



The PILGRIM

Vol. 12, No. 7-8 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) July-August 2001

MESSAGE of 6/25/2001

Dear Children! I am with you and I bless you all with my motherly blessing. Especially today when God gives you abundant graces, pray and seek God through me. God gives you great graces, that is why, little children make good use of this time of grace and come closer to my heart so that I can lead you to my Son Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE of 7/25/2001

Dear Children! In this time of grace, I call you to come even closer to God through your personal prayer. Make good use of the time of rest and give your soul and your eyes rest in God. Find peace in nature and you will discover God the Creator Whom you will be able to give thanks to for all creatures; then you will find joy in your heart. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(Messages 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 these messages to an alleged visionary from Medjugorje.)

A PRAYER

Dearest Mother Mary, hear this prayer as we look to you for guidance. Help those in our government to open their eyes to the tragedy of stem cell research programs that require fetal tissue and to the horror of abortion of live human fetuses to support this research. Inspire all to recognize that every fetus conceived as a child in the womb is created by God and is not to be destroyed but rather nurtured.

Dearest Lady, you are the mother of all life, and we ask you to intercede for us in this culture of death. Share with us the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit and guide us on all paths that are difficult. Help us to trust in you as a great intercessor. Our desire is to be like thee and to know the will of your Son, Jesus. AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

SEPTEMBER 15 and 16, WEEKEND of PRAYER with WORKSHOPS on INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jesus tells his apostles in Mark 6:31, Come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place and rest awhile."He says this to us as well. Do I experience

God's love for me in my prayer? Do I know how to listen for and discern His voice in my life every day? Can I pray the Scriptures, and be lifted to higher levels of prayer, to joy, to intimacy with God? Come for two days of journeying with the Lord in prayer, teaching and sharing.

Prayer will be the focus of the weekend. Teachings with Personal Reflection Questions will include: Mary, the Woman of Prayer, Silence - Listening in Prayer, Discerning our Prayer Experiences: Consolation and Desolation in Prayer (Ignatian), Meditating the Scriptures for Intimacy with God, The Eucharist: Adoration and Worship, and the Power of the Holy Spirit in Prayer and Discernment. Time will be provided for praise and worship, silence and reflection.

We have invited Jean O'Neil to facilitate this very special weekend. Jean is a spiritual director and teaches spiritual growth and prayer. She is a member of Spiritual Directors of Tucson, the Arizona Region Spiritual Directors, and the International Order of Saint Luke, an order for prayer and healing ministry.

While raising her family of five children, Jean began a

"The PILGRIM" for July - August 2001 is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary" and the Queen of Heaven." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."

spiritual journey learning contemplative prayer, studied Theology (B.A) and continued graduate studies in prayer, including the Ignatian discernment exercises. Jean believes and teaches that the most important ongoing education for intimacy with the Lord comes from learning to listen to the Lord in prayer, discerning His Presence in daily life, and meditating the Scriptures. Come and receive THE MORE that God wants you to have.

DATES: Saturday, September 15, 2001 and Sunday September 16, 2001

TIME: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM each day.

PLACE: Upper Room of Epiphany House,
Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC),
61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

The donation for the retreat is **\$35 per person** and includes light lunch and refreshments for both days.

Husband and Wife: \$55 per couple.

Bring your Bible and a notebook.

Please PRE-REGISTER in advance with a check by mail or call us at 856-768-9228, Monday through Friday, 11 AM – 4 PM, for Visa, MasterCard, or Discover / Private Issue credit card registration.

DEFENDING YOUR FAITH” RETURNS in OCTOBER

The summer brings our “Defending Your Faith” program to a rest. Dean Pulcini has promised to return again in the fall beginning Wednesday, October 10, 2001. The first semester will be on THE LITURGY, and the second semester after Christmas will be on THE BIBLE.

Dean is a man of wisdom, possessing a real gift to teach. He is Orthodox, and loves the Catholic Church from its history and roots in Jesus Christ. It is always so exciting to attend his classes and build up one's knowledge of our Catholic Faith.

If you are interested in joining us this fall, please mark your Wednesdays starting October 10, 2001 to come to the Upper Room of Epiphany House.

Please consider a love offering of \$5 per night to

cover PFMC expenses. However, no one will ever be turned away if they cannot afford an offering. Please come, you will never regret it and you will become a better and stronger person in Christ and His Church.

If you are interested in joining us this fall, please mark all of your Wednesdays to attend. Please call us at 856-768-9228 to register for the classes. We ask for a love offering of \$5 per night to cover our expenses. However, we will never turn anyone away if they cannot afford this. Just come. You will never regret it and you will become a better and stronger person in Christ and His Church.

If you have ideas of areas of our Catholic Church that you would like discussed, would you drop us a note or call Kathleen at 856 768-9228.

RETREATS for HEALING the AFTERMATH of an ABORTION

If you are suffering from the aftermath of an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat on October 12, 13, 14, 2001.

This retreat is held in Darby, Pennsylvania, which is located just outside of Philadelphia.

For more information, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or call Mary Alice toll free at 1-877-HOPE 4. All requests are strictly confidential.

MEDJUGORJE PRESENTATIONS

Keith and Kathleen will be at Sacred Heart Parish, South Amboy, NJ on September 10th.

They will do a presentation on Medjugorje and on Our Lady for a Senior Citizen Group that meets at 12 Noon and again for the Charismatic Prayer Group at 7:30 PM.

All are welcome to either presentation. Books, medals, rosaries and other religious articles on display and available for donations.

Call Father Romanoski or Parish Office for details and for directions at (732)-721-0040.

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.

DO YOU HAVE a SPECIAL CALL to a MEDJUGORJE? PILGRIMAGE with FATHER ROMANOSKI, KEITH and KATHLEEN WERNER - NOVEMBER 9 to 18, 2001

Have you ever wanted to go to Medjugorje? Has Mary been calling you there? Have you been there and always wanted to return? Have you ever wanted to send someone there for a conversion experience. Well here is your chance to fulfill your dream and to spend QUALITY time in prayer, quiet, and experience the love of Our Lady.

Father Joseph Romanoski, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in South Amboy, NJ will be the Spiritual Director. Keith and Kathleen have led groups to Medjugorje for nearly 12 years. Each pilgrimage has been an experience of love and spiritual growth for each pilgrim.

We have been able to purchase a package pilgrimage for \$1499 plus \$70 taxes (double occupancy). Single rooms have a supplemental charge of \$299 and are encouraged for those who are smokers or have sleep difficulties. This includes round trip air on Alitalia between Newark and from Rome, Croatia Air between Rome and Split, housing in homes in Medjugorje for 8 nights, including all breakfasts and suppers, transfers, guides in Medjugorje, and an overnight in Rome with supper and departure breakfast. (Those who wish to stay in Rome longer, can obtain an extension.) An optional day excursion trip to the walled city of Dubrovnik along the Adriatic or Dalmatian Coast with a stop in Slano is about \$30.

Reservations with \$500 deposits will be taken until 7 September, 2001, at which point final payments are due with reservations. See the enclosed green information and reservation form. Please call 856 768-9228 for more information. We do accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover for pilgrimage donations. Travel insurance is available and encouraged.

THE PILGRIM™

We have published The PILGRIM™ and its predecessors for nearly 10 years. Monthly we have provided you with articles to build your faith, increase your prayer life, and keep you informed. Our periodicals have been published on divine providence
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only. Your donations are the only thing that keeps The PILGRIM™ in print. We have over 2300 addresses that we Bulk Mail to monthly. Periodicals are expensive to print, package and mail, but we feel it is important to get the message out on a regular basis. Our Lady communicates with the world every month and we feel called to spread her message. We count on you to help us out every month. If every reader would send us the cost of a bag of potato chips or cookies, we would never have to worry about the printing costs or constantly increasing postage rates.

If you are moving send us your new address. Bulk Mail is NOT required to be forwarded or returned to sender. Please keep us informed of your address.

If you haven't contacted us in a year, please fill out your name and address and phone on the enclosed slip. Put in your petitions so they can be carried with

us on pilgrimage this fall.

Readers who have not contacted us within the year will be dropped from the mailing list

Will you consider remembering us with a monthly tithe or donation? It will certainly help with the PFMC expenses.

We thank all those who have sent in donations this year. You make Our Lady's work possible.

God bless you and Thank you.

JOIN FATHER HAMPSCH, FATHER DeGRANDIS, and MICHAEL BROWN for the 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.

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 MEMORIES² - 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.

SUPPORT ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK (EWTN)

If you enjoy the programming on EWTN, please send in regular and sacrificial contributions.

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

NEW BOOK for SUMMER READING -A MUST for LAY FRANCISCANS

Father Richard Rohr, is a priest and founder and animator of the Center for Action and contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a modern prophet calling us to change our ways. In his new book *"Hope Against Darkness" – the Transforming vision of Saint Francis in an Age of Anxiety* Father Rohr offers hope in introducing the Franciscan path of transformation, the new way of being that would change the face of history."

Father paints a bleak picture of the prevailing thought,

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culture and attitudes of the present-day West which he calls The Postmodern Opportunity" –including our cultural biases, our embrace of victimhood, our often fearful attitudes toward one another and toward the Church and religion in general –all our darkness.

Father Rohr describes how following Saint Francis' way to forgiveness and love, and owning the darkness" can bring us out of the postmodern pit in which we find ourselves.

This beautiful hardback for your own reading or for a birthday or anniversary or holiday gift is hard to resist. The cost is \$16.99 plus \$3.65 postage.

BOOKS to ORDER for the WORKSHOP WEEKEND on CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

"Pray and Never Lose Heart" – The Power of Intercession by Sister Ann Shields \$9.99. Discover a new love for God. Come into a deeper prayer life. See the results of your prayers.

"Armchair Mystic" – Easing Into Contemplative Prayer by Father Mark Thibodeaux, S.J. \$9.95. Contemplative prayer is not easy, but one need not shave our heads and join a monastery to do it. The armchair in one's house is just as capable of being the holy ground of contemplative prayer as the monastery stall of a cloistered church.

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.

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Books and Religious Articles: Vince and Livia Nocella

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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 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.

“Beginning Contemplative Prayer” *Out of Chaos Into Quiet* by Sister Kathryn Hermes, FSP \$9.95. An introduction to the rhythm of contemplation: introduction, engagement, commitment, perseverance, and transformation. Exercises drawn from the writings and teachings of Ignatius of Loyola and Brother Lawrence, and from spiritual texts such as the cloud of Unknowing.

PUT GOD IN YOUR WILL

Would you like to help the PFMC by putting God and Our Lady in your will? Please consider helping us to continue our work of Evangelization. Here is the correct form:

I hereby give and bequeath to the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), 501(c)3, 61 Cooper road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963 the sum of \$_____ for religious, charitable and educational purposes.”

We thank you for hearing and answering our prayers.

D IS FOR DOMINIC

The feast of Saint Dominic is celebrated devotionally on August 4. He is the Saint credited with giving us of one of our most valuable prayer instruments or armaments in the struggle against Satan: the Rosary of Our Lady. The feast of the Most Holy Rosary occurs on October 7 based on victory against the Turks in the Battle of Lepanto.

Saint Dominic received the Rosary from the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1214, as a powerful means of converting Albigensians and other heretics. According to Saint Louis de Montfort who, in ***The Secret of the Rosary***, quotes the story from Blessed Alan de la Roche (**DeDignitate pasalterii**), it happen in this way:

Saint Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people’s sins was hindering the conversation of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse, where he prayed unceasingly for three days and three nights. During this time he did nothing but weep and do harsh penances in order to appease the anger of Almighty God. He used his discipline so much that his body was lacerated, and finally he fell into a coma.

At this point Our Lady appeared to him, accompanied by three Angels and she said”

Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the

Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?”

Oh, my Lady,”answered Dominic, thou knowest far better than I, because next to thy Son, Jesus Christ, thou has always been the chief instrument of our salvation.”

Then Our Lady replied:

I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation stone to the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter.”(Ed. note: The Rosary is Our Lady’s Psalter. The one hundred fifty Hail, Mary’s in a fifteen -decade Rosary correspond to the one hundred fifty Psalms in the Old Testament.)

So he arose, comforted; and burning with zeal for the conversion of the people in the district, he made straight for the Cathedral. At once, unseen Angels rang the bells to gather the people together, and Saint Dominic began to preach.

At the very beginning of his sermon an appalling storm broke out, the earth shook, the sun was darkened, and there was so much thunder and lightening that all were very much afraid. Even greater was their fear when, looking at a picture of Our Lady exposed in the prominent place, they saw her raise her arms to Heaven three times to call down God’s vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted, to amend their lives, and to seek the protection of the Holy Mother of God. God wished, by means of these supranational phenomena, to spread the new devotion of the Holy Rosary and to make it more widely known.

At last, at the prayer of Saint Dominic, the storm came to an end, and he went on preaching. So fervently and compelling did he explain the importance and value of the Holy Rosary that almost all the people of Toulouse embraced it and renounced their false belief. In a short time they began leading Christina lives, and they gave up former bad habits.”

Now who is Saint Dominic? Born in the last Twelfth Century, of noble parentage, he entered the school of Palencia at the age of fourteen. While still a student, he was made a canon of the Cathedral of Osma; after his ordination, he took up duties there. There he learned the regularity of observance of the Rule of Saint Augustine, and spend some years living the contemplative life, gathering strength and exercising virtues in preparation for this future labors.

When Bishop Diego of Osma traveled to Rome, taking Dominic along as a companion, the two stopped for a night at Languedoc, then filled with the Albigensian Heresy. (More on this heresy later.) He in whose house they lodged was an Albigensian, and Dominic spent the entire night in discussion with him, which resulted in the man's conversion. Thus began Dominic's vocation.

En route back from Rome, the two met and Abbot of Citeaux, who, with a gorgeous retinue and much display of feudal magnificence, was trying to convert the Albigenses by preaching. The Abbot complained bitterly of the fruitlessness of his labor; the two Spaniards reminded him that the Lord's disciples were sent to preach barefoot, without scrip, without staff, and set him an example which, for a time at least, he tried to follow.

Who were the Albigensians? About 1150, there arose in Southern France, a revival of the Manichaean Heresy of the Third and Fourth Centuries. It was a farrago (duke's mixture) of fantasies: Eastern, Buddhist, and others. It held that all things of MATTER were evil. This insane cult was promoted by the "nobility," as a means of getting Church lands, which were the patrimony of the poor and used for the relief of peasants.

Albigensians, or Albigenses, taking their name from Albi, a city in France in which they were concentrated, believed in two gods; one good and one evil. The good god controlled the spirit, the evil god, the flesh; the two were in perpetual conflict. The whole visible world, they said, was the work of the evil god and thus evil in itself.

Marriage, motherhood and family were sinful.

Consuming flesh meat, milk or egg defiled the soul.

No one who married or partook of animal foods could be saved!

One who had been the point of death, had received their laying-on of hands (known as consolatum), and had recovered was often smothered or starved to death, since consolatum could be given but once (This supposedly assured salvation.)

Possession of private property was regarded as sinful, and was therefore to be abolished.

Professor Kurth, in **CATHOLIC CHURCH AT THE TURNING POINT OF HISTORY**, calling Albigensianism a **dark night** which came down with the weight of lead and with the **coldness of ice** upon

the mind and heart, a chancre of death which ate at all the luminous and elevated faculties of the human soul, a deadly folly that choked the joy out of living and made existence here below like a bad dream." (Ed. note: Emphases added. Refer to below. Jesus was born at a similarly dark and cold period in his history. Almost needless to say, we are now in another--as will be explained.)

(Hail and blessed be the hour and moment when the Son of God was born of the Most Pure Virgin Mary at **Midnight**, in Bethlehem, in **piercing cold**...)

The roots of many of the ills of modern society can be found in the above (*). In fact the above look sufficiently familiar to give one cold chills! (How about abortion, birth control, the acceptance of divorce, homosexuality, and the working mother who COULD remain at home? The insistence on animal fights, euthanasia, and even the Marxist ban on private property ownership--all are there.) Is this reason for despair? May God forbid it! Is the sky not always darkest just before dawn? Meditate once again on the coming of Jesus and what it meant to the world.

Once final note on the Manichees (Albigenses), from Father John McFadden's "The Miracle of Muret," **SONGS OF CHARITY**:

"They said an evil genius made the things

that irk the body, soul, without, within:

Toil, hunger, sickness, death' and hatred's strings,

The moral ills that come from Adam's sin."

These were the heretics whom Saint Dominic, Bishop

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE and RESPOND – STAY ON the BULK 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. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and waste God's precious resources. 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.

Diego, Saint Anthony and others had to labor to convert. Theirs were the errors against which we struggle to this day. Thus did Our Blessed Lady, loving Mother that she is, give her most holy Rosary to Saint Dominic AND TO US.

For several years Bishop Diego and Dominic preached in the towns and villages of Languedoc, confirming Catholics in their fidelity to the Church and converting heretics. They were most successful in converting women, who had been easy prey for the Albigensian agitators. Many of the women thus converted were established at a convent at Prouille, near Toulouse, founded for that purpose. They were the first Dominican Sisters!

Eventually Diego was obliged to return to his diocese. Saint Dominic remained at his post, soon to be joined by a few zealous priests. Being a canon himself, Dominic adopted the Rule of Saint Augustine for the little community beginning to grow around him. He borrowed many of his ideas from the Praemonstratensians (Norbertines), and Saint Francis supplies him with the idea of utter poverty. The new Dominican Order was approved by Pope Honorius III, in 1216. Because their chief purpose was to preach the Gospel, they became known as **Ordo Praedicatorum** (Order of Preachers).

By Saint Dominic's death in 1221, the Order already numbered sixty convents distributed into eight provinces, each under a provincial. And, like Saint Francis, our Saint established Second and Third Orders. The Second Order grew out of the convent at Prouille, mentioned above. The Third Order developed out of the institution of the "Soldiery of Christ," founded by Saint Dominic for men and women living in the world but eager to assist in combating heresy and in defending the rights and property of the Church. Saints Catherine and Sienna and Rose of Lima were members thereof.

We know little of Saint Dominic's personal life. We DO know he was a man of boundless love and compassion. When a student, he sold his books in a season of famine, to give to the poor; he once offered to sell himself to redeem a captive; and his frequent and special prayer to God was for the gift of true charity. And **this** is the man through whom Our Blessed Lady gave us her most Holy Rosary.

(by Rev. Arthur Tonne, O.F.M. in **OCCASIONAL TALKS**)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT:

THOUGHTS on the PRIESTHOOD in LIGHT of the EASTERN CHURCH FATHERS

The great deacon of the Syrian Church, Saint Ephrem, states: The Holy Priesthood is an infinite dignity, an astounding miracle great, immense and infinite." No one is worthy of such a sublime office. Saint John Chrysostom said: Though the priest performs on earth, he is numbered among the things of Heaven."

Such being the case why are there so few priests and why are priests not as holy as they should be? The answer is that, like the apostles, they are frail and weak human beings. Without the help of the divine high Priest, Jesus Christ, we can do nothing. The faithful must pray for their priests, for without prayer no one can grow in holiness. Saint John Chrysostom again stated he who honors a priest, honors Christ; he who insults a priest, insults Christ."

The priestly office of the utmost importance, for without it there can be no Sacrifice offered for the sins of the living and the departed. Again, Saint John states The priest is an ambassador for the whole world to intercede with God and obtain graces for all creatures. The dignity of the priesthood is more than royal dignity. An example of this is the Emperor Constantine. The good emperor would not be seated without permission of priests present. Not only this, but he took a position of lesser importance, even though he was the emperor."

Some thoughts of Father John Kronstadt on the priesthood:

Christ is the only Chief Priest, the First and the Last. He Himself performs the duties of a priest, in us and through us. My priesthood is Christ's Priesthood. By means of the priesthood God accomplishes great and redeeming works among mankind. He purifies and sanctifies people. He delivers men from the villainous works of the devil, He renews and strengthens. He transforms mere bread and wine into the Most Pure Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. He marries people and makes the marriage bed honorable. He absolves sins, heals illness, converts earth into Heaven, unites heaven with earth, and man with Himself. The priest is an angel; he continually talks to God and God answers him. Even though all of this is true, it is a tremendous responsibility, which every priest must

bear. The priest must acquire through God's grace Evangelical Love. He needs to love every minute, every second!

Even though the priesthood is a most sublime and noble vocation, many were terrified to accept the Holy Priesthood." Saint Cyril of Alexandria has said: "All saints have been frightened to accept this holy ministry." Saint Epiphanius writes: "He could not find one willing to be ordained a priest." To avoid being ordained, Saint Ephrem the Syrian said he was mad, St Ammonius cut off his ears and nose. Even the great Saint Francis of Assisi, loved in both the Eastern and Western Churches, refused ordination to the priesthood. Who is worthy to be a priest? No one, save for the grace of God, which supplies what is deficient and infirm. PRAY FOR PRIESTS, as every one of them needs prayer to survive and do his work to further the Kingdom of God on earth and for Heaven."

**(Father Konstantin Brown, S.T.B.- "The Maryfaithful"
May-June 2001)**

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:

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or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>

THE ROCK of OBEDIENCE

A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down; his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." Thus, giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure.

These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. "Why kill myself over this?" he thought.

"I'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough."

And that is what he planned to do, until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me

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.

with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. This you have done. Now I, My friend, will now move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just a simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong ... just P.U.S.H.!

When the job gets you down ... just P.U.S.H.!

When people don't react the way you think they should... just P.U.S.H.!

When your money looks "gone" and the bills are due...just P.U.S.H.!

When people just don't understand you ... just P.U.S.H.!

P= Pray

U= Until

S= Something

H= Happens

(Irene internet)

LETTING GO - PEARLS of GREAT PRICE

Jenny was a bright eyed, pretty 5-year-old girl. One day, when she and her mother were checking out at the grocery store, Jenny saw a plastic pearl necklace priced at \$2.50.

How she wanted that necklace, and when she asked her mother if she would buy it for her, her mother said, Well, it's a pretty necklace, but it costs an awful lot of money. I'll tell you what. I'll buy the necklace, and when we get home we can make up a list of chores that you can do to pay for the necklace. And don't forget that for your birthday, Grandma just might give you a whole dollar too.

Okay?" Jenny agreed and her mother bought the necklace for her. Jenny worked on her chores very hard every day, and sure enough, her Grandma gave her a brand new dollar bill for her birthday. Soon Jenny had paid off the pearl necklace. How Jenny loved those pearls. She wore them everywhere, to Kindergarten, to bed, and when she went out with her mother to run errands.

The only time she didn't wear them was in the shower - her mother had told her that they would make her neck green. Now Jenny had a very loving daddy. When Jenny went to bed, he would get up from his favorite chair every night and read Jenny her favorite story. One night when he finished the story he said, "Jenny, do you love me?" "Oh yes, Daddy, you know that I love you," the little girl said. "Well, then, give me your pearls." "Oh, Daddy, not my pearls!" Jenny said, "But you can have Rosie, my favorite doll. Remember her? You gave her to me last year for my birthday. And you can have her tea party outfit, too, Okay?" "Oh no, darling, that's okay." Her father brushed her cheek with a kiss. "Good night, little one." A week later, her father once again asked Jenny after her story, "Do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy, you know I love you." "Well then, give me your pearls." "Oh, Daddy, not my pearls! But you can have Ribbons, my toy horse. Do you remember her? She's my favorite. Her hair is soft, and you can play with it and braid it and everything. You can have Ribbons if you want her, Daddy," the little girl said to her father. "No, that's okay," her father said and brushed her cheek again with a kiss. "God bless you, little one. Sweet dreams."

Several days later, when Jenny's father came in to read her a story, Jenny was sitting on her bed and her lip was trembling. "Here, Daddy," she said, and held out her hand. She opened it and her beloved pearl necklace was inside. She let it slip into her father's hand. With one hand her father held the plastic pearls and with the other, he pulled out of his pocket a blue velvet box. Inside of the box were real, genuine, beautiful pearls. He had them all along. He was waiting for Jenny to give up the cheap stuff so he could give her the real thing.

So it is with our Heavenly Father. He is waiting for us to give up the cheap things in our lives so that he can give us beautiful treasures. Isn't God good? Are you holding on to things, which God wants you to let go of? Are you holding on to harmful or unnecessary habits and activities, which you have become so attached to that it seems impossible to let go?

Sometimes it is so hard to see what is in the other hand. But do believe this one thing. God will never take away something without giving you something better in its place. ...

Remember that the greatest gifts happen when you share love and touch other's hearts. God bless you..

(Bernadette -Internet)

SPECIAL INTENTIONS - LOURDES NOVENA

Dear Heavenly Father, in Jesus Name, with The Holy Spirit our gentle Advocate in these times, may The Lady of The Immaculate Conception intercede and pray for all and accept the intentions offered up in this Novena also May The Saint, Bernadette of Lourdes be our accession to intercessory bringing all aspects of what we intend that we do not say but mean to the Blessed Mother and May dear Sweet Saint Bernadette pray for us and join us in this Novena.

I would like to include in the intentions the following, All those whose Names The Blessed Virgin has indicated to me in her diary of intentions. (HERE NAME ALL YOUR INTENTIONS NEEDING HEALING)

I ask for special intercession for healing and conversion for those beloved also to assist them in their prayers. I ask for all the families who are devoted to God that they be healed all around the world and come to proclaim Jesus Christ as their Saviour and The Blessed Mother by all Her Titles and Honors as in Heaven.

For Our Dear Holy Father John Paul II and his Magisterium, all the cardinals and Bishops all the Priests, the Religious and all the orders who work and pray so diligently for God.

For those engaged in the battle to have abortion and Euthanasia ceased, for those who feed the poor, and bring sustenance to the poor, the Blessed Missionaries, those who have been Martyred and are to be and those who suffer in Jesus Christ Name for His sake.

I offer up Heavenly Father all these intentions and those previously stated on the Novena form, for Your Great Glory, and the hopes and wishes and prayers of all poor souls in need and the many in Purgatory be released in Your Will, Father through all the graces

generated that will purify them.

I especially thank Dearest Jesus and The Blessed Mother for prompting and reminding me of the most urgent endeavors that you asked of me .

I also thank dear Saint Bernadette who's life was nothing but poverty, illness and hardship but yet was purified in Your Will Father and said "Yes" no matter what the Cost,. I thank our dear Saint for reminding me so correctly in Mass on Sunday that the time had come.

Thank you God, Thank you Mother Mary , the Angels and Saints who constantly pray for us. Amen. Amen. Amen.

(www.marytalkmarian@yahoo.com)

THE PINK DRESS

There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad.

Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop.

The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday, and still the same sad look in her eyes!

Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl. For as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone.

As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress was grotesquely shaped. I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her.

Deformities are a low blow to our society and, Heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different. As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare.

As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form. I smiled to let her know it was OK; I was there to help, to talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, "Hello"

The little girl acted shocked, and stammered a "hi" after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled and she shyly

smiled back. We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked the girl why she was so sad.

The little girl looked at me with a sad face said, 'I'm different!'

I immediately said, 'That you are!'"and smiled.

The little girl acted even sadder and said, 'I know.'

'Little girl,"I said, 'You remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent,' She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet and said, 'really?'

'Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all those people walking by.'" She nodded her head yes, and smiled.

With that she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread. Then she said 'I am. I'm your Guardian Angel,'"with a twinkle in her eye.

I was speechless. Sure I was seeing things.

She said, 'For once you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done,'" I got to my feet and said, 'Wait, why did no one stop to help an angel?'

She looked at me, smiled, and said, 'You're the only one that could see me,'"and then she was gone. And with that, my life was changed dramatically.

So, when you think you're all you have, remember, your angel is always watching over you.

www.promiseofgod.com

THAT'S GOD

Have you ever been just sitting there and all of a sudden you feel like doing something nice for someone you care for... THAT'S GOD... He talks to you through the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever been down and out and nobody seems to be around for you to talk to... THAT'S GOD...He wants you to talk to Him.

Have you ever been thinking about somebody that you haven't seen in a long time and then next thing you know you see them or receive a phone call from them? THAT'S GOD... there is no such thing 'coincidence.

Have you ever received something wonderful that you didn't even ask for, like money in the mail, a debt that had mysteriously been cleared, or a coupon to a department store where you had just seen something you wanted, but couldn't afford... THAT'S GOD... He

knows the desires of your heart...

Have you ever been in a situation and you had no clue how it is going to get better, but now you look back on it... THAT'S GOD... He passes us through tribulation to see a brighter day...

(Anonymous)

RED DRAGON RISING

This century the greatest threat in the world will be China, which will either fight Russia or join with Russia in waging war with the West. Reluctant though we should be to judge, this is the Red Dragon rising. That's the very symbol revered by Chinese on holidays (there is even a periodic 'Year of the dragon'), and it is also a symbol in Revelation.

There in Chapter 12 we see it appear at the same time as the 'woman clothed with the sun.'" It is not China alone that is the dragon (evil is manifesting in every country) but it is China that is its most overt current manifestation. Horrid is what is going on there.

In one recent case officials injected a woman with saline to abort her fourth child (the Chinese have a policy of one child per couple). When the baby managed to survive, they grabbed the baby, dragged it out of its parents' house, and drowned it in a paddy field in front of them. So trivialized is life that aborted babies are used by some Chinese doctors in a health soup.

This disrespect for life is coupled with an antipathy for belief in God and particularly Christianity. Let's remember that China is Communist -- hence the color red -- and thus an enemy of religion. Indeed, Christians of all stripes are severely oppressed and Catholics who follow the Pope are thrown into prison.

One such martyr, Cardinal Kung, was jailed for three decades. His foundation reports that during a large underground Mass in a remote field called Dong Lu that four bishops, 110 priests, and 30,000 of the faithful witnessed a miracle. 'Rays of various colors emanated from the sun,'"said a foundation report a few years ago. 'With the passing of the minutes, the sun changed colors, first to yellow, then to red and blue, followed by other colors. Subsequently people saw different apparitions in the core of the sun: a holy cross, the Holy Family, Holy Mary, and the holy Eucharist. At times the sun would approach the crowd and then retreat. People were heard crying out, 'Holy Mother, have pity on us, your children.'" If this

happening is at all like what occurred at Medjugorje, which is in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kibeho, which is Rwanda, dramatic events are coming.

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Medjugorje and Rwanda warned of the danger of sin and were both followed by horrible ethnic wars. And when the sun spun at Fatima, it accented a warning -- what seemed like a vision of nuclear war -- contained in the third secret. Are we now going to see violence that involves China? It may not come right away, but the dispute over the spy plane is a precursor. It's a sign of things to come just as small storms can forewarn of hurricanes. We have been warned of Orientals rising against the West and that a major nation would conspire with a smaller nation against the U.S., and that a foreign power would try to provoke us. This is what China tried to do with the recent incident over the American spy plane. It tried to provoke the U.S.

There are also natural signs. A quake shook the western part of China just as the airmen were released last week, and there have been signs in Taiwan, where from 1993 to 1997 the number of small tremors jumped from 5,500 to 15,000. Great quakes can occur in several parts of the mainland, especially in the north and west, and this is why I believe that whether through war or natural events, China will figure into the coming purification and may even be in one of the secrets granted to visionaries.

(by Michael H. Brown at <http://www.spiritdaily.com>)

THE DEVIL and HIS ORGANIZATION? IF IN ITALY, WHY NOT THE USA!

Reflections on Satan's actions in our life inevitably bring us to consider his "organization" of satanic sects through which the devil spreads his plan of death in the world. The following excerpts from the interview of Father Amorth for the magazine *30 Giorni* follow on from our article in *Echo* 154.

The things that I know about satanic sects have been told to me by people who decided to abandon them, and to do so it cost them enormous effort and placed their own lives at risk. What they experience in the sects leaves deep wounds, and the diabolic influence causes great suffering. It takes exorcisms to liberate them. Anyone who decides to abandon a satanic sect lives in terror. In America he would be killed; and if this doesn't happen in Italy yet, the sect does perform a

curse (a satanic rite) against those who abandon.

Q. Do you think that satanic sects are spreading fast in Italy?

A. In Italy I would say there are about six to seven hundred, and they must be small groups because that allows them to get together more easily without being noticed. There are four big satanic sects in Italy; the others would be small groups of about a dozen members each. Satanism in Italy, however, involves a great number of people who don't even belong to a sect. Take satanic rock, for instance. Now, I don't to accuse rock music, but there is a form of rock music known as satanic rock which preaches a terribly negative outlook, and combats the Catholic religion and all forms of social order, and teaches, instead, that everything is permissible and that the individual is god. It leads to hatred of the Church.

There are also other forms of satanism. I recently saw a book -- it belonged to a young girl -- and it contained a rite of consecration to Satan and ways to commit suicide. Suicide amongst adolescents is on the rise. We must not forget that God is God of life, and Satan is the lord of death. Saint Augustine said that if it weren't for God, Satan would kill us all.

Q. Why do you think satanism spreads so easily today?

A. There are too many people who have no reason for living. **Young people receive everything from their parents, except the faith.** When there is no more faith in people they cede to superstition, and particularly today, to the occult

Q. For many, joining a satanic sect is just a game.

A. Sadly this is true. Many, in fact, start because they are bored. The occult and satanism always have roused people's curiosity. The new experience, new emotions, new power that people acquire in the sects fascinates them; and Satan really does hand out his gifts of wealth, pleasure and success. In the same way that Christ was tempted: "I will give you the whole world if you prostrate yourself before me," we are also tempted; and Heaven knows how many fall at Satan's feet today!

Q. Do you think satanism is on the increase?

A. Yes, I do. Some people, on hearing these things, are horrified, but some imitate the examples! Satanism today receives so much publicity; and

internet has become one of its main channels. Access is so easy; and once you're in you're given full instructions, even on how to contact them. Consecrated hosts are being stolen all the time; and these are sold! So satanists believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, more than some Catholics!"

(Father G. Amorth; an interview printed in *Echo of Mary Queen of Peace* - 155"Jan-Feb 2001)

MARY MAGDALENE: LOVING JESUS

Mary Magdalene must be considered among the most blessed woman in all Scripture and one of the Church's greatest saints. Mary is the woman from whom Jesus expelled seven demons, and the void left by the demons must have been filled with love for Jesus (cf. Lk. 8:2). She spent the rest of her days following Jesus and the apostles and ministering to their needs. In fact, Mary loved Jesus so devotedly that she risked her life to follow Him to the crucifixion and the tomb.

The account of Mary's devotion told in John 20 is quite moving. Mary went to the tomb while it was still dark. You can almost imagine her anxiously waiting until the earliest possible time when she could go to the tomb. When she arrived, she found

the stone had been rolled away from the tomb and so she quickly went to tell Peter and John the distressing news. The two apostles ran to the tomb, saw that it was empty, and then returned to their homes. Meanwhile, Mary did not return to her home, but instead stood outside the tomb weeping for her Lord. Finally, she looked inside the tomb to find two angels who asked her why she was weeping. She responded, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him"(Jn. 20:13) Finally, Jesus appeared to her, but she mistook Him for the gardener. Not answering His question as to the reason for her weeping, she begged Him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away"(Jn. 20:15). But Jesus revealed Himself to her and she grabbed hold of Him. She then ran to tell the apostles, "I have seen the Lord"(Jn. 20:18) and all the things He told her to tell them. Mary Magdalene is thus known as the "apostle to the

Mary Magdalene loved Jesus with a deep and sacrificial love. The agony she experienced as a result
The PILGRIM

of the loss of Jesus was obviously profound. She inspires us to respond generously to Jesus' love. Mary went to great lengths to express her love for Jesus, and was rewarded with His presence. She encourages us to make the difficult decisions needed to keep ourselves close to Jesus and experience His presence in our lives.

Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene were all blessed with the presence of Jesus. They responded by living lives that honored God. We, who experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our souls and Jesus in the Eucharist, are no less blessed with His presence than these inspiring biblical matriarchs—in fact, more!

(Stacy Mitch - Lay Witness -July/August, 1999)

SPIRITUAL CHILD - LIKENESS

One of the most precious gifts God can grant His friends is spiritual child-likeness. By that, I mean that interior disposition by which a soul can approach Him at all times, in its weaknesses as well as its triumphs, with the simplicity and trust of a child towards its kind and understanding father. And I venture to say, from my limited experience with souls, that this is not a common thing.

I say it is not a common thing, except perhaps among souls totally dedicated to Jesus through Mary. Now, I do not say this because I believe it does not exist in souls not totally dedicated to Mary; I say it because I have found it **more often** in souls completely dedicated to Jesus through Mary. I have found that such souls in great number have a completely simple and childlike approach to God and to His Blessed Mother, not only in prayer but in all the events of their lives. and I speak not only of priests and religious, but also of lay people, whose dealings with God and Our Lady are for me a continual source of wonder and edification.

Take, for example, the case of Sister X, who came to me one day for advice on a certain decision she had to make. The decision involved her carrying a heavy cross, were she to accept the offer of her religious superiors. She had been told that, because of the precarious state of her health, she was free to accept or to refuse a new assignment.

What does God want me to do, Father? What would our Blessed Mother do, were she in my place?"

My answer, of course, was: "Our blessed Mother

would not shirk the Cross--especially one offered by God's own representatives, religious superiors."

"Thank you, Father," was her reply. "That's all I wanted

It was as simple as that. No complicated introspective ifs, ands or buts. Just a firm, loving child-like decision: "That's all I wanted to know."

Or take the case of John X, who came to me one day with the frightening prospect that he was going to be "laid off" indefinitely from his present job, with no immediate hope for a new job, and a large family to support. Yes, John was consecrated to Our Lady also. His entire family was. So when I asked him, concerned, what he planned to do, he looked at me somewhat in surprise and said:

"Why, Father, I'm going to look around. In the meantime the good Lord will take care of us. He has up until now. Besides, Father," he added, a twinkle in his eye, "we are all consecrated to Our Lady."

Of course I remembered. I should have known better than to question his child-like trust in God and His Blessed Mother!

Not long ago, after Mass one Sunday morning, I met another such family who had been consecrated to Our Lady in the Queen's chapel some years back. At the time, I had learned that Mrs. X's father was not only a fallen-away Catholic, but was bitterly opposed to the Church. I could only advise them all to pray for his conversion and to place his case in Our Lady's hands.

Well, the other day, when I asked Mrs. X if her father were still living, she replied that he had died a few years ago. Did he return to the Sacraments before he died?" They looked at me as if to say "What do you think, Father?" "Don't you remember telling us to put him in Our Lady's hands?" Yes, he had returned to the Sacraments before he died; and his death, they told me, had been a most edifying one.

Dear reader, please don't get me wrong. I am not an unbeliever! It is just that I cannot but marvel continually at the trust and child-like confidence of those who take their consecration to heart, and even more at the way God and Our Lady respond to this child-like trust.

It may be good for us to reread from time to time a certain paragraph in DeMontfort's **True Devotion**. He calls it the "Third Effect" of True Devotion in a soul. It will strengthen our conviction along these lines. Read

it slowly, and frequently meditate on it. It is one of the most precious efforts to Total Consecration in soul.

This Mother of fair love will take away from our heart all scruple and all disorder of servile fear. She will open and enlarge it to run the way of her Son's Commandments with the holy liberty of the children of God. She will introduce into it pure love, of which she has the treasure, so that you shall no longer be guided by fear, as hitherto, in your dealing with the god of charity, but by love alone. You will look on Him as your good Father, Whom you will be incessantly trying to please, and with Whom you will converse confidently, as a child with its tender father. If, unfortunately, you offend Him, you will at once humble yourself before Him. You will ask His pardon with great lowliness, but at the same time you will stretch your hand out to Him with simplicity, and you will raise yourself up lovingly without trouble or disquietude, and go on your way to Him without discouragement."

Rev. Christopher Lee, S.M.M.

TO BE PERFECTED

"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48).

There is the adage "practice makes perfect." We know through experience that to achieve perfection we must work at it. A child may spend countless hours at a piano, year after year, to become an accomplished pianist. A young boy may have a dream to be a professional basketball player, and will shoot countless baskets in the heat of summer and cold of winter to achieve his dream.

Similarly, many saints devoted their lives to God, in an imitation of Christ and for love of Him, to approach spiritual perfection by the grace of God.

Although we can never be perfect, if we imitate Christ, seek to do God's will, follow His moral law, and love Him with all our being, we can gain a place in the eternal perfection of heaven. and we will more perfectly come to know, love, and serve God in this life in the process.

We become holy by working towards holiness (cf. Lev. 19:2; 1 Jn. 2:29, 3:7). We can do the things we know please God, and by constant holy practices we can become more Christ like. But such holy practices cannot become just a matter of habit or empty show.

They should not be done for worldly motives, or even for heavenly rewards as though we work our way to heaven. Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven (Mt. 6:1).

A man spent some time with Mother Teresa and observed her (and her Missionaries of Charity) caring for the most wretched human beings. The man told her, "Sister, I would not do that for a million dollars." Mother Teresa answered, "And neither would I," "Not for a million dollars, nor for any reward, but for the love of God. Mother Teresa saw goodness in every person she served. Whether rich or poor, handsome or homely, black or white, intelligent or simple, she was Jesus. This holy woman also said that God will not ask if we were successful in life, but only that we tried to do His will.

We're sometimes tempted to tell ourselves that nothing more can be done about a fault, or think that a person living in sin will not listen to us, or grow weary fighting injustice. For example, we might say that we will just pray for an end to abortion, but we don't really need to picket at an abortion center or to counsel someone who says he is pro-choice or to write letters to the newspaper or to government officials. We might even tend to look at those who do these things as radicals or even divisive." Yet, our faith must always be expressed in charitable--and sometimes bold--action.

I believe the cause of the inclination to avoid putting faith in practice is often stated guidance, "Your example (alone) will sow others to Christ." Indeed, the example of holy men and women is certainly a powerful witness. Yet, to resort to a vague sense of example can be an excuse for not stepping out in faith. What is often stated as "not being my business" or "not being my place," is often an avoidance of confrontation or inconvenience. Many of us do not want to "take up or cross" and follow Our Lord.

Faith must be put into practice. [I]f any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth" (1 Jn. 3:17-18; cf. Jas. 2:4-17, 24-26).

There are priests who can preach as well as Archbishop Fulton Sheen. However, unless words are put into practice they have fallen on deaf ears. There are parishes that seem to buzz with all types of busyness, but within their communities the citizens still

defend abortion, overlook sexual promiscuity and contraception, and allow the decrease of dissent from God's moral law and His one, true Church to progress. To preach that abortions are evil is needed, but associated works are also required. That's why Saint Augustine advised us to pray as if everything depended on God, and work as if all depends on us.

All of God's lowlier creatures glorify Him just by their existence. But human beings, who are made in God's image, glorify God by doing His will and becoming Christ-like. But the more a person distances himself from the imitation of Christ, the more difficult it becomes to find Him, and the more difficult it becomes to pray and do holy works. Devout and holy practices seem ridiculous to a person who does not look to Christ and put God first in his life.

Still another temptation is to let constant activity consume one's life, even if it's directed towards good. To begin to neglect prayer and spiritual development because much work is needed--to save unborn children, help the poor, or whatever charitable act is being pursued--is to lose sight of why we do good. Liberalism and theology are examples of misdirected efforts to achieve perfection on earth as an end in itself (cf. Mt. 13:22). These efforts neglect the truth that heavenly bliss will only be achieved in eternity and through Christ.

We cannot become too busy to pray, to attend Holy Mass and spend time before the blessed Sacrament, to receive grace through Penance, to study and defend the faith, and to proclaim the message of Christ in various ways. If these are forgotten, religion is reduced to social activism and eventually to practice atheism.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori said that those who pray much have much chance to get to heaven, those who pray little have little chance; and those who do not pray have no chance to get to heaven. Like the person who finds it easy to exercise because he has developed a routine and looks forward to it, we must pray and form a pattern of prayer if we wish to progress in the spiritual life. However, if we become accustomed to inactivity and laziness by neglecting prayer, eventually even the idea of prayer becomes lost. As prayer is lost so is contact with God--along with His moral law, His truth, and faith.

We will come to know God through prayer. How can we know and love God if we do not spend time with Him? How can a husband and wife know and love each other if they do not spend time together? How

can we know God's will if we do not look to Him? And if we do not know, love, and serve God in this life, how can we reach the perfect life to come? At death and judgment, how can we possibly approach God and state our desire to be in His presence in heaven for eternity, if we have not tried to spend time with Him on earth?

We must pray. We must ask Our Lord as well as Mary and the saints to help us, and we must initiate them. More than all other creatures, the saints most closely followed Jesus' command, "Be perfect." the Immaculate Virgin is God's most perfect creature, having never sinned and being full of grace." Next to her diving Son, she is the best example of Christian perfection.

Jesus Himself gave mankind an example of prayer. When rising Lazarus, Jesus offered a prayer of thanksgiving (Jn. 11:41). Before His passion and death, Jesus prayed for His disciples (Jn. 17), and then in the Garden He prayed for strength (Mt. 26:36-44). At the beginning of His public life, He prayed in the desert (Mt. 4).

Jesus wants us to know the power of prayer (Mt. 7:7), to have confidence in prayer (Mt. 17:19-21, Mk. 9:14-29), to be persistent in prayer (Lk. 11:5-8), to pray alone (Mt. 6:6; Lk. 5:16; 6:12, 14:23), to pray with others (Mt. 18:19-20), and to pray as He taught us (Mt. 6:9). At the Last Supper, He offered the greatest prayer--the Holy Eucharist which would be offered for all time in all places (cf. Mal. 1:1).

How do we become perfected and holy? How do we keep God's commandments? By the grace of God--through the sacraments, good works, faith in God, and prayer Grace opens eyes; it helps us see the light of Christ and to accept and do His will.

Saint Peter said, "[W]e have come to believe" (Jn. 6:60). At Baptism we receive the gift of faith, but we must continually develop this virtue to increase our faith in Christ. We know that even those who are baptized can lose their faith.

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, bending the knee before the Lord, our maker. For He is our god and we are His people, the flock that He shepherds.

O that today you would hearken to His voice! Harden not your hearts" (Ps. 95:6-8).

(from **The Way of Perfection** Christian Classics, Teresa of Avila, Edited and Mildly Modernized by Henry L. Carrigan, Jr. Available from Paraclete Press and the PFMIC.)

A PRAYER for INTIMACY with the LAMB, the BRIDEGROOM of the SOUL

Oh Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, come and act on my soul most intimately.

I surrender myself, as I ask for the grace to let go, to just be as I exist in You and You act most intimately on my soul.

You are the Initiator.

I am the soul waiting Your favors as You act in me. I love You. I adore You. I worship You.

Come and possess my soul with Your Divine Grace, as I experience You most intimately. AMEN

(marytalkmarian@yahoo.com)

CHRISTIAN BUMPER STICKERS

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

Are you wrinkled with burden?

Come on in for a faith lift.

Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty! God doesn't want shares of your life - He wants controlling interest.

A family altar can alter a family.

We don't change the message - the message changes us.

This Church is 'Prayer' conditioned!

WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning!

Plan ahead - it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark!

Most people want to serve God - but only in an advisory capacity.

Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible! Exercise daily - walk with the Lord!

The perfect Church - for those who aren't! Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous!

Remember the banana - when it left the bunch it got skinned.

Wisdom has two parts: 1- Having a lot to say 2- Not saying it.

Hem your day with prayer and it will be less apt to unravel at the edges.

Watch your step carefully! Everyone else does! Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

A fellow who says it can't be done is likely to be interrupted by someone doing it.

Kindness is difficult to give away 'cause it keeps coming back.

He who angers you controls you!

Worry is the darkroom in which 'negatives' are developed.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Be ye fishers of men, you catch them - He will clean them.

Deciding not to choose is still making a choice. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

If God is your copilot - Swap seats!

Give God what's right, not what's left!

'Pray' is a four-letter word that you can say anywhere.

(Bernedette -internet)

PRAYER of PADRE PIO

God, Giver of all good gifts, you generously endowed your servant, Pio of Pietrelcina, with the gifts of the Spirit, signing his body as living witness to the saving Passion and Death of your son. As many looked upon this reflection of your Crucified son, Jesus, they experienced anew your saving mercy.

As through his ministry, Pio reconciled penitents and invited them to taste your sweetness in the Holy eucharist, so enable us through his intercession, to follow his example in prayer and penance so that we too may follow our Risen Lord and rejoice in His Kingdom where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one god, for ever and ever. AMEN

**(from North American Capuchin Conference
friars@capuchin.com)**

A TRIBUTE to OUR BELOVED POPE JOHN PAUL II

His Holiness, Pope John Paul, II, celebrates his 81st birthday tomorrow, May 18.

What a great 2000 Millennium celebration we were privileged to witness on video, highlighting the canonization of his Polish sister in Christ, Saint Faustina Kowalska, on April 30th. last year, following which he declared officially the second Sunday following Easter Sunday as the Feast of Divine Mercy.

This devotion was very close to his heart since he was the person responsible for reviewing her diary to clarify inconsistencies which caused the devotion to be put on hold for twenty years. This occurred because of shoddy translation done previously. Six months following the approval of the messages in her diary he was elected Pope.

The indulgence year 2000 also brought other memorable events such as the opening of the Holy Door at St .Peters in the Vatican, by the Pope with the Archbishop of Canterbury in an ecumenical gesture on the part of Pope John Paul. This Pope is always so accommodating to the heads of other religious orders, such as the Dali Lama, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and Muslim leaders. This is a reflection of a spiritual leader who lives the Word to the letter in showing love for his neighbor, which is the second great Commandment in action.

This Vicar of Christ is very Christocentric in word and deed. Another momentous occasion was the youth days of celebration, which brought thousands of pilgrims descending on the Vatican, taking up every square inch of space for the events with the Holy Father.

This really put him in a joyous mood as he communicated with the throngs of youth who gathered to hear him give his messages to them, and sing with them. The youth always brings out the best in the Holy Father and revitalizes him no matter how gruelling his schedule might be, and grueling indeed they are most of the time. It is on occasions like these the Pope seem to come alive, renewed by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

The Liturgy of the Mass is another event which always seem to give him new life and spirit. With him, the Eucharistic banquet is really a great spiritual event into which he puts his heart and soul, especially during the consecration when the transubstantiation occurs during the Epiclesis of the Canon of the Mass. The

Holy Eucharist appears to give him an injection of new life which refreshes his spirit.

His recent pilgrimage to Athens in Greece, despite planned protests by radicals, had its desired effect in bringing the Orthodox Church much closer to Rome, with the unexpected mea culpa from the Pope. This gained for him a fond embrace of spiritual brotherhood from his Greek compatriot, thereby further opening the door much wider for the anticipated reunification between East and West. We hope that very soon the twain will eventually meet.

Then onward to the road to Damascus retracing the journey of his predecessor, Saint Paul, who received his powerful conversion at the hands of the Lord when he was struck down from his horse while he persecuted the early Christians.

The Liturgical service with his Syrian brothers was filled with deep emotion and rich in song and substance. The people were truly moved by the presence and words of their beloved representative in Christ. It was a very historic moment for him and for the flock.

His visit to the Umayyad Mosque was a momentous first for a Pontiff, at the memorial of Saint John the Baptist, where he paused and prayed despite the crush of people, which did not leave him much breathing space. It was during these moments that my heart really felt for him, and I was greatly relieved when he left, following those tense moments which brought the Muslim faith to a closer understanding of our Catholic faith.

The Pope's final journey to Valletta Malta overlooking the shores where Saint Paul the apostle to the Gentiles preached was the high point of Catholic reunion, considering the tumultuous crowd that gathered to celebrate the Liturgy with him. The Mass was rich in song and solemnity, and brought back memories of the Pauline pilgrimage to that land where the people treated Saint Paul with such love, and heard the Word and kept it for 2000 years. It was a testimony of the fruits of Saint Paul's labor, considering the percentage of Catholics is almost 100% In Malta.

When this great Marian Pope goes to his glorious reward in heaven, where his Totus Tuus Mother Mary will welcome him in glory, and present him to her beloved Son our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who will embrace him and say, 'Well done my loyal and faithful servant, partake of the riches of My heavenly kingdom !,' what a heavenly celebration that will be, with the choirs of angels singing 'Alleluia, glory be to

God in the highest," and to our beloved Pope John Paul. what a glorious moment that will be!

We pray and trust that the Good Lord will give him new vigor and strength to be with us a few more years before he departs this world, in glory.

(By Roy S. Tenn Date: Fri, 18 May 2001 00:39:59 EDT –
Rtennco@aol.com)

DRINKING from MY SAUCER

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now. But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough. But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, My faith wore somewhat thin. But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough. I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads. Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

(Bernadette -internet)

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

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



Always complete any order forms or give us full address with any letter order. Consider using one of the many mailing labels each of us receives in our mail so that we can see your address clearly printed and often with the ZIP+4 which is supposed to speed the mail delivery.

We appreciate the communication so that we can correct our mailing labels. ORDER and SPONSOR The PILGRIM for your favorite religious or priest.

FOR ORDERS ~~PLEASE DO NOT~~ PLACE THEM ON DONATION SLIPS

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

The donation slips go to a separate department from our order section, and your order may get lost or not noticed. Thank you for your cooperation.

BOOKS and RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

The PFMC offices in Epiphany House are open Monday through Friday from 10:30 AM to 5 PM as long as we have sufficient volunteers. We are also open on nights that we have events in Epiphany House. Come and meet us. Tour the offices, display area, book room, library, etc.

You may look over the thousands of book we have available for you by sitting in our library and looking at each book for materials you might need. We have

The PILGRIM

books, religious articles, medals, rosaries, chaplets, crosses, blessed oil, pictures and statues available in our display room. All rosaries acquired prior to or during a visit to Rome have been blessed by Pope John Paul II.

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

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

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

We hope you will remember us when shopping.

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.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

In every issue of The PILGRIM you will find a donation slip. Your donations help us with our electric bills, the printing of the newsletter, the postage, phone bills, insurance and repairs. It is only through donations that we are able to set up retreats and days of recollection. Won't you help us monthly? Place your envelope with your bills, and remember us as you can. Your monthly tithing helps so much.

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

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

relation to its organizational functions. These functions include pilgrimages, retreats, days of recollection, presentations, Bible Study, Rosary making, books, and religious articles.

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 host this program weekly in conjunction with In His Sign Radio Network. Dominic Lettieri has arranged to have this half-hour sponsored by the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc. There will be prayer, scripture, discussion of the Ephesians 6: 11 and following, announcements, call-in time, discussion with callers, healing prayer and summary. The call-in number is 856 962-8178.

JUST MEDJUGORJE with OVERNIGHT
in ROME, NOVEMBER 9 to 18, 2001

Kathleen is the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 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.

COST: \$1499 (Double Occupancy) INCLUSIVE.
All taxes, both Croatian and Italian, are included.

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

2002 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) has moved its 2002 RETREAT CONFERENCE (2002 RC) to larger facilities at the Hilton Hotel, New Jersey (NJ) Route 70 and Cuthbert Boulevard, 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 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 163, 6/26/2001

PRIESTHOOD

One of the frequent themes treated in our time is the priesthood. In western Church, the most frequent topic is the permanent lack of priests and the role of the laity. In the countries of the Third World and in

mission countries, two questions attract attention: the joy of seeing more and more young people embracing the priesthood, and the question of the sincerity of their motives. One often speaks about the new type of priest needed for actual circumstances of our times and of the Church. Some problems of priestly life are becoming more and more often the topic of open discussions in the Church and in the world, as well as the behaviour of certain priests, which scandalizes the Christian community. When the question of priesthood arises, one mainly speaks about the mission, the formation, the place and the role in the Church and about celibacy. But there is one theme, the foundation for all, which is not treated: it is the religious and the spiritual experience, as the foundation of the priestly mission. If this experience is lacking, if it is not growing and developing, the priest and the community to which he is sent are being deprived of the entire announcing of the Gospel. Many priests I have met and I meet in Medjugorje do not conceive their coming only as accompanying the pilgrims. They want to get and to complete their religious experience. This is what attracts them every year in growing numbers to the Priest Retreat around the Queen of Peace.

Fra Ivan Landeka

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS AND CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of May, 120,000 hosts were consecrated for the sacrament of Holy Eucharist and 2747 priests concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

THE ARCHBISHOP of TRIPOLI and a SUPERIOR GENERAL of the MELKITE BASILIAN ORDER of CHUEIRITES in PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE

May 28 to June 2, 2001, Mgr. Georges Riachi, Archbishop of Tripoli in Lebanon, was on pilgrimage in Medjugorje with nine priests from his order, and Abbot Nicolas Hakim, Superior General of the Melkite Basilian Order of Chueirites. They came with a group of Lebanese pilgrims.

They ended their pilgrimage to the Queen of Peace with a solemn Eucharistic celebration <http://www.medjugorje.hr/libanoncimisa200.jpg> in Arabic and in Greek.

Mgr. Georges Riachi told us about his impressions:

I came to Medjugorje with a group of monks of my Chueirite order, who asked me to accompany them. I

told them, Sure, I will come with you; it will be a pleasure for me to visit the place where we have special signs from the Blessed Mother of God!"

I am here for the first time. I heard about Medjugorje long ago. When it started, I was in America, and when I became Bishop of the Melkites in Australia, one of my priests in Perth asked my permission to visit Medjugorje and I told him, "Go ahead." He came to Medjugorje and he was very pleased. He was very touched. In his church, a prayer group prays the Rosary every day. There has been some change in his life. When I was called back to Lebanon, the year before last, one of my priests asked me to come to Medjugorje and I allowed him to do so. He was also very touched, and he saw that, when he puts his hands on a person's head, the people are changing. So he asked me what he should do, and I replied, "Thank the Lord God! It is a special grace!" A priest who came last year found that he was tremendously helped to change his life. I, myself, came for my first visit this year. I know that the Church has not yet given instructions and I respect the Church in everything; but I feel that Medjugorje, in spite of what some say, is a good place to come to visit, because you can come back to God, you can make a good confession, you can come back to God through our Blessed Mother, to be more and more what you are, with the help of the Church.

I know that there has been a multitude of people coming from all over the world for almost 20 years now; this is, by itself, a miracle, a great thing. Here, people change. They become more devoted to the Lord God and to His Mother, the Blessed Mary. It is wonderful to see the faithful approach the sacrament of Holy Communion and other sacraments, like confession, with the greatest respect. I see long lines of people waiting to go for confession. What we really have to do here, what priests have to do here is to tell people to be honest with the Lord God, to open up.

I would like to tell the people to come to Medjugorje. Medjugorje is a sign. Priests in Medjugorje have a big mission. You have to be up to date and fully informed. People come to see something special. Be always special. It is not easy, ask the Blessed Mother to lead you, the priests here, the ministers, all those who are in charge of Medjugorje, to help them to be a good example to the whole multitude coming from all over the world. It will be a great mercy for the people.

Abbot Nicolas Hakim, Superior General of the Melkite Basilian Order of Chueirites said:

I came to Medjugorje as the first Superior General of an order from Lebanon. I came with eight young priests of the Chueirite order to offer to the Blessed Virgin all my heart, all my thoughts, my whole being and all our Order, because the Mother of God is a mother of tenderness.

We came here for a spiritual retreat, for the renewal of our soul and of our spirit in order to live better and pray better in our monasteries, to work better in our parishes and the schools the monks are serving in, to live better our vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.

I was listening to Ivan Dragi evi ; now I want to read the books written by Father Slavko Barbari . I am mostly struck by the love without limits. She loves us as Her children, without looking at our sins and our weaknesses. For Her, we are Her beloved children. We have to thank Our Lord and Our Lady, we have to reconcile and accept penance, and we will have inner peace. I was struck by what Ivan said about how difficult it is to go back to the earth "after having met Our Lady, and that every day! You who live here must be happy people. Certainly, there are obstacles. The devil is strongly attacking a place where Our Lady appears. We have been attacked, because we have decided to go to Medjugorje. They asked us why we do not go somewhere else. The devil is always attacking human goodness. If you want to do good, to be near God, many will be against you. I will tell to every one: come and see!

I have seen the real presence of the Most Blessed Virgin. She is everywhere in the world, but here in a special way. I have seen peace, simplicity, I have seen love in all hearts, and I have seen heaven on earth, where lambs live with wolves.

The service of the priests in Medjugorje is divine. Our Lady asks them to serve the pilgrims, the priests, the sick... It is a very important and grateful service. They give a good example through the prayers they animate, through the way they receive people. Let them be a good example and I pray to God and Our Lady that they give them the health so they may continue. I went to Father Slavko's tomb. Like Our Lady, he is their protector. Let them ask his intercession.

10TH ANNIVERSARY - COMMUNITY CENACOLO'in MEDJUGORJE

On June 2nd, the boys of the Community Cenacolo'in Medjugorje and their friends celebrated modestly the 10th anniversary of their foundation in Medjugorje.

The Community "Cenacolo" was founded in 1983 and presently consists of 32 fraternities spread all over the world, with about 800 members, boys and girls, who seek the way out of the hell of the drug addiction.

The community wants to be light in darkness, a sign of hope, a living witness that death has not the last word. These young people live a simple family life style, thus discovering the treasures offered by work, friendship and faith in the Word of God incarnate in Jesus, dead and risen for us.

The house for boys in Medjugorje was founded in 1991, and the house for girls in 2000. All those who need help from the Community of the Cenacle may contact the house in Medjugorje situated halfway between Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain.

THE FEAST of CORPUS CHRISTI in MEDJUGORJE - BISHOP RATKO PERI DELIVERED the SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

On the feast of the Most Sacred Body and Blood of Christ, Monsignor Ratko Peri, Bishop of Mostar, delivered the sacrament of Confirmation to 72 candidates in the parish of Saint James in Medjugorje.

In his homily, he expressed his satisfaction concerning the knowledge the candidates showed during the examination of their readiness to receive this sacrament, and wished that they live their faith not only intellectually, but with the heart.

He expressed his satisfaction about the way the parish priest is administering this parish. He also underlined the importance of the unity of the Catholic Church, which is manifested through the unity with the local bishop and the Pope, as well as the necessity that all the faithful of this diocese, in the power of the Holy Spirit which was given to them, be faithful to the teaching and the practice of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

He wished the candidates to readily respond to God, if He calls them to be His apostles, like the 72 Jesus had chosen.

After the solemn Eucharistic celebration, Mgr Ratko Peri remained in friendly conversation with priests in the Presbytery.

After the evening Mass, parishioners and pilgrims took part in a procession, following the exposed Most Holy Sacrament in celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi - the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. The

children who had received their First Holy Communion this year, as well as priests on pilgrimage in Medjugorje also participated in the procession.

PEACE MARCH"

The 10th traditional Peace March was held as every year on June 24th, the eve of the anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady. It was animated by father Branko Radoš and began with prayer and the blessing of the pilgrims in front of the Franciscan monastery of Humac. Several thousands of pilgrims started their march at 6 am. Priests from 15 countries carried the Blessed Sacrament. Two of the visionaries of Medjugorje participated in it: Vicka Ivankovi and Jakov olo. At their arrival in Medjugorje, pilgrims gathered in front of the parish church for the final prayer. There, they were greeted by the parish priest, fra Ivan Sesar, thanking the Lord for the great deeds He has done. Also this year, young pilgrims were particularly numerous, among them the Franciscan Youth Fraternity from Medjugorje.

The Peace March" is the fruit of an idea born in the hearts of Medjugorje pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje at the time of war, in 1992, as a response to the trouble, violence and hatred, as well as an appeal to real peace and reconciliation.

20TH ANNIVERSARY of the APPARITIONS in MEDJUGORJE

During last 20 years, the message of peace and reconciliation spread all over the world through millions of pilgrims who came to Medjugorje. Thanks to prayer, the message of Our Lady reached the most remote parts of the world and made out of Medjugorje the parish of the world. This is being confirmed by the presence of numerous faithful who came to Medjugorje for the 20th anniversary. Here, many have found God and started to walk on the way of conversion without any fear. In the celebration of this anniversary, gratitude for all the gifts God has given here through Mary, was put at the first place.

It is impossible to enumerate all the countries from where the pilgrims came: they came from every corner of the world. Many local pilgrims, according to their tradition, came on their bare feet to pray for peace and to thank Our Lady - the Queen of Peace.

Parishioners and pilgrims prepared themselves for this anniversary with a Novena: daily Rosary on Apparition Hill, evening prayer programme which included the Novena composed particularly for this

occasion, and daily evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

In the morning of June 24th and June 25th, Holy Masses were celebrated in 17 languages. During these two days, 60,000 hosts were consecrated for the sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

The evening Mass on June 24th was presided by Father Miron Sikiri, professor at the Franciscan Theology in Sarajevo, and concelebrated by 210 priests.

The evening Mass on June 25th was presided by Father Toni Vockovic, professor at the Catholic Theology in Sarajevo, and concelebrated by 273 priests from about twenty countries.

For the 20th anniversary, the Parish edited a gold medal and a new monography, and the Post Office printed a new postal stamp.

REGULAR ANNUAL APPARITION to the VISIONARY IVANKA

The visionary Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez had her regular annual apparition on June 25th 2001. According to the visionaries, Vicka, Marija and Ivan continue to have daily apparitions, and Mirjana, Ivanka and Jakov have an annual apparition.

At Her last daily apparition on May 7, 1985 Our Lady told Ivanka that she would have an apparition once a year on the anniversary of the apparitions. It was that way also this year. Ivanka had the apparition in the presence of her family. She says that Our Lady was joyful and that She spoke to her about the future of the Church. Our Lady gave the following message:

Dear angels! Thank you for your prayers, because through them my plan is being realized. This is why, angels, pray, pray, pray, so that my plan may be realized. Receive my motherly blessing!"

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

PRESS BULLETIN 164, 7/26/2001

FROM THE BEGINNING

Each one of us has omitted to complete and to develop something in his life's knowledge and art. Often, we regret it, especially when it seems to us that precisely this would have helped us in certain circumstances. What mostly impedes the growth in diverse areas of life is the impossibility or the lack of

determination to start something from the beginning. Young people and adults have some kind of fear, when they have to start something almost from the beginning, especially in the area where we think that we have learned how to do it. It is difficult to start from the beginning even when we know that we can succeed only if we start from the very beginning.

All this concerns also the religious knowledge and experience. To mend what we already have acquired and lived creates an uneasiness in us. To start from the very beginning in our religious practice is painful. What will be the reaction of others? Will we succeed, will the others understand it in the right way?

Pilgrims bear witness that in Medjugorje they make an exceptional experience, and that –in their religious practice –sometimes they started some things from the very beginning, sometimes from zero, and that this does not push them away, but brings them closer to Medjugorje. Precisely this will gather this year, in the beginning of August, thousands of young people.

Fra Ivan Landeka

NUMBER of CUMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of June, 180,000 hosts were consecrated for the sacrament of Holy Eucharist and 3651 priests concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

MILITARY PILGRIMAGE

The 9th Military Pilgrimage took place in the shrine of Medjugorje, as every year, on June 28th.

Militaries participated in the prayer of the Rosary, and the central point was the evening Holy Mass presided by fra Danko Perutina, who delivered the homily.

In time of war, soldiers recognized Medjugorje as a place of prayer, of peace and reconciliation. They continue to see it as such and, as they said in one previous pilgrimage: "In spite of military forces, which govern the world, only in God can man feel secure." Their coming this year confirms it.

DIAMOND and GOLDEN MASSES of HERCEGOVINIAN FRIARS

On the feast of Saint Peter and Paul, apostles, in the parish church of Medjugorje, fra Vinko Dragi evi celebrated his diamond priestly jubilee, and his brother, fra Marko Dragi evi, celebrated his golden jubilee. Both of them are born in the parish of

Medjugorje. They were joined by fra Leonard Ore , former parish priest of Medjugorje, and fra Dobroslav Begi , former vicar in the parish of Medjugorje, who also celebrated their golden jubilee.

In a solemn Holy Mass, concelebrated by many priests, numerous faithful thanked God and these tireless friars for their selfless service during many years, when they were often persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

A NEW PROVINCIAL for the HERCEGOVINIAN FRANCISCAN PROVINCE

End of June, fra Slavko Soldo, until now superior of the Franciscan hercegovinian custodia in the USA, born in Medjugorje, was elected new provincial of Hercegovina. In this service, he succeeds the former provincial, fra Tomislav Pervan, who is known by many pilgrims as parish priest of Medjugorje from 1982 to 1988.

In the name of all the pilgrims and all the friends of Medjugorje, we invoke the blessing of God on the new provincial, on the new government of our Province, and on their service.

MEETING of CHOIRS

July 1st, a traditional meeting of choirs of Hercegovina took place in the parish church of Medjugorje. With their singing, they embellished the Eucharistic celebration, after which followed the official programme, presenting six choirs. In the overfilled parish Church, the assistance enjoyed the beauty of sacred music. At the beginning of the concert, the parish priest of Medjugorje greeted the singers and encouraged them to continue in their musical art.

6TH PRIESTS MEETING

The Sixth International Meeting of Priests took place July 2 to 7, 2001. There were 243 priests from 36 countries (United Arab Emirates, Montenegro, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Vietnam, Hungary, India, Uganda, South Africa, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Canada, Rumania, El Salvador, Mexico, Argentina, Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, Ireland, Italy, Germany, France, Australia, USA, England, Belgium, Austria, Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina). The theme was Priest –Servant of the

preachers were Mgr Robert Rivas, bishop

of Kingstown, Father France Speli , Father Bennet Tierney, Father Jacques Philippe, Father Jozo Zovko and Sister Elvira Petrozzi.

They meditated and spoke about The life God wants from a priest;” Prayer –a way towards God’s Mercy;” Priorities in priestly life;” Priest, a mystery of Divine

During six days, priests were attending the conferences, sharing, praying and celebrating the Eucharist in communion with the people of God. The day before last, they climbed the Cross Mountain praying the Way of the Cross, and the last day, they celebrated the Morning Prayer at the tomb of fra Slavko Barbari , who initiated these Priests Meetings in 1996.

The meeting was coordinated by fra Ljubo Kurtovi .

From year to year, the number of priests who choose to make their annual retreat in Medjugorje, under the protection of Our Blessed Mother –the Queen of Peace, is growing. The abundance of fruits of this meeting can be seen in the Statement they adopted at the end of the retreat:

STATEMENT

We, priests from diverse countries, are gathered for the Sixth Retreat for Priests with the theme: Priest –servant of the Divine Mercy.” We attended conferences given by Mgr Robert Rivas, Father France Speli , Father Bennet Tierney, Father Jacques Philippe, Father Jozo Zovko and Sister Elvira Petrozzi.

We want to express our gratitude to the Lord for having called us into His priesthood. Christ confided us His all-powerful and infinite mercy and love to give them to our brothers and sisters. We are encouraged and strengthened by the motherly intercession of the Queen of Peace at this source of grace, who calls us to her Heart to lead us to Her son Jesus, being fed at the source of life, the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

We thank the Lord for His infinite trust in spite of all our weaknesses, refusals and limits. We implore the Lord to give us the experience of forgiveness of our sins, so that we may give forgiveness to others. We promise our fidelity to the Lord in the announcing of his Good News, which was given and confided to us, to bring fruit in the hearts of those who listen to it.

We want to and we decide to grow in holiness, and to seek to know the Lord more and more through prayer, who gives himself to us, so that we may give ourselves to others from day to day without reserve.

Mary gathers us here from all over the world, from diverse colours and races, diverse languages and nationalities, to make us her children, leading us to Jesus Christ. Here, we can hear her voice telling us: "Do whatever he tells you!" (John 2,5). Here, we experienced the beauty of belonging to the Lord and to His Church. We experienced the truth of how good it is and how pleasant where brethren dwell as one" (Ps 133/132, 1).

We renewed our love and our Yes to the Lord and to His Church. We want to discover the merciful face of Christ through personal sanctification, so that the infinite treasure of His Mercy may be seen through our lives.

We express our availability to witness for the Lord to all who are erring and seeking peace, love and happiness far away from the Lord.

We put the whole Church, the whole world and ourselves under the protection and the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Queen of Peace, that she may protect us and guide as her beloved children.

Medjugorje, July 2 to 7 2001

243 priests participants of the

6th International retreat for priests

They also addressed a letter to the Holy Father:

Dear Holy Father,

The 6th International Meeting of Priests in Medjugorje, which attracted about 250 priests, sends You greetings and our filial love.

Our Conference this year was on the Priest –Servant of the Divine Mercy, and we listened to Mary's call to do works of mercy out of love. As we return to our various countries and communities, where we minister to our people, we return as missionaries of Mercy.

At Medjugorje, we prayed for You and asked Our Blessed Mother to care for You in a special way in Your pastoral ministry to the whole Church.

We now express our loyalty to You and our availability to serving the Church. May Mary, the Queen of Peace and Mother of Mercy, smile at You today. God bless!

Sincerely in Christ,

Signed:

Bishop Robert Rivas, Kingstown, Saint Vincent

Father Jacques Philippe, Community of Beatitudes

Father Bennet Tierney, Legionary of Christ

Father France Speli ,

For the Parish of Medjugorje: fra Ivan Sesar, Parish priest

All the priests, participants in the retreat

ON BICYCLE TO MEDJUGORJE

A group of 25 cyclists from the parish Riolo Terme, Ravenna, came to Medjugorje on June 6th. After many hundreds of kilometres on bicycle to reach the shrine of Medjugorje, they climbed the Apparition Hill and the Kri evac. After the evening prayer programme, they returned home content with this experience, which was very strong, because of the great heat of the journey. But, there is no real pilgrimage without a real effort, and this is what brings the true joy. We will come back," said the Italian cyclists.

WEB PAGE and a DOCUMENTARY about FRA SLAVKO BARBARI

A documentary film about the life and the work of fra Slavko Barbari In Gospa's name" has recently been published by Michael Mayr, a German producer. The documentary can be found in the Parish Office in Medjugorje. There is also a new web page about Father Slavko's life and work, by the same producer. The web-address is: www.paterslavko.de

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We inform all those who want to participate in the International Meeting for Leaders of Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity groups "Pray, pray, pray"... announced for February 10 to 14, 2002, that the meeting will take place February 17 to 21, 2002.

You can send your registrations by e-mail: medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr , by fax: + 387 36 651 300 (for Marija Dugandi), or in the Information Office personally or by phone: + 387 36 651 988. The programme and all information about this seminar can be found on our web-pages: www.medjugorje.hr or in the Bulletin 162 from May 26, 2001. (Note the change of dates: February 17 to 21, 2002)

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

CALENDARS:

In *August*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **ASSUMPTION (15)**, the Feasts of the **Transfiguration (6)**, **Saints Lawrence (10)** and **Bartholomew (24)** and the Memorials of **Saints Alphonsus Liguori (1)**, **Eusebius of Vercelli (2)**, **John Vianney (4)**, **Cajetan (7)**, **Pope Sixtus II and Companions (7)**, **Dominic (8)**, **Clare (11)**, **Pope Pontian (13)**, **Hippolytus (13)**, **Maximilian Kolbe (14)**, **Stephen of Hungary (16)**, **Jane Frances de Chantal (18)**, **John Eudes (19)**, **Bernard (20)**, **Pope Pius X (21)**, **Rose of Lima (23)**, **Louis of France (25)**, **Joseph Calasanz (25)**, **Monica (27)** and **Augustine (28)** as well as the **Dedication of Saint Mary Major (5)**, **Queenship of Mary (22)** and the **Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist (29)**.

In *September*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of the **Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8)**, the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14)** and **Saints Matthew, Apostle (21)** and **Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (29)**, and the Memorials of **Saints Gregory the Great, Pope (3)**, **Peter Claver (9)**, **John Chrysostom (13)**, **Cornelius and Cyprian (16)**, **Robert Bellarmine (17)**, **Januarius (19)**, **Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (20)**, **Cosmas and Damian (26)**, **Vincent de Paul (27)**, **Wenceslaus (28)**, **Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (28)** and **Jerome (30)** as well as **Our Lady of Sorrows (15)**. Church calendars show Labor Day (3).

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the Bulletin Notices on pages 21 through 22 and assist us with getting them into your Parish Bulletin. For additional information, call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228. You may FAX your questions to (856)-768-9428.

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!'



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 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.

See page 3 for information on presentations at Sacred Heart, South Amboy, NJ on 10 September 2001.

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

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



Review the pages of Home of the Mother whose sisters ran two weeks of Encounter for girls at the PFMC. They are a great group of religious.

<http://www.hogar-de-la-madre.org/english/>

Send us interesting web sites and e-mails:

PFMCkmw@home.com