,
will never be holy or just.

The one, who does good only to be saved, loves little
and knows not how to love.

The one who does good out of pure love,
gives to God his heart and soul,
and as child and servant
Will be united to his Lord.

(Saint Joseph of Cupertino)

A DESIRE IN DISGUISES?

Sometimes I have been filled with the desire to die for Christ, and I am not the only one. There are others like me who have on some occasion dreamt and prayed that God might grant us this divine grace. We have felt the attraction of any kind of martyrdom, so long as we may die for Christ, and the sooner the better!

But the question arises whether this desire is truly a fruit of our union with Christ. Or does it proceed from our own selfishness, from our weariness of fighting the good fight, of living in the world that is empty of God which, in spite of its repulsiveness, attracts us to itself. We feel the fear of falling into it and the weariness of fighting in it. It is easy to disguise this with the desire for eternity, and we wish to rejoice in the prize without having participated in the game.

To die! Yes, to die. But we mustn't just wait in longing for the end of the combat. We must begin to die now, so that Christ may reign in us, so he may conquer in us.

Die to our desires, to our passions, to our will. Die in every minute, in every second of our life. We mustn't tire of fighting, but rather, fighting, let us suffer for the salvation of men and present ourselves before God having died in the fight, so that Jesus with his blood may re-clothe us in His divine life. And then, in that moment, when the whole world considers us beaten, it is then that we will be able to hear from His lips:

"come, blessed of my Father, and take possession of the glory that I have prepared for you."

Do we truly wish to die for Christ? Then let us live for Christ! Do we wish to live for Christ? Then let us die to ourselves! Perhaps we will not be called to spill our blood for God, but we are called to spend every breath of our existence in love of Christ. Perhaps we might not die as blood martyrs, but we can live our life as a martyrial offering. When the Lord calls us it may well be that He places us among those who died for Him.

(Father Paqui Morales, C.S.H.M. "Home of the Mother", #101 July-August 2001)

SUPPORT ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK (EWTN)

If you enjoy the programming on EWTN Radio and Television, please send in regular and sacrificial contributions. EWTN Radio can be heard locally on AM 1570 from Doylestown, PA.

For whatever reason, Mother Angelica has had to make special appeals for support. We need to have a healthy and communicating EWTN.

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a store. We operate like a church pamphlet or book rack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. See the 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. 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.

Please come and see the 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

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD ACCEPTED



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

BLESSED OIL

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

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

Oil from Medjugorje is a **sacramental** and should be handled as such.

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

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

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 your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator 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.

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

THURSDAY 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM "Put on the Armor of God" RADIO PROGRAM on WTMR, AM-800

Kathleen and Keith Werner host a weekly program with In His Sign (HIS) Radio Network <http://www.inhissign.com>. This half-hour is sponsored by the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc. There is prayer, scripture, discussion of Ephesians 6: 11-17 and, following announcements, call-in time, discussion with callers, healing prayer and summary. The call-in number is 856 962-8178.

2002 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) has moved its 2002 RETREAT CONFERENCE (2002 RC) to the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ.

The 2000 RC theme is "I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE" (Jeremiah 31:3).

Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. and Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. so enjoyed working together with us that they have already agreed to work together to give us a dynamic 2002 RC. They will speak on "Healing and Suffering in our Faith."

The featured speaker on Saturday night will be Michael H. Brown; author of "Final Hour" "Trumpet of Gabriel" and many other exceptionally well researched books on the signs of the times.

Father Michael Semana, founder of the World of Hope Foundation, will return for a concert Saturday evening as well as his very generous work with the youth and young adults in the Youth Track (YT).

The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2002, with a 3-Day Extension (3DX) on

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2002. The Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Music Group "REFUGE" will be back to provide the weekend music. Al Barbarino has agreed to EMCEE for the Weekend and to provide background music for the 3DX. Other musicians including "VOYAGE" and Devin Riley have been invited.

Father Robert DeGrandis and his sister Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol will share the seminars and workshops of the 3DX on "Healing of Memories -

Rooms may be booked at the \$89 rate for both the 2002 RC and 3DX as well as up to 7 days before or after the events. This rate and availability of additional rooms expires on 2/8/2002.

The regular room rate is currently \$119 per room per night and will probably go up by March of 2002.

For Hotel reservations please call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS or locally 856-665-6666.

Call 856-768-9228 for an information sheet with reservation forms.

Kathleen as well as all the PPMC Volunteer Staff

PRESS BULLETIN 167, 10/26/2001

Passage to life

Phil Bosmans, a very famous spiritual writer, noted: "Some things may seem as a catastrophe, and nevertheless, they are a grace." Writing this, he may have thought about those who think that death is the end of life. I believe and I feel that, even among Christians, dying has not yet been understood in its depth – as a new birth, which Jesus is talking about. As mortal men, we meditate on this theme of death mostly in the beginning of the month of November.

At this time of the year, we remember our departed. Tombs are freshly decorated. For a short time, the living and the dead live on the same plane. They seek each other, but they cannot reach each other. A cruel wall separates the ones from the others. The living mourn the dead and, I believe, the dead mourn even more the living who do not live their lives in fullness, although they breath, possess, eat, walk...

It is good if the living meditate on the hour of their death. Nevertheless, some may be surprised by this hour like by a thief: it is a catastrophe if they have

forgotten the council to remain awake and to be on their guard. Carried away by the pleasures of this life, they in fact loose their life. According to the words of a theologian, death is "a most excellent troublemaker". Yes. Exactly that. Death enters into every pleasure and says: Enough! It undermines every security, which is not founded in God. Fundamentally, this is what I think while meditating on death – if there was not death, it would not be worthwhile to live. If there was not death, it would not be meritorious to support the temptations and the crosses of life. But death as a state is not permanent. As Christians, we have to see it as a birth, as a new beginning. It is the passage from the struggle for the existence to a space where every tear will be wiped from our face. This is why we can understand Saint Paul's jubilation about death as a gain. We can more easily understand the imaginings of Saint Francis who called death his little sister.

Fra Mario Knezovi

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of September, 140,000 received Holy Communion and 3,676 priests concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

EMMANUEL: A MEXICAN POP STAR'S WITNESS

In August 2001, a famous Latino American pop singer Emmanuel came to Medjugorje. This is what he said about his experience:

"This is my fourth visit to Medjugorje. I came for the first time in July 1996 with my whole family. It was a marvelous journey, where we received God's blessing.

After that, we came back in November of the same year, and then in 1998, for the International Youth Festival.

Now, we are here again and, although every pilgrimage in this holy land is different, we were always accompanied by a strong feeling of peace and welcome. This place is an oasis in the desert of feelings and loneliness, so strongly present in the world. Here you feel protected, and you can find in the depth of your soul the presence of God, of His beloved Son Jesus, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our shield and advocate.

A time in Medjugorje is a spiritual exercise, which increases the inner positive energy, the feeling of love,

but also of repentance, not only because we have sinned in our daily life, but because of the fact that we have gone away from our Father.

Thanks to this presence, thousands of families from the whole world have found peace in their heart and have rediscovered the value of the family; others have abandoned drugs and alcohol, others have lovingly given back to God what he had given to them."

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC BISHOP in PRIVATE PILGRIMAGE

Monsignor Irynei Bilyk, OSBM, Catholic Bishop of the Byzantine rite from Buchach, Ukraine, came last week on a private pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

Monsignor Bilyk came to Medjugorje for the first time in 1989, as a priest, immediately before going to Rome for his secret Episcopal ordination, to ask for the intercession of the Queen of Peace.

This year's pilgrimage was his prayer in thanksgiving for all of the help he received from Our Lady.

THE DAY of KOREA in MEDJUGORJE

South Korean pilgrims, donators of a marble statue of the Queen of Peace, which was placed and blessed on the place of the first apparitions on September 8th, 2001 (the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary), gathered on the Apparition Hill on the day of a Korean national feast day – September 20th.

In prayer, they invoked the intercession of the Queen of Peace for their country, which is still divided.

Following their initiative, Father Svetozar Kraljevic, who conducted the prayer, declared that henceforth this day would be known as the day of Korea in Medjugorje.

SISTER BRIEGE McKENNA CAME for a TIME of RECOLLECTION

Irish born Sister Briega McKenna O.S.C., one of the leading personalities in the charismatic renewal, spent a week in Medjugorje, September 15 to 20.

Avoiding any publicity, Sister Briega retired in private prayer on Apparition Hill and on Cross Mountain.

Sister Briega McKenna came to Medjugorje with Fr. Kevin Scallan C.M. and several members of his family.

FATHER BRANKO RADOS, OFM, SOLEMNLY INAUGURATED as PARISH PRIEST OF MEDJUGORJE

On Sunday, September 23rd, 2001 in the Eucharistic celebration presided by Father Branko Radoš and concelebrated by Msg. Luka Pavlovic, Vicar General of the Diocese of Mostar, Father Mika Stojic, OFM, Dean of Brotnjo, and several priests from the region, Father Branko Radoš, OFM, was solemnly inaugurated as parish priest of Medjugorje. In his speech, Father Luka Pavlovic underlined that this service consists in governing the spiritual and material goods in the name of the Church, which entrusts the parish priest this office. He also invited the parishioners to help him in this charge. Father Branko thanked the delegate of the Bishop for the trust the Church has manifested to him, and, as a sign of fidelity to the Catholic Church, he confessed solemnly his faith before the numerous faithful gathered in and around the parish church.

13TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING of SPANISH SPEAKING CENTRES of PEACE

The 13th meeting of Centres of Peace of Latin American countries took place from September 21 to 25, 2001 in Medjugorje. These centres have arisen in all of Latin America as the places for the gathering of all those who have felt the importance of Our Lady's call in Medjugorje. Their activity is focused mainly on spreading the messages and organizing prayer groups and pilgrimages. As we have said, it was the 13th meeting, the fifth time it was held in Medjugorje. The 250 participants spent the five days in prayer and meditation, exchanging the experiences of their year's long work in the spreading of Our Lady's message of peace among the faithful of the Spanish-speaking world. Particularly stressed was the importance of spiritual growth for each individual in living Our Lady's messages, as well as the spreading of the messages to others and the establishment and guidance of prayer groups. This is an incentive and a good example for everyone of how it is possible to work together in the spreading of the message of peace.

After the program ended, some of the participants, mainly leaders of prayer groups and Centres of Peace, continued their pilgrimage stay with a three-day spiritual retreat in Medjugorje.

MONSIGNOR HERMANN REICH, BISHOP of PAPUA, NEW GUINEA



Monsignor Hermann Reich, Bishop of Papua New Guinea, a native of Austria, came for a private visit to Medjugorje from September 21 to 26, 2001. He said the following about his experiences and impressions:

“I heard about Medjugorje for the first time very long ago, but I accorded it my attention for the first time in 1990. I was hospitalised in the clinic of the “Merciful Brothers” and I received some magazines published by Gebetsaktion” in Vienna. It was then that I read them for the first time and paid the messages particular attention. First of all, I was impressed by the physical side of Medjugorje: rocks, rocks and again rocks. I was so impressed! I asked myself: ‘My God, these people, what do they live on?’ The second impression was prayer. So many people in prayer, with the rosary in the hand... There is really so much prayer here. The liturgy and concelebrations are very good. The church is always full, which is not the case in other churches in the West, especially in the summer time. Here, the church is full of prayer. It is the Church in miniature: so many different languages, but you can understand almost everything. It is amazing that everybody has the feeling of belonging here, of not being a foreigner. Everybody can participate, even those who come from far.

Confession in Medjugorje is something special, something you cannot touch with your hands, but it is a big thing. In the West, you see that people understand faith in a different way. They all want common confessions. The personal confession is not accepted any more. Here, so many go for confession, and it is a big thing. I also met some pilgrims and we spoke. They are touched and enthusiastic about what is happening here. In this troubled time, I think that God and Our Lady offer us peace, but it depends on us if we will accept and realize this offer. It depends on us. If we do not want it, I think that the Mother of God and Heaven have to accept our free will, there is not much to be done, and it is really a pity. But I believe that God can write straight on crooked lines. He will include this in His plans. Since the attacks in the US happened, I heard that people started again to pray more. They woke up. Peace is so important. I hope there will be peace.

I was struck by the main theme of Our Lady’s messages, which is peace. Then, there is always again the question of conversion and confession. These are the main themes. I am also struck by the fact that she always comes back to the theme of prayer: do not be tired; pray, pray; decide yourselves for prayer; pray better. I think that there is much prayer, but maybe people do not pray in the right way. There is much prayer, there is quantity but, in many ways, there is a lack of quality. I think that we have, according to the desire of Our Lady, not to pray less but to improve the quality. We have to pray better.

At the end, I want to say that I spent only some days here, but I admire the service and the heroism of the Franciscans in the work with these crowds. These logistics are a problem I would probably never be able to deal with! I admire you all for your implication and your action. I would say at the end - keep on working in the same direction. There are always new pilgrims in Medjugorje and they want to experience this climate, this peace, this spirit of Medjugorje. If the Franciscans are able to give them that, many will take with them something good, which will continue to grow when they come home. It can be starting new prayer groups, but let the quality of prayer grow. It is not enough for people to pray much. Often, there is a danger to remain at the level of lips, and not to reach the prayer of the heart. The quality of prayer is really important - life has to become prayer.

I am 100% sure, that Our Lady is present here in Medjugorje. If she were not here, all this would not be possible; there would be no fruits. I am convinced that this is her work. I would say to Christians of our time: Pray! Do not cease to pray. Even if you do not see the result you expect, keep on praying, make the effort to have a good prayer life. Take seriously the messages of Medjugorje and pray with them. This is the council I would give to every person I meet.”

SEMINARS in “DOMUS PACIS”

A prayer and fasting seminar for a group of Canadian pilgrims from Quebec was held in the house of prayer “Domus Pacis” from September 25 to 29 2001. In this Bulletin, we would like to share with you a part of their experience, which are common to all those who decide to spend a week of their lives with bread and water.

“Fasting enables us to understand that we do not live only on bread alone - it leads towards the Eucharist, towards inner freedom, opening and purification of the heart, true values. Silence enables to enter into the

depth of one's heart and there meet the Lord, to abandon oneself to Him, to be more open towards the surroundings and people. This seminar leads to union with Jesus and Mary, enables to enter into the spirit of Medjugorje. The experience of prayer calls to pray more and to pray better, to take every decision after prayer."

Father Danko Perutina conducted this seminar. Those who are interested about these seminars can contact Father Ljubo Kurtovi in the Parish Office of Medjugorje.

In the same house, Franciscan sisters conducted one of the seminars for young girls. From October 5 to 7, thirty girls aged 14 to 16 lived a weekend of spiritual recollection in the house of prayer "Domus" the theme, «Seek Peace, and Pursue It». According to the words of these sisters, girls have shown that they have a sense for true values, especially for peace, which is one of the most important ones.

MONSIGNOR MATTHIAS SSEKAMANYA, BISHOP of LUGAZI, UGANDA



From September 27th to October 4th, 2001, Monsignor Matthias Ssekamanya, Bishop of Lugazi, Uganda, East Africa, made a private visit to the Shrine of the Queen of Peace. This is what he said about his impressions of Medjugorje:

"This is my first visit to Medjugorje. I heard about Medjugorje about 6 years ago. I think, this should be a Marian devotion centre. So far, what I have seen, it is very authentic, Catholic. People can renew their Christian life. So, my impression is that it should be encouraged. I have prayed the Way of the Cross and the Rosary on the hills. Our Lady gives her message through children. In Lourdes, she appeared to children, in Fatima, she appeared to children. Even here. This is a place of pilgrimage. I would not be able to say anything about the position of the Church concerning Medjugorje. Back home, we do not get much information about what is going on here in Medjugorje. I am not in a position to judge, but my personal view is that the devotions here should be encouraged. I have a special devotion to Mary. For me, this is an occasion to promote this devotion especially. In Medjugorje, Mary's love for peace is specific. Her call is peace. I will try to increase the awareness that Mary wants her people, her children, to

have peace, and to pave the way to peace through prayer, reconciliation, good works. For me, all that should start in families."

TV REDEVIDA from BRAZIL CONSECRATED to OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE

On the feast of the Guardian Angels (October 2, 2001) at the end of the evening prayer programme in the parish church, Joao Monteiro de Barros Filho, Director of the Independent Catholic Television REDEVIDA from Brazil, together with his staff, solemnly consecrated this Catholic family channel to Our Lady of Medjugorje. Monsignor Antonio Maria Mucciolo, Archbishop of Botucatu, President of the General Council of the Brazilian Institute for Christian Communication in Brazil, was spiritually united with this consecration, which he had signed himself: "Our Lady of Medjugorje, You who inspire and are the only owner of REDEVIDA, obtain for the FAMILY CHANNEL – TV Good News to be an instrument of communication according to moral, ethical, social, civil and Christian principles, at the service of the Brazilian people. May Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, bless and forever protect REDEVIDA and the effort to create TV MARIA in Brazil."

Joao Monteiro de Barros Filho, Director of the Independent Catholic Television REDEVIDA from Brazil, told us at this occasion:

"We are happy, because we repeated here: "Our Lady, You are the owner of this television! From this day onwards, Our Lady of Medjugorje, the Queen of Peace, will become an important channel of communication between you and us – through our television. We have built a Shrine, the Shrine of Life. Henceforth, there will be the Black Madonna, protector of Brazil, and Our Lady of Medjugorje. At this altar, Holy Mass is celebrated every day. You can be sure that every day we shall pray also for Medjugorje. Your country is magnificent. I met people with a big heart and fraternal love. Your country is blessed and rich in spirituality, here one can experience spiritual renewal. I will tell everybody to come here and experience the truth. I was travelling all over the world, but I am particularly happy for having had the chance to be here, in the country, which Our Lady, the Queen of Peace, has chosen."

LITURGY of the PASSING AWAY of SAINT FRANCIS



On October 3rd, the vigil of the feast of Saint Francis, the Franciscan family all over the world celebrates the moment of their founder's passing away of from this world into eternity, called Transitus. In Medjugorje, this rite was celebrated immediately after the Evening Holy Mass. The Medjugorje Friars, the Franciscan sisters, the Franciscan Youth Fraternity (FRAMA) and members of the Franciscan Third Order took part in this celebration. In this liturgy, the Franciscans and the faithful remember the last moments of the earthly life of this great man, in love with God, who considered death, his sister, with gratitude, because it leads him to his Creator. This year's liturgy of the Transitus was presided by Father Danko Perutina.

OFFICIALS of DIFFERENT MINISTRIES of BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA (BH) and BH FEDERATION VISITED MEDJUGORJE

On Monday, October 15th, 2001, representatives of different Ministries of BH and BH Federation visited Medjugorje. The officials met the representatives of the Tourist Office of Medjugorje-Bijakovi i and Father Branko Radoš, Parish Priest of Medjugorje. They spoke about visas for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Father Branko Radoš informed them about the life and pastoral work of Saint James' parish in Medjugorje. He especially spoke about foreign pilgrims who need visas. He asked all the officials to do all they can to facilitate the foreign pilgrims the acquisition of necessary visas.

HOLY MASS in THANKSGIVING for the FRUITS of the EARTH



On Sunday, October 14, 2001, Holy Mass in thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth was celebrated in the parish of Medjugorje. During the Eucharistic celebration, the children of our parish expressed their gratitude to the Lord for all the fruits of the earth we have received through the love of God.

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

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 10/25/01

To appear next month as it was not available at the time we wanted this issue to go to the printer.

AN ACT of CONSECRATION to SAINT JOSEPH - MILITIA of SAINT JOSEPH



Oh glorious St. Joseph, have pity on me. Be my protector and intercessor with Jesus and Mary. Protect my family as if it were your own. Let no temptation overcome me or trial, defeat me. Help me to grow in virtue despite all my faults. Help me to accept and use every grace given to me by God. Allow me to remain ever faithful to Mary, your spouse, so together you may lead me to Jesus, my Lord. Teach me the secrets of constant prayer, especially when my labors seem burdensome. Teach me to trust God's mercy and to accept His will without question. May I follow your example of always listening for God and being quick to obey Him. When my labor here is done, and my Lord calls me home, pray for me a happy passing and comfort those I leave behind. I consecrate myself to you. Please help me to be as close to Jesus and Mary as you are. Amen.

(My MAGNIFICAT, knightsofmercy @netscape.net)

CONSECRATION to the MOST IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

O most pure heart of Mary, full of goodness, show your love towards us. Let the flame of your heart, O Mary, descend on all people. We love you immensely. Impress on our hearts true love so that we long for you. O Mary, gentle and humble of heart, remember us when we sin. You know that all people sin. Grant, that through your most pure. and motherly heart, we may be healed from every spiritual sickness. Grant that we may always experience the goodness of your motherly heart, and that through the flame of your heart, we may be converted. Amen

(Jelena Vasilj)

CALENDARS:

In *November*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **ALL SAINTS (1)**, **ALL SOULS (2)**, **CHRIST the KING (22)**, the Feasts of the **Dedication of Saint John Lateran Basilica in Rome (9)**) and **Saint Andrew the Apostle (30)**, and Memorials of **Saints Martin de Porres (3)**, **Pope Leo the Great (10)**, **Josaphat (12)**, **Frances Xavier Cabrini (13)**, **Albert the Great (15)**, **Gertrude the Great (16)**, **Margaret of Scotland (16)**, **Elizabeth of Hungary (17)**, **Rose Philippine Duchesne (18)**, **Cecilia (22)**, **Columban (23)**, **Pope Clement I (23)**, **Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (24)** as well as **Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro (23)**, and the **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (21)**. Church calendars recognize **Veterans' Day (11, [observed (12)])** and **Thanksgiving Day (22)**.

In *December*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (8)** and **CHRISTMAS (25)**, the Feasts of **Our Lady of Guadalupe (12)**, **Saints Stephen (26)**, and **John, Apostle and Evangelist (27)**, **Holy Innocents (28)** and **Holy Family (30)** and the Memorials of **Saints Francis Xavier (3)**, **John of Damascus (4)**, **Nicholas (6)**, **Ambrose (7)**, **Damasus I (11)**, **Lucy (13)**, **John of the Cross (14)**, **Peter Canisius (21)**, and **Pope Sylvester I (31)**. Church calendars show **Hanukkah (10)**.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 2, 3 and 4 and the Bulletin Notices on pages 22 and 23. We need everyone to help publish information with prayer groups and in your Parish Bulletin.

For additional information, call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228. Please leave your area code with your

The PILGRIM

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Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc.

NON-PROFIT and IRS Code 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT

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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!"



phone number so that we may return your call. You may FAX your questions to (856)-768-9428.

PFMC PRESENTATIONS

Kathleen and Keith desire to participate in Altar Rosary Society, Legion of Mary, or other parish prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session. The experiences and continuation of the PFMC ministries for Our Lady in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at is no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites just like they are at the PFMC which operates like a church book rack. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value on each article. Call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228.

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

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

Keith and Kathleen and Family:

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

Send us interesting web sites and e-mails:

PFMCkmw@home.com

