



# The PILGRIM

Vol. 12, No. 2 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

February 2001

## MESSAGE of 1/25/2000

***Dear Children! Today I call you to renew prayer and fasting with even greater enthusiasm until prayer becomes a joy for you. Little children, the one who prays is not afraid of the future and the one who fasts is not afraid of evil. Once again, I repeat to you: only through prayer and fasting also wars can be stopped – wars of your unbelief and fear for the future. I am with you and am teaching you little children: your peace and hope are in God. That is why draw closer to God and put Him in the first place in your life. Thank you for having responded to my call.***

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

## A PRAYER



***Jesus, You suffered Your Passion of pain, and through it you redeemed us and restored us to God, Your Father.***

***We have seen your face wet with sweat as a village carpenter in Nazareth. We have seen Your face covered with blood in Gethsemani and on Golgotha. How can we not know the face of agony?***

***Help us to bear our own pain tied to the Passion of the Cross with You. Show us how to accept it and use it for the salvation of others and for the glory of God the Father.***

***Lord, we cannot flee from nor escape pain. Suffering is such a mystery to us. But, through You all pain and suffering can be drenched with the tears of Love that throbs with all the redeeming holiness of Your Heart. Allow every second of any of our discomforts to be Sacred and allow them to fill what is wanting in Your Passion, in your Church.***

**AMEN.**

**(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)**

## PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC) - WHO ARE WE

**T**he PFMC is a lay Ministry made up of dedicated Roman Catholics. All work in a volunteer capacity to Evangelize the Word of God, and to assist our Catholic Church in bringing God's Children to the Sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church. It embraces Marian prayer, is Eucharistic and Healing in its nature.

We are obedient to our Ordinary, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, and our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

The PFMC is permanently approved as an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code Section 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax exempt religious association which can accept tax deductible contributions or donations in relation to its organizational functions. These functions include pilgrimages to religious sites in Europe and North America, Retreat Conferences, Days of Recollection, Radio / TV / Parish / Prayer Group Presentations, Bible Study, Apologetics Program of Defending Your Faith, prayer groups, Healing and Spiritual direction, Rosary making, food for the poor, this monthly periodical called ***"The PILGRIM"***, and books, statues, as well as religious articles available to visitors or by mail.

The PFMC is conveniently located in a blue and white metal building addition to Epiphany House at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> residence on the right of Cooper Road east of NJ Highway 73.

***"The PILGRIM" for February 2001 is dedicated to "Our Lady of Lourdes." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."***

Going South take a real left turn at the light by Niagara Pools. Going North take a right at the light after American Appliance and the Pet Cemetery. Coming from the Marlton Circle (which is the junction of NJ Highways 70 and 73), it is 8 lights South toward Berlin. Coming from the Berlin Circle (which is the junction of NJ Highway 73 and Camden County Highway 561), it is 3 lights north toward Marlton. The addition to Epiphany House, contains the PFMC offices, a religious goods display area, a library, and a Great Room, where prayer groups meet and where day retreats can be held. Come and visit us! Join us for a prayer group or program. Just come to relax and read a good book!

We operate the PFMC and all of our **Programs On Donation Only**. You, the readers, are the hands of Jesus and Our Lady. You are the hands of the living Church. Your help is important. We want to thank all of you who have been faithfully supporting the PFMC. Your donations have meant that we have been able to touch so many people in so many ways.

We ask you to remember us in a special way as you pay your bills. Please place the enclosed donation slip and envelope with your bills or in your checkbook. Help us every month. Thank you.

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## 2001 PILGRIMAGES



The year 2001 will be an exciting time for PFMC pilgrimages as nearly every month has a new opportunity to see the world through the eyes of Our Lady. All pilgrim groups will leave from Philadelphia or Newark if at all possible. Every pilgrimage will have a priest spiritual director and will offer a full daily spiritual program. A pilgrimage coordinator, trained in pilgrimages, rooming lists, and pilgrim needs, will accompany each pilgrimage. This allows the priest to concentrate on the spiritual needs of the group.

Pilgrimage travel insurance is available for all PFMC coordinated pilgrimages. We always recommend that pilgrims carry travel insurance.

An English speaking guide will support every pilgrimage. Land transportation is in comfortable air-conditioned motor coaches. Unless otherwise noted, breakfast and supper is included so pilgrims do not have to worry about finding reasonably priced and nutritious meals.

We hope that you will review the following destinations, dates, brief itineraries, and, especially, our very competitive prices. We will be using regularly scheduled airlines. The only catch is that you are asked to sign up no later than 45 days ahead. Airlines try to recoup their seats at 60 days. They become very aggressive at 45 days. Seats without names generally have to be returned. Reservations after 45 days will be taken with full payment and attempts will be made to find seats with the pilgrimage group. It is very important that pilgrims sign up as soon as the spark of your prayer leads you to go on a specific pilgrimage. Travel or pilgrimage insurance will greatly assist in recovering costs if there is a problem that arises after initial sign-up.

### LOURDES and PARIS

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

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

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

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

### FATIMA

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

The PFMC Coordinator is Lynn Rudzenski. Father Jay Bowden of Epiphany Parish in Brick, NJ is Spiritual Director. We fly TAP from Newark to Lisbon with a day tour of Lisbon and its magnificent Cathedral on the way home. There will be a stop with Holy Mass at the shrine of the Eucharistic Miracle at Santarem. In Fatima, we will walk the Stations of the Cross where the angel brought the children Eucharist, enjoy a tour

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

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

of the village of Austral with Holy Mass at the little church where the children were baptized and see the candlelight procession at night.

There will be a one day pilgrimage to Coimbra where Sister Lucy lives in the Carmelite Convent. Holy Mass will be celebrated. There will also be a full day excursion to the walled city of Obidos, and on to Alcobaca and the magnificent Monastery of Batalha. Then on to the little ocean village of Nazare where the only original statue of Our Lady nursing the Baby Jesus can be viewed.

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

## **A TASTE of CENTRAL EUROPE GERMANY/CZECH REPUBLIC/HUNGARY**

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

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

**COST:** \$2,150 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

## **IRISH TRADITION - IRELAND**

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

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

**COST:** \$2,175 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.

## **LOURDES, PARIS and NEVERS**

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

Fly with PFMC Pilgrimage Coordinators Vince and Livia Nocella on Air France to Paris and then to Pau, stay for three nights in Lourdes and then three nights in Paris. In Lourdes, visit the Miraculous Baths with Holy Mass at the Grotto where our Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette in 1858.

Tour Paris and visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal on Rue du Bac. This is where Saint Catherine Laboure lies incorrupt and where she received the Miraculous Medal. Visit the Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur (Basilica of the Sacred Heart), Notre Dame, and much more. There will be a day trip from Paris to the Convent of Saint Gildard in Nevers, France, where Saint Bernadette lies incorrupt.

**COST:** \$1899 (Double Occupancy) plus \$70 taxes.  
Single Supplement \$299

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## **7 NIGHTS MEDJUGORJE, 2 NIGHTS on the ADRIATIC SEA, 1 NIGHT in ROME AUGUST 8** (Wednesday) to **AUGUST 18** (Saturday)

Join PFMC Pilgrimage Coordinator Mike McColgan on this wonderful Summer pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. We will fly with either Alitalia or Swiss Air into Split, Croatia, and return via Dubrovnik, Croatia. This pilgrimage is ideal for teachers and families with children in school.

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

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

1 night overnight in Rome – evening free

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

Single supplement \$299

## **JUST MEDJUGORJE with OVERNIGHT in ROME**

**NOVEMBER 9 to NOVEMBER 18**

Kathleen is the Pilgrimage Coordinator for this pilgrimage. Father Joseph Romanoski, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in South Amboy, NJ is the Spiritual Director. This is a pilgrimage for those who want the ultimate in spending quiet time just in Medjugorje. The family home and pilgrim house is one block from Saint James Church. You will have an English speaking guide, private transfer bus, and a full spiritual experience. Your 7 days will be spent visiting the visionaries, daily Holy Mass, Confessions, climbing Apparition Hill, and climbing Cross Mountain. Because this is the more quiet time of the year in Medjugorje, you will find plenty of time to spend in quiet meditation, and enjoy the presence of Our Lady.

We will fly on Alitalia to and from Rome, Italy, and transfer to Croatian Air to and from Split, Croatia. Transfer to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina is by guided motor coach. On return you will fly out of Split on November 17 and spend the night in Rome. Supper will be in a local restaurant near the hotel. Free time in the evening will allow you to see Rome by night, and in the early morning.

All taxes, both Croatian and Italian, are included.

**COST:** \$1499 (Double Occupancy) INCLUSIVE

**Kathleen Werner and Pilgrimage Coordination  
Volunteer Staff**

## **2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE – JOIN US**



We are receiving many reservation applications now for the 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE.

The Four Points Hotel by Sheraton has reservations for all of their rooms for Friday and Saturday nights. They are keeping a waiting list for cancellations and assisting those who wish to stay overnight with reservations at other hotels. There is availability for rooms at the site for the 3-day extension with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ. You can reach the Four Points Hotel staff for room reservations at 1-800-325-3535. Overflow weekend hotel room arrangements have been made with the Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, at the same overnight rates. There are plenty of weekend rooms available in local hotels. More than 400 people are staying at the Four Points Hotel.

Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, is returning to join with Father John Hampsch, CMF, author of “Healing Your Family Tree.” Father John McFadden will open the event and bless the facilities. Father Michael Semana will sing a Healing Sunday Holy Mass, and will hold a healing concert on Saturday night followed by laying on of hands for healing. Father Jim Sauchelli will join us to help keep things running smoothly.

Music for the weekend will again be provided by “REFUGE” led by Pete Mazscak with Friday night Holy Mass music by “VOYAGE” led by Dean Pulcini. Al Barbarino and Geraldine McSorley will provide the music for the 3-day extension with Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ. Marty Rotella has graciously agreed to assist with the Youth Tracks.

Please review the enclosed gold information sheet and complete the registration form today for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE attendance. Send or FAX the registration form to the PFMC to arrive no later than 2/17/01.

## **VOLUNTEERS for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED**



Please call Dotty or Kathleen at 856-768-9228 if you can volunteer to help the PFMC. We always need help in the PFMC in setting up the programs, particularly in the area of accepting reservations, and program planning.



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

We appreciate your help in evangelization.

## PRIESTS CONFESSORS NEEDED for 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE



As one of Mary's Beloved Priests, will you help us with the Sacrament of Confession during the 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE?

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

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

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

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

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

Would you consider coming and helping this year?

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

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

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

Thank you! We pray daily for our Beloved Priests.

## DAY of RETREAT with FATHER JAY BOWDEN -MARCH 22, 2001

Father Jay Bowden, Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Brick, NJ, will hold another day of SILENT RETREAT at the PFMC. It will begin at 9 AM and will end about 4 PM on Thursday, March 22, 2001.

Father has done days of retreat for us and has been active in the PFMC Retreat conferences, as well as been a Spiritual Advisor since our first pilgrimage. Father loves Our Lady, and will be leading a pilgrimage to Fatima for us in April. This day of Silent Retreat and Prayer will give you a chance to step back and enter into silence and reflection during these first days of Advent. Father will offer the Sacrament of Penance / Reconciliation / Confession.

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**SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE:** Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan Williams, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSSA, 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](mailto:szolack@camdendiocese.org), Vocations Director, Diocese of Camden,** advises all who are 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.

Please join us. The suggested donation or "Love Offering" for the day is \$10. A soup, bread and beverage lunch will be available. You may bring your own brown bag lunch if you prefer.

Call us at 856-768-9228 to make a reservation, send a reservation note by mail, or fax your reservation to 856-768-9428.

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## **FATHER DeGRANDIS, S.S.J. - RETREAT in TAMPA FLORIDA**

Date: April 25, 2001

Place: Tampa Airport Hilton, Tampa, Florida

Call 813-877-6688 for all details and to register.

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

Dean Pulcini is leading Wednesday night seminars on "DEFENDING YOUR FAITH" in the Great Room of Epiphany House from 7 PM to 9 PM.

He offers a basic understanding of his Catholic faith in comparison to and contrasted with Protestantism and Eastern Orthodoxy.

These interactive seminars help students to grasp clearly what the Church authentically teaches and aid in dispelling misinformation, misunderstanding, and myths.

Persons of other faiths interested in learning about Catholicism are invited to attend as well.

With a Master's degree in Sacred Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Cromwell, CT. Scripture, Morality, and Liturgy Dean has plenty of background for these seminars.

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

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

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** These seminars look at ethics, morality and the obligation of fidelity to Christ. They run from 7 PM to 9 PM on Wednesday nights. Free will offering baskets are out. Suggested offering is \$5 per night. The PFMC display room and library will be open. If you plan to attend, please call 856-768-9228.

Some related topics of these seminars include:

### **Where Do Catholics Find THAT in the Bible?**

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

### **Are Good Works Necessary for Salvation?**

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

### **How Can the Pope Be Infallible?**

The history and development of the Petrine Ministry.

### **Do Catholics Worship Mary and the Saints?**

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

### **Do Catholics still believe in Purgatory?**

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

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

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

### **Can the Catholic Church be the "Whore of**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Who gives the Church the Right to Morally Dictate?**

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

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## THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP MEETING at EPIPHANY HOUSE



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

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## PLEASE DON'T WRITE ORDERS ON DONATION SLIPS

**W**hen ordering books, tapes or oil, we kindly ask you to NOT place them on the donation slips, but rather use the order forms enclosed inside "The PILGRIM" or write us a separate note.

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

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## BIBLE STUDY - 'TYPOLOGY' with PETER DAWSON, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MONDAYS at 7:30 PM

**B**ible study using "TYPOLOGY" and led by Peter Dawson are held in the Great Room of Epiphany House on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays.

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

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

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## NEEDS of the PFMC

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

Thank you for considering us

---

## PRESENCE of OUR LORD



Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R and James Monti have published a magnificent book titled "In the Presence of Our Lord, the History, Theology, and Psychology of Eucharistic Devotion". Unlike books that present the technical aspects of setting up Eucharistic devotion in a chapel or parish, this book focuses on how the Blessed Sacrament has been a source of comfort and faith for countless Christians. Catholics, for centuries, have answered Christ's plea by placing themselves before His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Many parishes are now instituting the Adoration Hours for their parishioners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## OUR LADY of LOURDES - Lourdes, France (1858)

Mary appeared to an impoverished, emaciated fourteen year old girl living in the Pyrenees at a time of turmoil in France. On Thursday, February 11th, Bernadette Soubirous, her sister Marie and another friend had gone to a nearby river to gather firewood.



While Marie and her friend crossed the river to search the other side, Bernadette stayed on dry land. While searching for wood she heard a loud noise like the sound

of a storm coming from a nearby grotto known as Massabielle. At the mouth of the grotto was a rosebush that was moving as if it were windy, which it was not. From the interior of the grotto she saw a golden-colored cloud, and soon after a Lady, young and beautiful who came and placed herself at the entrance of the opening above the rosebush.

The Lady smiled at Bernadette and motioned for her to advance. Bernadette lost any fear she may have had and fell to her knees to pray the Rosary. After both she and the Lady completed these prayers (with the Lady only said the Lord's prayer and the Gloria), the Lady slowly withdrew to the interior of the grotto and disappeared.

Bernadette experienced eighteen visitations from Mary over a six-month period never knowing who the Lady was until the last apparition. During the apparitions, Mary instructed Bernadette to dig a hole in the ground and drink and bathe in it. The hole later turned into a spring of water that Mary promised would be a healing spring for all that came to use its waters. Mary also asked Bernadette to tell the local pastor, Cure Peyramale to have a chapel built in honor of her appearances there. The Cure accused Bernadette of lying about the apparitions and told her to find out from the Lady just who she was and demanded from her that she perform a miracle by making the rosebush in the grotto bloom.

On March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation, Mary answered the Cure's request when she told Bernadette, who had only received a rudimentary religious education, "**Que soy era Immaculado Conceptionu**" (**I am the Immaculate Conception**).

Mary, with these words, confirmed what the Pope had declared as official Catholic Church doctrine just four years earlier - a highly unlikely fact to be known by an uneducated fourteen year old in rural France.

The apparitions were declared authentic in 1862 and Lourdes rapidly became one of the world's major pilgrimage sites. Thousands have been cured from a variety of illnesses, both physical and spiritual, and a clinic to support the millions of pilgrims who come to Lourdes operates to this day.

Bernadette returned to a life of obscurity. She became one of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Nevers and died there in 1879 after a long and painful illness. She was declared a saint in 1933, not because of the apparitions, but because of her dedication to a life of simplicity and service.

<http://members.aol.com/bjw1106.marian5.htm>

## THE OUR LADY of LOURDES - 8 DAY NOVENA PRAYER



Be blessed, O most pure Virgin, for having vouchsafed to manifest your shining with life, sweetness and beauty, in the Grotto of Lourdes, saying to the child, Saint Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception." A thousand times we congratulate you upon your Immaculate Conception. And now, O ever Immaculate Virgin,

Mother of mercy, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, you know our wants, our troubles, our sufferings deign to cast upon us a look of mercy.

By appearing in the Lourdes Grotto, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors. Already many have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical.

We come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain for us, O loving Mother, the granting of our request. Through gratitude for your favors, we will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that we may on day share your glory.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Christ, you had influence with your divine son while upon earth. You have the same influence now in Heaven. Pray for us; obtain for us from your Divine Son our special requests if it be the Divine Will. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

[www.prayerbook.com/lournove.htm](http://www.prayerbook.com/lournove.htm)

## THE NINE DAY NOVENA to OUR LADY of LOURDES

The powerful intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes is demonstrated countless times by the many miracles experienced by the millions of pilgrims who visit Lourdes, France each year. Lourdes is where Saint Bernadette beheld the love and beauty of Our Lady eighteen times in the Grotto of Massabielle.



Christians who call upon Our Lady of Lourdes can be assured of Her Heavenly intercession, and the many graces the invariably follow when Our Mother, HIS Mother, whispers in His ear with our pleas and petitions for help.

### DAY ONE:

O Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, virgin and mother, queen of heaven, chosen from all eternity to be the Mother of the Eternal Word and in virtue of this title preserved from original sin, we kneel before you as did little Bernadette at Lourdes and pray with childlike trust in you that as we contemplate your glorious appearance at Lourdes, you will look with mercy on our present petition and secure for us a favorable answer to the request for which we are making this novena

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

### DAY TWO:

Be blessed, O most pure Virgin, for having vouchsafed to manifest yourself shining with light, sweetness and beauty, in the Grotto of Lourdes, saying to the child Saint Bernadette: "I am the Immaculate Conception!"

O Mary Immaculate, inflame our hearts with one ray

of the burning love of your pure heart Let them be consumed with love for Jesus and for you, in order that we may merit one day to enjoy your glorious eternity.

O dispenser of His graces here below, take into your keeping and present to your Divine Son the petition for which we are making this novena.... O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

### DAY THREE:

"You are all fair, O Mary, and there is in you no stain of original sin."

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

O brilliant star of sanctity, as on that lovely day, upon a rough rock in Lourdes you spoke to the child Bernadette and a fountain broke from thee plain earth and miracles happened and the great shrine of Lourdes began, so now I beseech you to hear our fervent prayer and do, we beseech you, grant us the petition we now so earnestly seek...

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

### DAY FOUR:

O Immaculate Queen of Heaven, we your wayward, erring children, join our unworthy prayers of praise and thanksgiving to those of the angels and saints and your own the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity may be glorified in heaven and on earth.

Our Lady of Lourdes, as you looked down with love an mercy upon Bernadette as she prayed her rosary in the grotto, look down now, we beseech you, with love and mercy upon us. From the abundance of graces granted you by your Divine Son, sweet Mother of God, give to each of us all that your motherly heart sees we need and at this moment look with special favor on the grace we seek in this novena.

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

#### **DAY FIVE:**

O Mary Immaculate, Mother of God and our mother, from the heights of your dignity look down mercifully upon us while we, full of confidence in your unbounded goodness and confident that your Divine Son will look favorably upon any request you make of Him in our behalf, we beseech you to come to our aid and secure for us the favor we seek in this novena...

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

#### **DAY SIX:**

O glorious Mother of God, so powerful under your special title of Our Lady of Lourdes, to you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare and for the special favor we so earnestly seek in this novena....

O Lady of Bernadette, with the stars of heaven in your hair and the roses of earth at your feet, look with compassion upon us today as you did so long ago on Bernadette in the Grotto of Lourdes.

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

#### **DAY SEVEN:**

O Almighty God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary did prepare a worthy dwelling place for your Son, we humbly beseech you that as we contemplate the apparition of Our Lady in

the Grotto of Lourdes, we may be blessed with health of mind and body.

And, O most gracious Mother Mary, beloved Mother of Our Lord and Redeemer, look with favor upon us as you did that day on Bernadette and intercede with him for us that the favor we now so earnestly seek may be granted to us...

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

#### **DAY EIGHT:**

O Immaculate Mother of God, from heaven itself you came to appear to the little Bernadette in the rough Grotto of Lourdes! And as Bernadette knelt at your feet and the magic spring burst forth and as multitudes have knelt ever since before your shrine, O Mother of God, we kneel before you today to ask that in your mercy you plead with your Divine Son to grant the special favor we seek in this novena....

O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

#### **DAY NINE:**

O glorious Mother of God, to you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly for the grace of a happy death.

O Mother of our Divine Lord, as we conclude this novena for the special favor we seek at this time...we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard.

O Mother of My Lord, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ and for the glory of His Name, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. O Brilliant star of purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope,

strength, and consolation. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, pray for us.

[www.immaculateheart.com/lourdes](http://www.immaculateheart.com/lourdes)

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## OUR LADY of LOURDES



Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Health of the Sick, Comforter of the Afflicted, the faithful come before you in the grotto at Lourdes, in the grotto at Holy Hill, in the solitude of prayer. You always show mercy to the faithful and devoted. Please, Blessed Mother, when I come before you, have mercy on me in my time of need. I lovingly put my faith in you and in the healing power of prayer.

Amen

(source: Discalced Carmelite Friars)

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## THE MASTER'S CARD

There are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's Master card.

I'm sure you've all received their applications in the mail.

However, I'm here to advertise a different card.

You see, my life is a product for others to see.

I'm a card carrying representative for

**THE MASTER'S CARD.**

That's right,

**The MASTER'S CARD.**

Let me tell you about it. There are no finance charges, no payments due. My bill has already been covered...it's a prep Aid deal. I couldn't afford the price, so Jesus stepped in and paid it for me.

My Name is written on the card for all to see. It is accessible twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in the world.

**The MASTER'S CARD**

has so many benefits it's hard to list them all.

Let me share some of them with you...

You might want to apply for a personal card yourself. Just for starters there is

**UNLIMITED GRACE.**

That's right, there is no preset limit to the amount of grace you receive from

**The MASTER'S CARD.**

Have you been looking for love in all the wrong places?

Then, look no farther than

**The MASTER'S CARD.**

It offers the greatest rate on love that has ever been offered.

**The MASTER'S CARD**

gives you access to many "members only" benefits.

Want real joy despite the difficulties of life?

Apply for

**The MASTER'S CARD.**

Want a lasting peace?

Apply for

**The MASTER'S CARD.**

Looking for something you can always rely on in a jam?

**The MASTER'S CARD**

is perfect for you. Another great thing about

**The MASTER'S CARD**

is that it never expires and will never be cancelled. Once you're a member, you're a member for life... eternal life, that is.

Membership has its privileges, you know. So why not apply today? It's only a prayer away.

**(Anonymous – e mail)**

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## A PRAYER for MY FRIEND

***F**ather, I ask you to bless my friends reading this right now. I am asking You to minister to their spirit at this very moment.*

***Where there is pain, give them Your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubting, release a renewed confidence in your ability to work***

***The PILGRIM***

*through them.*

*Where there is tiredness, or exhaustion, I ask You to give them understanding, patience, and strength as they learn submission to your leading.*

*Where there is spiritual stagnation, I ask You to renew them by revealing Your nearness, and by drawing them into greater intimacy with You.*

*Where there is fear, reveal Your love, and release to them your courage.*

*Where there is a sin blocking them, reveal it, and break its hold over my friend's life.*

*Bless their finances, give them greater vision, and raise up leaders, and friends to support, and encourage them.*

*Give each of them discernment to recognize the evil forces around them, and reveal to them the power they have in You to defeat it.*

*I ask You to do these things in Jesus' name.*

**AMEN**

**(Bernadette S.-e mail)**

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## VOCATION DEPARTMENT

### THE FAMILY: SEEDBED of VOCATION

**W**e know that the core teaching of the Second Vatican Council is the radical call of all to holiness. However, we also know that God calls a chosen few, that should be many, to follow him even more closely in a life of apostolic celibacy for the kingdom of God, whether it be as a priest, religious, or layperson. The founder of *Opus Dei* once remarked that those called by God own ninety percent of their vocation to their parents. The family is the seedbed of vocations.

Saint John Bosco was reported as saying that one out of every ten Catholic men has a vocation. We could say that he employed the word “men” into inclusive sense and say that one out of every ten persons has a specific supernatural calling from God. Perhaps this is the Lord’s way of assuring a total tithing of His children. He has no interest in money but has a total commitment to His children as a loving Father.

## VOCATIONS TOTALLY DEDICATED TO GOD

One of the greatest hopes of any Catholic family should be to have one, or more, of their children to be chosen in a special way by God for His service. Traditionally, this has meant a vocation to the diocesan priesthood or one of the religious congregations. In a specific sense we are referring to the priesthood, the religious life, or to one of the various movements and institutions for lay people that enable them to dedicate themselves totally to God in the middle of the world. These new institutions are highly favored by the Church as a means of complete dedication to the apostolate. Nowadays, it is more and more recognized that the vocation to apostolic celibacy for the kingdom of God is also a viable choice for the layperson. Indeed, the Church has made it quite clear through its enthusiastic endorsement of the need and efficacy of specific vocations to the various movements and institutions of the Church that are lay-oriented.

However, it is no secret that generally, with some few notable exceptions in some few dioceses and religious congregations, vocations have been in sharp decline in Europe and North America over the last forty years while on a steady but unspectacular rise throughout the rest of the world during the pontificate of John Paul II.

There are a variety of reasons for this decline in the West. We could cite: contraception producing smaller families; general affluence resulting in the bourgeois spirit – producing a consequent lack of generosity; lack of catechesis; the general confusion in the Church; the sexual revolution; the consequent loss of innocence resulting in cynicism and hedonism among young people where ideals should be high; and finally, the sad example of tens of thousands of married couples and priests and religious who have not been faithful to their commitments to God and the Church and each other.

However, the example of holiness is a much more powerful influence on young people if they are brought up in such a way as to appreciate it. Witness the impact of John Paul II, Mother Teresa, the new Doctor of the Church Saint Theresa of Lisieux, Blessed Josemaria Escriva, the founder of *Opus Dei* and so many others. Look at the World Youth Days in Czestochowa, Denver, and Paris with their millions of young people united in prayer and sacrifice, and apostolic zeal with the Holy Father and the Church.

## FORMING CHILDREN WITH A PROPER VISION

The family atmosphere in which vocations are bred, nourished and readied for fruition really is no different than what any serious Catholic parents would want to create for their children in order to prepare them for holy marriages and to give a Christian witness in the world. As the noted family expert Jim Stenson has remarked, parents should form their children with their vision pointed into the not too-distant future when their children will marry and have children of their own. They are preparing their children to be responsible, faithful adult Catholics and family persons who will build up the Church, society and culture.

Catholic parents who want to produce vocations for the Church have to be ready to be heroically counter-cultural. As the old Beatles song put it, "It don't come easy." Putting it mildly, the world appears designed at the moment to thwart people, particularly young people, from even entertaining the thought of complete dedication to God.

I like to speak of three particularly strong influences on young people today:

1. the general culture;
2. The educational system;
3. The family environment. Hopefully, at least two out of the three would be positive influences to create a favorable environment for young men and women to commit themselves totally to God. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The secular educational system from top to bottom as presently constituted represents the ideology of secular humanism as the norm.
4. The general culture appears to be designed by a demonic intelligence to destroy any notion of beauty or truth in any young mind or heart. This leaves the family, which is under unprecedented attack by the previously mentioned forces and others, apparently left alone, to fend for itself.

The reigning Pontiff, John Paul II, tells us that the future depends on the family. It has a long track record of survival.

Here are five suggestions to create a more discerning environment where one or some of their children will discern a specific call from God to follow Him completely:

1. Parents must be their children's best friends. Show them trust and respect for their freedom,

Trust in the Holy Spirit already at work in their souls from Baptism. Speak often and positively about the Church and the greatness of being called to a life of dedication in it.

2. Foster a simple life of piety in the home adjusted to the condition and ages of the children. The Cure of Ars said to simply bring children frequently to Jesus in the Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Penance. Read scripture to them. Show them how to make sacrifices that are pleasing to God not men.
3. Teach them to value poverty and detachment. Teach them that it is not necessary to always be acquiring things or possessions. Teach them how to make things last and how to share cheerfully. Make sure they spend summers productively, working generously serving others.
4. Expose them according to their age and ability to "take it," to misery. The greatest gift you can give your children is more brothers and sisters
5. Instill an appreciation of beauty, whether it be in nature, literature, music, or art. Watch TV together, and watch only material that is healthy. Censor videos musical instruments, books and magazines. Prepare family excursions. Beware of leaving children alone. Be part of all formation outside the house...having a variety of friends in which the joy of your own family life is shared. Be a part of their schooling and all education. Teach them your Faith.

Remember always that you are preparing them for a life of service and dedication to God and not necessarily in the convent, monastery, or rectory. Participate with them in Catholic programs for youth.

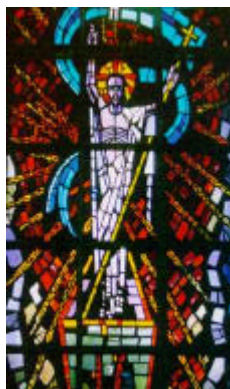
If you supply or offer your children to God through your prayer and careful preparation, He will match you by taking them and through His grace and their collaboration, lead them to a life of generosity. And we cannot outdo God in generosity.

**(by Father C. John McClaskey III, STD, Children  
of Mary Center for Peace Newsletter, November /  
December 2000, Vol. 14 #6)**

## 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.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

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

## PRAYER for VOCATIONS - Pope John Paul II

**H**oly Spirit . . . It is You who open the heart and the mind to the Divine Call; it is You who make effective every impetus toward good, toward truth, toward charity . . . Open the hearts and minds of men, so that a new flowering of vocations may show forth the fidelity of your love, and all may know Christ, the true light come into the world, to offer to every human being, the sure hope of eternal life.

Amen.

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

## PRAYER to KNOW ONES VOCATION - K of C

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

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

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

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

## DAY of DISCERNMENT

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

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

## A MESSAGE from MOTHER TERESA of CALCUTTA

**I** make a Holy hour each day in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. All my sisters of the Missionaries of Charity make a daily holy hour, as well, because we find that through our daily holy hour our love for Jesus becomes more intimate, our love for each other more understanding, and our love for the poor more compassionate.

Our holy hour is our daily family prayer where we get together and pray the Rosary before the exposed Blessed Sacrament the first half-hour, and the second half-hour we pray in silence.

Our adoration has doubled the number of our vocations. In 1963 we were making a weekly holy hour together but it was not until 1973, when we

*began our daily holy hour that our community started to grow and blossom.*

**(Mother Theresa of Calcutta)**

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## **PRAYER for VOCATIONS**

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

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

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## **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**T**he Christian life is a continuous liberation from evil and from sin. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God's power and his holiness are communicated as new energy that leads to the liberty to love, making the good triumph.

The struggle against evil, which Christ strenuously fought, is today entrusted to the Church and to every Christian, according to the vocation, charism and ministry of each one. A fundamental role is reserved to those who have been elected to the ordained ministry: bishops, priests and deacons. But an irreplaceable and specific support is offered, among others, by the Institutes of consecrated life, whose members *"make visible, in their consecration and total dedication, the loving and saving presence of Christ, the One consecrated by the Father, sent in mission"* (Vita Consecrata, 76).

How can we fail to stress that the promotion of vocations to the ordained ministry and the consecrated life must become the harmonious commitment of the whole Church and of individual believers? The Lord commanded them to *"pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"* (Mt. 9, 3, 8).

Aware of this, we turn in prayer to the heavenly Father, the giver of every good thing:

***Good Father, in Christ your Son you reveal to us your love, you embrace us as your children and***

***you offer us the possibility of discovering in your will the lines of our true face.***

***Holy Father, you call us to be holy as you are holy, We pray you, never allow your church to lack holy ministers and apostles who, with the word and the sacraments, may open the way to the encounter with you.***

***Merciful Father give to lost humanity men and women who, through the witness of a life transfigured to the image of your Son, may walk joyfully with their other brothers and sisters towards our heavenly homeland.***

***Our Father, with the voice of your Holy Spirit, and trusting in the maternal intercession of Mary, we earnestly beseech you: Send to your Church priests who will be courageous witnesses to your infinite bounty. Amen!***

([www.crossofchrist.com](http://www.crossofchrist.com))

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## **AWARENESS IN FAMILIES**

**T**here is a need in the Church to raise an awareness by individuals, families and parishes, to pray and sacrifice for religious vocations.

The Cross of Christ foundation should first be a spiritual movement of renewal, to teach our children the beauty of the consecrated life, the dignity of the priesthood. As Jesus told Sr. Faustina: "Through them, as through channels, My mercy flows out upon Mankind". We need to teach our boys and girls that there is no greater career on this earth than to give their life to Christ.

Only God the Holy Spirit can instill the seeds of vocations in the hearts of our youngsters, but the seed will die, unless we are there to pray with them, to encourage, to nourish and support them.

When we receive the Sacrament of Baptism we also take on the obligation to share our faith, to evangelize and help spread the Gospel of Christ. As members of the church and parents, this includes the fostering of religious vocations.

In Fatima, Our Lady promised an era of Peace, soon to come in the world. As Our Lady of all nations she has said that in this era, Jesus will reign as our Eucharistic King. "The Holy Eucharist is a foretaste of Heaven."

To Sr. Faustina Jesus said: "Eternal life must begin

already here on earth, through Holy Communion. Each Holy Communion makes you more capable of communing with God throughout eternity."

In order for Jesus to establish His Eucharistic reign on this earth, He needs many more priests and religious. In order for us to be instruments for Him, we need to be Eucharistic people ourselves. We need to live the Holy Eucharist in our daily lives. In that sense we can look at ourselves as a prayer community. "A lay community dedicated to help establish the Eucharistic reign of Christ on this earth."

[www.crossofchrist.com](http://www.crossofchrist.com)

"Jesus in the Holy Eucharist can only come to us through our Priests and God will give us Priests through our love and adoration of the Holy Eucharist"

(Children of Mary Center for Peace)

## TAKE JESUS WITH YOU

I drive into work listening to gospel music or a pre-recorded sermon on the radio. I get out of the car and walk to the building entrance.

As I open the building door I leave just enough room for me to get in and I leave Jesus standing outside as the door closes behind me. He's standing with His palms on the door glass and watches me as I get on the elevator. His eyes are sad and He turns and goes to sit on the stone bench. There He'll sit patiently and wait for me for the next 9 hours.

First two hours of work – I fuss and complain about things not going right. Jesus, sitting with His chin in His hand looks upward toward the building wishing He could help me.

By lunch time – I'm flustered, regretting I work in this place and sputtering bitterness all over folks. Jesus comes around to the side of the building where my cubicle is located. He looks up from the ground trying to get my attention but I can't hear him; my focus is on my problems. Jesus goes back to the front of the building, sits down and continues to wait for me. He thinks to Himself as He looks up to the third floor, "She went in there defenseless. If only she had taken me in there with her. When will she learn?"

End of the day – I'm pooped, run down, no energy, irritable and frustrated. I leave the building and Jesus

gets up happily to greet me but I'm in no mood for Him now. I've just been to hell and back and the last thing I want to do is be bothered with anyone.

God just actually showed me this is how I've been acting. He showed me each act and worst of all, He let me feel a small portion of how grieved He was because of my actions and attitude. I left Jesus standing outside, almost let the door smack Him in His face.

From time to time our jobs overwhelm us and we completely forget to "take Jesus with us". We may not go around cursing anyone out or punching anyone in the face (hopefully not) but what are our actions saying about us and about who or whose we are?

We are the salt of the Earth and the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matt. 5:13-15.

We should be bringing peace to our jobs and not be the cause of confusion. We should be the ones to bring our gifts and talents to the table to help in WHATEVER area God has chosen for us to work in. Col. 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with ALL your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

My hope in sharing this is that this will help someone who may be having a hard time in his or her workplace.

(Author Unknown -Bernadette 1/13/01)

## HYMNS to REMEMBER

|                                                                                     |                         |                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | The Dentist's Hymn:     | Crown Him with Many Crowns     |
|                                                                                     | The Contractor's Hymn:  | The Church's One Foundation    |
|                                                                                     | The Tailor's Hymn:      | Holy, Holy, Holy               |
|                                                                                     | The Gossip's Hymn:      | Pass It On                     |
|                                                                                     | The Golfer's Hymn:      | There is A Green Hill Far Away |
|                                                                                     | The Politician's Hymn:  | Standing on the Promises       |
|                                                                                     | The Optometrist's Hymn: | Open My Eyes That I            |

might See

|                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The IRS Agent's Hymn:  | I Surrender All                       |
| The Electricians Hymn: | Send the Light                        |
| The Shopper's Hymn:    | Sweet By and By                       |
| The Weatherman's Hymn: | There shall be Showers<br>of Blessing |

Now for those who speed on the highway-a few hymns for you:

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 45 mph:  | God Will Take Care of You      |
| 55 mph:  | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah |
| 65 mph:  | Nearer My God to Thee          |
| 75 mph:  | Nearer Still Nearer            |
| 85 mph:  | This World is Not My Home      |
| 95 mph:  | Lord, I'm Coming Home          |
| 100 mph: | Precious Memories              |

**(Living His Life Abundantly)**

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## WORDS to PONDER



“I am the King’s good servant, but God’s first. (Saint Thomas More)

“Our own heart, and not others’ opinions of us, forms our true honor. (Friedrich von Schiller)

“The more wretched we are, the more God is honored by our trust in Him.” (Saint Claude de la Colombiere)

“In Holy Communion is Thy joy and my necessity. Come to me, then. Come, my loving Savior.” (Saint Margaret Mary)

“The more I try to know Christ and to love Him, the more He grows within my soul.” (Saint Thomas)

“You will be saints in body and soul if the words of the Gospel are continually upon your lips and within your hearts.” (Saint John Chrysostom)

“Listen to the good Master who dwells within your soul; do nothing without consulting Him; do everything as in His sight.” (Jacques Bossuet)

“When a soul only receives me as a Friend, I allow her to become sick, in order that she may call upon me as a Physician.” (Our Lord to Saint Gertrude)

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## ICE CREAM for the SOUL –

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My 6-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart." Then in theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal.

My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already."

The End

**(Children of Mary Center for Peace)**

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## GODS CHILDREN

### A BIT of HUMOR about ADAM and EVE - THE BEGINNING of GENERATIONAL HEALING

Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to God's kids.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was: "Don't."

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit." God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve...we got forbidden fruit!"

"No way!"

"Yes way!"

"Don't eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" said God, wondering why he hadn't stopped after making the elephants. A few minutes later God saw his kids having an apple break and was angry.

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" the First Parent asked.

"Uh huh, " Adam replied.

"Then why did you?"

"I dunno" Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed. But there is reassurance in this story:

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give them wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle. Take two and keep away from children.

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**("God's Children" by Bill Cosby)**

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## **PRAYER to MARY, MOTHER of MANKIND**

***M***other, I commend and entrust to you all that goes to make up earthly progress, asking that it should not be one-sided, but that it should create conditions for the full spiritual advancement of individuals, families, communities and nations.

**The PILGRIM**

***I commended to you the unborn, the poor, the suffering, the sick and the handicapped, the aging and the dying. I ask you to reconcile those in sin, to heal those in pain, and to uplift those who have lost their hope and joy. Show to those who struggle and doubt the light of Christ your Son.***

**AMEN**

**("Marian Chapel Prayers" from National Shrine Basilica of Immaculate Conception, Wash. D.C.)**

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## **HUMAN BIBLE**

**H**is name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes.

This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Catholic while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, Catholic church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but aren't sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started, and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit and, when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet.

Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before!

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the priest realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a 3-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly as he starts walking with a cane toward this boy.

Now everyone is saying to himself or herself that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to

understand some college kid on the floor?

It takes a long time for the man to walk to the front. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The priest can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do. And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor.

With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the priest gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember.

What you have just seen, you will never forget.

Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read."

LORD help me to be as accepting of others as you are of me. You accept me no matter how I am dressed or what I have done. Open my heart to accept others as quickly and fully in Love!

Lord forgive my sins like I forgive other's sins against me. Help me to become more like Christ. In Jesus name I pray,  
Amen.

(Anonymous)

## IN MARY WE HAVE AN ICON of OURSELVES

Once heard that to see our true self, we have to look into the loving eyes of another. To know our dignity, we have to see it acknowledged by another; to know that we are lovable. We have to see this love reflected from another. We look into Mary's eyes, and we see her dignity. The great Orthodox saint and mystic, Ephraim the Syrian, wrote,

"Wen we look into Mary physically we see the form of Adam now redeemed. When we look into her spiritually we see the Father dwelling in her."

I would humbly add that when we look to Mary we also see our fullest Christian dignity. She shows us who we are before God. *Lumen Gentium* describes contemplating Mary as an act that shows us what we are in our deepest mystery and what we shall be at the end of our journey. She shows us our completion even while we are still on our way as pilgrims.

Thus, what was fully accomplished in Mary is still in process for us. She teaches us what we look like; the beautiful, chaste, the virgin bride of Christ; the personification of Israel and the Church; and the Ark of the Covenant which the Most High overshadows. We look into Mary because we see in her what God's almighty grace is capable of realizing in us.

Finally, we see in Mary an icon of our own vocation to spiritual motherhood – she teaches us how to be mother. In his encyclical *Redemptoris mater*, Pope John Paul II describes this maternal dimension:

"The Church's mystery also consists in generating people to a new and immortal life; this is her motherhood in the Holy Spirit. ...With maternal love she cooperates in the birth and development of the sons and daughters of Mother Church. Mary teaches us as Church our own maternal vocation of bringing forth and nurturing sons and daughters of God."

(**"Spiritual life – Journal of Contemporary Spirituality" – Winter 2000**)

## EVERYTHING I NEED to KNOW, I LEARNED from NOAH'S ARK



One-- Don't miss the boat.

Two -- Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three -- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four -- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five -- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to done.

Six -- Build your future on high ground.

Seven -- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight -- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine -- When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten -- Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven -- No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

(**Thomas Standifer**)

## **PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)**

We are not a store. We operate like a church pamphlet or bookrack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. See the four-page order form enclosed in past issues or loaded on the Internet Web Site, <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>, for a partial listing of items that can be obtained from the PFMC through donations. 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.

We want to keep the PFMC open from 10 AM to 5 PM daily. In order to do this we need a solid list of volunteers we can count on to meet these scheduled times. We need regular daily or weekly help and help once a month – whatever you can give. We will give you a good orientation, and make use of the gifts that God has given you.

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

Thank you and God bless you,

**Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff**

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



Please complete your address on any order forms or with any letter order. We need to see your address clearly printed with the ZIP+4 that is supposed to speed the mail delivery.

We appreciate the communication once a year so that we can correct our mailing labels.

Consider ORDERING and SPONSORING “The PILGRIM” for your favorite religious or priest.

Please be considerate of those you ask us to add to the mailing list and speak to them about your intentions.

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



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

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

### **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. 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.

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

**BIBLE STUDY - “TYPOLOGY” with  
PETER DAWSON - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
MONDAY’S at 7:30 PM**

**7 PM to 9 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
SEMINARS on the HISTORY and  
DEVELOPMENT of CHRIST’S  
DIVINELY ESTABLISHED CHURCH  
PRAYER GROUP every THURSDAY  
from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM.**

## 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?

Please copy or cut out any one or more of the following BULLETIN NOTICES Ask your parish 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.

### **PFMC 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE** **"IF I BUT TOUCH HIS CLOTHES, I SHALL BE**

Reserve the weekend of February 23rd, 24th and 25th 2001 for the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2001 RETREAT CONFERENCE at the Four Points Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. The main speaker will be Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. Doctor Junie and Mrs. Sarah Irizari who gave up their respective careers in the Philippines to evangelize their Roman Catholic Faith will introduce Saturday night's Healing Service. The 3-day extension on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit will feature Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. For a GOLD information sheet with registration form, call the PFMC at 856-768-9228 or visit the PFMC web site at:

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

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

Please pre-register for the 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE as soon as you receive a GOLD information sheet with registration form.

### **BIBLE STUDY –**

#### **1st and 3rd MONDAYs at 7:30 PM**

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

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

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

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

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

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

### **DAY of RETREAT with Father JAY BOWDEN**

MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> 2001, 9 AM to 4 PM, Great Room, Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ.

Donation - \$10 includes soup lunch.

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

### **PRAYER GROUP**

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

Call 856-768-9228 for information or directions.

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

**Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff**

### **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](http://www.masstimes.org) in the white box near the top of your browser.

## MARIAN SHRINE or PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATIONS



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

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

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### MARY in the BACK YARD

When I returned to the Catholic church approximately five years ago now, after I had married my husband, I knew there would be a dispute with him. He is not just in school to become a Protestant minister, but from a family involved in the Masonic order that has many debates with the Catholic Church.

Over time, however, it has eased to a grudging acceptance on his part.

Several years ago, while shopping at a 'lawn arts' store, we bought a Saint Francis of Assisi for my husband, and it was he who suggested a statue of Mary for me. So that was when I knew that Mary had made some progress here! She sits on a tiny elevated hill in my backyard, in direct eyesight of the two windows I most look out of.

I looked out this morning and was horrified to realize she had again fallen on her face - sometimes the wind, or the doggy running by. As I wasn't feeling well and had my sneakers off, I asked my husband if he could please, when he got a chance, go outside and upright Mary for me.

He comes back in and starts running water in the tea kettle. I glance outside and she is still on her face. Now, I've had patience for five long years, but here he said he would, he didn't, and now he's making tea?! Sometimes long suffering is the hardest virtue for me!

I opened my mouth but before I could get the words out, he said, "She froze to the ground, poor thing. I'm going to unstuck her with some boiling water." Now I was truly speechless! And I watched, amazed, awed, as he not only unstuck her, he patiently and softly cleaned off her face.

Mary works miracles even in a back yard in Harrisonburg, VA.!!!

Jeannee

(Member <http://www.iipg-queenofpeace.org> with permission)

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### PRESS BULLETIN #158 -1/26/01

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR LADY FOR CHRISTIANS

We enter into the twentieth year of the phenomenon and the events of Medjugorje. After twenty years, we still cannot affirm that all that happened is completely clear. The nature of such a phenomenon, as it was the case in the past, will occupy the attention of theologians and specialists for a long time. One thing is more or less certain: Our Lady has led those who come to Medjugorje on the path of faith in Jesus Christ. People sensed this and began the journey. Everything else is in the shadow of this fact.

Why is the role of Our Lady so important in all these events? Karl Rahner, a German theologian, said, "Mary represents what a Christian is." This is what is most significant for Mary in the history of the Church. In Medjugorje and in similar events, Our Lady presented Herself as what a Christian truly is. In this role, She calls to conversion, to prayer, to fasting and to peace.

Fra Ivan Landeka

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#### NUMBER OF COMMUNIONS AND CONCELEBRANTS

In the month of December, many pilgrims come to Medjugorje for Christmas and New Year. In the parish, 60,000 communions were distributed and 758 priests from the country and from abroad concelebrated at Holy Mass.

## THE END OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

On January 6, 2001, the pastor of Medjugorje, Dr. Fra Ivan Sesar, together with the parishioners and pilgrims, marked the end of the Jubilee Year in a solemn Holy Thanksgiving Mass. With the song of Te Deum, the faithful expressed their thanksgiving for all the graces received throughout the world - graces poured out on the Church and on all those who do not yet know the love of God.

The parish continually thanks the Lord for pouring out an abundance of graces upon the Church and the whole world.

## SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Seminar for Priests will take place from July 2 to July 7, 2001. The theme is "Priest – Servant of the Mercy of God". Once again, the families from the parish will accommodate all priests participating in this seminar in their homes. Registrations by fax: 00 387 36 651 888.

## WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES

As it is not possible to thank each one personally, we herewith express our gratitude to those who have in a written or oral way communicated their condolences on the occasion of the death of fra Slavko Barbaric.

In those difficult moments, your words have been an

encouragement and consolation. Your letters and phone calls showed the greatness of the work God accomplished through fra Slavko. For us, it is a motivation to continue on the same path: the path of prayer, penance and conversion.

One again: thank you from the heart!

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

## REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 1/25/01

There are reports that a Reflection on the Message of 1/25/01 will be posted on the Internet or Web Site maintained by the Information Center MIR at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace, Saint James Parish, Medjugorje. We had planned to publish this February issue of "The PILGRIM" as soon as we received the message on page 1 and the Press Bulletin printed above. If a Reflection is made available it will appear in the March issue of "The PILGRIM."

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



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

Please fill out the coupon below to be a volunteer.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PREPARATION DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY:

City: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Answer phones and perform general office work
- \_\_\_\_\_ Record Registrations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stuffing packets and fixing nametags
- \_\_\_\_\_ Packing up materials for the conference.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loading and/or unloading of trucks.

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

#### AT THE CONFERENCE:

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please complete this form and send to:

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

## CALENDARS:

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

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001 - PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** followed by **HEALING GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT - February 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001** at the **Four Points Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ 08034**. Call **1-800-325-3535** for Room Reservations and **1-800-788-MARY[6279]** for Pre-Registration Attendance Reservations for either event.

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND of the VIRGIN MARY (19)** and the **ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (25)**, the Memorials of **Saints Katherine Drexel (3)**, **Perpetua and Felicity (7)**, **John of God (8)**, **Frances of Rome (9)**, **Patrick (17)**, **Cyril of Jerusalem (18)** and **Toribio de Mogrovejo (23)**.

Reserve the weekend of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001, for the 2001 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE at the Four Points Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 with Father John Hampsch, C.M.F. The 3-day extension on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001, will feature Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J.

Please make your ROOM RESERVATIONS on the list with the Four Points Hotel, **1-800-325-3535**, as well as whatever other hotel they recommend. Pre-register to attend the events with the PFMC prior to 2/17/01 using the gold information sheet with registration form inserted in this issue of "The PILGRIM." Walk-in registration may not be available if all spaces are filled prior to the weekend.

For more information, call the PFMC at 856-768-9228. Prior to 2/17/01, you may FAX your registration form to 856-768-9428.

## INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

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

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

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



## AROUND the PFMC AREA

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

**The PILGRIM**

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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!"

