



The PILGRIM

Vol. 13, No. 10 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

October 2002

A ministry of lay Catholic Evangelization and Healing through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Monthly MESSAGE alleged to be from the GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to an alleged visionary from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina appears with REFLECTION starting on page 21.

(The PFMC upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

A PRAYER



Dearest Mary, you were filled with the Holy Spirit with gifts of wisdom and knowledge, of gentleness and a manner more perfect than any human being.

You were obedient as a handmaid, and consented with your "yes" as a daughter. You approve like a queen. You are filled with an immanent grace. You are light upon light and filled with true joy.

You fully participated in the life of God. You are the Mother of the Incarnate Word. You are the source of all happiness for the newborn, the Mother of all Creation

You never leave me Mother, for Jesus gave you to me through John. Help me to fully cherish every day with your joy within my heart, and my eyes and being turned totally to your Son through your Immaculate Heart. Help me to love only as you LOVE. AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue)

PREPARE IN OCTOBER AND VOTE IN NOVEMBER!

YOUR CHOICE FOR LIFE MUST BE AN EDUCATED ONE!

There are certain parties that cloud the issues regarding free choice and life from conception to a natural death.

Only truthful elected officials, held accountable by all eligible to vote in each electoral district, state or nation, can turn the mess we live in around.

Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and many other states have critical contests where choice for life and truth hangs in the balance of just a few votes. Find out all you can about the candidates from truthful sources and get out the vote in November.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE RETREAT with FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, 18-20 OCTOBER 2002

On October 18th, 19th, and 20th, Father John Hampsch will devote an extraordinary time to help you understand that spiritual warfare isn't the exotic stuff of missionary stories, and isn't the distorted caricature of Hollywood horror films. It's the command of Jesus and a privilege every Christian can experience.

When you realize what Jesus meant by trampling on serpents and scorpions (Luke 10:19), you'll uncover a new life of faith in our God, Who is big enough to handle anything the devil can do.

Father John goes beyond Saint Augustine's plea to hate the sin and love the sinner. He will help you to understand the human fault of underestimating the devil's cunning, and thus be fooled by his strategies.

We invite you to follow Father John into a realm few Christians dare to enter. You will explore the meaning of evil and discover the best ways to resist cults and the occult. You will learn how to wage spiritual warfare by confronting Satan's kingdom. You will learn how to **"PUT ON THE ARMOR OF CHRIST" DAILY.**

Father will help you to draw the battle line and be a student of the Holy Spirit, a protected observer in the conflict between good and evil, light and darkness, God and the devil. This war, against all the evil being done in the name of Satan, has already been won in the name of Jesus. We must protect ourselves from distraction and enticement by the forces of evil.

"The PILGRIM" for September 2002 is dedicated to "Mary, Full of Immeasurable Grace." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE".

If you don't already have a tri-fold information sheet and registration form, please call (856) 768-9228 or 1-800-788-MARY [6279] or go on line to the PFMC web site: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> and print a copy. If you already have tri-fold information sheet and registration form, **PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!** Remember that the registration includes a meal plan with two huge ample hot lunches (that are filling as a dinner is). Send us your registration, and call the Hilton Hotel for a room reservation with up to 4 in a room. If you cant to attend but cannot afford the meal plan, note that on your registration form and send in only \$75. If you are really committed to attend but have financial problems, call the above numbers and explain the situation. We would rather have people attend than stay away. Pray that God will provide. God bless you.

We hope to see you at this and other events on the PFMC calendar of activities printed in last month's issue of "The PILGRIM."

**JOIN FATHER CHUCK DAVIS,
KEITH, and KATHLEEN on
PILGRIMAGE to the SHRINES OF
ITALY, 1-14 NOVEMBER 2002 and
an EXTENSION to MEDJUGORJE,
14-19 NOVEMBER 2002.**

This is a pilgrimage of a lifetime, rich and full in history of our Church, of the lives of the Saints, and full of first time graces. Only **\$2599 plus \$85** to cover the ever changing airport taxes.

With round trip air from **Newark** to **Rome**, transfers, lovely comfortable rooms in 3 star or above hotels with private bathrooms (double occupancy), all entrance fees, guides, portage of one suitcase, comfortable coach for travel, **all breakfasts and suppers for 14 days, or 19 days** with the optional extension to **Medjugorje** for only **\$640**, and full spiritual program daily, this pilgrimage is truly the best deal available. Daily Holy Mass will be celebrated in many of the Shrines we will visit. Private room single supplement is available for **\$399 Italy** and

\$125 Medjugorje .

You will not find a pilgrimage for 14 / 19 days that includes everything including the food. This is such an opportunity to move in grace and comfort at the same time. **Won't you sign up to join us now?**

Keith and **Kathleen** will also be leading a small group on an extension to **Medjugorje** following the 14 days. This extension is **\$640** and will include round trip air from **Rome** to **Split** and from **Dubrovnik**, 5 nights in **Medjugorje**, all breakfasts and suppers, guide, bus transfers, day in **Dubrovnik** and overnight in **Rome** prior to return to **USA**.

If you do not have a yellow information sheet with registration forms, please call (856) 768-9228 and ask for one. **We need names and full payment for this wonderful pilgrimage to Italy and its shrines and / or the optional extension to Medjugorje.**

**"DAUGHTERS of RUTH" WEEKLY
MEETINGS on TUESDAYS and
WEDNESDAYS**

Group I of the "Daughters of Ruth" group therapy for women have resumed their weekly sessions on Tuesdays at 10 AM. This group has been very successful and many healing graces have occurred. This group is now closed to new members.

Group of the "Daughters of Ruth" group therapy for women meets on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. This group is still accepting new members.

Irene Atwell, counselor, directs these sessions weekly, and will also make herself available for private counseling to those who desire.

If you are at all interested in joining the 2nd group on Wednesdays, please call Irene at (856) 665-0959 or call the staff at the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 or 1-800-788-MARY [6279].

Donations of \$5 per session are requested. Cash or check made out to PFMC will be factored into the PFMC budget with a stipend for Irene.

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.

One leg of the NJ Transit 406 bus route runs north and south on NJ 73 and stops at Cooper Road for those who need public transport to reach the PFMC.

A SECOND COUNSELOR COMES to the PFMC

The PFMC is pleased to announce that Lynn Kiernan LCSW will be making herself available for counseling at the center.

Lynn is a licensed therapist and lay Roman Catholic. All her counseling is firmly rooted in Catholic teaching on faith and morals. She will be providing individual, marital, family and post-abortion counseling. In addition, Lynn has a specialty in the area of services to children and to survivors of child sexual abuse.

A graduate of Hofstra University, Lynn also has graduate degrees in teaching from Monmouth University and in social work from Rutgers University. She holds a certificate from the Child Sexual Abuse Training Institute of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and has post graduate work in child and family mental health.

You may call the PFMC to contact Lynn or may call her directly at 856-983-5307 or 983-1809 – all calls and counseling are strictly confidential. Fees will be worked out with Lynn privately. Insurance billing may be possible in some cases.

DEAN PULCINI to TEACH on the LITURGY on WEDNESDAYS STARTING 16 OCTOBER 2002

Dean Pulcini has been teaching at the PFMC for the last 2 years. He will again return to the Upper Room of Epiphany House at the PFMC to teach on the “**LITURGY of the CATHOLIC CHURCH**”. Dean has his Masters in Theology, and captivates his students with knowledge of the Church past history and present.

We are most pleased that he will resume teaching again starting **Wednesday, October 16, 2002** at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ. Classes will begin promptly at 7:00 PM and will conclude around 9:30 PM. We ask for a donation of \$5 per class, but will never turn anyone away who wants to come. The donation is just for paying of the PFMC maintenance.

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If you are a CCD teacher or on any Liturgy Committee in your parish, leader or part of a prayer group or just interested in the Holy Mass and Ceremonies of our beautiful Catholic Church, we welcome you to come - just try out a few classes, and we know that you will be drawn to the next one. Classes will help you understand the liturgy so you can explain it to your family, children,

grandchildren, members of parish committees, etc. Ask your pastor and bring your whole liturgy committee. Bring your pastor with you! We are especially interested in having husbands and wives, or even high school and college students attend.

Pre-registration for this class is necessary. Please call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 by October 1, 2002. We need your name, address, and phone number. If insufficient people sign up, we may lose Dean to other groups who want his teachings.

RETREATS for HEALING after ABORTION, PA: 18-20 OCTOBER 2002, NJ: 8-10 NOVEMBER 2002

If you are suffering after an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat.

On October 18, 19, and 20, 2002, a retreat will be held in Immaculata, PA, which is located just outside of Philadelphia. For more information call Mary Alice at Toll Free (877) HOPE 4 ME or reach the team online at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

A retreat will be held in Camden, NJ on November 8, 9, and 10, 2002. For info call or go online as above or call (856) 722 4235.

All requests are held strictly confidential.

(Mary Alice or www.rachelsvineyard.org)

YOUTH GROUP NEWS: ALL SAINTS PARTY – 2 PM, SUNDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2002

Under the Heavenly guidance of our beautiful Blessed Mother, Mary, the PFMC Youth Group is starting its fifth year! We are looking forward to seeing all the familiar faces and many new ones at the March 2003 Retreat Conference Youth Track.

The youth and young adults, children of "The PILGRIM" readers, are always in our thoughts and prayers and are very special to Jesus, Our Lady, and to us. Please share this with them and ask them to pray for us because their prayers are very special in the eyes of Jesus and Mary.

On the local front, we have been organizing some Youth activities at the PFMC for the coming months. All details have not been confirmed as of this printing, but will be released in upcoming issues.

The PILGRIM

Our first scheduled event will be an **"All Saints Parade and Party"** with prizes awarded in different categories. The children will dress as their favorite saint or biblical personality. Parents are also invited to come in costume since most of the staff will be in costume. Older children may read or recite their presentation on the saint's life while the younger children can do their best to remember a few facts about their saint. **The date and time for the party is SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2002, at 2:00 PM in the Upper Room of the PFMC at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ. (Just off NJ 73 – call for directions).** A donation of chips, pretzels, soda, etc. would help us out and would be appreciated. Photos of the party will be on display at the March 2003 Retreat Conference.

Two events under consideration are monthly Friday night pizza parties and a Christmas pageant presented by the children.

The PFMC offers a wonderful opportunity for local youths to meet, pray, and grow spiritually while having fun. Our goal will always be to bring your children closer and closer to the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

We look forward to **October 27th**. It will be fun to see how many little "saints" we can identify. We need a count of those attending. If you plan to attend, please call or e-mail PFMC Youth Minister, Sandy Ruiz, at (856) 589-4863. Sandy's e-mail address is: sandyruiz1@snip.net. Sandy is also available at the PFMC on **Wednesdays** if you need information on the Youth Group.

THE TRUTH ABOUT "HEALING YOUR FAMILY TREE" - FATHER JOHN McFADDEN with NORMA and TOM FINNERAN, SATURDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2002

Healing your family tree consists of looking at family traits that have come up through generations through your family, and into your own life, and asking that God heal them. It uses the same principles of Rachael's Vineyard, and praying in intercession for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. It totally encompasses healing of memories, prayer of petition, prayer of thanksgiving and healing prayer. It is wonderful to pray in this manner for all in your family, both past and present and for your future generations. What this day is **NOT** going to confession

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Eucharistic Adoration: Florence Mastercola, Pro-Life: Sam Berger

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Glenn Hartman, Father John

McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, Father Robert DeGrandis,

SSJ, Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan Williams, Father Joseph

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

Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden,

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

Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org, is Dean of

Men at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.

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The papal audience talks reflect a growing reality: Priests and religious are not the only ones using the breviary for morning and evening prayer.

What's more, convents and monasteries are not the only places where lay people can experience the chanting or recitation of the prayers communally, the way they were designed to be prayed.

The first 23 papal talks, which began in March 2001, were published in book form by the Vatican this summer: the book is available only in Italian.

"It is an encouraging fact that many lay people, both in parishes and in church groups, have learned to value the Liturgy of the Hours," the pope said in the first talk of the series.

The Psalms used in the liturgy, Pope John Paul said, are highly poetic prayers reflecting a full array of human feelings: "joy, recognition, thanksgiving, love, tenderness and enthusiasm, but also intense suffering, sorrow and requests for help or for justice, which sometimes are expressed with anger or imprecation. The whole human being is found in the Psalms."

At Saint Peter's Basilica, like in many cathedrals around the world, everyone is welcome to join in Sunday evening vespers. The Sunday prayer is the only part of the Liturgy of the Hours celebrated in public by the Chapter of Saint Peter's Basilica, the group of priests who minister full time there.

The number of participants changes with the seasons, one of the priests said. As few as 50 people will add their voices to the chants sung entirely in Latin in midwinter, but with spring and summer tourist season, the numbers quadruple, he said

(Catholic Star Herald June, 2002)

WOULD YOU LIKE to LEARN HOW to PRAY the LITURGY of the HOURS? 9 and 30 JANUARY 2002

Would you like to help your spirituality, and pray for the Church and have the Church pray for you daily? This is an opportunity to spend about 3 hours (one and one half hour each week for two weeks) to hear an explanation of this beautiful prayer of the Church, to learn how to use the book, and to have a follow up session to see if you have any questions or problems. We will then

explore possibly coming together once a month at the PFMC to pray it together.

Father Glenn Hartman will be teaching on how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. He will meet at the PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ, for the first session from 7:30 to 8:30 PM on **Thursday, January 9, 2003**, and will meet for the second session from 7:30 to 8:30 PM on **Thursday, January 30, 2003**.

Please mark your calendars. There is no charge for these sessions to help understand how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Reservations will be taken by phone **AND WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 10TH, 2002** to allow us to order the Liturgy books. It is mandatory that each person attending buy their own Liturgy of the Hours book and guide. We will have them available for \$32 each the night of the first class. Large print is \$35.95. **We will only order enough books and guides for those registered.** If you already have the book, you may bring it. It is not necessary to buy another book.

If you wish to order the set of 4 books, they run \$132. These are the more complete books and require less page turning. They contain the teachings of the early church fathers and the saints oriented to each day of the year as well as the church cycles.

Please call us at (856) 768-9228 if you are interested in coming to these 2 sessions with Father Glenn Hartman and particularly if you need a book.

HELP US WITH A MONTHLY or ANNUAL DONATION

We have never wanted to beg for money. We have operated on Divine Providence and private donations for 13 years. Enclosed in every issue of "The PILGRIM" is a donation slip and envelope. With taxes and insurance on the new building and all the other things that are required to operate in a new building, we ask your immediate and continuing help. We appreciate all those who have been helping with donations but we need more of those on our mailing list to contribute to cover our expenses.

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

You are the hands of Jesus and Our Lady. Your help is important. **We want to thank all of you who have been faithfully supporting the PPMC.** Your donations have meant that we have been able to touch so many people through "The PILGRIM," retreats and conferences, and other activities at the PPMC.

We are **very** grateful for every donation. Actually no donation is small, all the donations add up and help us tremendously, and we thank you for all your prayers and donations. You have helped us cover the printing and mailing of "The PILGRIM," the heat, electricity, copying, water, insurance, and setting up of programs. We are excited with how Our Lady is guiding us for the year of 2002. We cannot do it without you.



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

Thank you and God bless you,

Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The PPMC is a lay Evangelistic Ministry made up of dedicated Roman Catholics. It is totally dependent upon financial donations. Every person working in the PPMC is a volunteer for Our Lady's work of converting souls to her Son, Jesus. **WOULD YOU CONSIDER JOINING OUR STAFF?**

1. PARTICIPATE IN MAILING "The PILGRIM" AND OTHER MAILINGS (once a month),
2. BOOKKEEPING,
3. BOOK and RELIGIOUS ARTICLE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (REQUIRES SOME TYPING and COMPUTER SKILLS),
4. ORGANIZATION and DEVELOPMENT of CENTERS MONTHLY PROGRAMS,
5. HOSPITALITY DURING RETREATS,
6. UPKEEP of COMPUTERS and WEB SITE,
7. ADDRESS and INFORMATION MAINTENANCE in MICROSOFT ACCESS,
8. HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS,
9. VOCATION AWARENESS and EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DEVELOPMENT
10. PRO LIFE ACTIVITIES

11. HELPING to ANSWER PHONES,
12. PILGRIMAGE PLANNING and SET UP (TRAVEL BACKGROUND REQUIRED),
13. GIFT ROOM ASSISTING ESPECIALLY for RETREATS and DURING CHRISTMAS and SPECIAL HOLIDAY TIMES.
14. TYPING (KNOWLEDGE of "MICROSOFT WORD" HELPFUL- WE WILL TRAIN YOU).

WE NEED YOUR HANDS, HEART, PRAYERS, AND JUST A LITTLE TIME EACH WEEK OR MONTH. WE NEED YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.

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

All our volunteers are Catholic, and none are paid for services except by the graces of Our Lady. These functions include planning and coordinating pilgrimages, organizing and implementing retreats and days of recollection, presentations, humanitarian aid programs to the poor, Catholic Study programs, Bible Study, Rosary making, books, and religious articles.

FATHER BILL McCARTHY to TEACH a TRIDUUM SEMINAR JANUARY 25, 26, AND 27, 2003

The PPMC will host Father Bill McCarthy, M.Ss.A., of My Father's House, www.myfathershouse.com, in a Triduum study of **"THE TABERNACLE (OLD TESTAMENT TO NEW TESTAMENT), THE LAMBS SUPPER, THE 7 COVENANTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ONE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE EUCHARIST, AND THE SACRAMENTAL SYSTEM"**.

We can accommodate 80 persons in the Upper Rood of the Epiphany House at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ. So please sign up for this wonderful weekend NOW.

The time of this teaching will be from 9 AM to 5 PM.

The donation for the three days is planned at \$70 per person and will include a light lunch Saturday, Sunday and Monday. (If anyone knows someone who will donate the lunches for the people on retreat, we could reduce the program to \$45 per person.)

Call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 for an information sheet and registration form. You may charge this or any other event donation on your Visa, MasterCard, or Discover credit card.

A ONE DAY RETREAT with FATHER ROBERT DeGRANDIS – WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2003

**A DAY of PRAYER for FORGIVENESS and
HEALING for SEXUALLY EMOTIONAL and
PHYSICALLY ABUSED WOMEN**

On WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2003, Father Robert DeGrandis will hold a day of prayer, forgiveness, and healing for women who have been abused physically, emotionally, or sexually. Social workers, counselors, crisis pregnancy staff and physicians working in this area are also welcome and encouraged to come.

It will be held at the PFMC, Epiphany House from 8:30 AM and close with Healing Holy Mass at 4 PM.

If you are interested in such a day, please call the PFMC, 1-800-788-MARY [6279] or (856) 768-9228 for more information, and for a registration form. This will be limited to about 50 women.

RETREAT CONFERENCE and 3 DAY EXTENSION, March 14th through 19th 2003 - MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

The theme will be **"He must increase; I must decrease."** (John 3:30) [NAB].

The Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ will be the site for our 2003 March 14th, 15th, and 16th RETREAT CONFERENCE and the extension March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003. Music will be provided by "REFUGE" the Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Prayer Group musicians who play for the New Jersey Charismatic Conference at Seton Hall.

Guest speakers will be Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, and Father Robert DeGrandis.

Joseph Terelya and his interpreter will be featured before the Concert on Saturday night.

"Hearts Afire" will join Father Michael Semana for the Saturday night concert.

The 3-Day Extension speakers will again be Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol and Father Robert DeGrandis. Our extension theme will be **"INNER HEALING and GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT."**

The Hilton Hotel is now accepting room reservations for the 2003 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. Please call the Hilton Hotel at 1-800-HILTONS or locally at (856) 665-6666 to make your hotel reservation. Rooms are \$92 per room and will accommodate 2 persons in a king bed or up to 4 persons in two double beds. Cots are also available, but **must be arranged for prior to arrival. Refrigerators in rooms must also be arranged for ahead of time.** You must guarantee your room with a one-night charge on your credit card. Cancellation must be **72 hours prior** to the event. Please request smoking or non-smoking rooms ahead of time, but these are not guaranteed. The Hilton Hotel holds to a first come first served basis on their non-smoking rooms. Blocks of rooms and, where possible, entire floors are either non-smoking or smoking.

Please note that a youth program will be available. With over 120 youth at our last Youth Track, we know that this is an important part of the program. Please register your youth and young adults.

Please note on the registration form if you want the luncheons or dinners available. These will ALL be **full hot meals**, and are well worth every penny. Those who attended had their fill, and raved about the food and atmosphere.

Bishop DiMarzio has given us permission to have daily Holy Mass, 24 hour Eucharistic Adoration, and Confessions available.

Father John McFadden, Father Michael Semana, and others of Mary's Beloved Priests have indicated they will return. The extension will again be with Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol and Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ.

The green information sheet with registration forms is enclosed. Please make your hotel and PFMC reservations EARLY! Please reserve the weekend of 14-16 March 2003 to be with us and, if possible, join us for Saint Patrick's and Saint Joseph's days during the 3-Day Extension, 17-19 March 2003.

(Kathleen and Keith for All the PFMC Volunteers

FATHER McCARTHY to LEAD a RETREAT WEEKEND for MARRIED COUPLES – 2 and 3 MAY 2003

Take the time as a Married Couple to explore the Marriage Covenant, and how the Holy Spirit can and does work in your Lives. Do you want something new in your marriage? Are you seeking something more to fulfill you? Is there something lacking or something you want to celebrate together? Explore with Father Bill the beauty and richness, the mountains and valleys, the joys and tears of the sacrament of Marriage.

We will have special rates for you at the Holiday Inn Express just around the corner from the Center. The hours of the Retreat will be from **9AM to 5 PM on SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2003 and 9 AM TO 5 PM on SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2003. The registration donation is planned at \$80 per couple and includes a delicious lunch each day. We are planning comfortable seating for 40 couples.**

We hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful weekend and **register early** by calling the PFMC at (856) 768 9228 to register. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. You may register by mail by sending your check with name, address, and phone number. Information sheets with registration forms will be in the next issue of "The PILGRIM." God bless you.

GIFT ROOM OPEN DAILY

Our spiritually nourishing gift room is open 10 AM – 4 PM daily. Come and browse for statues, rosaries, pins, medals, prayer books, prayer cards, holy cards, scapulars, and religious books. Discounts on donations given for large orders. We have a large assortment of wonderful things coming in for Christmas and special occasions.

The PFMC is providing resource services to all Home School families. We hope that if you need any textbooks or research books, that you will call us. A 10% discount will be given to any home school parent that identifies himself or herself as such. Call Livia or Vince for any special orders (856) 768-9228.

HUMANITARIAN AID to the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

There will be a Medical Mission from September 27, 2003 to October 11, 2003. If you are a Doctor (especially a specialist or internal medicine) or a nurse, and would like to be part of this mission, please call Fay or Edwina or Kathleen or Liz.

The staff had a wonderful opportunity to bring over medicines, toys, money and books to the Diocese of Puerto Plata.

Now we are establishing through the Diocese of Puerto Plata, a Humanitarian Aid Program and a Medical Mission. This program will be directly working with the parishes of the poor and sick. We have three orphanages that we will help, and several clinics and the hospital. We will also be helping with the Seminarian Program.

We have now put in place the ability to continue with aid to this very very poor third world country. After talking with a representative from the office of Bishop Gregorio Nicanor Pena Rodriguez, we are asking our readers for help on a regular basis with the following:

Donations of money to support the seminarians, who are studying English. This money will be used to buy the second edition of English books for them to use. It will also help with buying them English Bibles, and Catechisms, and shipping them there. (\$1000 needed). They also need men's shoes sizes 8, 9, 10, and 11, socks, underwear, and Navy blue or white T-shirts sizes small, medium, and large.

We are collecting little girls white first communion dresses and veils. Attached to each dress should be the owners name and address and a little note to the girl who would

PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and waste God's precious resources. There is no "subscription" fee. We do ask for free will donations to support "**The PILGRIM**" and the operations of the **PFMC**.

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

be wearing this dress and veil. Often they will get back a note of thank your. If you can attach a new pair of white socks and shoes, this would also be greatly appreciated.

We need medicines to send to the medical clinic that ministers only to the very poor and destitute. Servas de Maria is run by the nuns, and Sister Blanca is in charge of the many demands of the clinics. They need boxes of Vitamins for adults and children (Vitamins A, E, D, K, B1, B2, B6, and B12, Calcium pills, Anacin, Advil, Buffered coated Motrin and Aspirin, Sudafed Sinus, Benadryl, Tums, Cotton Balls, Gauze Bandages, Cortisone cream tubes, triple antibiotic creams, Band Aids – all sizes, Tape, Cough Syrup for adults and for children, Cough lozenges, Alcohol, Pampers and Underpads. They also need toothbrushes and toothpaste.

If you go shopping, would you consider picking up some of these articles and bringing them into the PFMC or sending them to us? We will be making up packages of #70 and mailing them to Sister through the Diocese of Puerto Plata as soon as we get a big box filled. If you know of anyone going to Puerto Plata on vacation and they can carry a suitcase for us, please let us know.

We also have a long list of medications the Sisters can use, but we need to get a doctor involved in getting them. If you are a doctor and reading this, or if you are a representative/sales person from a drug house, would you please get in contact with Kathleen for a larger list of antibiotics and drugs that are needed.

Since the Bosnian War the PFMC has been involved with many Humanitarian Aid projects. We are quite excited about this particular project, especially since we have seen the true poverty of this country. We ask each of you to look into your hearts and hear God's call to help. We can't do a whole lot, but we sure can make a tiny dent.

Please mail all checks or materials **to PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**. Thank you.

GOD'S PLAN

Don't say you're not important,
It simply isn't true,
The fact that you were born,
Is proof, God has a plan for you.

(Unknown)

REMEMBER THE 5 SIMPLE RULES TO BE HAPPY

1. Free your heart from hatred
2. Free your mind from worries
3. Live simply
4. Give more
5. Demand less, expect miracles in life

No one can go back and make a brand new start. Anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears and light for the way.

Disappointments are like road bumps, they slow you down a bit but you enjoy the smooth road afterwards.

Don't stay on the bumps too long. Move on! When you feel down because you didn't get what you want, just sit tight and be happy, because God has thought of something better to give you.

When something happens to you, good or bad, consider what it means. There's a purpose to life's events, to teach you how to laugh more or not to cry too hard.

You can't make someone love you. All you can do is be someone who can be loved; the rest is up to the person to realize your worth.

It's better to lose your pride to the one you love, than to lose the one you love because of pride.

We spend too much time looking for the right person to love or finding fault with those we already love, when instead we should be perfecting the love we give.

Never abandon an old friend. You will never find one who can take his place. Friendship is like wine, it gets better as it grows older.

(Unknown – from Bernadette)

FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.
(Partial Indulgence)

Dear Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest. (Partial Indulgence)

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the deep pit, deliver them from the lion's mouth, that hell engulf them not and they fall not into darkness, but that Michael, the holy standard-bearer, bring them into the holy light which thou once didst promise to Abraham and his seed. (Partial Indulgence)

<http://cts.bvm.com.au/australia/acts0308.html>

SIGN OF THE TIMES:

DARKNESS IS DESCENDING

First, I shall quote two Scriptures texts: **"Because they received not the love of truth, that they might be saved, therefore, God shall send them the operation of error, to believe lying."** (Thessalonians 2: 10) **"There shall be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine; but according to their own desire, they will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears; and they will indeed turn from the truth, but will be turned unto fables."** (II Timothy 4:3-4)

God frequently punishes sinful people by delivering them up to a reprobate sense (**Romans 1:28**) and to tyranny of the passions of their hearts (**Romans 1:24**) as a reward of their contempt of Divine Love. When the whole world renounces Christ and rejects the authority of His Church, and when they say, like the Jews of old, **"We will not have this man to reign over us"** (**Luke 9:15**), the vengeance of God will be swift and terrible. His treatment of the world will be like to that of individuals. He will respond to its criminal desires, which stifle the love of those saving truths, by those light alone the ship of state can be safely piloted through siren dangers to which it is constantly-exposed. He will deliver it up to the man of sin, who will consign it to the darkness of vice and error,

Since it rejected the light of truth and virtue (**II Thessalonians 2**). Satan will have sway for a while over all nations. Time will tell—before the end of this century.

It is characteristic of any decaying civilization, that the great masses of the people are unconscious of the tragedy, as Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen warned in 1948. His analysis seems like a prophecy fulfilled, as from which they have fallen."

There are two powerful forces at work today: namely the Mystical Body of Christ and the Mystical Body of the Antichrist. They are now beginning to draw up their battle lines for the catastrophic combat. The invisible head of the Antichrist is Satan. His members are not merely those deny God, but those also, who challenge God. Cardinal Newman (d.1890) predicted: "In my time the devil is OUTSIDE the Church, but in one hundred years, he will be INSIDE." Who can deny this?

"By their fruits ye will know them."
(Matthew 7:16)

(THE MARYFAITHFUL, September-October 2000)

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE

O Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, Virgin of Antipolo, look kindly upon the needs of your children as we journey to our home in heaven. For you, O Mother, know full well what it is to travel on the road.

From that room in Nazareth where you received the joyful news from angel Gabriel, you taught us the generosity of a Christian obedience that surrenders and entrusts all to Divine Providence.

In your journey to that stable in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night, you taught us how to treasure in our hearts the overwhelming graciousness of our Father.

In your flight to Egypt with your newborn, you taught us a quiet courage that springs from a firm faith in God even in the face of great danger and suffering.

In that sorrowful climb up to Calvary on that fateful Friday afternoon, you taught us how a human love can rise to greater heights by self-giving and forgiveness when transformed and united by ineffable Divine Love.

O Mother, you give us so much hope and encouragement by your example of filial love and discipleship. As you accompanied Christ in your journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to Egypt to Galilee and finally to Calgary, you discovered the presence of God in ever new ways.

O Mother, as we undertake our own discovery of God in our lives and in the lives of other people, accompany us in our discovery of God in our lives and in the lives of other people. Make us see with the eyes of our hearts, and help us to know Him and to grow deeper in His love through life's joys and pains. And at our journey's end, lead us safely to the doorsteps of heaven and bring us to

your Son Jesus who has secured and prepared for us a place in our Father's home. Amen.

**(Ecclesiastical Approval Alvara Corrada del Rio, S.J.,
Regional Bishop of Washington April 1, 1997)**

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR AND STAFF

We have been speaking extensively with Father McCarthy and other priests. All have been focusing on why the family is having such attacks of the evil one. We have spoken extensively about the media and its effects on our children, grandchildren and homes. Father Bill sent us two very long and comprehensive articles he wrote. We have decided to put one in this issue and one in the next.

We thank Father Bill for taking the time to write these and for his permission to reprint them in their entirety so as not to lose one ounce of their impact. We hope that you will take the time to not only read them, but also look into your hearts and take whatever action the Holy Spirit guides you to do. Thank you

(The Editor and Staff of PFMC)

A NO TOLERANCE CHILD ABUSE POLICY

The newspapers across this nation are calling for a "No Tolerance" child abuse policy. What a wonderful ideal - one that should be embraced by everyone and by every organization. Our children are our greatest treasures. Each one of them is made to the image and likeness of God. Each one of them is a unique, incomparable, miracle and masterpiece of nature and grace. But each one of these precious children today is vulnerable to the onslaught of abuse that now surrounds them on every side. Each one is being easily victimized today by the almost un-American culture that is far too materialistic, hedonistic, pornographic, irreligious, and anti-life.

As Americans, we hold that each child is "endowed by their Creator" with "certain inalienable rights" -- first, "to life", then to freedom and "liberty", and then to "the pursuit of happiness." The United Nations has an entire list of children's rights in its famous Magna Carta for children. To protect the innocence of our children, ten practical aims must be put in place right across the board.

1. First and foremost, we must bring this nation to be, once again, a nation under God, founded upon these 12 great principles that made America great.

A nation under God founded upon the laws of nature and the laws of nature's God. This is the bedrock of our country.

The inalienable right to life of every American citizen, including the unborn.

Ordered freedom. That is responsible freedom where no one is forced to accept political, economic or social oppression.

The traditional monogamous family. The foundation not only of the Christian-Judaic ethic, but the Moslem and Hindu ethic, as well. As a nation we respected the awesome dignity of marriage, womanhood and sexuality.

Common decency. Pornography was always outlawed, and vulgarity in the public forum was outlawed, as well. Proper dress was always to be modest and sodomy was outlawed.

A solid work ethic. Our free enterprise system encourages ambition, incentive, and competition, as well as blood, sweat and tears.

God-centered education. The Bible and the New England Primer were official textbooks throughout our land, and the first 106 colleges in this country were religious schools, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, William and Mary, and Notre Dame. Every student was required to do at least three things - to attend chapel service on Sunday, to read the Bible and say their prayers every day, and to practice the Judaic-Christian moral code.

Divinely-ordained homes. The home was always considered to be the basic unit of society. Our Founding Fathers realized that our country would only be as strong as the home, where mothers and fathers not only loved each other but also truly loved their children, and also where children in return truly respected, honored and loved their parents. Parental responsibility was supreme and all teachers taught in place of the parents.

The divinely ordained state, where all were encouraged to elect righteous men. William Penn, for example, quoted Proverbs 29:2, "When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people roam." Noah Webster stated, "When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of our government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their

duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good so much as for selfish local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be elected to execute the laws; for public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded.”

A national respect for religion. Our Founding Fathers clearly wanted the Bible to be the main source book for our government. Blackstone’s commentary on American law, which was our official commentary for over 150 years, was filled with thousands of Biblical quotes. The most precedented statement in American history is that of the Supreme Court in 1892 that stated,

“The laws and institutions of this nation must necessarily be based upon the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise.”

Freedom of religion. Every America citizen was free to express his or her own religious convictions. To this day, our Constitution clearly states, “Congress shall make no law ... prohibiting the free exercise of religion.”

The God-given dignity of every human person regardless of race, creed, sex, or ethnic origin. In this nation, all were considered equal - Black, white, yellow, red, Protestant, Catholic, Jew, Moslem, pagan, atheist. Each person, therefore, had a right to his good name, and public slander was outlawed.

2. “No tolerance” for abortion right across the board.

Abortion has killed over 100 million of our children. Statistically, that means that over 12 million have been Jewish, 20 million black, and 50 million women. In a nation that has always championed women’s rights, the wholesale slaughter of the most innocent among us needs to be stopped. Mother Teresa predicted that any nation that destroys children would be inflicted with war.

3. A “no tolerance policy” of pornography.

Pornography has now become mainstream America. It infects most of our children. It is blatant in the music industry, in the entertainment industry, in the movie industry; and many advertisements, even in daily newspapers, can be classified as soft porn. Even in our sports pages are found ads offering children pornographic movies. Pornography now has invaded the Internet. No American child is free from its ugly influence. Pornography dehumanizes women, especially.

4. A “no tolerance” policy concerning sexual abuse.

One out of every three girls is being sexually abused in the home, and apparently one out of every six boys. Outside the home, the highest offenders are homosexuals, some of whom are in the clergy; followed by gynecologists and abortionists, where sexual abuse is apparently as high as 20 to 25 percent.

5. A “no tolerance” policy of offensive speech.

On the one hand, we have sexual harassment laws; and on the other we allow people like Howard Stern and Jerry Springer and many of our movies to dehumanize people, especially, women, through highly degrading and offensive speech. Sexual harassment laws have been pushed and maintained for the sake of our children.

6. A “no tolerance” policy of sodomy.

This is the sin that brought down Sodom and Gomorrah, and it’s bringing down America; and it’s wrong. There is nothing wrong with being a homosexual, but there is something very wrong with sodomy, especially as it affects children. [PFMC clarification: “Hate the Sin but Love the Sinner.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church (2357-2359) clearly states the Church position on homosexual tendencies versus homosexual acts.]

7. A “no tolerance” policy of public sexual education that treats children as if they were not sacred and sex as something that is devoid of sacredness and sublimity.

Virginity should be taught to all of our children as a preparation for life and stable marriages.

8. A “no tolerance” policy on drugs, alcohol and nicotine.

Drugs have been a scourge on the landscape of America, infesting our culture that has led to dehumanizing behavior, suicide, and auto deaths. Alcohol along with promiscuity is the leading problems on our college campuses. And tobacco use, which often starts with young teenagers, has lead to early, meaningless death for countless millions of Americans.

9. A “no tolerance” policy on co-ed dorms.

Where young people are exposed at very vulnerable ages to overwhelming temptations, to which most of them are succumbing.

10. A “no tolerance” policy to the media blitz that accentuates the negative, the violent, the offensive, the irreligious, the pagan, and the pornographic.

Our newspapers should be held accountable to what is noblest in the minds and hearts of our children. Our children deserve this.

11. A “no tolerance” policy on violence, including the use of guns, knives, and violent objects.

Littleton should have taught us all a lesson.

12. A “no tolerance” policy towards terrorism - physical, mental or moral.

September 11, 2001 has taught us all a lesson. George Washington said in his farewell discourse that “religion and morality are the twin towers” of America; and anyone who could attack these could not possibly consider themselves to be loyal Americans.

Only when everyone takes child abuse seriously will it stop. Our children are being victimized in hundreds of different ways. By the time that they reach age 18, perhaps as high as 95 percent of our children have been victimized with child abuse in one form or another. It has to stop for the sake of our children, for the sake of our country - it has to stop. Let's us ride the wave of this heightened awareness of child abuse to its completion. Any child's innocence is worth the effort, and every child has a right to protection, right across the board.

(Father Bill McCarthy, My Father's House, Moodus, CT, Memorial Day, 27 May 2002)

MOST AMERICANS CONDONE CHILD ABUSE

98% of Children Abused

Before a child in the United States reaches the age of adulthood (i.e., age 18), more than 98 percent of them are sexually abused in one way or another (see the enclosed charts). Most shocking is the fact that most adults in America condone it. Still more shocking is the fact that most doctors condone it, as do most psychologists, newspaper personnel, lawyers, actors, and moviemakers.

Tween Pornography

Recently, it was revealed that teen pornography netted \$160 billion in the year 2000. Worst still is the new realization that “tween” pornography, i.e., pornographer

seen by children between the ages of 8 to 12 will reap 150 billion for pornographic pervers in the year 2000. Unbelievably worse, however, that the Supreme Court of the land tacitly endorse this perversion of our kids by giving pornographers the green light as long as they do not use live actors, but only digitally produced images.

Unthinkable! Abominable! Yes! Yes! Most unthinkable is the realization that most adult Americans will do nothing about it, thus at least tacitly giving such horrific abuse of our kids their approval.

Movies, Talk Shows, Music, Videos

Our children are being sexually abused and perverted in a hundred different ways daily. Almost every movie, most soaps, most talk shows, many ads, most newspapers, most magazine, most movie stars, most popular singers, most actors and actresses, most columnists, most television shows, most books, most politicians, promote indecent, unhealthy and promiscuous images and behavior.

Don't Be Moral, Be Safe

Since 1962 when our Supreme Court no less forbade our public schools children from being taught about God or the Ten Commandments, every area of decadence among our children has escalated drastically - teen pregnancies up, teen sexually transmitted disease up, teen abortion up, teen promiscuity up, teen murders up, teen suicides up, teen pornography up, teen rape up, teen dishonesty up, teen stealing up.

Worst still, most teachers condone it. Any real effort to convert the moral meltdown situation of our American public schools - such as alternative classrooms, vouchers, or even teaching of the Ten commandments - will be met with the strongest opposition by almost every teachers union. Teachers, by in large, are so self-protecting of their position, that they willingly sell the moral characters of our youngsters down the drain.

Be “Safe”

The situation is so bad that most teachers don't even try to tell their youngsters “be moral”. They new compromised gospel is typically “be safe - use condoms” despite the fact that one of four teens who have sex with an AIDS -infected person, will contract AIDS themselves because the average perforation in a condom is 50 to 500 times greater than the AIDS virus.

1 in 4 is Epidemic Ratio

Teachers should logically say to those students who use guns to kill, "Listen, we have new guns that have three cylinders blocked. Use them, you can only kill one out of four times. What horrendous thinking from teachers, no less. The use of condoms not only kills our children's souls, it is literally killing their bodies as well through AIDS and deadly social diseases (25 of which there is no known cure).

What About Doctors

Doctors and nurses are telling our children that they can be given the condoms by the school "nurse". Also, they are told that if they get pregnant, they can have an abortion without "parental consent." The American medical profession supports condoms and abortions. Unthinkable - yes, but so tragically true.

Abortion On Demand

The worst child abuse is, of course, abortion itself. 100 million of our children have been aborted (45 million surgically and 55 million through abortifacient pills). Statistically, 12 million have been Jewish babies - that's twice as many as the Nazi holocaust; 20 million have been black babies - that's twice as many as the slave trade; 50 million have been women - in a country that shouts for women's reproductive rights. Obviously, abortion is neither reproductive nor right. Nor does it protect women. It is the greatest feminist onslaught ever perpetrated in this land of the free and home of the brave.

Condoned? Yes.

Is this condoned by adults? Yes - most adults in the last election voted for a presidential and vice presidential candidate that supported not only abortion on demand, but even the horrific practice of "partial birth abortion." Unthinkable - yes...but so tragically true. In the face of all of this, most young people have been so damaged that they too are "pro-choice" - a polite euphemism for

Co-ed Dorms

College personnel have long since abdicated their responsibility in allowing co-ed college dorms, to the extent that most college kids (and they are emotionally and spiritually still kids) are promiscuous. Most are so damaged that they cannot enter valid marriages. They "live together" or "bed hop", engage in "one-night stands", and claim themselves as DINC (double income - no kids). This is the language of the college world. Of

those that do marry, 65 percent are divorced in the first five years and most in the first year.

Family Breakdown

The breakdown of the family unit has reached epidemic proportions

The Covered-Up Exploitation of America's Children

What no one really wants to face in the light of the no-tolerance policy of the Catholic Church towards child abuse is that it is just the tip of a great iceberg, all too long submerged beneath the surface of America's still rising exploitation of our children.

The Cataclysmic Explosion of Child Sex Abuse Just Underneath the Surface

Ted Flynn in his dynamic new book "Idols in the House" has begun to expose the awful and pervasive exploitation of America's children in a startling chapter "Endangered Species" referring of course, to our children. He states, giving facts and figures, "The corruption of the American child is occurring faster and more furiously than at any time in history. Children are still being exposed to more immorality, impurity, and vile concepts at younger and younger ages."

Long Overdue

What America has for too long covered over is the fragility of our kids in the face of the onslaught of an overly materialistic, sexually permissive, and violent culture, especially in the media, the entertainment industry, and the music industry. These tyrants are reaping billions desecrating our children. Between the time of birth and the age of eighteen, over 95% of American youth are being sexually exploited in one way or another. Howard Stern, for example, makes 23 million dollars each year to promote the worse perversion of our youth. But worse than that, he has had over 3100 sponsors, including many of America's newspapers.

A Broader Focus

The expose of child abuse right across the board is destined to make the clergy scandal pale by comparison. At best, less than 1% of our youth have been abused by Protestant, Catholic, Jewish or Moslem clergy, yet over 95% are seriously abused by others; by doctors who abort them, by lawyers who betray them, by the media who exploit them, by the music industry which vulgarizes

them, by the schools and colleges that pervert them and by the entertainment industry that prostitutes them.

America IS Waking Up

Little by little, Americans are calling for a no-tolerance policy right across the board and more and more people do not want it covered over any longer. Our children are too sacred. We as Americans hold that each one of them is endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. First and foremost a right to life. Intuitively, everyone realizes that they have the right to common decency and should not be exploited by any one or any organization.

(Father Bill McCarthy, My Father's House, Moodus, CT)

VOCATION DEPARTMENT:

NAZARETH HOUSE

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

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff will provide them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service. It now houses the Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

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

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O my God, pour forth upon thy priests the spirit of sacrifice in its fullness. It is their glory as much as

their duty to be victims, to consume themselves for souls, to live without human joys to often undergo mistrust, injustice and persecution. May they reflect upon what they say each day at the altar: "This is My Body; this is My Blood." May they reflect on it and apply it to themselves; "I am no longer myself, I am Jesus and Jesus crucified. I am, like the bread and wine a consecrated substance which has ceased to be itself."

INTERESTED in FORMING A VOCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM in YOUR PARISH?

If you are interested in participating in this very simple program please call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 and ask for Liz. She will help you with materials and information. This program is very simple and very effective. We will be working in conjunction with Parish Vocation programs.

CANONIZATION PROCESS BEGUN FOR ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN

The Vatican has been petitioned to open the cause of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen for sainthood. He was called the "son of the heartland" because he was a legendary orator, writer and television personality.

Bishop Daniel R. Jensky, of Peoria, Illinois announced that the petition had been formally presented in Rome. The diocese of Peoria will lead the in-depth study of the archbishop's writings, virtue, works of charity and service to the Church. Archbishop Sheen would be the first American born male saint.

His ordination as a priest of the Peoria Diocese was September 20th, 1919. He studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington, the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, and the Angelicum University in Rome. He held a doctorate in Sacred Theology.

Archbishop Sheen gained fame in the 1950's with his two Emmy awarded TV show "Life is Worth Living". He served as the director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith from 1960 to 1966. He also opened the first African American hospital in Mobile, Alabama, and fought for jobs for minorities and black communities.

He died at the age of 84 as a prolific writer and speaker. He was known for his ability to convert atheists to the Catholic faith, and for his opposition to communism, fascism and racism. He possessed a deep prayer life, walking daily with the Lord.

PRAYER TO MOVE THE CHURCH TO PROCLAIM ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN A SAINT

Heavenly Father, source of all good and all holiness, You reward those who love and serve You faithfully as Your sons and daughters. If it pleases You, I ask You to glorify Your servant, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He touched countless lives by his ministry of evangelization, especially through the media.

His clear and courageous teachings about Jesus and the truths of the Catholic Church seemed to possess a special power of the Holy Spirit that strengthened the faithful and inspired many converts to embrace the Faith. He supported the needs of missionaries all over the world through his work in the National Office for the Propagation of the Faith.

He also labored zealously for the renewal of the Priesthood by preaching retreats to his brother priests and by encouraging them with the good example of his daily Eucharistic Holy Hour. His deep personal love of Our Lady moved many others to go to Jesus through His Mother.

Heavenly Father, if it be according to Your Divine Will, I ask You to move Your Church to glorify Your faithful servant, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. I ask this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN

(For Private Use Only)

To share any personal knowledge of the Archbishop (letters, photos, life-experiences) or to report any spiritual or physical favors granted in his name, please write:

**Friends of Archbishop Sheen
% Father Andrew Apostoli CFR,
St. Leopold Friary
259 Nepperham Avenue
Yonkers NY 10701**

WHAT IS PRAYER?

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.¹

PRAYER AS GOD'S GIFT

2559 "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."² But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or "out of the depths" of a humble and contrite heart?³ He who humbles himself will be exalted;⁴ humility is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought,"⁵ are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. "Man is a beggar before God."⁶

2560 "If you knew the gift of God!"⁷ The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.⁸

2561 "You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."⁹ Paradoxically our prayer of petition is a response to the plea of the living God: "They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water!"¹⁰ Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God.¹¹

PRAYER AS COVENANT

2562 Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass in the area that you are going to visit or are currently located, call **1-410-676-6000**.

If you have access to the Internet and don't already have it book marked, type in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) www.masstimes.org in the white box near the top of your browser. You can find maps to the churches in addition to the times of Holy Mass celebrations.

prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

2563 The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place “to which I withdraw.” The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.

2564 Christian prayer is a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and ourselves, wholly directed to the Father, in union with the human will of the Son of God made man.

PRAYER AS COMMUNION

2565 In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Kingdom is “the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity . . . with the whole human spirit.”¹² Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him. This communion of life is always possible because, through Baptism, we have already been united with Christ.¹³ Prayer is Christian insofar as it is communion with Christ and extends throughout the Church, which is his Body. Its dimensions are those of Christ’s love.¹⁴

(Catechism Of The Catholic Church, Part IV, Section One, Christian Prayer)

CONSOLATION

“Earth hath no sorrows
That Heaven can’t heal.”
As I softly repeat it,
Great comfort I feel.
And I long to reach out
To those in the storm
Of sorrow’s dark night

The PILGRIM

And point to the morn,
When joy will abound
Up there in the skies,
As God gently wipes
The tears from our eyes!
Oh, then we’ll see clearly
The face we adore
And greet our dear loved ones
Who’ve gone on before.
Gone every heartache
That here we may feel;
For “Earth hath no sorrows
That Heaven can’t heal!”

(By Alicce Hansche Mortenson)

FOR A HAPPY DEATH

Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, assist me in my last agony.
Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you. (Partial Indulgence)

From sudden and unprovided death, O Lord, deliver us.
(Partial Indulgence)

O Lord, my God, I now, at this moment, readily and willingly accept at Thy hand whatever kind of death it may please Thee to send me, with all its pains, penalties, and sorrows.

((Partial Indulgence every time said. Plenary indulgence at the point of death to all those who at any time of their lives, with sincere love toward God and with the usual conditions, make this kind of act)

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that we in the hour of death, being strengthened by the sacraments and cleansed of all sins, may with joy deserve to be received into the bosom of Thy mercy. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
(Partial Indulgence)

(<http://cts.bvm.com.au/australia/acts0308.html>)

THE LIFE OF PRAYER

2697 Prayer is the life of the new heart. It ought to animate us at every moment. But we tend to forget him who is our life and our all. This is why the Fathers of the

spiritual life in the Deuteronomic and prophetic traditions insist that prayer is a remembrance of God often awakened by the memory of the heart "We must remember God more often than we draw breath."^[1] But we cannot pray "at all times" if we do not pray at specific times, consciously willing it. These are the special times of Christian prayer, both in intensity and duration. 2698 The Tradition of the Church proposes to the faithful certain rhythms of praying intended to nourish continual prayer. Some are daily, such as morning and evening prayer, grace before and after meals, the Liturgy of the Hours. Sundays, centered on the Eucharist, are kept holy primarily by prayer. The cycle of the liturgical year and its great feasts are also basic rhythms of the Christian's life of prayer.

2699 The Lord leads all persons by paths and in ways pleasing to him, and each believer responds according to his heart's resolve and the personal expressions of his prayer. However, Christian Tradition has retained three major expressions of prayer: vocal meditative, and contemplative. They have one basic trait in common: composure of heart. This vigilance in keeping the Word and dwelling in the presence of God makes these three expressions intense times in the life of prayer.

EXPRESSIONS OF PRAYER

I. VOCAL PRAYER

2700 Through his Word, God speaks to man. By words, mental or vocal, our prayer takes flesh. Yet it is most important that the heart should be present to him to whom we are speaking in prayer: "Whether or not our prayer is heard depends not on the number of words, but on the fervor of our souls."²

2701 Vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life. To his disciples, drawn by their Master's silent prayer, Jesus teaches a vocal prayer, the Our Father. He not only prayed aloud the liturgical prayers of the synagogue but, as the Gospels show, he raised his voice to express his personal prayer, from exultant blessing of the Father to the agony of Gethsemani.³

2702 The need to involve the senses in interior prayer corresponds to a requirement of our human nature. We are body and spirit, and we experience the need to translate our feelings externally. We must pray with our whole being to give all power possible to our supplication.

2703 This need also corresponds to a divine requirement. God seeks worshippers in Spirit and in Truth, and

consequently living prayer that rises from the depths of the soul. He also wants the external expression that associates the body with interior prayer, for it renders him that perfect homage which is his due.

2704 Because it is external and so thoroughly human, vocal prayer is the form of prayer most readily accessible to groups. Even interior prayer, however, cannot neglect vocal prayer. Prayer is internalized to the extent that we become aware of him "to whom we speak;"⁴ Thus vocal prayer becomes an initial form of contemplative prayer.

II. MEDITATION

2705 Meditation is above all a quest. The mind seeks to understand the why and how of the Christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what the Lord is asking. The required attentiveness is difficult to sustain. We are usually helped by books, and Christians do not want for them: the Sacred Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, holy icons, liturgical texts of the day or season, writings of the spiritual fathers, works of spirituality, the great book of creation, and that of history the page on which the "today" of God is written.

2706 To meditate on what we read helps us to make it our own by confronting it with ourselves. Here, another book is opened: the book of life. We pass from thoughts to reality. To the extent that we are humble and faithful, we discover in meditation the movements that stir the heart and we are able to discern them. It is a question of acting truthfully in order to come into the light: "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

2707 There are as many and varied methods of meditation as there are spiritual masters. Christians owe it to themselves to develop the desire to meditate regularly, lest they come to resemble the three first kinds of soil in the parable of the sower.⁵ But a method is only a guide; the important thing is to advance, with the Holy Spirit, along the one way of prayer: Christ Jesus.

2708 Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in *lectio divina* or the rosary. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further: to the knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him.

III. CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

2709 What is contemplative prayer? St. Teresa answers: “Contemplative prayer [oracion mental] in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us.”⁶ Contemplative prayer seeks him “whom my

⁷ It is Jesus, and in him, the Father. We seek him, because to desire him is always the beginning of love, and we seek him in that pure faith which causes us to be born of him and to live in him. In this inner prayer we can still meditate, but our attention is fixed on the Lord himself.

2710 The choice of the time and duration of the prayer arises from a determined will, revealing the secrets of the heart. One does not undertake contemplative prayer only when one has the time: one makes time for the Lord, with the firm determination not to give up, no matter what trials and dryness one may encounter. One cannot always meditate, but one can always enter into inner prayer, independently of the conditions of health, work, or emotional state. The heart is the place of this quest and encounter, in poverty and in faith.

2711 Entering into contemplative prayer is like entering into the Eucharistic liturgy: we “gather up:” the heart, recollect our whole being under the prompting of the Holy Spirit, abide in the dwelling place of the Lord which we are, awaken our faith in order to enter into the presence of him who awaits us. We let our masks fall and turn our hearts back to the Lord who loves us, so as to hand ourselves over to him as an offering to be purified and transformed.

2712 Contemplative prayer is the prayer of the child of God, of the forgiven sinner who agrees to welcome the love by which he is loved and who wants to respond to it by loving even more.⁸ But he knows that the love he is returning is poured out by the Spirit in his heart, for everything is grace from God. Contemplative prayer is the poor and humble surrender to the loving will of the Father in ever deeper union with his beloved Son.

2713 Contemplative prayer is the simplest expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gift, a grace; it can be accepted only in humility and poverty. Contemplative prayer is a covenant relationship established by God within our hearts.⁹ Contemplative prayer is a communion in which the Holy Trinity conforms man, the image of God, “to his likeness.”

2714 Contemplative prayer is also the pre-eminently intense time of prayer. In it the Father strengthens our inner being with power through his Spirit “that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith” and we may be “grounded in love.”¹⁰

2715 Contemplation is a gaze of faith, fixed on Jesus. “I look at him and he looks at me”: this is what a certain peasant of Ars in the time of this holy Curé used to say while praying before the tabernacle. This focus on Jesus is a renunciation of self. His gaze purifies our heart; the light of the countenance of Jesus illumines the eyes of our heart and teaches us to see everything in the light of his truth and his compassion for all men. Contemplation also turns its gaze on the mysteries of the life of Christ. Thus it learns the “interior knowledge of our Lord,” the more to love him and follow him.¹¹

2716 Contemplative prayer is hearing the Word of God. Far from being passive, such attentiveness is the obedience of faith, the unconditional acceptance of a servant, and the loving commitment of a child. It participates in the “Yes” of the Son become servant and the Fiat of God’s lowly handmaid.

2717 Contemplative prayer is silence, the “symbol of the”¹² or “silent love.”¹³ Words in this kind of prayer are not speeches; they are like kindling that feeds the fire of love. In this silence, unbearable to the “outer” man, the Father speaks to us his incarnate Word, who suffered, died, and rose; in this silence the Spirit of adoption enables us to share in the prayer of Jesus.

2718 Contemplative prayer is a union with the prayer of Christ insofar as it makes us participate in his mystery. The mystery of Christ is celebrated by the Church in the Eucharist, and the Holy Spirit makes it come alive in contemplative prayer so that our charity will manifest it in our acts.

2719 Contemplative prayer is a communion of love bearing Life for the multitude, to the extent that it consents to abide in the night of faith. The Paschal night of the Resurrection passes through the night of the agony and the tomb - the three intense moments of the Hour of Jesus, which his Spirit (and not “the flesh [which] is weak”) brings to life in prayer. We must be willing to “keep watch with [him] one hour.”¹⁴

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, Part IV, Section One, Christian Prayer)

MESSAGE of 9/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also in this peaceless time, I call you to prayer. Little children, pray for peace so that in the world every person would feel love towards peace. Only when the soul finds peace in God, it feels content and love will begin to flow in the world. And in a special way, little children, you are called to live and witness peace – peace in your hearts and families – and, through you, peace will also begin to flow in the world. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(The PFMC upholds the final decision of the Roman Catholic Church as to the authenticity of messages from Medjugorje.)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 9/25/02

The Blessed Virgin Mary tells us that she walks with us, without ceasing to invite and to call human hearts and souls to God, the source of life.

Almost each one of Our Lady's messages begins with the call to pray, to dialogue with God. Prayer is not a magic formula for the resolution of personal problems, of the problems of the family or of the world. It is an invitation to a relationship of love with God. Prayer brings us into God's presence. Prayer would like to make our hearts humble and dependent on God. By nature, human beings are inclined to autonomy and independence, but Jesus tells us: **"Truly, apart from me you can do nothing". (Jn 15:5b)** Only when, through prayer, we have become God's friends, only when we have approached Him, He can give us everything. The fruit of this closeness is the peace that Our Lady is talking about in this message. God does not want to give us crumbs or something from Himself, but He gives us all of Himself. Before asking something from Him, we should seek the encounter with Him. Only when we have encountered Him, we possess everything: joy, peace, health, life... and then, all tragedies, sufferings, crosses and illnesses are neither awful nor dreadful anymore, but - with God - everything becomes full of meaning.

Our Lady speaks about troubled times. Troubled times are generated in troubled human hearts where God does not abide. The awareness of the fact that there is too much restlessness in us and around us, impedes us to easily believe the words of Jesus: **"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world gives." (Jn 14:27)**

"Only when the soul finds peace in God, it feels content, and love will begin to flow in the world"

Mary, our Mother tells us. Mother Teresa used to say often: *"Works of love are works of peace"*. Love

generates peace. There is a lot of restlessness because there is not much love. Hence, God is love. Human hearts, families and the whole world need God like the parched land needs rain.

No one has loved Jesus as much as the Mother of God has. This is why she alone can best teach us how to love Him. She has not selfishly kept Jesus for herself, but has taken Him to her cousin Elisabeth. Each one of us is invited to receive Jesus in Holy Communion and to carry Him to our neighbors, to those whom God has placed on our way. To keep Jesus for oneself means to lose Him. It affords neither great things or works nor sensational miracles or healings. The Mother of God was not great in proportion to human works or miracles; she became great by completely allowing God to do His will in her and through her. She emptied herself completely so that God may completely dwell in her. She renounced her will and her desires, so that the will of God and the desires of God may be realized - in her and through her - in us and in this world. If we want love, if we want God, then we have to embrace the way of sacrifice, the narrow and steep way that leads to life. God does not expect from us little bits of something - a bit of prayer, a bit of fasting, a bit of time, a bit of money, a bit of sacrifice - but He wants us totally, just as - in His Son Jesus - He has given us everything. Our God is a demanding God, just as Mary, our Mother, is demanding here. She is demanding towards us because she loves us, because she really cares. Not to accept her messages is much easier, but it is not better. Mary, our Mother, comes to you and to me today to tell us that this world does not hunger for richness and for money but for love, which means for God. There are many rich people who are truly poor in spirit.

Our Lady comes to us here with the abundance of the richness of her heart, in order to give us this treasure. Let us ourselves begin to follow this motherly voice, without waiting for others to begin, because it may not happen at all.

PRESS BULLETIN 178, 9/26/2002

ROSARY – THE POWER OF OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

We approach the month of October, the month consecrated to Our Lady and to the prayer of the Rosary.

In October 1978, on the thirteenth day after his election as a Pope, John Paul II called out prior to the prayer of the Angelus: "The Rosary is my preferred prayer. A beautiful, wonderful prayer. Beautiful in its simplicity! Beautiful in its deepness!" The Pope, a man of prayer and faithfully devoted to our Heavenly Mother, expressed not only his own deep personal truth, but also the truth of many others who see, in the Rosary, the expression of their prayer and of their spiritual state. The Rosary is certainly a simple prayer but, as such, it has conquered the hearts of Christians. It has - as the Pope says - its depth and its rich content. Many faithful have come to know precisely this depth and this content while praying the Rosary in Medjugorje.

With the rosary in hand, we can certainly become different creatures. Our Lady knows it, and this is why she invites us to practice this beautiful and sublime devotion. With the same motherly love, she invited us in Fatima, in Lourdes, in Medjugorje to pray the Rosary ... The Rosary is an invitation for us to walk through Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem... It is always a new lesson at Our Lady's school. Through the Rosary, we come to Jesus, we identify ourselves to the image of the Servant of the Lord and we enter into the space of the sacred. The Rosary is a powerful weapon in the hands of Christians. While saying the Hail Marys, while meditating on the mysteries, while pronouncing the prayer, we become people who can and who have the right to direct humanity towards the Creator of all.

Through the Rosary, a believer establishes a dialogue between heaven and earth. The Rosary is our best friend in loneliness, in illness, in sorrow, in anguish... Someone has once written: "Each one has means for its defence: for children, it is crying and shouting; for women, it is tenderness and tears; for men, it is strength and decision; and for us, Catholics, it is Christ and Mary, the Eucharist and the Rosary."

Number of Communions and Concelebrants

During the month of August, 213,000 received Holy Communion and 4,155 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

A New Interior Look for the Adoration Chapel

In July 2002, the Adoration Chapel received a new interior look. The space around the altar was modified, the orientation of the altar and of the tabernacle was changed, and the statue of the Holy Family was put up, as an invitation to families to find in Jesus the source of love and of unity.

Because of lack of other prayer spaces, the Adoration Chapel continues to serve as a place for Eucharistic celebrations in different languages for the pilgrims throughout the morning. In the afternoon, it is a place of adoration, of silent prayer and recollection.

A Bishop from Gabon

Msgr. Jean-Vincent Ondo, Bishop of the Diocese of Oyem in Gabon, came on a private visit to Medjugorje during the International Youth Festival 2002. He told us about his impressions:

"When I came for the first time, when I was not a bishop yet, I came with a family. Today, I am here again with a family. It is a private visit. We came here because we want to pray and to live what Our Lady tells us. What is happening here happens in our dioceses: rosary, adoration prayer... What is especially beautiful is the great number of those who come here, while in our dioceses we have smaller groups.

Concerning the apparitions, the presence of Our Lady, I would say that it is difficult to give a precise opinion after only a few days that I have spent here. I did not have all the elements needed for discernment. What I can say is that something is happening here. I had the grace to meet the visionary Marija and to be present during her prayer. Something is happening that goes beyond my reasoning. An analytical intelligence always wants to explain everything, but I think that we simply have to admire all that is happening. Our Lady challenges us here. To those who doubt, she may shed some more light with time...

Our coming here is oriented towards the living of our faith and not towards seeking something unusual. I am enthusiastic to see Christians coming from all horizons and speaking one and the same language – the language of prayer.

The Holy Spirit is far beyond us. We are humans and have limited understanding. It is difficult to answer this question. It is like talking about a man who wants to empty the sea and put the water into a small hole.

This is not the first experience of this kind in the world. There were apparitions in Fatima and in Lourdes. Now everyone talks about Medjugorje. If these experiences existed in the past, they may exist in the present and in the future.

Here, Our Lady reveals herself as the Queen of Peace. God alone knows how many hearts are troubled. We seek that peace, which comes from God alone. I had the occasion to meet many pilgrims. I felt the distress of their hearts. They have come here to confide their sufferings to Mary in the hope of finding inner peace. I believe that those who come here are not tourists, but they come in the hope of finding rest in Mary.

There is nothing different here than what we can see and experience in our dioceses. What I can see is that young people in their parishes feel too much lukewarmness. When they come to these kinds of meetings, they discover a living, warm, awakened Church, and they are happy and joyful to be together. I believe that we have to be careful about how we receive these young people, these children, so that those who have experienced something here do not remain on the level of strong feelings. It should become a strong experience of faith, which will help them to continue to grow in faith when they leave Medjugorje.”

Father Stanko Dodig: 25 Years of Priesthood

On Sunday, August 18th, Father Stanko Dodig, a Franciscan Capuchin and parishioner of Medjugorje, celebrated 25 years of his priesthood in his native parish in a solemn Holy Mass. Father Stanko was born on July 10, 1949. He finished elementary school in Medjugorje

middle school at Visoko. He received the Franciscan habit in Rijeka in 1974. He finished his theology studies in Zagreb, where he also made his solemn vows and was ordained a priest on June 26, 1977. His first solemn Mass

as main celebrant was celebrated in Medjugorje on July 17, 1977, and the 25th Anniversary Mass in Rijeka (Croatia) on July 14th of this year. For 20 years now, he has lived in Rijeka where he fulfils different services: four times he was elected superior of his monastery, where he is still today superior today. He is also doyen of the cathedral, as well as an honourable citizen of Rijeka.

Father Stanko Dodig spends most of his holidays in Medjugorje at the service of parishioners and pilgrims.

Jelena Vasilj's Wedding

Jelena Vasilj from Medjugorje and Massimiliano Valente from Rome were married in Medjugorje on Saturday, August 24th 2002. in the presence of their numerous friends from the whole world, the solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over and the marriage vows were blessed by Father Dragan Ruzic, a Franciscan from Herzegovina studying in Rome. Jelena finished her studies of Theology, Church History and oriental languages, first in the US and then in Rome, where she is living today.

the pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje as the two girls who had the gift of inner locutions.

A New Studio and Set-up for the Radio Station “Mir” Medjugorje

On Monday, August 26th, 2002, a new studio and set-up for the Radio Station “Mir” Medjugorje were blessed in the quarters of the Information Centre “Mir” Medjugorje. The rite of benediction was presided by Father Slavko Soldo, Provincial of the Herzegovinian Franciscan Province, in the presence of Father Branko Rados, pastor of Medjugorje, Father Miljenko Stojic, former director of the radio, Franciscan brothers, religious sisters, collaborators and co-workers of the Radio Station. They rejoiced in the development of their radio, because this acquisition facilitates and updates the quality of the work and of the programme. Radio “Mir” Medjugorje thus becomes one of the best equipped with electronic media in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Croatia. Father Mario Knezovic, Director of the Information Centre and Chief Redactor of Radio “Mir” Medjugorje, greeted the hosts.

The “Day of the Religious” in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Conference of Higher Religious Superiors in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized the third “Day of the

Religious” on August 30 and 31, 2002. The meeting, which gathered 160 religious men and women, took place at St. Anthony’s Franciscan monastery at Humac (Ljubuski) under the title, “The Response of the Religious to New Religious Movements in the Church”.

Father Mijo Dzolan, President of the Conference and Franciscan Provincial of Bosnia, greeted the participants, while thanking the Lord for the gift of such a large presence of religious on this year’s gathering. Msgr. Franjo Komarica, Bishop of Banja Luka, President of the Bishops Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina and President of the Council for the Religious greeted the participants in the name of the Bishops Conference of B&H. He underlined the up-to-datedness of the theme, quoting the words of the Second Vatican Council: The Holy Spirit unites the Church in service, leads it through different hierarchical and charismatic gifts, and bestows on it its fruits.

Father Mario Knezovic, the Secretary of the Conference of Higher Religious Superiors, who also organized and led the program of the “Day of the Religious”, read the greeting letters from Msgr. Josip Bozanic, Archbishop of Zagreb (Croatia) and Cardinal Vinko Puljic, Archbishop of Sarajevo (B&H).

The Franciscans of Medjugorje also participated at this meeting. The participants of the meeting had a dinner in Medjugorje itself.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

On the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated in Medjugorje on first Sunday after the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, about 40,000 local and foreign pilgrims gathered in the Shrine of the Queen of Peace. As every year, rivers of pilgrims arrived at Medjugorje already during the night. Many of them traveled hundreds of kilometers, some of them barefoot.

As a visible sign of the eternal light shining from the Cross, illuminated, reminding us of its significance, and preparing parishioners and pilgrims for this feast.

Sixty priests concelebrated the solemn Holy Mass on

For those who could not climb Križevac, there was a solemn Holy Mass celebrated in the parish church at 12 am. It was presided over by Father Ljubo Kurtovic. The evening Holy Mass, celebrated at the outside altar and concelebrated by 55 priests, was presided by Father Ivan

Dugandzic, superior of the Franciscan monastery at Zagreb and professor at the Catholic Faculty of Theology.

This is an occasion to familiarize you with the history of Cross Mountain [Križevac] and the cross erected on it. About one kilometer from the church of Medjugorje, as the crow flies, Cross Mountain rises up as a continuation of Crnica Hill, forming an angle with it. On its peak (520 meters above sea level) the pastor and people of Medjugorje at that time, in 1934, erected an 8.56-meter high, reinforced concrete cross. In it, they engraved the words, “To Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the human race, as a sign of their faith, love and hope, the pastor Bernadine Smoljan and the parish of Medjugorje”. Relics received from Rome for the occasion are embedded in the cross bar itself. They are a piece of the cross venerated by Christians as the one on which Jesus Christ was crucified, the largest part of which is preserved in the Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome. The cross was completed on March 15, 1934. Later on, the custom was established of celebrating Holy Mass at the base of the cross on the first Sunday after Our Lady’s birthday in commemoration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Climbing up that difficult, near impossible path to the Cross on the mountain, pilgrims pray the devotion of the Way of the Cross. That is why, along the path on Cross Mountain, fifteen bronze reliefs are placed and the image of Our Lady is in each one of them. Our Lady accompanies both Jesus and us on the way of the cross in our life.

“Encounters and Experiences in Medjugorje” II and III – Two Books of Interviews Led by Father Slavko Barbaric

This year, the Information Centre “Mir” Medjugorje edited two books containing interviews led by Father Slavko Barbaric between 1993 and 2000, under the title, “Encounters and Experiences in Medjugorje” II and III. These two books contain witnesses of pilgrims from different continents who have experienced a conversion, who have found faith or who were physically healed in Medjugorje, through the intercession of the Queen of Peace, but also conversations with scientists, artists, priests, bishops... The common idea of all the witnesses could be: “In Medjugorje, I have found faith, here I feel at home”. These interviews help us to better understand the influence of Medjugorje on the spiritual transformation of men, of the Church and of humanity.

Translations in other languages are in preparation. You can find this book in the souvenir shop of the Parish.

Winter Schedule of the Prayer Program at the Shrine

On Monday, September 16th, 2002, the winter schedule of the prayer program at the Shrine began. The prayer of the Rosary in the Parish church begins at 5pm, Holy Mass at 6 PM, followed by the blessings and the third part of the rosary. Eucharistic adoration is on Thursday after the evening Mass and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 PM. The Veneration of the Cross is on Friday after the Evening Mass.

The Rosary on the Apparition Hill and the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain will begin at 2 PM. The occasion for confessions is every evening during the evening prayer program.

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

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a church, store or travel agency but have aspects of all three. We operate as a ministry whose volunteers are mostly lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, through the universal faith and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We profess allegiance to the Magisterium of that Church led by Pope John Paul II. In a similar fashion as those who approach members of famous families such as the Carters and the Kennedys as well as the British Royal Family through the matriarchs or mothers, we believe that approaching Jesus through his Blessed Virgin Jewish Mother, Mary, may be of benefit in the answering of our prayers.

We operate on donations for all our activities. These activities include retreats and days of recollection at the PFMC where Holy Mass and Adoration take place for the public with Bishop DiMarzio's permission. The PFMC was established based on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other holy places or shrine worthy of pilgrimage. Books, pamphlets and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and take based on donations. We are NOT a store.

For books, pamphlets and religious articles, we operate like a church pamphlet or bookrack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. We have items from our inventory on display at Epiphany House and have produced order forms in the past. See the order forms enclosed in previous issues or loaded on the Internet Web Site, <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>, for a partial listing of items that can be obtained from the PFMC through donations. If you wish to order, please fill out your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card and mail to PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4893. If you do not have an order form, call us at (856) 768-9228 with a FAX number or mailing address and we will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card. Please come and see the PFMC. We know you will enjoy what you see and find a way of helping out.

Thank you and God bless you,

(Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff)

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD ACCEPTED

We accept DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS) for all donations to the PFMC. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, "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 Holy 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 signed with oil as a sacramental should not be misled into thinking that use of a sacramental by the laity in any way replaces blessing by a priest, whose Holy Hands are consecrated by the Bishop in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

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

BULLETIN NOTICES for *PFMC* AREA EVENTS

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

Ask your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator to publish these notices to support the events for which you have an interest. It does wonders when a parishioner asks for a bulletin notice as compared to the thousands of requests that come in from outside the parish. Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it.

WEDNESDAY 7 PM to 9 PM TEACHING by DEAN PULCINI

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc. hosts teaching by Dean Pulcini, Wednesday, 7 to 9 PM in the Upper Room at Epiphany House.

Dean's teachings are scheduled to resume on the third Wednesday (16th) in October 2002 with teachings on Liturgy. Call (856) 768-9228 if you need directions.

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

Kathleen and Keith Werner host a weekly program with In His Sign (HIS) Radio Network <http://www.inhissign.com>. This half-hour is sponsored by donations to the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc.

There is prayer, scripture reading, 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.

OCTOBER 2002 RETREAT with FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2002 RETREAT with Father John Hampsch, CMF (2002 RFJH) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ from Friday, 18 October 2002, through Sunday, 20 October 2002.

For an information tri-fold with reservation form visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> or call (856) 768-9228.

30 NOVEMBER 2002 "HEALING YOUR FAMILY TREE" - Father John McFadden, Norma and Tom Finneran

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a "Healing Your Family Tree" Day in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043. Father John McFadden, Norma and Tom Finneran, will provide guidance on working with this topic. They have teamed together for the benefit of many souls over the past several years.

For an information sheet with reservation form visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> or call (856) 768-9228.

6 DECEMBER 2002 "CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE" at PFMC - 4 to 7 PM

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a "Christmas Open House" with refreshments in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043, on Friday, 6 December 2002 from 4 to 7 PM.

For directions call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

14 DECEMBER 2002 "MIRACLE of CHRISTMAS" TRIP to LANCASTER, PA

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) in conjunction with Saint John Neumann Parish in Sicklerville is sponsoring a bus trip to "Miracle of Christmas" with a stop for dinner and shopping in

Lancaster, PA on Saturday, 14 December 2002. Busses will depart from Marshall's parking lot at NJ 73 and Cooper Road. The cost is \$99 per person.

For an information sheet with reservation form call (856) 768-9228 or (856) 728-1060.

12 FEBRUARY 2003 RETREAT for WOMEN with FATHER ROBERT DeGRANDIS, SSJ

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a special retreat for women with Father Robert DeGrandis. This retreat will be held in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ on Saturday, 12 February 2003. It will concentrate on forgiveness, prayer, and healing for those women who have been abused, physically, emotionally, and/or sexually.

For an information sheet with reservation form visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> or call (856) 768-9228.

2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE (2003 RC) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2003.

The 2003 RC theme is **"He must increase; I must decrease."** (John 3:30) [NAB].

Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, and Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. will be featured speakers. They will speak on "Healing in our Faith."

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).

Joseph Terelya will speak on Saturday night before the concert via his interpreter.

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 Marty Rotella, "HEARTS AFIRE," "CEDARS in CHRIST," "S'ELAH," and "VOYAGE," have been invited.

Father Robert DeGrandis and his sister Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol will share the seminars and workshops of the 3-Day Extension (3DX) on "Healing of Memories - Inner Healing."

The 3DX will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003.

Rooms may be booked at the \$92 rate with 1-4 persons in a room for both the 2003 RC and 3DX as well as up to 7 days before or after the events. Rooms have either one King bed or two Double beds. Roll-away beds are available. This rate and availability of additional rooms expires on 2/19/2003. **For Hotel reservations please call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS or locally (856) 665-6666. Please make your reservations with the PFMC and HILTON as soon as possible. Consider this as a Christmas gift.**

For an information sheet with reservation forms visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> or call (856) 768-9228.

(Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

WOULD YOU LIKE to SPONSOR a PFMC RADIO PROGRAM?

Every Thursday on WTMR 800 AM from 2:15 PM to 2:30 PM, Keith and Kathleen present a radio program called **"Put on the Armor of God."**

This show has been on the air for over a year now.

It consists of looking at Ephesians 6:10-17, and using the Catechism, and Church teachings to evangelize and help you with your prayer life.

We need sponsors for this program.

In our arrangement with Dom Lettieri and In His Sign Ministries, this one-half hour program costs the PFMC \$75. If you are interested in donating to help us we will mention your name on the radio as our sponsor for that week.

You may donate in memory of a loved one, and we will mention their name.

Prayer groups can come together and donate for their prayer intentions and we will mention the prayer group and as many of their intentions as time permits.

We thank you for listening, and for your support.

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