



The PILGRIM

Vol. 12, No. 9 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) September 2001

MESSAGE of 8/25/2001

Dear Children! Today, I call all of you to decide for holiness. May for you, little children, always in your thoughts and in each situation holiness be in the first place, in work and in speech. In this way, you will also put it into practice; little by little, step by step, prayer and a decision for holiness will enter into your family. Be real with yourselves and do not bind yourselves to material things but to God. And do not forget, little children, that your life is as passing as a flower. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

A PRAYER



I hear You, O Lord, in the softness of a morning's awakening. With the sign of the Cross You gently unite my soul to Yours. Heaven rejoices and Hell trembles at this moment

that our hearts are united. And we walk the Emmaus walk within the awaking hours of the long and sometimes tedious hours of each day.

Here in my soul Lord, unite me in earnest prayer and perfect devotion to You. Let me love You so truly, and with faith and charity may I be as a flower in bloom that bears much fruit.

By myself I can do nothing Lord. But with Your help everything can be done. You see my every deed, and know my every motive. Lead me by Your Holy Spirit. Give me a heart that is pure and a source from which love can be found by all who have contact with me.

Lord I desire to love You more than all the angels and saints. I unite my love for You with that of the Blessed virgin for it was she who adored You in the greatest way. AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

LAST CHANCE to SIGN-UP for WEEKEND of PRAYER with WORKSHOPS on INTERCESSORY PRAYER - SEPTEMBER 15 and 16

Jesus tells his apostles "Come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place and rest awhile." (Mk 6:31) 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, Holy Mass, 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

"The PILGRIM" for September 2001 is dedicated to "Our Lady, Most Serene Empress."

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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 spiritual journey learning contemplative prayer, she 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 at 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 donation 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.

BOOKS to ORDER and READ for the WEEKEND of PRAYER with WORKSHOPS on INTERCESSORY and CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Seeking Jesus in Contemplation and Discernment by Robert Faricy, SJ. Foreword by Michael Scanlon TOR. This book has been dedicated to Mother Angelica. It's excellent and inexpensive. I hope everyone will get one. It covers true discernment, discernment of spirits, spiritual combat as well as making decisions. Available from PFMC for a donation of \$7.95 plus postage.

Humility, Wellspring of Virtue by Dietrich von Hildebrand. Very good – A small book which introduces people to what humility really is. Available

from PFMC for a donation of \$5.95 plus postage.

What Does God Want? Michael Scanlan, TOR – A Practical Guide to Making Decisions, Franciscan University Press. Good and easy to read. Available from PFMC for a donation of \$7.45 plus postage.

Praising God Daily – The Privilege of Every Christian – Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ. Available from PFMC for a donation of \$2 plus postage.

Called to Intimacy, Living In the Indwelling Presence, George A. Maloney, SJ. Available from PFMC for a donation of \$6.95 plus postage.

Fire Within by Thomas DuBay, S.M. Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint John of the Cross, and the Gospel – on Prayer. Ignatius Press. DuBay is one of the really authentic and great retreat masters. This is a true classic for spiritual reading, growth and study – particularly the path of the Mansions and understandings needed for authentic growth in spirituality and contemplation. Probably not for the beginner but essential for the person ready for The MORE! Cover has a wonderful recommendation by Benedict Groeschel. On order by the PFMC.

The Sanctifier by Most Rev. Luis M. Martinez – The book I want is the one that is a Translation by Sister M. Aquinas, O.S.U. Saint Paul Editions. One of best books on Holy Spirit ever written – Martinez currently up for canonization. On order by the PFMC.

(Sister Jean O'Neil e-mail to PFMC Staff)

CATHOLIC UNITY CONFERENCE – 21, 22 and 23 SEPTEMBER 2001

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28: 19)

The 6th Annual Catholic Unity Conference presented by In His Sign Ministries is being held at the Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA from Friday, 21 September 2001 through Sunday, 23 September 2001. Speakers include Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Doctor Tom Petrisko, Ralph Martin, Robert Valiante. Visit: <http://www.inhissign.com/con2001.htm> for more information or call 1-888-34FAITH (343-2484).

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.

HEALTHY for the LORD

Seminar looking at our bodies as Temples for God, and keeping them in balance with healthy choices for food, exercise, rest and reducing stress.

DATE: Thursday, October 4, 2001

TIME: 7 PM

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

FACILITATOR: Carmella Ordille

Come join us for a Health Night. God does not make junk! Why eat it?

“DEFENDING YOUR FAITH” RETURNS in OCTOBER

Dean Pulcini returns with the “Defending Your Faith” program this 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 call us at 856-768-9228 to register for the classes. We ask for a love offering of \$5 per night to help cover 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 on areas of our Catholic Faith that you would like discussed, please 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 the weekend of October 12, 13, and 14, 2001.

This retreat is held in Darby, Pennsylvania, which is

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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 PILGRIMAGE - NOVEMBER 9 to 18, 2001

Names are being requested in order to hold the seats we have reserved on overseas and connecting flights. Please if you are thinking of joining us on the pilgrimage submit your name and full payment NOW!! Take out travel insurance to cover any possible need to cancel.

Father Joseph Romanoski, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in South Amboy, NJ will be the Spiritual Director. This is the 12th year of Medjugorje pilgrimages for Keith and Kathleen. 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 final payments are still being processed. 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.

“I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE” 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

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are \$89 per night with rollaway beds at a flat \$15 one-time set-up fee for the duration of your stay. The rooms are large and come with 1 King Size bed or two double beds. There are several entire floors of non-smoking rooms so make your desires known with your reservation. If we book 300 rooms before 2/8/02 they may open more of the over 400 rooms to us. We'd like to secure most of the hotel rooms for the RETREAT CONFERENCE so we can have a truly RETREAT environment.

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

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

Call 856 768-9228 if you need addition information.

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

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

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

Dorothea was born in Lowell, MA. She has been involved in the Charismatic Renewal since August 15, 1970. She has served as a core Group Member in her home parish of Saint Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Lowell. During the early stages of renewal she held and led weekly prayer group meetings. From 1970 to 1977, Dorothea was involved in lay Witness Missions as a team member and also in "Faith at Work." She is a member of the Association of Christian Therapists. Dorothea has given numerous workshops and seminars on Healing, Inner Healing and the Charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They were held in the Eastern United States (including New Jersey, Connecticut and New York), Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Dakota, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, Indiana, California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Ohio, Michigan, Canada, England, Scotland, Australia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the West Indies.

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

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

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

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 a correct form:

"I hereby give and bequeath to the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc., 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963 the sum

of \$_____ for 501(c)3 religious, charitable and educational purposes."

This will reduce your taxable estate. See your tax advisor or accountant for details.

We thank you for hearing and answering our prayers.

THE EUCHARIST and SANCTITY

The Eucharist as the Real Presence is the touchstone of sanctity. As evidence of this fact we have the witness of the saints who, when they speak or write about the power of the Blessed Sacrament to sanctify, seem to be positively extreme in their claims about what the Real Presence can achieve in making a sinful person holy.

Notice we are concentrating on the Holy Eucharist as the Real Presence. We could also speak of the sanctifying power of the Mass and of Holy Communion, but that is not our focus of reflection here. Why not? Because it is the Real Presence in the Mass and in Communion that finally explains their efficacy, too. No Real Presence, no Mass; no Real Presence, no Communion. So that, in dwelling on the Real Presence, we are in effect talking about the Holy Eucharist - Presence, Sacrifice and Sacrament.

In order to appreciate the value of the Real Presence in the spiritual life, we must go back in spirit to the event described by Saint John when our Lord, after He had worked the miracle of the multiplication of the

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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.

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

loaves and fishes, made the solemn promise of the Eucharist.

"I am the Bread of Life," Christ declared on that occasion. "He who comes to me will never be hungry. He who believes in me will never thirst. But, as I have told you, you can see me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me and whoever comes to me, I shall not turn him away because I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but to do the will of the one who sent me. Now the will of him who sent me is that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me and that I should raise it up on the last day. Yes, it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life and that I shall raise him up on the last day."

By now we have read and heard and meditated on these words many times, but they deserve further reflection because they contain so much mystery that after nineteen centuries of the Church's existence she has not begun to exhaust the richness of their meaning.

Every time we go back, every time we go back to Christ's words of revelation, we always discover something new. Always! The key word in Christ's discourse on the Eucharist is the word *believe*. In fact, after He promised the Blessed Sacrament many of the Jews who heard Him did not believe. "This is intolerable language," they said. "How could anyone (meaning themselves) accept it?"

"After this," we are told, "many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him." And the evangelist further explains that, "Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe and who it was that would betray him." We might add that when we are told that the Savior knew who did not believe, that was not only contemporary, but all future knowledge. He foresaw who would and who would not believe, and let us make sure that the evangelist's juxtaposition of those who did not believe and those who would betray Him is the relationship of cause and effect. All the traitors of Christ have been those who, having believed, stopped believing.

There are, at this point, three questions we should ask ourselves about the Holy Eucharist as Real Presence. And on the answer to these questions depends in large measure whether we shall only know about sanctity or also attain it, whether holiness will remain only an idea or whether we shall actually become holy. What a difference! The questions are these:

Why do we believe when we believe in the Real Presence?

Why should we believe it? And,

How should we put our belief into practice?

What Do We Believe?

The simplest way to express what Christ asks us to believe about the Real Presence is that the Eucharist is really *He*. The Real Presence is the *real Jesus*. We are to believe that the Eucharist began in the womb of the Virgin Mary; that the flesh which the Son of God received from His Mother at the Incarnation is the same flesh into which He changed bread at the Last Supper; that the blood He received from His Mother is the same blood into which He changed wine at the Last Supper. Had she not given Him His flesh and blood there could not be a Eucharist.

We are to believe that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ – simply, without qualification. It is God become man in the fullness of His divine nature, in the fullness of His human nature, in the fullness of His body and soul, in the fullness of everything that makes Jesus Jesus. He is in the Eucharist with His human mind and will united with the Divinity, with His hands and feet, His face and features, with His eyes and lips and ears and nostrils, with His affections and emotions and, with emphasis, with His living, pulsating, physical Sacred Heart. That is what our Catholic Faith demands of us that we believe. If we believe this, we are Catholic. If we do not, we are not, no matter what people may think we are.

Our faith is belief because we do not see what we believe. We accept on Christ's words that all of this is there, or rather, here in the Holy Eucharist. Faith must supply what, as the *Tantum Ergo* sings, "the senses do not perceive." And faith must reveal what the mind by itself cannot see. Let us never forget this phrase, first in Latin, *lumen fidei*, the light of faith. Faith reveals, faith discloses, faith enlightens, faith empowers the mind to see what the mind without faith cannot see.

Strange as it may sound, when we believe in the Real Presence, we believe in things twice unseen. We see only what looks like bread and wine, tastes and smells like bread and wine, and yet we are to believe that behind these physical appearances is a man. Faith number one. And we are further to believe that behind the unseen man is God. Faith number two.

Is it any wonder the Church calls the Eucharist, *Mysterium Fidei*, the Mystery of Faith? Those who accept the Real Presence accept by implication all the

cardinal mysteries of Christianity. They believe in the Trinity, in the Father who sent the Son and in the Son who sent the Holy Spirit. They believe in the Incarnation, that the Son of God became man like one of us. They believe in Christ's divinity since no one but God could change bread and wine into His own body and blood. They believe in the Holy Catholic Church which Christ founded and in which through successive generations is communicated to bishops and priests the incredible power of making Christ continually present among us in the Blessed Sacrament. They believe, against all the betrayals by the Judases of history and all the skepticism of Christ's first disciples, in an unbroken chain of faith ever since Peter replied to Christ's question whether he and his companions also wanted to leave the Master. What a chance Christ took. "Lord," Peter looked around go to?" (And he spoke for all of us.) "You have the message of eternal life, and we believe, we know, that you are the holy one of God."

There is a prayer in the Coptic Liturgy that I think perfectly answers the first question we are asking. "What do I believe when I believe in the Real Presence?" The prayer goes as follows, a little long, but worth it:

"I believe and I will confess to my last breath that this is the living bread which Your only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ, took from our Lady and the Queen of Mankind, the holy, sinless Virgin Mary, Mother of God. He made it one with His Godhead without confusion or change. He witnessed before Pontius Pilate and was of His own free will condemned in our place to the holy tree. Truly I believe that His Godhead was not separated from His manhood for a moment, not even for the twinkle of an eye. He gave His body for the remission of our sins and for eternal life to those who partake of this body. I believe, I believe, I believe that this is in very truth that body. Amen."

That is your faith and mine.

Why Do We Believe?

Why do we believe that the selfsame body that Christ had in His visible stay on earth is the body, now glorified, we now worship and receive invisibly on earth today? You see, Christ is *on* earth! The final reason is, of course, because this is what He told us. What He said must be true because Christ who is God cannot lie.

But why do we believe in terms of the promises He made? What blessings and benefits did He assure those

who believe in this Eucharistic Mystery? All the blessings that Christ promised to those who believe in the Holy Eucharist are summed up in His own masterful promise of *life*. Those who believe will receive *life* and the life that He promised was *zoé* – the kind of life that belongs to God, the kind of life that Father, Son and Holy Spirit shared and interchanged from all eternity. Those who believe will receive this life. Those who do not believe will die. What kind of life was Christ talking about? It must have been the supernatural life of grace in our souls, of partaking or participation in His own divine life.

Suppose we go on asking a series of questions where the answer can be yes or no:

Is it possible for a person to be physically alive, but spiritually dead? Yes or no? YES.

Is it possible for a person to be just barely alive? Yes or no? YES.

Is it possible for a person to be more alive than just scarcely breathing supernaturally? Yes or no? YES

Is it finally possible for a person to be very alive with divine grace, vitally alive, brimming, tingling, vibrating, bursting with God's life in his soul? Yes or no? An emphatic YES

This, in homely language, is what the Savior promised those who believed in His Real Presence. He assured them and, therefore, assures us, that we shall be not only alive, but filled with His life, full to brimming and flowing over with strength and power and wisdom and peace and all manner of holiness. This is what sanctity is all about. It is the muchness of the good things of God. It is the more and more and still more of the life of God in our souls. More still, He promises that, provided that we believe in Him in the Eucharist, He will sustain this life in our souls into eternity. In other words, being alive now we shall never die. And most marvelous, He will even make this life pour from our souls into our bodies risen from the grave on the last day and glorified by the vision of God. No wonder the Eucharist is called *panis vitae*, the Bread of Life. It is that, and let us remind ourselves, and here is the condition, one condition, that before we eat this bread with our lips, we take it by faith into our hearts. Indeed, unless we first have faith, we shall, as Paul tells us, "eat it to our malediction." Only believers can benefit from this Bread of Life, only believers can profit from the Blessed Sacrament, and only believers can grow in spirit by partaking of the Eucharist depending *always* on the measure of their faith. Those who believe deeply in the Real Presence will benefit

greatly from the Real Presence; those who believe weakly will also benefit accordingly. The Eucharist is capable of working miracles in our lives. So it can – after all, the Eucharist is Jesus. He worked – change the tense – He works miracles, but as it depended then (remember, Christ could not work miracles in certain places for lack of faith), the same now. It depends on the depth and degree of our faith.

How To Believe?

This must seem like an odd question: how are we to believe in the Real Presence? By believing, we might answer. How else do you believe? True enough. But more concretely, how are we to express our belief? We are to express our belief by doing on our part what Christ does on His part. He comes to us. So we must come to Him, and this is not locomotion through space. He comes down to us. We must come up to Him. He is present in the Eucharist in order to be near to us. We must be present – change the accent – we must be present to the Eucharist in order to be near to Him. He went to the superhuman length of becoming man, then changing bread and wine into Himself, then giving His Apostles the power to do the same, then giving them the power to pass on this power to others to do the same. And in virtue of that power, He is *now* here with us. He wants us, in turn, also *now*, here, to be with Him. And here nobody cheats. It is impossible in human terms to exaggerate the importance of being in a church or chapel before the Blessed Sacrament as often and for as long as our duties and state of life allow. I very seldom repeat what I say. Let me repeat this sentence. It is impossible in human language to exaggerate the importance of being in a chapel or church before the Blessed Sacrament as often and for as long as our duties and state of life allow. That sentence is the talisman of the highest sanctity.

What I am expressing is not a pious practice or a luxury of the spiritual life. I am talking about its essence. Those who believe what I am saying and act on their belief are in possession of the greatest treasure available to man in this valley of tears. As by now thousands of saintly men and women have testified from experience, this is somewhere near the key to holiness. For this reason, I strongly recommend that each of us make a resolution – no matter how much the decision may cost us – to make a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved at least once a month or, if possible, once a week, and if we have the grace and our vocation in life permits it, even several times a week. Think of the empty hours that people spend weekly before the television screen

– an average I am told of some twenty hours per man, woman and child in America. God help America!

Someone may object, “But you are talking about mystics or saints, and I am neither. I am just an ordinary Catholic trying to save my soul.” My reply: there can be no ordinary Catholics today, not with the revolution through which society is passing and the convulsion in the Church on every level. The Church today needs strong Catholics, wise Catholics, Catholics who are not swayed by public opinion or afraid to stand up for the truth. She needs Catholics who are willing to suffer for their convictions and, if need be, shed their blood for the Faith.

Where, we ask, can they obtain this strength and wisdom, this patience and conviction and this loyal love of God that is faithful unto death? They can obtain it from the one who said, “Have courage, I have overcome the world.” He is not two thousand years away, or absent from the earth in a distant heaven that cannot be spanned. No, He is right here in the Eucharist. And He wants nothing more than that we also be with Him as much as we can. If we are, and the more we are – as the great Eucharistic saints tell us – He will not only make us holy, but He will use us as He used those in Palestine who, when He first made the promise of the Eucharist, did not walk away. He will use us as channels of His grace even to the ends of the earth and until the end of time.

(by Father John Hardon, S.J.)

www.therealpresence.org/eucharist

IMPRIMI POTES: Edward M. O’Flaherty, S.J.

Provincial, New England Province

NIHIL OBSTAT: Rev. Richard V Lawlor, S.J.

IMPRIMATUR: Humberto Cardinal Medeiros

Archbishop of Boston

EUCCHARIST AS COMMUNION - SACRAMENT

The biblical foundation for Holy Communion is what Christ Himself did at the Last Supper. As narrated by Saint Matthew, Jesus first offered the apostles what He was about to change, then changed the bread and wine, and then gave them Communion.

And while they were at supper, Jesus took bread and blessed and broke and gave it to His disciples and said, “Take you and eat, this is my Body.” And taking the chalice He gave thanks and gave it to them saying, “Drink you all of this. For this is my Blood of the New Testament which shall be shed for many unto remission of sins.” (Matthew 26:26-28)

Saint John, who does not give us the narrative of the institution of the Eucharist, devotes a whole chapter to Christ's promise of giving His followers His own flesh to eat and His own blood to drink. What Christ emphasizes is the absolute necessity of being nourished by His Body and Blood if the supernatural life received at Baptism is to be sustained.

I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in Him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate. They are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live forever. (John 6: 53-58)

Throughout the gospels and Saint Paul, Christ uses words like "take," "eat," "drink," always clearly indicating that the Eucharist is to be taken into the mouth and consumed. No less, and far more, than material food and drink are necessary to sustain the natural life of the body, so Holy Communion must be received to support and nourish the supernatural life of the soul.

(www.newadvent.org)

THE REAL PRESENCE and SANCTITY

In speaking about Holiness it is remarkable how we can overlook the obvious. For example it is obvious that we cannot become holy unless we obtain the extraordinary graces needed to reach sanctity. Hearing about holiness; reading about it; even seeing holiness, does not make one holy. We need grace. It is equally obvious that the graces we need must come to us from Christ since as He told us, "Without Me you can do nothing". If that nothing refers even to salvation, it most certainly refers to sanctification.

The question remains - how? How do we obtain the grace that only Christ can give, in order to become more and more like Him, in a word to become holy, because Christlikeness is holiness? We obtain the graces we need from Christ by asking Him, by praying to Him and by begging Him for them. All of this is true. But then we begin to touch on a mystery, because Christ will give us the grace we need (and we

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need a lot of grace to become holy) only if we ask Him for it as He wants us to approach Him. And the "as He wants us to" is the key to the mystery. How does Christ want us to approach Him, so that approaching Him we might ask Him effectively? The answer is plain - by faith. Faith in Christ is what Christ demands as the precondition for answering our prayers. It is not in much speech nor in long hours of petitioning that prayer is efficacious but only insofar as it is animated by faith and for our purpose, so animated as to obtain the beyond-ordinary graces of holiness.

But we are not yet at the center of our subject. There are manifold mysteries about Christ, such as the many aspects of the Incarnation and the infinitude of meaning behind the Name "Jesus". Is there some one mystery of our faith in Him which, if we believe in it deeply we shall tap the resources of His gracious mercy? Yes. It is the faith in His Real Presence. No wonder over the centuries this has been called THE mystery of faith. It is the epicenter of Christology.

In order to impress ourselves with this very central fact, we should go back to Christ's promise of the Eucharist in Saint John's Gospel. What needs to be kept in mind is that there are two levels to this promise of the Eucharist recorded by John in his sixth chapter. They intertwine through the forty some verses dealing with the promise of the Eucharist, but the two levels are not the same. One is the level of faith where Christ insists on the absolute necessity of believing in Him to be saved and sanctified; belief, believing, believe run right through as a theme in the Eucharist itself which Christ proceeds to identify as

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the special object of our faith in Him.

When reading many of the verses from Saint John, note the interplay of these two levels, the need for believing in Christ and the characteristic object of this faith in Christ, namely that He is really present in the Eucharist as the nourishment of our spiritual life.

You recall the context. Christ had just worked one of His several miraculous multiplications of food. Then He went on:

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst. But as I have told you, you can see me and still you do not believe....Yes it is my Father's will that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day....I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Then begins the dialectic. Christ made it pre-lucidly clear that no one would be saved, much less sanctified, unless he believes in Christ. An what is the core of believing in Christ? It is believing that He is the bread that came down from heaven to live in our midst as the Eucharist and to be received in our bodies as Communion. ***"Then the Jews," so John continues, "started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'"*** There was no taking back on the part of Christ. ***"I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you"*** - meaning, if you do not believe, clearly you will not receive life; then you shall die.

Then John goes on: ***"He taught this doctrine at Capernaum, in the synagogue. After hearing it, many of his followers said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before?....But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.'"***

After this, many of his disciples left him, and stopped going with him."

But John is not finished yet. ***"Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away"***

He might have lost all twelve right then. ***"Simon Peter answered, 'Lord who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'"*** So far, Saint John.

As often as we have read and heard these verses from the beloved disciple and as often as we may have been impressed by the studied effort of the Evangelist to bring out the necessity of believing in Christ as really present in the Eucharist, we may not perhaps have been sufficiently impressed with the logic of it all. It all ties in together. Thematically, this means that our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is the touchstone of sanctity. We shall be saved if we believe in this Presence and believing, act as those who do believe. We shall be sanctified too if we believe. We shall be effective in winning souls to Christ if we believe in this mystery, neither more nor less. The deeper our faith in this presence, the more surely we shall be saved; the more securely we shall be sanctified; and the more effectively, beyond our wildest dreams, shall we bring not hundreds but thousands of souls to the Heart of Christ.

But then we ask ourselves, "What is it, or better, who is it we believe in, when we believe in the Real Presence?" We believe it is the same Jesus who was conceived in the womb of His Mother Mary. We should not tire of reminding ourselves, that the flesh in the Eucharist came from Mary. It is the same Jesus who was born at Bethlehem; who fled and stayed for a while in Egypt; who lived at Nazareth; who began His public life and preached to the people. It is the same Savior who worked miracles; who raised people from the dead; who forgave sinners and who reconciled the Magdalene. It is the same Christ who suffered and died and by His divine power raised His body from the grave. This is the same Christ who ascended into heaven, is now at the right hand of His heavenly Father and is also in our midst. This, in the profoundest sense of the word, is heaven on earth. This is what we believe, when we believe in the Real Presence.

We believe therefore that He is here on earth not only as God but as Man. That bears much more emphasis than we can ever give it because it means, faith assures us, that while before the Incarnation God was on earth which He made, with the Incarnation God became

man. It is the man who is God who is really present! We believe that this humanity, which really means this human being, is capable of working the same wonders now that He worked in Palestine.

Let us follow this through. Recall the many times during His public life when Christ was asked to work miracles, to heal and to cure, but that on some tragic occasions we are told He could not work the miracles because of the lack of faith among the people. The needs were there, desperate bodily and spiritual needs; the power was there, infinite power. We don't explain this; we accept it, we believe it: Omnipotence is bound by our faith. How is it that the Almighty, who brought the world into being out of nothing; who made us out of nothing; who sustains the universe, symbolically, in the Palm of His Hand - that this God's Omnipotence is conditioned by our faith! We don't understand, but we accept it. It is both wonderful and terrifying, isn't it?

It is this human nature that, we are bidden to believe, has done two things. First, in the womb of Mary it was substantially united with the Eternal Word of God so that the child she bore in her womb for nine months was her Creator. That's the first article of faith and the substratum for the second. Secondly, we believe that in ways beyond our comprehension, this humanity has decided to remain thus substantially united with the divinity and that this humanity united with the Word of God is here on earth. Is it any wonder that the Fathers of the Church speak of the Real Presence as the acme of the Faith? It is at the peak of the pyramid of all that we believe because the Real Presence subsumes everything else.

Now there is a further refinement that I think bears some emphasis. After all, having made the world and, for reasons best known to His Infinite Wisdom, having allowed the world to sin, in deciding to redeem the world God did not have to become man to achieve this redemption. Clearly, He did so because He wanted to. But once God made that decision, that the world would be redeemed by the humanity assumed by the Son of God, that humanity remains for all time the source of all grace to mankind and in eternity, the source of all heavenly Glory.

This is the mediatorial channel through which all the treasures of heaven come to the human race. That human being is the indispensable link between God and sinful man. Consequently, whether it is the Real Presence whom we come to receive, in all cases it is the human Jesus who is our God, who through His humanity channels to us the treasures of His divinity. So when we who are so pathetically human come to

Him, who is so gloriously human, it is a human heart speaking to a Human Heart; It is a human mind thinking about a Human Mind and, in ways that we cannot conceive, that Human Mind and Human Will radiates to us the wisdom and the strength we need even to be saved and surely to be sanctified.

There are so many things that the mystery of Christ's humanity in the Eucharist teaches us, because there is no limit to what we can expect to receive from Him. He is here. Everything else is up to us; it all depends on our faith. While there are many things that faith leads us to beg from this Eucharistic Jesus (even if need be, to work miracles in our favor), there is no grace that we need more and that we should more earnestly beg Him to give us, than the grace to experience in our humanity what He experienced in His. Whatever other reasons He had for becoming man, this is the fundamental one - He became man, assuming our human nature, in order that like us, He might be able to endure. God as God could have done everything else in our favor except suffer. This He could not do.

There are myriad favors and countless petitions we ask for; There are desires, dreams, hopes, and ambitions that we want Him to fulfill. And provided they are good for us, He will answer all our prayers, if only we believe. But there is one petition we must not omit making, because this is the whole reason for His being here as the human being who suffered and who now wants us to join our sufferings with His. But we need grace strength and courage; that's the missing link. It is essential that we beg this human God in our midst to help us live out our humanity faithfully, meaning that He will enable us to be patient with others and with ourselves, and patient with Him; that we might bear up with our crosses, especially with that heaviest burden we have to carry - ourselves.

We need grace to be resigned even as He, as man was resigned to the Divine Will, so that like Him we might be able to offer ourselves daily and perhaps many times daily, being sure that it is especially in that way that we grow in His likeness. After all the learned books have been read and all the reudite sermons have been heard, we actually become most like Christ, we become most holy, when we have learned how like Him to suffer. Anyone who preaches another gospel is not a true prophet. I trust we have long learned this secret. With the strength that He gives us and the courage that we obtain from Jesus, who is here with us, this cross that we carry with Him and for Him becomes lighter and sweeter to such an extent that,

strange though it seems, the more we endure with Him the more we shall be consoled by Him. There are two kinds of joy: one that comes from this life born of earth - the other that comes from God. The price we have to pay to obtain a foretaste of heaven on earth is to embrace the cross.

I still have a short epilogue. In the light of all that we have seen, is it any wonder that all sanctity in the Roman Catholic Church is said to be derived from the Eucharist; that all saints have become sanctified because they believed in the Eucharist and lived out their belief; and that our greatest joy on earth is to be present to Him? Words almost lose their joy on earth is to be present to Him? Words almost lose their meaning when we use them in this way - we are to be present to Him who makes Himself present to us. The Beatific Vision is simply the Eucharist unveiled and enjoyed for eternity.

(Father John A. Hardon, S.J.)

KIDS in CHURCH

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me." "Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

A father took his 5-year-old son to several baseball games where The Star-Spangled Banner was sung before the start of each game. Then the father and son attended a church on a Sunday shortly before Independence Day. The congregation sang The Star-Spangled Banner, and after everyone sat down, the little boy suddenly yelled out, "PLAY BALL

A 6-year-old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little boy, "I'll have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit and listen."

A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter

to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

(Submitted by ArareJewelnLA)

A PRAYER of TRUST

To you, O Lord, I entrust all my hopes, all my trials and miseries.

May all my actions be ordered and disposed according to your will.

As I toil for peace and unity in your vineyard, make me strong and faithful to praise you evermore.

And may nothing ever cloud my conscience or hinder my progress until the day of Jesus comes. AMEN.

(Father Dudley Adams)

THE STEEPLE

The church steeple in Port Gibson is very high and was being painted on a rather hot day. The painter was about half way down and, as the steeple was widening out, was taking more paint.

The painter felt that he might not have enough paint to finish. Since he was hot and tired, and did not care to make another trip to the ground, he decided to stretch the amount of paint by adding some paint thinner to it.

When finished, he lowered himself to the ground and went about cleaning up. Then he looked up to see the results of his work and noted that the area with the thinned paint looked decidedly different.

He was pondering about what to do about it when the sky turned dark and there was a lightning flash and loud thunderclap.

Then in a loud, booming voice from the sky came the words, "REPAINT AND THIN NO MORE!"

(Submitted by Cicec)

EFFECTS of HOLY COMMUNION

Since the earliest times, the benefits of receiving the Body and Blood of Christ were spelled out to encourage frequent, even daily, Holy Communion. Thus, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (died 387) said that reception of the Eucharist makes the Christian a

Christbearer” and “one body and one blood with *Catecheses*, 4,3). Saint John Chrysostom (died 407) speaks of a mixing of the Body of Christ with our body, “...in order to show the great love that He has for us. He mixed Himself with us, and joined His Body with us, so that we might become one like a bread connected with the body” (*Homily* 46,3). These and other comparisons of how Communion unites the recipient with Christ are based on Christ's own teaching, and Saint Paul's statement that, “the bread which we break, is it not the partaking of the Body of the Lord? For we, being many, are one bread, all that partake of this bread.” (I Corinthians 10:16-17).

So, too, the church officially teaches that “Every effect which bodily food and bodily drink produce in our corporeal life, by preserving this life, increasing this life, healing this life, and satisfying this life - is also produced by this Sacrament in the spiritual life” (Council of Florence, November 22, 1439). Thus:

Holy Communion preserves the supernatural life of the soul by giving the communicant supernatural strength to resist temptation, and by weakening the power of concupiscence. It reinforces the ability of our free will to withstand the assaults of the devil. In a formal definition, the Church calls Holy Communion “an antidote by which we are preserved from grievous sins” (Council of Trent, October 11, 1551).

Holy Communion increases the life of grace already present by vitalizing our supernatural life and strengthening the virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit we possess. To be emphasized, however, is that the main effect of Communion is not to remit sin. In fact, a person in conscious mortal sin commits a sacrilege by going to Communion.

Holy Communion cures the spiritual diseases of the soul by cleansing it of venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sin. No less than serving as an antidote to protect the soul from mortal sins, Communion is “an antidote by which we are freed from our daily venial sins” (Council of Trent, October 11, 1551). The remission of venial sins and of the temporal sufferings due to sin takes place immediately by reason of the acts of perfect love of God, which are awakened by the reception of the Eucharist. The extent of this remission depends on the intensity of our charity when receiving Communion.

Holy Communion gives us a spiritual joy in the service of Christ, in defending His cause, in performing the duties of our state of life, and in making the sacrifices required of us in imitating the life of our Savior.

On Christ's own promise, Holy Communion is a pledge of heavenly glory and of our bodily resurrection from the dead (John 6:55).

Saint Irenaeus (died 202) simply declared that, “when our bodies partake of the Eucharist, they are no longer corruptible as they have the hope of eternal resurrection” (Against the Heresies, IV, 18,5).

www.newadvent.org

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

VOCATION DEPARTMENT: THE PRIESTHOOD of JESUS CHRIST

“Before the daystar, from the womb,” God said
In Heaven, “I begot thee. Priest thou art,
Of order of Melchisedec, whose bread
And wine were offered from a faithful heart.

Our fallen race had need of sacrifice
And prayer, to honor, praise and thank Our Lord

HOLY MASS TIMES

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In that long vigil ere Christ paid the price
Of our Redemption, crucified, adored!

He sat at table with the twelve that night,
Fulfilled Melchisedic before He died;
He, long awaited Priest, the world's Light,
Tomorrow to be Victim, crucified!

Well might sun be darkened and earth quake,
At that dread scene of Love Eternal,
Pain without a name! O Savior, let me take
Some of Thy Cross, Thou, Lamb without a stain!

Consummate Artist, it did not suffice
That Thy salvific death should save our race.
Thou planned that universal Sacrifice,
Which Malachy foretold, in time and space.

He gave them power to consecrate, to free
From sin the penitent; dominion theirs
O'er real and Mystic Body. Her we see
His priesthood founded, with its tasks and cares.

To call God down from Heaven! Then, to break
The chain of Satan on the soul! To be Christ's herald
to the nations; for His sake
Make life a pilgrimage of charity!

To bless and sanctify, baptize and plant
The Cross where sin and darkness reigned before!
No home his own, he's welcome visitant
At countless hearths, with ever-open door.

"Like ships that pass in night", the beggar sad,
Given food for body, soul; the rake he brought
To happier life with God; the child, half-mad,
He found and sheltered, dried tears of, and taught!

What is vocation? Gifts of body, mind
And heart; of nature, grace that make one fit
For labors, studies; Christ's love inter-twined
With love of neighbor, driving force, and grit!

I felt God's call in early years, and prayed,
But earthly voices hushed that "Follow Me."
I followed paths of dalliance, world's parade,
But learned those things were no great joy to me.

I thought: ONE life to live, ONE working day,
To leave this world the better for my cruise,
One hour to grace my soul, to work and pray,
And in all these find joy, and joy diffuse.

A sad, unhappy life could have been mine—
Of failure, disappointment, loneliness;
But, under Christ's sweet tutelage Divine
I came to do, with Him, the things that bless.

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul!"
Build for eternity, with Christ thy goal!
Leave men the happier for thy earthly stroll!
Lord, who is like to Thee!

(by Father John McFadden, O.S.C. excerpted from
"The Maryfaithful" May-June 2001 with permission)

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
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The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men
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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
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Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden,
Nazareth House,
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important to get the message out on a regular basis.

We believe that Our Lady communicates with the
world every month through the alleged visionaries of

Ndi Nyina Wa Jambo,” that is, “I am the Mother of the Word.”

She continued: “I have come to calm you because I have heard your prayers. I would like your friends to

have faith, because they do not believe strongly enough.”

In January 1982, Nathalie Mukamazimpaka saw the Virgin; these apparitions continued through Dec. 3, 1983. On March 2, 1982, it was Marie Claire Mukangango’s turn. The apparitions lasted six months in her case, until Sept. 15, 1982. Mumureke’s last apparition was on Nov. 28, 1989, exactly seven years after the first.

Meanwhile, in 1982 the bishop appointed a medical commission, and later a theological one, to investigate the reports. With the passing months, the number of reported visionaries rose to seven. Three other young women and a boy said they received apparitions of Jesus; none of these apparitions have been recognized.

From the beginning in Kibeho, in southern Rwanda, there were conversions, prayer meetings, pilgrimages, healings and abnormal phenomena during those public apparitions.

The ethnic war in the mid-1990s seems to many to have been the realization of the prophecy.

Commenting in the mid-1980s on events in Kibeho, well-known French Mariologist, Father René Laurentin, said that “they are a joyful sign for Africa, for its Church, for Africanization, in the positive sense of the term.”

During his 1990 visit to Rwanda, John Paul II exhorted the faithful to turn to the Virgin as a simple and sure guide, and pray for greater commitment against local divisions, both political and ethnic.

(VATICAN CITY, JULY 2, 2001 (Zenit.org).- Bishop Augustine Misago of Rwanda)

PEOPLE

People are often unreasonable,
illogical, and self-centered:

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, People may accuse you of selfish,
ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some

You will lose some.

Some will be false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank,

People may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building,

Someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,

There may be jealousy;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,

People will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,

And it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you’ve got

Anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,

It is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

(Mother Theresa)

SUMMER - THE SABBATH REST

Do we actually need a law to slow us down? I don’t mean a speed limit. Even if we violate that, we admit the need of it for all those other, less careful drivers. But a mandate that would make us take time off from the workweek that so consumes our energy, so that there is none left for family and friends.

We Americans ruefully confess that we sometimes overdo a good thing. Hard work in a land that still has opportunities for those who hustle is a virtue we and our school systems instill in our children. But to much of a good thing is usually bad. So perhaps we need that law.

Long before there were industrious Americans, Moses gave the Hebrews God’s commandments on Mount Sinai. The third one specified that God’s people were to keep the Sabbath holy and that they were to rest on that day. It seems they too needed some help from outside to slow down and enjoy life at the end of the workweek.

Scholars show that the rules of life for Israel evolved over centuries, and they were codified centuries after Moses but read back into the history of Israel so as to enjoy his seal of approval as the community’s lawgiver. In that time employers worked their laborers with a serious view on profits (nothing changes does it?) . So the religious authorities came to the rescue and decreed that the last day of the week was to be a needed day off, even going so far as to devise the Genesis creation account that had Yahweh resting on the last day of the work week of creation.

We Christians moved our Sabbath from Saturdays to Sunday because that is the day the Lord rose from the dead. But we took with us the imperative of resting one day per week because work is in service of human life, not vice versa. Many of the things in Christianity were lifted in whole or in part from our Hebrew roots, and Sabbath rest is one of the most important. It is God telling us to take it easy.

Summer is a kind of Sabbath rest that we enjoy seeing all the kids enjoy. I hope it is a time for everyone to kick back and relax, whatever one's income bracket or age in life. We should enjoy God's work of creation.

**(Father Robert Gregorio, Pastor, Church of Saint Lucy,
Blue Anchor, NJ. Bulletin)**

SUPPORT ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK (EWTN)

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

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

A SPECIAL STORY for A SPECIAL SOMEONE

He was in the first third grade class I taught at Saint Mary's School in Morris, Minn. All 34 of my students were dear to me, but Mark Eklund was one in a million. Very neat in appearance, but had that happy-to-be-alive attitude that made even his occasional mischievousness delightful.

Mark talked incessantly. I had to remind him again and again that talking without permission was not acceptable. What impressed me so much, though, was his sincere response every time I had to correct him for misbehaving - "Thank you for correcting me,

I didn't know what to make of it at first, but before long I became accustomed to hearing it many times a day. One morning my patience was growing thin when Mark talked once too often, and then I made a novice teacher's mistake.

I looked at Mark and said, "If you say one more word, I am going to tape your mouth shut!"

It wasn't ten seconds later when Chuck blurted out, "Mark is talking again."

I hadn't asked any of the students to help me watch Mark, but since I had stated the punishment in front of the class, I had to act on it. I remember the scene as if it had occurred this morning. I walked to my desk, very deliberately opened my drawer and took out a roll of masking tape. Without saying a word, I proceeded to Mark's desk, tore off two pieces of tape and made a big X with them over his mouth. I then returned to the front of the room.

As I glanced at Mark to see how he was doing, he winked at me. That did it!! I started laughing. The class cheered as I walked back to Mark's desk, removed the tape, and shrugged my shoulders.

His first words were, "Thank you for correcting me,

At the end of the year, I was asked to teach junior-high math. The years flew by, and before I knew it Mark was in my classroom again. He was more handsome than ever and just as polite. Since he had to listen carefully to my instruction in the "new math," he did not talk as much in ninth grade as he had in third.

One Friday, things just didn't feel right. We had worked hard on a new concept all week, and I sensed that the students were frowning, frustrated with themselves and edgy with one another. I had to stop this crankiness before it got out of hand. So I asked them to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then I told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed me the papers.

That Saturday, I wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and I listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday I gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling.

"Really?" I heard whispered, "I never knew that meant anything to anyone!"

"I didn't know others liked me so much.

"No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. I never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy

with themselves and one another again. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, after I returned from vacation, my parents met me at the airport.

As we were driving home, Mother asked me the usual questions about the trip - the weather, my experiences in general. There was a lull in the conversation. Mother gave Dad a sideways glance and simply said, "Dad?"

My father cleared his throat as he usually did before something important.

"The Eklunds called last night," he began.

"Really?" I said. "I haven't heard from them in years. I wonder how Mark is."

Dad responded quietly. "Mark was killed in Vietnam," he said. "The funeral is tomorrow, and his parents would like it if you could attend."

To this day I can still point to the exact spot on I-494 where Dad told me about Mark. I had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before.

Mark looked so handsome, so mature. All I could think at that moment was, "Mark I would give all the masking tape in the world if only you would talk to me." The church was packed with Mark's friends. Chuck's sister sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Why did it have to rain on the day of the funeral? It was difficult enough at the graveside. The pastor said the usual prayers, and the bugler played taps.

One by one those who loved Mark took a last walk by the coffin and sprinkled it with holy water. I was the last one to bless the coffin. As I stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to me.

"Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. I nodded as I continued to stare at the coffin. "Mark talked about you a lot," he said.

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates headed to Chuck's farmhouse for lunch. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting for me.

"We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket.

"They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. I knew

without looking that the papers were the ones on which I had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

"Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said.

"As you can see, Mark treasured it."

Mark's classmates started to gather around us. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said,

"I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk

Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our

"I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary."

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. I carry this with me at all times, " Vicki said without batting an eyelash. "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when I finally sat down and cried. I cried for Mark and for all his friends who could never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Send this story to other people. Within five days you will have a miraculous occurrence in your relationships. You may find new love or have an old love rekindled. If you do not send it, you will have, once again passed up the opportunity to do something loving and beautiful and continue the trend that gives you problems in your relationships. Do it, and reap what you sow. MAY YOUR DAY BE AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE !!!!

(Colette – Internet)

SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL

On September 29th, the Church honors and suggests to the faithful that they pay their devotions to the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. The Archangel Saint Michael, the "captain of the heavenly host" has always been considered, both in the Old and the New Testaments, as the defender of God and the Church's rights against the snares of the Devil.

In the Apocalypse there is a description of the appalling battle between Michael and the red dragon which was defeated. From very ancient times Michael was greatly venerated in the Church with a special cult. During the stormy period of his long pontificate, Pope Leo XIII composed this lovely prayer:

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle; against the devil's perfidy and snares be our help. We ask you with supplication for God to suppress him! And you Prince of the Celestial Host, with all the strength that comes to you from God, drive Satan back into hell with all the other evil spirits who wander the earth to lead souls to perdition.

He prescribed it to be read at the end of every Mass. In the liturgical reform after the Ecumenical Council, this prayer was abandoned. The present Pope John Paul II places the highest trust in Saint Michael's protection: "The struggle of the Archangel against the Devil." Says the Pope, "exists today. The evils that afflict mankind are not just the result of original sin, but the effect of the contaminating work of Satan."

All over the world rose churches and Sanctuaries dedicated to Saint Michael. The most famous one in Italy is the Gargano. In 1990, in Turin, the Church of Saint Michael and the Institute with his name (nursery primary school) celebrated one hundred years of activity. They received a great deal of well-deserved commendation for their long religious and educational history. In this lovely church, so warm and intimate, dominated by the figure of Saint Michael that stands above the main altar, the missionary sisters of the Consolata benevolently welcome the Turin Regina Pacis group for their prayer meetings on the first Saturday and third Friday of each month.

(Perhaps if all parishes restored this prayer for the Church, then some of the division and healing would occur through the intercession of Saint Michael.: editor)

(editor – Medjugorje Periodical Magazine of Torino, Italy # 24 Year VII)

THE PLAQUE

One Sunday morning, Father McGhee, the pastor, noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it.

The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque.

"Father McGhee, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?"

(butlerwebs.com)

THOUGHTS on the WILL of GOD and HIS LOVE

Saint Teresa, the Little Flower of Jesus, said: "I fear only one thing - to keep my own will; take it, my God for I choose all that You choose."

At another time she said: "Since I belong to Jesus to give Him pleasure and to console Him, I should not oblige Him to do my own will instead of His own."

Whatever happens to us is the best possible thing that could happen to us. If this is something good, our God of Love wills it directly; if it is not something good, He permits this to happen for some greater good.

Our God is a God of Love and all that happens is nothing but a gift to us from the loving hand of a God of Merciful Love.

God in His Merciful Love knows best and so He permits these little thorns from time to time to purify our souls so that we can love Him more.

A consoling thing for us to remember is that this painful cutting and pruning of our faults and imperfections come from Him and so nothing is too hard or too painful to bear.

All of these trials are suited to our needs and God proportions all of them to our ability and strength.

Our God of Love has measured out not only how painful these trials will be, but all of them are measured as to how long they will last.

He watches over all so that these work out our salvation and help other souls besides our own.

He chose this path for me:

Though well He knew sharp thorns would pierce my feet,

Knew how the brambles would obstruct the way,

Knew all the hidden dangers I would meet.

Knew how my feet would falter day by day;

And still the whisper echoed, "Yes, I see this path is

He chose this path for me.

What need I more:

This sweeter truth to know,

That all along these strange bewildering ways,

O'er rocky steps and where dark rivers flow,

His loving Arms will bear me all the days.

A few steps more and I myself shall see

This path is best for me.

If we could be there in Heaven with God and see that what He has permitted to happen to us will fit in with all the rest of our lives, we would be making the same choice with Him for we would then see how wise and loving this was for us.

We are so close to some of these trials and sufferings that it is hard for us to see things with the eyes of faith and what God sees as best for us.

Our Lord's own words: "Behold He is with Me and has not left Me alone because I do always the things that are pleasing to Him."

And in a short prayer, at times given the title, "A Scout Prayer," we find these words:

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous

to serve you as you deserve,

to give without counting the cost,

to fight without heeding the wounds,

to work without looking for rest,

to spend myself without receiving any other recompense than to know that I am doing your holy will.

And from Thomas Merton -

"But in all that happens, my one desire and my one joy should be to know:

'Here is the thing that God has willed for me.'"

All of this takes faith, deep faith, but we get this faith by asking for it, by praying for it.

In all the trials, sufferings, and signs of disappointments, and the like, we can be sure of this:

God permits this to happen for a greater good, either for myself or for others; it comes from a God of Love and if there were no good coming out of it, God would not be a God of Love.

Either I, myself, or some other person or persons will benefit from my generosity in this suffering, this trial, this disappointment.

Many have found the following words very helpful as they say them repeatedly together with faith and trust in God.

"THY WILL BE DONE! THANK YOU, DEAREST JESUS!"

In joining the two together we are then not only accepting God's holy Will and being resigned to it, but we are thanking Him for His loving Goodness in permitting this for us; no matter how painful it might be, no matter how miserable we might be at the time, no matter how much it might cost us. People have found these words very consoling to them and at the same time they have found that they are much calmer with the suffering and trial.

"GOD IS LOVE"

(by Rev Robert Braun)

MORE KIDS IN CHURCH

A mother took her three-year-old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started singing in a loud voice, "Happy Birthday to you, happy birthday to you."

(Submitted by SandyD707)

THE COMPLAINTS from HEAVEN

The complaints from Heaven may be heard through a multitude of apparitions of the Virgin Mary and may be seen in the reflection of the condition of the world today.

We will first address the complaints from Heaven manifested through Our Heavenly Mother.

La Salette (3)

Country: France

Date(s): 1846

Approval Status: The Vatican

Frequency: Under 5

Complaint: “The priests, ministers of my Son, the priests, by their wicked lives, by their irreverence and their impiety in the celebration of the holy mysteries, by their love of money, their love of honors and pleasures, the priests have become cesspools of impurity. Yes, the priests are asking for vengeance, and vengeance is hanging over their heads. Woe to the priests and to those dedicated to God who by their unfaithfulness and their wicked lives are crucifying my Son again! The sins of those dedicated to God cry out towards Heaven and call for vengeance, and now vengeance is at their door, for there is no one left to beg mercy and forgiveness for the people. There are no more generous souls, there is no one left worthy of offering a stainless sacrifice to the Eternal God for the sake of the world.

Request: Return to Her Son and His laws.

Prophecy: Many of the worldwide calamities from 1846 to Date were correctly forecasted.

World's Response: A basilica was built and a statue of Our Lady of La Salette was consecrated but there was no change in the behavior of the clergy.

Fátima (4)

Country: Portugal

Date(s): 1917/1929

Approval Status: The Vatican

Frequency: Under 30

Complaint: Do not offend the Lord our God any more. He is much offended. Our Lord also complains (5) “...above all, He complains very much about the luke warm, indifferent and comfortable life of the majority of the clergy and members of the religious orders.”

Request: Pray the rosary daily. Consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart. Stop offending Our Lord. Promote First Saturday of Reparation. Build a chapel here.

Prophecy: If Her requests are not heeded a worse war (than WW I) will take place (WW II), Russia will spread its errors in large scale and... if people do not

mend their ways there will be a horrible, horrible punishment...

World's Response: Too little and too late. What She specifically requested and Our Lord insisted upon was not done per the instructions and timetable given by Heaven. The death of over 150 million human beings, so far, and the actual condition of the world at the close of the 20th Century confirms the lack of adequate response.

Rosa Mystica (6)

Country: Italy

Date(s): 1947; 1966/1976

Approval Status: Bishop (7)

Frequency: Under 60

Complaint: Loss of vocations. Religious and clergy living in mortal sin and betraying Jesus like Judas. The world is walking the road to perdition. It requires prayer, sacrifice and penance in order to save mankind.

Request: Much penitence, prayer and expiation. Hour of Grace should be promulgated by Pope Pius XII. Cultivate Devotion to Her Immaculate Heart.

Prophecy: Our Lord is tired of so many offenses and sins against holy purity. He wants to send another punishment of the same magnitude as the Flood of Noah's time. [**Note:** “magnitude” and not “type”.]

World's Response: No church-wide support. No recognition of the Hour of Grace. Apparition mostly ignored by the hierarchy of the Church... and the world continued to descend into the abyss as we end the 20th Century.

Kibeho (9)

Country: Rwanda

Date(s): 1981/1989

Approval Status: First stage by the local bishop on August 15, 1988, thus allowing public devotion. **Please see NOTE below added on June 30, 2001**
Frequency: ?

Complaint: “If Rwanda did not come back to God, said the vision, there would be a 'river of blood.'”

It has been reported that in one vision that lasted eight hours they saw terrifying images of people killing each other, and bodies thrown into rivers. They saw bodies without their heads -- decapitated. They were weeping and crying and the witnesses who crowded around the

seers were left with an unforgettable impression of fear and sadness.

Request: I have come to prepare the way for my Son for your good and you do not want to understand.

Prophecy: The time remaining is short and you are absent-minded. You are distracted by the goods of this world which are passing. I have seen many of my children getting lost and I have come to show them the true way.'

World's Response: The Rwandan genocide of 1994 underscores well the response of the faithful and Church - Insufficient!

NOTE added on June 30, 2001 - the Memorial of the First Martyrs of Rome

Catholic World News, reports from Gikongoro, Rwanda, on June 29, 2001, that Archbishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro, Rwanda, has announced that he is satisfied that the Virgin Mary has appeared in the town of Kibeho, Rwanda.

The Archbishop has released a statement indicating his "definitive judgment" that the reported apparitions in Kibeho are authentic. The Vatican made the archbishop's statement public on June 29.

Vatican officials privately point out that the Holy See does not ordinarily take a stand on the authenticity of extraordinary events such as apparitions; such determinations are always left to the diocesan bishops. So the publication of Archbishop Misago's statement was an indirect sign of Vatican support for his findings.

As it has happened in the past, after the announced (and conditioned to the Church and faithful response) horrors of the Rwanda genocide became a bloody reality, the "prudent" Church authorities approves the Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the town of Kibeho, Rwanda.

As we have said in the past: There is no doubt that the Church has the Infallible Guidance of the Holy Spirit; however, it is indeed a tragedy that the men running the Church, being more concerned with their Ecclesiastical Careers than with the flock placed in their care, continue to ignore such Perfect and Infallible Guidance.

Miguel de Portugal wishes to remind these "prudent" Church of the Words of Our Lord as related by Matthew, Chapter 7 [Douay-Rheims Version of The Holy Bible]:

15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in the clothing of sheep, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 By their fruits you shall know them... 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit, shall be cut down, and shall be cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doth the will of my Father who is in heaven, he shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day: Lord, Lord, have not we prophesied in thy name, and cast out devils in thy name, and done many miracles in thy name? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.

. . . and further in Chapter 21 [Douay-Rheims Version of The Holy Bible]

18 And in the morning, returning into the city, he [Jesus] was hungry. 19 And seeing a certain fig tree by the way side, he came to it and found nothing on it but leaves only. And he saith to it: May no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And immediately the fig tree withered away.

And so it shall be the fate of the existing Bureaucracy of the Church.

Is the faithful scandalized at our words? Please, do not be. Our words are a faint echo of the words of our Heavenly Mother in [La Salette](#), 1846, France - Approved and Amply Acknowledged by the Church with a Basilica:

"The priests, ministers of my Son, the priests, by their wicked lives, by their irreverence and their impiety in the celebration of the holy mysteries, by their love of money, their love of honors and pleasures, the priests have become cesspools of impurity. Yes, the priests are asking for vengeance, and vengeance is hanging over their heads. Woe to the priests and to those dedicated to God who by their unfaithfulness and their wicked lives are crucifying my son again! The sins of those dedicated to God cry out towards Heaven and call for vengeance, and now vengeance is at their door, . . ."

One and all have been [amply warned by Our Lord](#). The response has not been adequate. May the destruction of the world and Church, as they now exist, now proceed to its final stages.

[\(mgr.org/thechurch.htm\)](http://mgr.org/thechurch.htm)

THE PIANO

At the prodding of my friends, I am writing this story. My name is Mildred Hondorf. I am a former elementary school music teacher from DeMoines, Iowa. I've always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons--something I've done for over 30 years. Over the years I found that children have many levels of musical ability. I've never had the pleasure of having a protege though I have taught some talented students. However I've also had my share of what I call "musically challenged" pupils. One such student was Robby.

Robby was 11 years old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys!) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano.

So I took him as a student. Well, Robby began with his piano lessons and from the beginning I thought it was a hopeless endeavor. As much as Robby tried, he lacked the sense of tone and basic rhythm needed to excel. But he dutifully reviewed his scales and some elementary pieces that I require all my students to learn.

Over the months he tried and tried while I listened and cringed and tried to encourage him. At the end of each weekly lesson he always say,

"My mom's going to hear me play some day."

But it seemed hopeless. He just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled but never stopped in.

Then one day Robby stopped coming to our lessons. I thought about calling him but assumed, because of his lack of ability, that he had decided to pursue something else. I also was glad that he stopped coming. He was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed to the student's homes a flyer on the upcoming recital. To my surprise Robby (who received a flyer) asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and because he had dropped out he really did not qualify. He said that his mom had been sick and unable to take him to piano lessons but he was still practicing.

"Miss Hondorf I've just got to play!" he insisted.

I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital. Maybe it was his persistence or maybe it was something inside of me saying that it would be alright.

The night for the recital came. The high school gymnasium was packed with parents, friends and relatives. I put Robby up last in the program before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he would do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my "curtain closer."

Well the recital went off without a hitch. The students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked like he'd run an egg-beater through it.

"Why didn't he dress up like the other students?" I thought. "Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?"

Robby pulled out the piano bench and he began. I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen Mozart's Concerto #21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo - from allegro to virtuoso. His suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by people his age.

After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo and everyone was on their feet in wild applause. Overcome and in tears I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy.

"I've never heard you play like that Robby! How'd you

Through the microphone Robby explained: "Well Miss Hondorf remember I told you my mom was sick! Well actually she had cancer and passed away this morning. And well, she was born deaf so tonight was the first time she ever heard me play. I wanted to make it special."

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed into foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy and I thought to myself how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil.

No, I've never had a protege but that night I became a protégé of Robby's. He was the teacher and I was the pupil. For it is he that taught me the meaning of

perseverance and love and believing in yourself and maybe even taking a chance in someone and you don't know why.

This is especially meaningful to me since after serving in Desert Storm Robby was killed in the senseless bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April of 1995, where he was reportedly playing the piano.

And now, a footnote to the story. If you are thinking about forwarding this message, you are probably thinking about which people on your address list aren't the "appropriate" ones to receive this type of message. The person who sent this to you believes that we can all make a difference.

We all have thousands of opportunities a day to help realize God's plan. So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice:

Do we pass along a spark of the Divine? Or, do we pass up that opportunity, and leave the world a bit colder in the process?

(Father Brendan Williams)

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BOOKS and RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

The PFMC offices in Epiphany House are open Monday thorough 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 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.

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

The PILGRIM

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 Ephesians 6: 11-17 and following, announcements, call-in time, discussion with callers, healing prayer and summary. The call-in number is 856 962-8178.

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 Croatia Air to and from Split or Dubrovnik, Croatia. Transfer to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina is by guided motor coach. On return we hope to fly out of Dubrovnik on November 17 and spend the night in Rome. Supper will be in a local restaurant near the hotel.

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 including "VOYAGE" and Devin Riley have been invited.

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

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

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

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

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

Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff

PRESS BULLETIN 165, 8/26/2001

LONELINESS in FAITH

In 1950, Romano Guardini prophetically announced that believers would be lonely. He wrote: "The loneliness of believers will be frightening." Guardini, speaking about loneliness of the believers, did not consider it as negative, but as condition for a mature Christian life and for community, which is *conditio sine qua non* of the existence of the Church and of being Church.

The second half of the 20th century confirmed Guardini's announcement: loneliness became more and more obvious, and community, to which loneliness should conduct, was more and more absent. The dominant image of the Church of our times became the image of loneliness. Small groups speak about Christianity, people pray in small assemblies, and Christians become an almost invisible minority in the society. There are less and less occasions to transform the positive loneliness in faith into community and fraternity. This is why they seek with so much yearning gatherings and occasions to manifest their loneliness amidst a multitude that makes the same experience.

Medjugorje is becoming more and more a meeting-place of those who are lonely in their faith. In the spirituality of Medjugorje, they find the possibility to express publicly their experience of loneliness and to be nourished by community, without which their situation as faithful seems to be really frightening.

Fra Ivan Landeka

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of July, 120,000 faithful received Holy Communion and 3774 priests concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNET PRAYER GROUP (IIPG) "QUEEN OF PEACE"

The prayer group was founded by Nedjeljko Brecic, an original member of Ivan's prayer group in Medjugorje, who officially named the prayer group on June 4, 1999, on the day he died. After he passed away, Ana Shawl, a Croatian who lives in the United States, has been carrying on in leading the prayer group along with the help of others.

Now, the prayer group has over 860 members from all over the world. The mission of the prayer group is to live and spread the messages of Medjugorje. Members help each other in different ways, they pray together and encourage each other in daily living of Our Lady's messages.

Once a year, the prayer group members take their annual pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Their web address is: <http://www.iipg-queenofpeace.org>

RETIRED ARCHBISHOP of TAIPEI (TAIWAN) in MEDJUGORJE

At the end of July 2001, Monsignor Leonard Hsu, Franciscan, Retired Archbishop of Taipei (Taiwan), came for a private visit to Medjugorje. He arrived with the first group of Taiwanese pilgrims.

He said about his impressions in Medjugorje:

"People here are very kind, everybody greets us, this is a sign of being Catholic. We see people coming from everywhere. They are sincere and friendly. The piety is impressing: everywhere people pray the rosary, meditate, kneel and pray. The prayers after the evening Mass are long, people pray.

Pilgrims from my group say we have to do something to make Medjugorje known in Taiwan.

I wonder how we could organize pilgrimages from Taiwan to Medjugorje, and how to bring young people.

Personally, I would like to stay longer, to know Medjugorje better."

SEMINAR FOR INNER HEALING

July 19 to 23, 2001, Father James Manjackal, a catholic priest and a missionary of Saint Francis de Sales from India, held his third seminar for inner healing in Medjugorje. Because of the great interest, the seminar took place in the Sport Hall in Ljubuški, and there were about 5000 participants from Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina. The evening prayer program was held in Medjugorje, and there were more than 20.000 faithful.

FEAST of SAINT JAMES the APOSTLE, PATRON of MEDJUGORJE

In Medjugorje, the Feast of Saint James the apostle, patron of the parish of Medjugorje, is always celebrated by a procession with the statue of Saint James, followed by Holy Mass in the open air. It is

principally attended by the parishioners, however the foreign pilgrims also regularly come to this special Mass. This year, the Holy Mass was presided by Father Miro Šego, ofm, native from Medjugorje.

The parish of Medjugorje was founded in 1892 and placed under the protection of Saint James the apostle.

INTER-RELIGIOUS MEETING in MEDJUGORJE

On Thursday, August 9th, 2001, a Buddhist, Venerable Dharma Master Hsin Tao Shih, founder of the Museum of World Religions to be opened in autumn in Taipei, Taiwan, came to visit Medjugorje. He was accompanied by Bawa Jain, Jainist, Secretary General of The Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, to be held in New York, under the high patronage of the United Nations. With them came a group of Buddhist nuns. Their visit to Medjugorje is one of the stations on their inter-religious pilgrimage, where they seek to know sacred places of different religions and receive blessings.

Father Svetozar Kraljević received them in the Parish Office, and spoke to them about the apparitions of Our Lady – the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. They shared about prayer, about peace and their search of truth, which brings together and unites all the believers of the world.

Climbing the Apparition Hill, where they spent a few minutes in silent prayer, concluded their visit to Medjugorje.

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

CALENDARS:

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).

In *October*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of **Saint Luke, Evangelist (18)** and the Memorials of **Saints Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1)**, **Francis of Assisi (4)**, **Bruno (6)**, **John Leonardi (9)**, **Denis and Companions (9)**, **Teresa of Jesus (15)**, **Hedwig (16)**, **Margaret Mary Alacoque (16)**, **Ignatius of Antioch (17)**, **Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and Companions (19)**, **Paul of the Cross (20)**, **John of Capistrano (23)**, **Anthony Mary Claret (24)** as well as **The Guardian Angels (2)** and **Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)**. Church calendars show **Columbus Day (8)**.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the Bulletin Notices on pages 26 and 27. We need assistance in getting them into your Parish Bulletin.

For additional information, call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228. Please leave your area code with your phone number so that we may return your call. You may FAX your questions to (856)-768-9428.

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

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

Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors

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

If there is no time to read it all 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 is no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites just like they are at the PFMC which operates like a church book rack. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value on each article. Call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228.

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

