



The PILGRIM

Vol. 13, No. 2 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

February 2002

MESSAGE of 1/25/2002

Dear Children! At this time while you are still looking back to the past year I call you, little children, to look deeply into your heart and to decide to be closer to God and to prayer. Little children, you are still attached to earthly things and little to spiritual life. May my call today also be an encouragement to you to decide for God and for daily conversion. You cannot be converted, little children, if you do not abandon sins and do not decide for love towards God and neighbor. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

A PRAYER



Lord, my Jesus, here I am empty handed. I don't have much to give you. At least I know it isn't what you really deserve. But, I want to Love as You love. I try to Love as You do. And I am so grateful to you.

You read all that is in my heart, Lord. And Your presence gives me a deep inner peace. Your presence never leaves me. And with Your love, I feel my heart is joyful. I am happy Lord to know that You love me so much that you will always be generous with me. You, my Jesus go beyond my heart's expectations. Fill my heart with love and gratitude as I reflect on Your tender mercy. AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

THANK YOU ALL

We would like to say a special thank you to everyone who has financially supported us over the past few years. It has been a very difficult moving into the new addition to Epiphany House, increasing the bulk mail activities and costs, setting up conferences, retreats, teaching programs, days of recollection and pilgrimages. We also took on a new

expense of the radio program Put on the Armor of God with In His Sign Ministries using WTMR AM-800 out of Camden, NJ and WAMS AM-1600 out of Wilmington, DE on Thursday afternoons from 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM. Little did we realize the increase in expenses that all this would entail. The PFMC ministry operations have basic expenses of over \$6000 per month. The PFMC events generally take in good will offerings or donations which allow them to break even or make a small amount for the ministry.

We have learned to be grateful for every penny that comes in to the PFMC. Dotty Lyons has been so gracious to give of her time in an effort to account for those pennies. Because of events in her life and other volunteer issues we are just now doing the Fiscal Year July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 taxes. Because the PFMC ministry exists only through donations, we have turned to all of you to help us. It has greatly moved us to see an envelope arrive from a nun with \$2 in it and we know that is probably all she had in her pocket. So many have sent us \$5 or \$25, and \$100 to help out. We are most grateful.

You have enabled us to continue the work of Lay Catholic Evangelization with an all-volunteer staff. We would be remiss in not saying a very sincere thank you, and ask you to please continue to remember us with your donations monthly in the envelopes enclosed in The PILGRIM periodical.



We also want to thank the many priests and deacons who have helped us and given us counsel. We vow obedience via the Magesterium to Our Holy Father Pope John Paul II. You have been great sources

"The PILGRIM" for February 2002 is dedicated to "Mary, Intercessor of the Poor." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."

of help, information and many blessings for us. We thank the Bishop and Chancellor of the Diocese of Camden for their trust in the work we do, and for their assistance. We know Our Lady smiles upon you all.

(Kathleen and Keith for all the PFMC Volunteers)

LAST OPPORTUNITY to SIGN UP for 2002 RETREAT CONFERENCE and / or 3 DAY EXTENSION

These are the last days to sign up for the 2002 weekend RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) for **March 8, 9, and 10th** with Father John Hampsch, Father Robert DeGrandis, Michael Brown, Father John McFadden, Father Michael Semana and many more. Please see enclosed information sheet for further description of the speakers and activities.

The hotel rooms at the Hilton Hotel are filling fast at \$89 per night for up to 4 in a room. Reservations to book your room can be made by calling:

1 800 HILTONS or 856 665 6666.

Reservations for the PFMC 2002RC itself are made by sending the PFMC a completed registration form from the enclosed information sheet.

WARNING! ALL ROOMS BOOKED after FEBRUARY 18TH WILL NOT CAPTURE the GROUP ROOM RATE

ROOMS WILL BE \$109 OR MORE.

Please note that a cut-off date of 2/8/02 has been advertised since the contract with the Hilton Hotel was signed. We are most grateful that a large number of rooms have been pre-booked at the advertised \$89 rate. We are unable to do anything about the increased room rate after the cut-off date.

Overflow rooms at \$89 have been arranged at the Holiday Inn about 4 blocks to the East on NJ 70. Staying at Holiday Inn requires transport to and from the Hilton Hotel for attending events there.

Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, NJ, 856 663 5300

Interested in Inner Healing and Healing of Memories?

Dorthea DeGrandis Suldo and Father Robert DeGrandis will hold a 3 day Seminar extension to the RC (3DX) on March 11th, 12th, and 13th at the Hilton Hotel. You may make your room reservations for this 3DX now, and don't forget to register with the PFMC for seat at the RC and 3DX. We can not stress enough that this is a very very powerful program. God WILL touch you in a very special way.

(Kathleen and 2002RC / 3DX Volunteer Staff)

PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE - APRIL 18 through APRIL 25, 2002



Another beautiful pilgrimage to Medjugorje has been planned, and time is short to sign up. Every attempt has been made to keep the price down, and yet provide you with a maximum amount of time in this Hamlet of prayer, healing and grace.

Kathleen will be your Coordinator, and Father Tony Lacson, Prison Minister at Fort Dix, NJ, and affiliated

with the Alliance of the Two Hearts, will be our Spiritual Director.

We will depart on April 18 and stay in Medjugorje in a private home very close to the Church of Saint James. The Bevanda family is wonderful, and we praise their clean rooms (always simple rooms with private bathroom), and delicious home cooked breakfasts and suppers throughout our 7 day stay.

We will visit Apparition Hill (Podbrdo) Cross Mountain (Krizevac), visits the visionaries, daily confessions, talks by the priests of Medjugorje, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, visit the *Oasis of Peace Community* and the *Cennacolo Community*.

If there is time, and weather permitting, we will offer a day trip to Dubrovnik, where the Church dedicated to Saint Blaise stands. There we will have Holy Mass with blessing of the throats. You will have time to

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.

walk the ancient walls, and stroll the cobble stone streets or sit and have a cappuccino as you people watch. We will also stop in Slano, a small town on the Adriatic Sea enroute to Dubrovnik. It was in Slano that Saint Jerome is believed to have ministered.

On the 25th of April we will fly to home.

Call Kathleen at 856-768-9228 immediately if you would like to join us on the pilgrimage wrapped in Our Lady's arms.

Dates: April 18 through 25, 2002

Price: Planned at \$1499 plus \$85 taxes but having difficulty with original arrangements with airlines and having to renegotiate. Price may go up or we may have to cancel until the airline rates settle down. All rooms Double occupancy with



private bathrooms (we do accept Visa, MasterCard or Discover to pay for pilgrimages 3% handling is charged).

Single Supplement: \$225 extra for Medjugorje and Rome.

Insurance available and encouraged.

Includes:

Round Trip (RT) Air Transportation to and from USA. Departure airport may change. Planned to use Split airport in Croatia.

6 nights Medjugorje (Private Home).

All breakfasts and suppers throughout.

Comfortable motor coach to Medjugorje.

Guide in Medjugorje.

Full daily spiritual program with Father Tony, and daily Holy Mass.

Not included:

Personal convenience items, i.e., telephone, lunches/snacks, alcoholic beverages, dry cleaning/laundry, etc.

Gratuities to guides and bus drivers (recommended about \$200 total)

Optional: \$35 day trip to Dubrovnik and Slano

CALL NOW - 856-768-9228

(Kathleen Werner)

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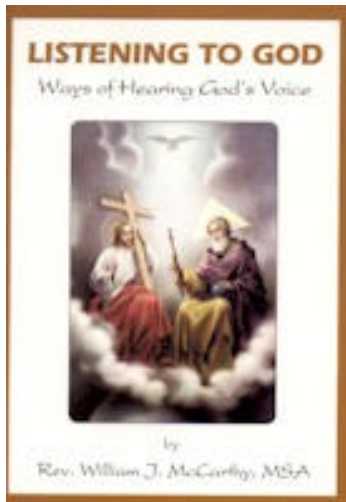
NO MARCH ISSUE of "The PILGRIM"

Due to the positioning of the 2002 RC and 3DX on the PFMC calendar, the Board of Directors has decided that we will issue a combined March-April issue of "The PILGRIM" to be distributed the first part of April 2002. We have included an article on Saint Patrick, page 7, some prayers to Saint Joseph, page 16, and the Calendar for March, page 28.

Please pay attention to the warning that usually appears on page 7. We must actually receive

something from you in writing if you wish to continue to receive The PILGRIM™ in BULK MAIL. We are taking steps to automatically remove names from the mailing list when contact has not been made in writing during the past 18 months.

ASSUMPTION PARISH to HOST DAY of RECOLLECTION for WOMEN at PFMC EPHIPHANY HOUSE - APRIL 20, 2002



Father Bill McCarthy, M.Ss.A., will be the retreat director for a day of recollection for women to be held Saturday, April 20, 2002, in the Upper Room at the PFMC Epiphany House.

Father will begin at 9 AM and close with Holy Mass at 4 PM.

The donation is \$20 for the day, and will include a light lunch.

If you are interested in coming, please contact the PFMC at 856-768-9228.

PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES and PARIS - JULY 24 through JULY 31, 2002

A pilgrimage not to pass up! At the same price as last year with an additional day in Lourdes.

Dates: *July 24 through July 31, 2002*

RT Air from Newark to Paris to Pau via Air France.

Price: \$1899 Including air taxes - double occupancy with private bathroom

\$299 for Private Room Lourdes and Paris

4 nights Lourdes at Hotel Saint Sauver

2 nights Paris at Hotel Mercure Paris Monty

Continental breakfast daily at all hotels

4 dinners at hotel in Lourdes (beverages not included)

1 dinner at hotel in Paris (beverage not included)

The PILGRIM

1 free night to dine on your own in the Italian Quarter, or restaurant of your choice -some may want to dine at the top of the Eiffel Tower overlooking Paris!)

½ day guided sightseeing tour of Paris (including the Montmartre and the Sacre Coeur, and the Notre Dame Cathedral)

½ day guided walking tour of Lourdes

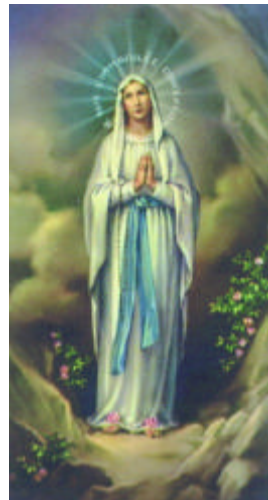
Visit the Healing Baths of Lourdes

Tickets to the Eiffel Tower, with elevator to the third floor

River cruise on Seine River in Paris

Motor coach: RT Pau airport/Lourdes hotel with guide. RT Paris airport/hotel with guide. RT from Paris hotel to Seine River Cruise

PFMC escort entire pilgrimage. Full spiritual daily schedule



Not included: Personal choice items, i.e., telephone, lunches/snacks, alcoholic beverages, dry cleaning/laundry, etc.

Gratuities to guides and bus drivers (recommended about \$200 total)

Our Lady revealed herself as the 'Immaculate Conception.' Bernadette Soubirous saw our lady a total of 18 times. Visit this hamlet of Healing and prayer. Enjoy time to pray and stroll the many shops and bring home a rosary for a friend or loved one. Experience the healing waters of the Lourdes baths.

Then, in Paris, enjoy seeing the great Cathedral of Notre Dame, and the Church of Sacre Coeur. Visit the chapel of Rue de Bac and the Miraculous Medal, where Saint Catherine Laboure lies uncorrupt. Relax a bit on a river cruise, and stroll the Italian quarter for dinner on your own. Ride the Eiffel Tower elevator to the third floor, or enjoy going to the top. You will have a marvelous experience the whole 6 nights.

Call immediately - 856-768-9228

(Kathleen Werner)

PILGRIMAGE to the SHRINES of ITALY - NOVEMBER 1 through 14, 2002

Have you ever wanted to see the shrines of Padre Pio who will be canonized this Spring, the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano, the Shrines of Saint Claire and Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Rita of Cascia, Our Lady of Loretto, and many more? Have you ever wanted to see the mosaic tiles of Ravenna, or stop for a wonderful day in Venice. And what of the masterpieces of Florence, and the Catacombs of Rome?

This pilgrimage is guaranteed to fill everyday with memories and pictures for your albums. It will be the talk of your heart to others. It is a once in a lifetime experience.

We will fly from Newark directly into Italy. You will never get so much for your money, nor the quality.
The cost of \$2599 plus \$85 taxes

For Single Supplement throughout \$399

Pilgrimage includes the following:

Continental breakfast daily at each hotel

7 dinners at hotels (beverages not included) –two in San Giovanni and three in Assisi and two in Abano Terme

5 dinners at local restaurants –two in Florence and 3 in Rome

Escorted visit to the Sanctuary of Padre Pio and the Grotto of Saint Michael

En-route stop in Lanciano and Loreto

½ day guided tour of Assisi

Full day escorted excursion to Cascia, Todi and Isola Maggiore on Lake Trasimeno, including round trip public ferry to Isola Maggiore

Enroute stop in Ravenna, including entrance fee to the Mosaics

Full day excursion to Venice, including walking tour of Venice with entrance fee to the Doge's Palace

Enroute stops in Padova and Bologna

½ day guided walking tour of Florence including entrance fee to Accademia to see Michaelangelo's statue of *David*

½ day guided tour of Rome

½ day guided tour of Christian Rome including entrance fee to Catacombs

½ day guided tour of the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, including entrance fee

Wednesday Papal Audience

Daily Mass arrangements

English speaking tour escort throughout itinerary

PFMC coordinator

Priest Spiritual Director

Transportation by private deluxe air conditioned motor coach throughout itinerary

Round trip transfer by motor launch in Venice –with walking tour and Doge's Palace and San Marco

Porterage of one suitcase per person at hotels

Tax and service charges levied by hotels.

We will stay 2 nights in San Giovanni Rotondo

3 nights in Assisi

2 nights in Abano Terme (near Venice)

2 nights Florence

3 nights Rome

Not included:: Beverages in Rome, telephone, lunches/snacks, alcoholic beverages, dry cleaning/laundry, etc.

Gratuities to guides and bus drivers (recommended about \$220 total)

We hope that you will join us this year on one or all of these special planned pilgrimages. PFMC prides itself with the many blessings that come from them, and with the quality we can provide for a very reasonable

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Williams, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MsA,

Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Glenn Hartman, Father

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

the Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden,

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

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

price.

Call 856-768-9228 for reservations.

(Kathleen Werner)

**APRIL 6, 2002 – CHAPLET'S
THIRD ANNUAL CATHOLIC
HOMESCHOOLING
CONFERENCE – MATER
ECCLESIAE, CROSS KEYS ROAD,
PINE HILL / BERLIN, NJ**

For Information and Registration Packet, Send Mailing Address to: chaplet2@juno.com.

Confirmed Speakers:

Joseph Sobran, former senior editor of National Review on "The Survival of Liberty: Why Homeschool When the Government will do it for Free?"

Greg Lloyd, homeschooling father of five and director of National Coalition of Clergy and Laity on "Formation in Virtue, Keeping the Kids Catholic"

Dermott Mullan, professor of astrophysics and father of ten on "Young Earth or Old Earth: What is a Catholic Homeschooler to Believe?"

Workshops on Getting Started, Homeschooling High School, Designing a Curriculum and more. Over forty curriculum providers, book sellers and colleges have been invited, including Angelicum Academy, Kolbe Academy, Mother of Divine Grace, Most Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Victory, Regina Coeli, Seton Home Study, Thomas Aquinas Academy, Catholic Heritage Curricula, Bethlehem Books, Emmanuel Books, Saints & Scholars, Our Father's House, Christendom College, Franciscan University of Steubenville, and many, many more.

(chaplet2@juno.com)

THROUGH the CROSS of CHRIST

Dear Jesus:

As You hung on the cross to redeem a sinner like me – how much were You telling me?

I see the crude rough cross for Your precious body while I am surrounded by comfort!

I see the nails in Your hands, deeply in pain, to forgive me for every sin I have committed with my hands!

I see the nails in Your feet for all the places of sin my feet have led me!

I see the crown of thorns upon Your head for all the evil thoughts I've had and the evil thoughts about my neighbor and for all the judging I've done.

As your precious blood fell into Your eyes and burned, I see now all of the times I have sinned through sight! (Ah sight, it is such a very precious gift you have given me!)

I see the blood flowing into Your ears – giving You great pain for all the off color jokes I listened to and other sins of my hearing!

My Jesus, when they plucked Your beard – the thought of how vain I am of this face You created and will some day turn to dust – entered my mind!

As You poured out Your last drop of blood for me from the lance – I know now and am aware of all the sins I have committed in my heart!

Oh, dear Jesus, I don't want this done in vain! Please keep me close to You under the cross and I thank You for my salvation.

I am Your unworthy servant – let me decrease while You increase in me! No mortal body is a place for the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit – but because of Your Divine Mercy, Lord, You forgive us our sin and enter within us. Earthly, I am poor – but with Thee I am rich with glory!

I know of Your thirst, O Lord, for all the times I over indulged in food and drinks. Lord, I am but a worm in the dust, yet You love me. How far from reason that is for me to fathom!

I want to stand beneath the cross – but behind it – for I am not fit to gaze upon You.

Naked You hung there for all the times I dressed immodestly or was proud of my body for the wrong reasons.

Now I know that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who keeps me in existence and on the road to being with You. Amen.

(By Rita Rogues)

FUNNY HOW WE CAN OVERLOOK

Did you see where Billy Graham's daughter was being interviewed on the Early Show a few days ago about the September 11th terrorist attack and Jane Clayson asked her

How could God let something like this happen?

Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said

I believe that God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman that He is, I believe that He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand that He leave us alone?"

Let's see, I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body was found recently) complained she didn't want any prayer in our schools, and we said OK.

Then, someone said you better not read the Bible in school... The Bible that says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal; and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said, OK.

Then, Doctor Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Doctor Spock's son committed suicide).

An expert should know what he's talking about so we said OK."

Then, someone said teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued. (There's big difference between disciplining and touching, beating, smacking, humiliating, kicking, etc.) And we said, OK."

Then someone said, let's let our daughters have abortions if they want, and they won't even have to tell their parents. And we said, OK."

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they're going to do it anyway, let's give our sons all the condoms they want, so they can have all the fun they desire, and we won't have to tell

their parents they got them at school. And we said, OK."

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. And agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as I have a job and the economy is good.

And then the entertainment industry said, let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, and illicit sex. And let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes. And we said it's just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, and nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."Then there was the student who wrote

Dear God, Why didn't you save the little girl killed in her classroom? "Sincerely, Concerned Student... AND THE REPLY

Dear Concerned Student, I am not allowed in schools?" Sincerely, God.

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but

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

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and waste God's precious resources. There is no \$ubscription'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.

question what the Bible says.

Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, say, or do anything the Bible says.

Funny how someone can say 'I believe in God' but still follow Satan who, by the way, also believes in God.

Funny how we are quick to judge, but not to be judged.

Funny how someone can be so fired up for Christ on Sunday, but be an invisible Christian the rest of the week.

Funny ! Are you laughing yet??

(Fran M. Nicastri)

SAINT PATRICK of IRELAND

Born in Scotland, c. 385-390; died in Ireland c. 461, the historical Patrick is much more attractive than the Patrick of legend. It is unclear exactly where Patricius Magonus Sucatus (Patrick) was born--somewhere in the west between the mouth of the Severn and the Clyde--but this most popular Irish saint was probably born in Scotland of British origin, perhaps in a village called *Bannavem Taberniae*. (Other possibilities are in Gaul or at Kilpatrick near Dumbarton, Scotland.) His father, Calpornius, was a deacon and a civil official, a town councillor, and his grandfather was a priest.

About 405, when Patrick was in his teens (14-16), he was captured by Irish raiders and became a slave in Ireland. There in Ballymena (or Slemish) in Antrim (or Mayo), Patrick first learned to pray intensely while tending his master's sheep in contrast with his early years in Britain when he knew not the true God and did not heed clerical admonitions for our salvation. After six years, he was told in a dream that he should be ready for a courageous effort that would take him back to his homeland.

He ran away from his owner and travelled 200 miles to the coast. His initial request for free passage on a ship was turned down, but he prayed, and the sailors called him back. The ship on which he escaped was taking dogs to Gaul (France). At some point he returned to his family in Britain, then seems to have studied at the monastery of Lérins on the Côte d'Azur from 412 to 415.

He received some kind of training for the priesthood in either Britain or Gaul, possibly in Auxerre, including study of the Latin Bible, but his learning was

not of a high standard, and he was to regret this always. He spent the next 15 years at Auxerre where he became a disciple of [Saint Germanus of Auxerre](#) and was possibly ordained about 417.

The cultus of Patrick began in France, long before Sucat received the noble title of Patricius, which was immediately before his departure for Ireland about 431. The center of this cultus is a few miles west of Tours, on the Loire, around the town of St- Patrice, which is named after him. The strong, persistent legend is that Patrick not only spent the twenty years after his escape from slavery there, but that it was his home. The local people firmly believe that Patrick was the nephew of [Saint Martin of Tours](#) and that he became a monk in his uncle's great Marmoutier Abbey.

Patrick's cultus there reverts to the legend of Les Fleurs de St- Patrice which relates that Patrick was sent from the abbey to preach the Gospel in the area of Bréhémont-sur-Loire. He went fishing one day and had a tremendous catch. The local fishermen were upset and forced him to flee. He reached a shelter on the north bank where he slept under a blackthorn bush. When he awoke the bush was covered with flowers. Because this was Christmas day, the incident was considered a miracle, which recurred each Christmas until the bush was destroyed in World War I. The phenomenon was evaluated many times and verified by various observers, including official organizations. His is now the patron of the fishermen on the Loire and, according to a modern French scholar, the patron of almost every other occupation in the neighborhood. There is a grotto dedicated to him at Marmoutier, which contains a stone bed, alleged to have been his.

It is said that in visions he heard voices in the wood of Focault or that he dreamed of Ireland and determined to return to the land of his slavery as a missionary. In that dream or vision he heard a cry from many people together 'Come back and walk once more among us,' and he read a writing in which this cry was named 'the voice of the Irish.' (When Pope John Paul II went to Ireland in 1979, among his first words were that he, too, had heard the voice of the Irish.)

In his [Confessio](#) Patrick writes: 'It was not my grace, but God who overcometh in me, so that I came to the heathen Irish to preach the Gospel . . . to a people newly come to belief which the Lord took from the ends of the earth.' Saint Germanus consecrated him bishop about 432, and sent him to Ireland to succeed [Saint Palladius](#), the first bishop, who had died earlier

that year. There was some opposition to Patrick's appointment, probably from Britain, but Patrick made his way to Ireland about 435.

He set up his see at Armagh and organized the church into territorial sees, as elsewhere in the West and East. While Patrick encouraged the Irish to become monks and nuns, it is not certain that he was a monk himself; it is even less likely that in his time the monastery became the principal unit of the Irish Church, although it was in later periods. The choice of Armagh may have been determined by the presence of a powerful king. There Patrick had a school and presumably a small *familia* in residence; from this base he made his missionary journeys. There seems to have been little contact with the Palladian Christianity of the southeast.

There is no reliable account of his work in Ireland, where he had been a captive. Legends include the stories that he drove snakes from Ireland, and that he described the Trinity by referring to the shamrock, and that he singlehandedly--an impossible task--converted Ireland. Nevertheless, Saint Patrick established the Catholic Church throughout Ireland on lasting foundations: he travelled throughout the country preaching, teaching, building churches, opening schools and monasteries, converting chiefs and bards, and everywhere supporting his preaching with miracles.

At Tara in Meath he is said to have confronted King Laoghaire on Easter Eve with the Christian Gospel, kindled the light of the paschal fire on the hill of Slane (the fire of Christ never to be extinguished in Ireland), confounded the Druids into silence, and gained a hearing for himself as a man of power. He converted the king's daughters (a tale I've recounted under the entry for [Saints Etheneas and Fidelmia](#)). He threw down the idol of Crom Cruach in Leitrim. Patrick wrote that he daily expected to be violently killed or enslaved again.

He gathered many followers, including [Saint Benignus](#), who would become his successor. That was one of his chief concerns, as it always is for the missionary Church: the raising up of native clergy.

He wrote: *It was most needful that we should spread our nets, so that a great multitude and a throng should be taken for God. . . . Most needful that everywhere there should be clergy to baptize and exhort a people poor and needy, as the Lord in the Gospel warns and teaches, saying: Go ye therefore now, and teach all nations. And again: Go ye therefore into the whole*

world and preach the Gospel to every creature. And again: This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all nations."

In his writings and preaching, Patrick revealed a scale of values. He was chiefly concerned with abolishing paganism, idolatry, and sun-worship. He made no distinction of classes in his preaching and was himself ready for imprisonment or death for following Christ. In his use of Scripture and eschatological expectations, he was typical of the 5th-century bishop. One of the traits which he retained as an old man was a consciousness of his being an unlearned exile and former slave and fugitive, who learned to trust God completely.

There was some contact with the pope. He visited Rome in 442 and 444. As the first real organizer of the Irish Church, Patrick is called the Apostle of Ireland. According to the Annals of Ulster, the Cathedral Church of Armagh was founded in 444, and the see became a center of education and administration. Patrick organized the Church into territorial sees, raised the standard of scholarship (encouraging the teaching of Latin), and worked to bring Ireland into a closer relationship with the Western Church.

His writings show what solid doctrine he must have taught his listeners. His [Confessio](#) (his autobiography, perhaps written as an apology against his detractors), the *Lorica* (or *Breastplate*), and the Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus,"protesting British slave trading and the slaughter of a group of Irish Christians by Coroticus's raiding Christian Welshmen, are the first surely identified literature of the British or Celtic Church.

What stands out in his writings is Patrick's sense of being called by God to the work he had undertaken, and his determination and modesty in carrying it out: *I, Patrick, a sinner, am the most ignorant and of least account among the faithful, despised by many. . . . I owe it to God's grace that so many people should through me be born again to him."*

Towards the end of his life, Patrick made that 'retreat' of forty days on Cruachan Aigli in Mayo from which the age-long Croagh Patrick pilgrimage derives. Patrick may have died at Saul on Strangford Lough, Downpatrick, where he had built his first church. Glastonbury claims his alleged relics. The National Museum at Dublin has his bell and tooth, presumably from the shrine at Downpatrick, where he was originally entombed with [Saints Brigid](#) and [Columba](#).

The high veneration in which the Irish hold Patrick is evidenced by the common salutation, "May God, Mary, and Patrick bless you." His name occurs widely in prayers and blessings throughout Ireland. Among the oldest devotions of Ireland is the prayer used by travellers invoking Patrick's protection, *An Mhairbhne Phaidriac* or *The Elegy of Patrick*. He is alleged to have promised prosperity to those who seek his intercession on his feast day, which marks the end of winter. A particularly lovely legend is that the Peace of Christ will reign over all Ireland when the Palm and the Shamrock meet, which means when Saint Patrick's Day fall on Passion Sunday.

Most unusual is Well of Saint Patrick at Orvieto, Italy, which was built at the order of Pope Clement VII in 1537 to provide water for the city during its periodic sieges. The connection with Saint Patrick comes from the fact that the project was completed and dedicated by a member of the Sangallo family, a name derived from the Irish [Saint Gall](#). A common Italian proverb refers to this exceptionally deep (248 steps to the surface) well: liberal spenders are said to have pockets as deep as the Well of Patrick (Attwater, Benedictines, Bentley, Bieler, Bury, Delaney, Encyclopedia, Farmer, MacNeill, Montague, White).

We are told that often Patrick baptized hundreds on a single day. He would come to a place, a crowd would gather, and when he told them about the true God, the people would cry out from all sides that they wanted to become Christians. Then they would move to the nearest water to be baptized.

On such a day Aengus, a prince of Munster, was baptized. When Patrick had finished preaching, Aengus was longing with all his heart to become a Christian. The crowd surrounded the two because Aengus was such an important person. Patrick got out his book and began to look for the place of the baptismal rite but his crozier got in the way.

As you know, the bishop's crozier often has a spike at the bottom end, probably to allow the bishop to set it into the ground to free his hands. So, when Patrick fumbled searching for the right spot in the book so that he could baptize Aengus, he absent-mindedly stuck his crozier into the ground just beside him--and accidentally through the foot of poor Aengus!

Patrick, concentrating on the sacrament, never noticed what he had done and proceeded with the baptism. The prince never cried out, nor moaned; he simply went very white. Patrick poured water over his bowed head at the simple words of the rite. Then it was

completed. Aengus was a Christian. Patrick turned to take up his crozier and was horrified to find that he had driven it through the prince's foot!

But why didn't you say something? This is terrible. Your foot is bleeding and you'll be lame. . . ."Poor Patrick was very unhappy to have hurt another.

Then Aengus said in a low voice that he thought having a spike driven through his foot was part of the ceremony. He added something that must have brought joy to the whole court of heaven and blessings on Ireland:

Christ, he said slowly, shed His blood for me, and I am glad to suffer a little pain at baptism to be like Our Lord" (Curtayne).

In art, Saint Patrick is represented as a bishop driving snakes before him or trampling upon them. At times he may be shown (1) preaching with a serpent around the foot of his pastoral staff; (2) holding a shamrock; (3) with a fire before him; or (4) with a pen and book, devils at his feet, and seraphim above him (Roeder, White). Click here to view an [anonymous American icon](#). He is patron of Nigeria (which was evangelized primarily by Irish clergy) and of Ireland and especially venerated at Lérins (Roeder, White).

<http://users.erols.com/saintpat/ss/0317.htm>

LADY of PAIN

This will I ask of Thee
 O Lonely One,
 Deepest night engulfing me
 And I alone
 With all the sorrow of a heedless world
 Upon my heart.
 Loneliness and emptiness
 For me apart
 That I may share with Thee
 Gethsemane.
 This will I ask of Thee
 O Scourged King,
 Bleeding stripes upon my soul,
 The hurt and sting
 Of mockery and shame
 That I may pray to be
 Despised, rejected, and accursed with Thee,
 Scourge me, Lord!

This will I ask of Thee
 O Thorn-crowned One,
 No honors, no reward, no gratitude
 For words or actions done.
 A crown of thorns to wound my pride,
 To humble me.
 This only, Lord, I ask of Thee.
 A crown of thorns.
 This will I ask of Thee
 O Burdened One,
 A cross to bear me to the ground,
 To fall alone
 And lashing whips to make me rise again,
 With bleeding heart to walk with Thee
 To Calvary.
 This will I ask of Thee
 O Crucified,
 Nails to pierce my hands and feet,
 A lance to pierce my side,
 And Thine own hand
 To nail me there upon the cross
 The grace to suffer and to understand,
 Crucify me, Love!

(Cyril Robert. "Mary Immaculate: God's Mother and Poughkeepsie, New York: Marist Press, 1946.)

VICKA MARRIES – AN INTERVIEW

Vicka and Marijo are preparing their wedding (Jan. 26) and many are talking about the event since for them Vicka represents someone who has happily embodied the school of Mary—in Medjugorje, someone who brings heaven close and accessible, in a word: someone who allows them to truly touch the Heart of Our Lady. Blessings, conversions, and even healings derived from Vicka's prayers or testimony are numerous. Among many others, here is what Elizabeth (from London) told us this week:

East year I was at the Youth Festival. I had come to meet Mary and I really wasn't sure where she was. I was not really a believer. I didn't understand why everyone just went to church and prayed all the time. It seemed very meaningless to me. I hadn't read any books on

Medjugorje. I wanted the experience to be completely fresh. I thought, 'If Mary is here she will let me know herself.' I didn't want anyone else's evidence. So I came knowing nothing about Medjugorje or the visionaries, even what they looked like. I spent most of my time on my own in cafes, wandering around crying, feeling really, absolutely lonely.

Everyone else had gone up Apparition Hill praying the rosary. I didn't have a rosary and I didn't know what it was or why people prayed it. It seemed a very meaningless repetition of prayer, and I thought 'This doesn't seem to have much to do with God for me...' and so I was walking along the street in the village at the foot of the hill and I saw Vicka, one of the visionaries, in her garden. I didn't know it was Vicka because I didn't know what she looked like, yet at the moment I saw her I knew it was a visionary. I saw her from across the street. She could have been anyone. But I burst into tears immediately because I'd never seen anyone so full of light and so full of love. She actually shone. Her face shone like a beacon of light; and so I rushed across the street and lingered in a portion of her garden, just staring at her as if she were an angel or Mary herself. I didn't speak with her. From that moment on I knew that the Blessed Mother was here and Medjugorje was a holy place."

Elizabeth is back in Medjugorje these days, and she is bearing witness that her whole life has been transformed by the school of Mary and her messages. The sun of God's love came to triumph over the shapeless fog which had been weighing heavily upon her heart.

Last Thursday, Denis Nolan and I went to see Vicka. Here are some of the things we talked about. (It is amazing how Vicka reflects deep doctrinal truths about personal freedom and responsibility in such a natural way, having never studied.)

Question: Vicka, how do you see this path of marriage that you've chosen?

Vicka: Look! Each time God calls us, we must be ready in the depth of our hearts to answer this call. I have tried to answer God's call by transmitting the messages for the past 20 years. I did it for God, for

the Blessed MOTHER. For the past 20 years I have been doing it alone, and nothing will change now, except that I shall be doing it in a family situation. God is calling me to start a family, a holy family, a family for God. You know, I have a great responsibility to people. They look for role models, examples to follow. **So I want to tell young people: do not be afraid to commit yourselves in marriage, to choose the path of marriage!** But in order to be well assured in your path, whether it is that one or another, **the most important thing is to put God first in your life, to put prayer first, to start the day with prayer and to end with prayer.**

A marriage in which there is no prayer, is a marriage that does not last, it is empty. Where there is love, there is everything. But one thing has to be emphasized: love, yes, but what love? Love for God first, then love for the person you are going to be living with. Then, on life's journey, you must not expect everything to be rosy, to be easy. No! When sacrifices become necessary, small penances, you must always offer them to the Lord with all your heart. Every day, thank the Lord for all that has happened that day. That is why I am saying: dear young people, dear new couples, do not be afraid. **Make God the most important person in your family, make him the King of your family, put him first, and he will bless you** - not only you yourselves but also all who come near you.

Question: *Will you continue to live in Medjugorje after your wedding?*

Vicka: I will be living a few kilometers from here but I guess I will be at my post (the stairs of the blue house) most mornings! I will not have to change my mission, I know where I belong! My marriage will not change that.

Question: *You are going to marry Marijo. What can you tell us about him?*

Vicka: It's hard for me to talk about him, but there is one sure thing between us: prayer. He is truly a man of prayer. He is a good, capable man. He is a profound man, which is very beautiful. And our relationship together is very good. There is truly love between us, so then, little by little, we will build on that.

Question: *Vicka, how can a girl know which man to marry?*

Vicka: You know, with prayer it is sure, the Lord and Our Lady are ready to answer you. If you ask in prayer what your vocation is, the Lord will answer

without fail. You must have good will. But you must not hasten or rush. You must not go too quickly and say to yourself when you see the first boy that goes by: *this is the boy for me.* No, you must not do that. You must take your time. Pray and wait for the time of God, the right time. You have to be patient and wait that it is he, God, who sends you the right person. Patience is very important. We all tend to lose patience, we go too fast and then, after we have made a mistake, we say, *But why, Lord, this boy was not really for me.* That's true, he was not for you, you should have been patient. Without patience and without prayer, nothing can work. Today, we must be much more patient, more open to respond to what the Lord wants.

And once we have found the person to marry, if one or the other is afraid of changing his life and says to himself: *Oh, it is easier on my own,* he is keeping a fear within himself. No, first we have to free ourselves of all that troubles us inside, and then we can do what the Lord wants. We cannot ask for a grace when we have a large block (obstacle) inside: we will never receive this grace, because inside we are not ready for it. The Lord has given us freedom. He has also given us good will, so we must rid ourselves of our blocks. After, it is up to us whether we are free or not. We all tend to say: *God this, God that, do this, do that...* "God acts, of course, but I, myself, must co-operate with him and be willing. We must say, *That is what I want, so I will do it.*"

Question: *Vicka, did you ask Our Lady's advice about your marriage?*

Vicka: But you see, I'm like everyone else, the Lord gave me the choice. I must choose with all my heart. It would be all too easy if Our Lady told us *do this, do that.* No, she does not work like that. God has given us all great inner gifts so that we may understand interiorly what he has prepared for us. (Vicka did not bring the subject up with Our Lady. I never ask any question for myself,"she says).

Question: *Vicka, many people consecrated in celibacy saw you as their 'ideal' in Medjugorje. They see you are now getting married. Do you have anything to say to them?*

Vicka: You see, during these 20 years God called me to be an instrument in his hands in this way (as single). If I represented an 'ideal' for those people, nothing has changed now! I cannot see the difference! If people take someone as an example, this person must also be allowed to answer God's calling. If God now wishes to

call me to a family life, a holy family, it is that God wants that example, and I must respond to that. For our own lives, we must not look to see what someone else around us is doing, but look inside ourselves, and find within ourselves what God is calling us to. He called me to live in that way for 20 years, now he is calling me to something else and I must thank him.

I must answer also for the other part of my life. Today, God needs the example of good families, and I believe the Gospa wants to make me an example in that way, now. It is not by looking at others that we will find the example, the witness that the Lord expects us to give, but by each one listening to God's personal calling. That is the witness that we can give! We must not seek our own satisfaction or do what we feel like. No, we must really do what God wants us to do. Sometimes we are very attached to what we like, and we look too little at what the Lord would like. So we can live our whole lives allowing the time to pass and see at the very end that we were wrong. The time has passed and we have done nothing. But it is today that God is giving you eyes in your heart, eyes in your soul, so that you can see and not waste your time. This time is a time of grace, but it is a time when we have to make choices and be more determined each day on the path we have chosen

**(Sister Emmanuel and Dennis Nolan, January 15, 2002-
Children of Medjugorje)**

VICKA IVANKOVI 'S and MARIO MIJATOVI 'S WEDDING

On Saturday, January 26th, 2002, in the St. James' parish church in Medjugorje was celebrated wedding of Vicka Ivankovi from Medjugorje and Mario Mijatovi, native from Sarajevo.

The marriage that was blessed by Father Branko Radoš, pastor of Medjugorje, the Holy Mass at which concelebrated Father Jozo Zovko and Father Ivan Landeka with more than 20 other priests from all over the world, the wedding that attracted hundreds of friends from all over the world and more than 30 photographers and journalists, means for Vicka - the always smiling parishioner who still today has daily apparitions of Our Lady - that with her henceforth stands a man with whom she is eternally bound in love, and who will be a sure support at the service of Our Lady's messages and the faithful, who day and night come seeking light on their Christian way.



This was precisely the theme of Father Branko's homily: salt and light. Salt of the earth and light of the world. Vicka, at the service of Our Lady's messages, and Mario, for many years collaborator of Father Slavko Barbari in Mother's

Village, have already brought so much light to so many and given so much Christian salt that gives taste to life. Henceforth, they will do it together, with the Crucifix in their hands, with Jesus, who is the strongest bond of their love.



After the ceremony, Vicka and Mario entrusted their marriage in prayer to Our Lady, the Queen of Peace.

Boys and girls from the Community of the Cenacle sung and played on the wedding.

Sister Elvira came to Medjugorje for this solemn occasion, and the newlyweds joined them in singing after Holy Mass.

Vicka will henceforth sign the name of her husband: Mijatovi, and will live in his house in Krehin Gradac near Medjugorje, but she

will continue to receive pilgrims and to witness for Our Lady's messages at the staircase of her old house in Bijakovci.

May God bless them and give them the grace and the strength to continue together to love and to serve, as they always did. Let us rejoice with them!

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

OUR LADY and IVAN'S PRAYER GROUP

Dear friends,

A few months ago a few of the members of this prayer group were blessed to be present during Ivan's apparition in a mutual friends home. What he said at the time was shared with all of you here in this group by Mary Sacchitella.

This evening [1/24/01], on the eve of Our Lady's message for the world, some of us from this prayer group were once again blessed to be present at Ivan's apparition in our friends' home. This is a Medjugorje prayer group south of Boston that we belong to. Ivan comes to visit when his schedule allows it. I would like to share with all of you what Ivan shared with us this evening about his apparition and Our Lady's message.

God bless you. Mary Millman

Ivan said, "I would like to describe to you the apparition tonight but there are no words, words are poor. First, I see flashes of light and Our Lady comes inside the light. She is very, very happy and is with three small angels. One on her right, one on her left and one behind her."

Ivan continues, "Our Lady said, 'Praised be Jesus' and extends her hands and bestows her motherly blessing and blessed all of your articles and the sick. I presented all of your intentions to her and I prayed with her for all your intentions."

Ivan continues, "She said 'Dear children, I am very happy to see you. Pray, especially today, this time, pray in the family. Pray 10 minutes every morning for children and the family.' Ivan said Our Lady said the Our Father and Glory Be with him and extended her hands over all of us and said, 'Go in peace.'"

Ivan said, "Prayer in family will bring spiritual healing that is needed in today's world. After spiritual healing physical healing will follow. Especially young people, children, pray for peace and unity for the family. From this will come harmony for life."

"Our Lady was wearing a gray dress, white veil, she has blue eyes, rosy cheeks and dark hair. She has a crown of gold stars and was standing on a cloud." "The angels with her are baby angels, they look like they are 6 or 7 months old....no wings (he smiles)! They wear shiny, white dress with gold around the end of the sleeve. Before Our Lady comes she sees if there are children present in the crowd. If there are, that's when the baby angels come, too."

I asked him if he has ever seen Jesus as a man? He said, "Yes, on Good Friday last year (2001) and Good

Friday the year before (2000). I saw Him from the waist up and He was wearing the crown of thorns."

Someone asked him if he has ever seen heaven. One day in 1983 Our Lady told me the day before that she would take us (Vicka, Jakov and Ivan) to see heaven tomorrow. In an instant we saw heaven. I was standing on a small hill and saw a very big space with beautiful flowers all around. People were walking and wearing white, blue, red and gold. Everything very beautiful and very happy."

Someone asks Ivan another question about God healing people of disease.

"Stay open to God. Stay close and be open to God. Be patient even if you suffer for years. We must be patient, which is a gift from God."

He is asked a question about the secrets. They are about the world, the Church, the Holy Father, priests and the parish in Medjugorje."

Someone asks him a question about whether or not he has seen or noticed a difference in the people over the past 20+ years.

"I see a renewal in the world over the last 20 years. If peace in the family you extend peace to others. Prayer in the heart...not on the lips."

(tashmar2@aol.com)

VOCATIONS - NAZARETH HOUSE

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

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff will provide them with the foundation for seminary theological 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.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1377), which ordinarily is considered to be around ten or fifteen minutes after receiving Holy Communion. To make the very most of this "private audience" with Our Lord Jesus Christ the members of Miles Jesu recite the prayer from the [Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom](#) (which is so rich in theology and devotion) before receiving Holy Communion; and they recite this prayer of [Saint Ignatius of Loyola](#) and the [Magnificat](#) after Holy Communion.

<http://www.milesjesu.com/prayers/eucharist.html>

WHAT IF

Have you ever wondered which hurts the most?

Saying something and wishing you hadn't, or Saying nothing and wishing you had?

I guess the most important things are the hardest things to say

Don't be afraid to tell someone you love them. If you do, they might break your heart...if you don't, you might break theirs.

Have you ever decided not to become a couple because you were so afraid of losing what you already had with that person?

Your heart decides whom it likes and whom it doesn't. You can't tell your heart what to do. It does it on its own....when you least suspect it, or even when you don't want it to.

Have you ever wanted to love someone with everything you had, but that other person was too afraid to let you?

Too many of us stay walled up because we are too afraid to care too much...for fear that the other person does not care as much, or even at all.

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass in the area that you are located, call 1-800-MASS-TIMES or 1-800-627-7846.

If you have access to the Internet and don't already have it bookmarked, type in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) www.masstimes.org in the white box near the top of your browser.

Have you ever denied your feelings for someone because your fear of rejection was too hard to handle?

We tell lies when we are afraid...afraid of what we don't know, afraid of what others will think, afraid of what will be found out about us. But every time we tell a lie, the thing we fear grows stronger.

Life is all about risks and it requires you to jump.

Don't be a person who has to look back and wonder what they would have done, or could have had.

What would you do if every time you fell in love you had to say good-bye?

What would you do if every time you wanted someone they would never be there?

What would you do if your best friend died tomorrow and you never got to tell them how you felt? (even if it is that you don't care anymore)

What would you do if you loved someone more than ever and you didn't have them?

What would you do if you never got the chance to say I am friends with all of my family and they know I love them?

People live, but people die. And I want to tell you that you are a friend.

If I died tomorrow (God Forbid), you would be in my heart. Would I be in yours? If you care about me as much as I care about you, you will send this back?

Send this to all the friends that you have...all the friends that you've lost...and to all the friends you've lost touch with...just to let them know that you care...

Send this back to the person who sent it to you if you consider them a friend as well.

Even if we never talk again after today, please know that I am forever changed because of who you are, who I am when I am with you, and what you mean to me. I love you!

(dolphinsaremagic.com)

GOD WON'T ASK YOU

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask about your social status; He will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possession you had, but He'll ask if they dictated your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, but He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but He'll ask if your overtime work was for yourself or for your family.

God won't ask how many promotions you received, but He'll ask how you promoted others.

God won't ask what your job title was, but He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but He'll ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but He'll ask what you did to protect the rights of others.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but He'll ask how many times they didn't.

(Bernadette, January 2001)

INDULGENCED PRAYERS to SAINT JOSEPH

Help us, Joseph, in our earthly strife, Ever to lead a pure and blameless life. *(Partial)*

Saint Joseph, foster-father of Our Lord Jesus Christ and true spouse of Mary ever Virgin, pray for us. *(Partial)*

Guardian and Father of virgins, holy Joseph, to whose faithful custody Christ Jesus, innocence itself, and Mary, Virgin of Virgins, were committed, I pray and beseech thee, by these dear pledges, Jesus and Mary, that, being preserved from all uncleanness, I may with spotless mind, pure heart, and chaste body ever serve Jesus and Mary most chastely. Amen. *(Partial)*

Be mindful of us, O blessed Joseph, and intercede on our behalf with thy foster Son; and secure for us the favour of thy most holy virgin spouse, the Mother of Him Who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen. *(Partial)*

O Joseph, virgin father of Jesus, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us daily to Jesus Himself, the Son of God, that, armed with the weapons of His grace, we may fight as we ought in life and be crowned by Him in death. *(Partial)*

Supported by the patronage of the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, we beseech Thy clemency, O Lord, that Thou wouldst make our hearts despise all earthly things and love Thee, the true God, with perfect charity. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen. *(Partial)*

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

OUR LADY on CALVARY

So like a queen she moves
among the rabble.
The shadow of the cross
He bears falls upon her
through the dim day's glow.
Wrapped in blue, calm,
with stately tread
she follows close,
close-so very close
she feels the terrible heat
of His tortured heart
upon her own.
Her shoulders shrink
beneath her gown
as He stumbles and falls
and the tree sinks deep
in open wounds.
But no sign of pain
mirrors in her cold
still face;
No gasping cry parts
her carved, white lips.
He is silent.
So is she.
But from the shaded veil

her eyes look out
and cry the lie
of her unbowed head;
and buried deep
in her mantle folds
her fingers hurt
themselves
in agony.
Lady and Mother
if only she could weep!
But no, she is a queen,
and queens are brave
and full of strength,
Even a Mother-Queen.
Her Mother's heart
aches and swells
in an unbent breast
to lay that bloody head,
its crown of crimson thorns removed,
against its pillowed softness,
to soothe those burning eyes
with moist, light kisses;
to fold those hands in a long caress

(“Crucifixion” - wooden carving, Germany, 1700's)

WHAT ABOUT HARRY POTTER? - Part II

In spite of an [Opus Dei endorsement](#) and that of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Rome's official exorcist, Father Gabriele Amorth, warned parents against the Harry Potter book series.

The [LSN.ca/CWNews.com News Agencies report](#):
The priest, who is also the president of the International Association of Exorcists, said Satan is behind the works. In an interview with the Italian ANSA news agency, Father Amorth said, 'Behind *Harry Potter* hides the signature of the king of the darkness, the devil.'

If the reader chooses not to believe The M+G+R Foundation regarding the Harry Potter threat, would he/she please pay attention to the Diocese of Rome

Official Exorcist Father Gabriele Amorth After all - the spiritual health of your children is at grave risk.

Pottermania is sweeping Europe like a tidal wave. Whatever little faith was left in the younger Europeans it is being destroyed. We can testify to this phenomenon with certainty since the core of The M+G+R Foundation staff spends more time in Europe than in North America and is witnessing firsthand such spiritual carnage.

Our previous document on Harry Potter [What About Harry Potter?](#) had as its subtitle the following statement: *The Real Problem Is Not Harry Potter - The Problem Is The Lack Of Proper Spiritual Formation*

Today, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, we find out that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have confirmed our statement by their actions.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have resolutely approved the movie *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

The Shepherds of the Catholics of the United States of America close their *Epistle on Harry Potter* with the following statements:

Parents concerned about the film's sorcery elements should know that it is unlikely to pose any threat to Catholic beliefs. Harry Potter is so obviously innocuous fantasy that its fiction is easily distinguishable from real life. Harry uses his magical powers for good to fight evil. Parents and children can enjoy this fetching tale in the same spirit of the time-honored tradition of sorcery in Eastern Literature, such as the magical figure of Merlin in the Arthurian legend. And the film ends with a very upbeat, positive message about sacrificial love. Older children should be able to handle it, although it is too long and intense for younger ones.

For those who didn't read the book, the details get a little sketchy at the end. But no matter, it is still an enjoyable mixture of fantasy and comedy. For those who did read it, part of the fun is in guessing what was left out and what stayed in.

Ultimately, despite its shortcomings, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* is a magical adventure few would want to miss.

POINTS WORTHY to NOTE

1. The world economy is based on the consumption of goods.
2. The consumption of goods is successfully promoted through Marketing efforts.
3. Marketing efforts are based on advertising; saturation advertising via Print, Television and Movies.
4. Such Marketing efforts work. The widespread consumerism and obsession with sex serve as confirmation.
5. Even governments [use such Marketing techniques](#) to mold the thinking of its citizens.
6. Talk of hell has been all but vanished from the Catholic Pulpits and so have [prayers and invocations to Saint Michael the Archangel](#). This is reverse Marketing. The greatest snare of satan for the 20th Century was to convince the people, with the cooperation of the Roman Catholic Shepherds, that he, satan, does not exist.

Therefore, at a time when our thinking is corrupt, our real faith in God is all but dead, our children are lost and disoriented to the point of killing each other and child pornography and prostitution have become a satellite industry to the Travel Industry, a new fad is introduced to seduce our young ones - **Witchcraft**.

As if this turn of events was not bad enough, it now counts with the *August Approval* of the descendants of the Apostles.

CONCLUSION

First and foremost we implore God's Mercy for these disoriented Shepherds: **Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.**

Secondly, we want to instruct the faithful that when Almighty God deals with them as He did with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal [1 Kings Chapter 18], that will not mean that God did not hear our prayers. God works in mysterious ways.

The world and Church were given a very special opportunity by God to turn back to Him. [Such opportunity was not taken advantage of.](#)

Now, the Catholic Shepherds have delivered the sheep under their care to the road that leads to hell.

The time is up. The great Nation which was a Beacon of Freedom to the world no longer counts with Divine Protection.

The Wrath of God will now be unleashed as it has never been since the beginning of Creation.

Lord Have Mercy!

Christ Have Mercy!

Lord Have Mercy!

May God the Father have Mercy on the members of the clergy and religious orders who continue to lead a life of denial, refusing to utilize the supernatural powers available in the Treasures left to fallen humanity by Our Lord Jesus Christ. Such behavior is a blasphemy.

And you, brethren, do not cease to pray for the ever shrinking group of holy members of the clergy and religious orders. They need, ***and deserve***, the full prayerful support of all Christians.

(Document Prepared and Released on December 12, 2001, European Union, *The M+G+R Foundation*)
(<http://www.mgr.org/hpottter2.html>)

LIFT HIGH the CROSS

The Cross is the symbol of human suffering and death. Humanly speaking, no one wants to carry the cross. Yet the Gospels clearly make it a requisite for discipleship. In Saint Matthew's Gospel is read: 'And he that taketh not up his cross, and followeth Me, is not worthy of Me' (Saint Matthew 10:38). Saint Matthew repeats the same message in the instance where Peter is asking Jesus to avoid suffering.

Jesus' response to the multitude, including His disciples, is: 'If any man will follow Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow Me' (Saint Mark 8:34). Likewise, in Saint Luke's Gospel: 'And He said to all: If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me' (Saint Luke 9:23).

Each of us will find himself faced with a cross someday, as was Simon of Cyrene. Our cross will be measured for us according to God's Plan. The way we carry it will depend on our understanding of the Sign of the Cross each time we use it in blessing.

We would do well in invoking the intercession of Blessed Padre Pio for help in bearing our cross. His entire life was one of service to the people who flocked to him in the confessional for counseling, healing and spiritual guidance. Because of the inspiration he received through his love and devotion to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, he was able to endure all his physical sufferings. He bore the Stigmata of our Lord Jesus Christ in his body for fifty years.

We must be convinced that the cross, in whatever form it takes in our individual lives, is the sign of Christ's love for us. "Whether it be the mystery of our Redemption or our opportunity to bear our share of the Cross, we cannot fully comprehend the value of suffering. Our human intelligence will never fully penetrate the heart of God's design.

Edith Stein's intelligence was acknowledged and acclaimed by her contemporaries in the field of philosophy, yet she found the science of the Cross both a magnet and a challenge. So much so that on entering Carmel, she chose as her title The Cross. In religion she received the name Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. In retrospect, the now Saint Edith Stein put it quite simply: 'What was not included in my plan lay in God's plan.'

Much lies in taking God at His word and having faith and the conviction that God gives His people strength to bear whatever He sends or permits to befall us. In moments of doubt and darkness we should remind ourselves of His response to Saint Paul: 'My grace is sufficient for thee.'

At times, prior to Pentecost, we find Christ's apostles and disciples running from the Cross or finding it difficult to see any value in it, for Jesus or themselves. Two despondent disciples on the way to Emmaus exemplify this. After helping them to unburden themselves and own up to the reason for their discouragement, Jesus chides them gently: 'O foolish and slow of heart to believe in all the things which prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and so to enter in His glory?' (Saint Luke 24:25-26) Jesus patiently points out the value of His Sufferings and Death. Then He opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures' (Saint Luke 24:45). In prayer we will find this wisdom, the wisdom to see suffering aright. Frequent meditation on the Passion and Death of Christ, recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, the laudable devotion of the Way of the Cross help us fathom God's plan.

We need but turn to the saints and martyrs to confirm our faith in the value of suffering. One shining example was Saint Perpetua, a twenty-two-year-old woman of Carthage. She was not yet a Christian, but under instructions, when arrested with her four companions around 203 A.D. She and her maid, Felicitas, were baptized in jail.

Perpetua entered the arena singing a Psalm. Her eyes reflected the peace and joy within her soul. A savage beast knocked her to the ground, but she calmly stood and rearranged her hair, disheveled in the onslaught. The reason for her care for this matter was that it was not considered proper for a martyr to loosen her hair, lest she appear to mourn at the MOMENT OF HER GLORY.

She walked over to her maid and the two of them stood still. At this point the crowd shouted that they be spared. These shouts soon turned ugly and called for blood. After exchanging the kiss of peace, they merited the martyr's crown, being killed by gladiators.

About a century earlier Constantine, a pagan warlord, engaged in bloody battle with Maxentius to determine who would emerge Emperor of Rome. Calling upon the God the Christians for help, Constantine saw a luminous Cross in the sky visible to all his troops—bearing the inscription *In hoc Signo Vinces* "(In this Sign Conquer).

Constantine fell into a deep sleep, during which he was ordered by our Divine Savior to use for the standard of his army the Sign of the Cross. Some days later he carried out this mandate and won a stunning victory. He never forgot his debt to Christ's Cross. He is remembered in history as the emperor who granted freedom of religion to all his Christian subjects.

Several years after her son's victory, Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

She went to Jerusalem, to discover the exact location of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. It was 326 A.D.; Helena was in her seventies.

She discovered the cave in which it was thought that Jesus had been buried. A basilica was dedicated there in 335 A.D.; only a few portions of it are extant.

(The present-day Church of the Holy Sepulchre dates to the mid twelfth century.)

During her stay in the Holy Land she founded other churches on what she thought were sites of major events in the life of Jesus. Yet the outstanding

discovery for which she is remembered is the finding of the True Cross of Jesus. The date of this discovery is traditionally May 3, 326.

She searched in vain until she turned to the city's Jewish community. An elder among them, named Judah, brought her to the spot which, according to Jewish tradition, was associated with Jesus' Passion. On this site she and her companions found three crosses, along with the inscription from one of them: *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.*"

In order to determine which was the True Cross, Helena had the body of a recently deceased Christian brought, and laid on each of the crosses. Neither the first nor the second cross produced a miracle, but at the touch of the True Cross, the dead man rose!

At this moment the people present pressed forward to venerate the Cross of Christ.

As the crowd was great, Patriarch Makarios, then Bishop of Jerusalem, exalted the Cross high over their heads for all to see. From this event came the name of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, still universally celebrated.

In many places in the Middle East, and in the United States in the Melkite Rite, this Feast is spent in fasting; then the people come to venerate the Holy Cross at the Office of the Feast at sundown. A great bonfire is lighted, because it was through a series of bonfires that Helena notified Constantine that she had found the True Cross. As she traveled from Byzantium to Jerusalem, she ordered that dried wood be placed on all hilltops and mountains. As soon as the miracle took place that determined the True Cross, the nearest bonfire was ignited. One after another, watchmen set their peaks aflame. In less than ten hours, the joyful news arrived at the emperor's court. Constantine's mother had portions of the True Cross and nails from it, sent to her son.

According to tradition, the hill of Calvary was the burial place of Adam. Upon his death his son, Seth, planted a sprig from Eden's tree of life over his father's grave. In time it grew into a large tree; from it the wood of the Savior's Cross was taken.

Also significant: in many Eastern churches the inscription above Jesus' head on the Cross reads: THE

("THE MARYFAITHFUL" May-June 2001)

THE BLESSING of THORNS

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her shoes as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole her ease.

During this Thanksgiving week she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose annual holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come.

What's worse, Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize with others who suffer. She has no idea what I'm feeling," thought Sandra with a shudder.

Thanksgiving? Thankful for what?" she wondered aloud. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life but took that of her child?

Good afternoon, can I help you?"

The shop clerk's approach startled her.

I...I need an arrangement, stammered Sandra. For Thanksgiving?

Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the Thanksgiving Special?"asked the shop clerk.

I'm convinced that flowers tell stories,"she continued.

Are you looking for something that conveys 'gratitude' this Thanksgiving?

Not exactly!" Sandra blurted out. In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has gone wrong. "Sandra regretted her outburst, and was surprised when the shop clerk said, I have the perfect arrangement for you."

Then the door's small bell rang, and the shop clerk said, Hi Barbara...let me get your order."She politely excused herself and walked toward a small workroom, then quickly reappeared, carrying an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Except the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped...there were no flowers. Want this in a box?"asked the clerk.

Sandra watched for the customer's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems with no flowers!?! She waited for laughter, but neither woman

laughed. Yes, please," Barbara replied with an appreciative smile. You'd think after three years of getting the special, I wouldn't be so moved by its significance, but I can feel it right here, all over again," she said as she gently tapped her chest.

Uhh,"stammered Sandra, that lady just left with, uhh... she just left with no flowers!"

Right...I cut off the flowers. That's the Special... I call it the Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet.

Oh, come on, you can't tell me someone is willing to pay for that?"exclaimed Sandra.

Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling very much like you feel today,"explained the clerk. She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she was facing major surgery."

That same year I had lost my husband, continued the clerk,"and for the first time in my life, I had to spend the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel.

So what did you do?"asked Sandra. I learned to be thankful for thorns,"answered the clerk quietly. I've always thanked God for good things in life and never thought to ask Him why those good things happened to me, but when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time for me to learn that dark times are important. I always enjoyed the 'flowers' of life, but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted, and from His consolation we learn to comfort others.

Sandra sucked in her breath as she thought about the very thing her friend had tried to tell her. I guess the truth is I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God."Just then someone else walked in the shop.

Hey, Phil!"shouted the clerk to the balding, rotund man.

My wife sent me in to get our usual Thanksgiving arrangementtwelve thorny, long-stemmed stems!" laughed Phil as the clerk handed him a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerator.

Those are for your wife?"asked Sandra incredulously. Do you mind me asking why she wants something that looks like that?

No...I'm glad you asked,"Phil replied. Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we

were in a real mess, but with the Lord's grace and guidance, we slogged through problem after problem. He rescued our marriage. Jenny here (the clerk) told me she kept a vase of rose stems to remind her of what she learned from thorny"times, and that was good enough for me. I took home some of those stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific problem"and give thanks to Him for what that problem taught us."

As Phil paid the clerk, he said to Sandra, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life." Sandra said to the clerk. "It's all too... fresh."

"Well," the clerk replied carefully, "my experience has shown me that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, it was a crown of thorns that Jesus wore so we might know His love. Don't resent the thorns."

Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take those twelve long-stemmed thorns, please," she managed to choke out.

"I hoped you would," said the clerk gently. "I'll have them ready in a minute."

"Thank you. What do I owe you?" asked Sandra.

"Nothing," said the clerk.

"Nothing but a promise to allow God to heal your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on me. The clerk smiled and handed a card to Sandra.

"I'll attach this card to your arrangement, but maybe you'd like to read it first."

It read:

Dear God,

I have never thanked you for my thorns. I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear; teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed closer to you along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of your rainbow look much more brilliant."

(Bernedette e mail)

A JESUS HUG

Have you ever had a Jesus hug?"

Do you know what one feels like?
If you've never had a Jesus hug,"
I pray one day you might.
A Jesus hug" is different,
As far as hugging goes;
It's a little taste of Heaven,
Here on earth below.
Only those who love the Lord,
Can give a Jesus hug,"
It conveys God's grace and mercy,
And unconditional love.
Those who give out Jesus hugs"
Always seem to somehow know
Just when you're in need of one
To make your spirit glow.
And if you ever need one
I hope that I will see,
So I can give you a Jesus hug,"
Just like someone did for me.

(Unknown)

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a store. We operate like a church pamphlet or book rack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. See the two-or four page order form 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 08043-4896.

If you do not have an order form, call us at 856-768-9228 with a FAX number or mailing address and we will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card. 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 and for "The PILGRIM" or the building debt retirement fund.

BLESSED OIL

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

Read the articles in the November and December 1994 issues as well as the Bible readings for the Holy Week Chrism Mass about Blessed Oil and 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.

VISIT WWW.SPIRIT DAILY.COM

Visit Michael H. Brown on the internet at www.spiritdaily.com. It is a very interesting site, spiritual in nature, and full of information.

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

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

Coordinator to publish these notices to support the events for which you have an interest. It does wonders when a parishioner asks for a bulletin notice as compared to the thousands of requests that come in from outside the parish.

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

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

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

2002 RETREAT CONFERENCE

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

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

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

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

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

The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2002, with a 3-Day Extension (3DX) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2002. The Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Music Group "REFUGE" will be back to provide the weekend music. Al Barbarino has agreed to EMCEE for the Weekend and to provide background music for the 3DX. Other musicians including "VOYAGE" and Devin Riley have been invited.

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

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

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

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

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

Kathleen as well as all the PPMC Volunteer Staff

PRESS BULLETIN 170, 1/26/2002

FATHER LEONARD OREC PASSED AWAY

Doctor Father Leonard Orec, a highly regarded Herzegovinian Franciscan father, passed away on January 21st, 2002, after a serious illness. The burial was held on January 23rd, 2002, in Posusje. (More about it on the Web page of the Shrine: www.medjugorje.hr)

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of December, 45,000 received Holy Communion and 1007 priests concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

STATISTICS for the YEAR 2001

During the past year, pilgrims from all of the continents came to Medjugorje, about which we informed you in our monthly Bulletin. Among them were also one cardinal and 14 bishops/archbishops. 27,322 priests concelebrated Holy Mass and 1,164,000 received Holy Communion.

PRAYER and FASTING SEMINAR for PILGRIMS from AUSTRIA

From December 10th to 14th, 2001, a Prayer and Fasting Seminar for a group of 34 pilgrims from

Austria took place in the house of prayer Domus Pacis." This seminar was organised by Fred Gassner from Salzburg. Members of the group were mostly housewives who did not want to submit themselves to the Pre-Christmas stress imposed by society, but rather preferred to prepare their hearts for Christmas with prayer and fasting, and also to pray for their families.

Many participants discovered the richness of the Word of God with great love. They were all very grateful for the intensity of prayer and silence, and its fruits: the encounter with God. The seminar was led by Father Ljubo Kurtovic.

LJUBICA LUKIC PASSED AWAY

Ljubica Lukic, a former Chief Redactor of the Radio Mir" Medjugorje, passed away on December 19th, 2001, in Zagreb. Ljubica was born in 1959 to a Catholic family in Konjic. She went to the primary and the secondary school in her town. She was studying Special Education at the University of Zagreb. As teacher for handicapped, she was working with children in Zagreb, in Split and in Mostar. During the war, she was member of the Military Police and Chief redactor of the military newspaper Sokol." In February 1998, she began to work on the Radio Mir" Medjugorje, where she was Chief Redactor for two years. Ljubica was also writing poetry and assisted Anonymous Alcoholics" and people with difficulties hearing. She was also working at the catering school in Mostar.

Ljubica was buried on December 22nd at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Konjic. The burial was led by Father Ante Kurtovic, parish vicar in Konjic, and he was assisted by four priests. The Funeral Mass, celebrated in the Franciscan church, was presided over by Father Mario Knezovic, Director of the Information Centre Mir" Medjugorje. The staff of the Radio Mir" Medjugorje remembers her as a hard worker, totally devoted to God. May the Lord recompense her for all the love she has gives us while working with us.

YEARLY MEETING and RECOLLECTION for the SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS of the FUND "FRA SLAVKO BARBARIC"

At the end of each calendar year, the Administration Committee of the Fund Fra Slavko Barbaric," whose goal is to help the academic formation of young

talented people, organises an annual meeting and recollection for the scholarship recipients of the Fund.

This year, more than 200 students of various Croatian colleges gathered together. They were received by Father Ivan Sesar, President of the Fund, and Ljiljana Gospic, its secretary, who together expressed the desire to see these gifted students be able to put their talents at the service of their nation, which deeply needs capable and well-educated young people. Father Ivan promised that the Fund will do all that it can to find necessary finances for their scholarships, and called them to pray for their benefactors and show their gratitude by working with great zeal and discipline.

For the traditional "recollection," about 50 students gathered together in the "Domus Pacis" house. They were accompanied in prayer and meditation by Sister Petra and Sister Franka Bagaric, both being Franciscan religious involved in education (from the province of Herzegovina) and Father Ljubo Kurtovic. The group spent many hours in personal and group prayer, both in the parish church and on the hills, and the group participated in the New Year's Vigil in the parish church.

Contact: Fund "Fra Slavko Barbaric" – Medjugorje / 88266 Medjugorje / BiH / PP 29 / Tel/Fax: +387 36 651 549

THE NEW YEAR in MEDJUGORJE

Several thousands of people (mostly youth) from all continents gathered this year in Medjugorje for the New Year's Eve Vigil and Midnight Mass. The Eucharistic Adoration - was conducted by the pastor Father Branko Rados, and Father Ljubo Kurtovic. 108 priests joined them in concelebrating the Holy Mass.



Because of the lack of space in the parish church, many pilgrims and parishioners were placed in the conference hall and under a tent built especially for this occasion, where they could follow the programme held in the church on a big screen.

In his homily, the pastor said: Man is great only when he does not pretend to be great, only when he is ready to acknowledge his littleness. ..God, Master of time and of life, has given you your life and your time. In

His love, He thinks unselfishly on you. It is His will that you are here tonight, exactly as you are. He gave you what no one else can give you: He gave you to live, to love, to forgive, to help, and to be happy. Do not forget that He wants you to be happy, to be realised as a creature of God, as a child of God. This is at the same time your will. My New Year's wish to all of you, dear parishioners, dear pilgrims and friends of the Queen of Peace is: Be happy - belong to God! Belong to God today more than yesterday. Be happier in the year 2002 than you were in the year 2001. May in the New Year Christ be your leader and your master and the Queen of Peace your intercessor and the one who consoles you!"

The Vigil and the Holy Mass lasted three hours, from 10 pm to 1 am, and it was translated into nine languages: English, French, German, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Czech, Slovak and Korean.

In our restless world, where often everything seems to be hopeless, this prayerful crowd, especially of young people, is a hope for a better world.

THE LIVING MANGER



Again this year, the members of the Cenacolo community (Community of the Cenacle) presented to the parishioners and the pilgrims a production of the Living Manger, bringing to life the atmosphere and love that would have no doubt been present in the original scene 2002 years ago in Bethlehem... It was a complete presentation filled with enthusiasm, which used music, dance and light effects, presented three separate times during the week. Pilgrims and parishioners alike did not seem to mind standing more than half an hour in the bitterly cold wintry weather.

It is obvious that the Newborn Jesus has really found His warm home in the hearts of these young Cenacolo members, and from hearts He radiates His love and mercy, showing to the world that love is enough to transform the world. Thanks to the "Cenacle" and Sister Elvira for their open hearts, and for the love, peace and goodness that they share with the parishioners and the pilgrims of the Queen of Peace!

“WHEN OUR LADY APPEARS” - A DOCUMENTARY

When Our Lady Appears”- a 60-minute documentary by Patrick Benquet, was broadcasted on January 3rd 2002 at 10:15 pm on the French/German TV-Station ARTE, in the context of a thematic evening on “Miracles.” Based on Medjugorje and Fatima, this film is an investigation on how the Catholic Church, and especially the Vatican, proceeds with Our Lady’s apparitions. The film shows that, in spite of vigorous polemics about the apparitions in Medjugorje within the Church, the Holy Father unofficially supports the recognition of these apparitions. This attitude of Pope John Paul II is seen as a part of his efforts in favour of the new evangelisation of the world. The investigation of the apparitions of Fatima and the revelation of the third secret,” on May 13th, 2000, confirm this analysis.

THE SHRINE HAS NOT GIVEN the MISSION to ANYONE to REPRESENT MEDJUGORJE

To avoid any misunderstanding, we wish to underline that the Shrine has not given the mission to anyone to represent Medjugorje. The Shrine has not given any mission to any person or community –neither in Medjugorje nor outside of Medjugorje –to spread and interpret Our Lady’s messages. All these are private and spontaneous initiatives of the faithful and of communities.

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING FOR GUIDES and LEADERS of PEACE CENTRES and MEDJUGORJE PRAYER, PILGRIM and CHARITY GROUPS

The Ninth International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity groups: “Pray, Pray, Pray”, will take place February 17 -21, 2002.

You can send your registrations (as soon as possible, latest by the end of November 2001) by e-mail: medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr, by fax: + 387 36 651 300 (for Marija Dugandzic), or register in the Information Office personally or by phone: + 387 36 651 988. The programme and all information about this seminar can be found on our web-page www.medjugorje.hr under the title Medjugorje 2002: Programme.

We are looking forward to your reservations and to welcoming you at this meeting!

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR for MARRIED COUPLES

Second International Seminar for Married Couples “AWAKEN LOVE IN YOUR FAMILIES” takes place from February 28th to March 3rd, 2002 in the new building behind the Church. Speakers: Father Jozo Zovko, Father Mate Dragicevic, Father Milan Loncar, Father Branimir Musa, a married couple from the “Cenacolo” community, visionaries. During the whole seminar, there will be simultaneous translation so we ask you to be so kind as to bring with you a small FM radio with headphones.

You may make reservations by e-mail: lidija.paris@medjugorje.hr, or by fax: +387-36-651-444; in the Information Office personally, by phone/fax: +387-36-651-988 or by e-mail: informacije@medjugorje.hr. Participation per couple: 50 DM. All the participants are invited to provide individually their accommodation in Medjugorje.

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

MOTHER QUEEN

Against her cheeks
and pretend He is again
her little child
hurt in play
and comforted to sleep
in her arms.
But He is a Man,
a King
with a task to do
for truth
and all that men will claim
deer and just and beautiful
in the days to be
and through eternity.
She must see Him through
His mission well done,
Ever Queen and Mother of God.

(Sister Michael Marie, Sister M. Thérèse, “I Sing of A Maiden: The Mary Book of Verse” NY: Macmillan, 1947)

MOTHER ANGELICA LEAVES HOSPITAL RETURNS to OUR LADY of the ANGELS MONASTERY

UPDATE: FRIDAY, 1/25/2001, 2 PM

Irondale, AL (EWTN) - Mother Angelica was released from St. Vincent's hospital in Birmingham, Alabama this afternoon, where she had been recovering from a brain hemorrhage and stroke she suffered on Christmas Eve.

Mother returned to Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, where she will continue her rehabilitation. The monastery's Mother Vicar, Sister Mary Catherine, and the Nuns greeted Mother Angelica with a mixture of laughter and tears of joy as she arrived.

Sister Mary Catherine earlier thanked St. Vincent's hospital staff, doctors and nurses for providing such fine care for Mother Angelica during her stay. "It was a combination of everyone's prayers for her recovery and the wonderful people at St. Vincent's Hospital that brought Mother back home to us," she said.

Mother's doctors are encouraged by the progress she has made since she entered the hospital in critical condition to undergo a two-hour operation to remove a blood clot from her brain. They are hopeful her continued therapy will be successful.

Sister Mary Catherine said the nuns are very happy that Mother decided to continue her rehabilitation at home and asked everyone to please continue praying for Mother Angelica's complete recovery.

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NOAH'S ARK

Everything you need to know, you can learn from Noah's Ark:

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

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

NINE: When you're stressed, float a while.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

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

TWELVE: Send this to people that you want God to bless. I picked you.

(Bernadette – 1/7/02)

FEBRUARY

O Zion adorn your bridal chambers
I sing to greet the Bride
scent the rooms with prayer's incense
she whose will to His commanding
bowed in loving's comprehending
here within His temple standing
brings the Child before His Father
All men's Light and Guide
O clean your dwellings free of sorrow
let smoke of candles lace the
light your joy in Mary's coming
leaping ~ the taper's flare
all the night of mourning filling
all the death of darkness killing
all a flood of brightness spilling
as a light unto her coming
to her love a rising
Illumine now the bridal chamber
for the Bride appears
Bless the light and bless the
in whose sight decay our fears
Now the night of sin is dying
light its deepest dark defying
land our hope to God is flying
The Sun so bright is
land the blinding blackness clears.

(udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry)

CALENDARS:

In *February*, the Church observes **ASH WEDNESDAY (13)**, the Feasts of **Presentation of the Lord (2)**, and **Chair of Saint Peter (22)**, the Memorials of *Saints Agatha (5)*, *Paul Miki and Companions (6)*, *Jerome Emiliani (8)*, *Cyril and Methodius (14)*, *Peter Damian (21)* and *Polycarp (23)* as well as **Our Lady of Lourdes (11)**. Most Church calendars show **Presidents' Day (18)** and **Saint Valentine's Day (14)**.

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND of MARY (19)**, **PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (24)**, and **EASTER SUNDAY (31)**, the Memorials of *Saints Casimir (4)*, *Perpetua and Felicity (7)*, *John of God (8)*, *Frances of Rome (8)*, *Cyril of Jerusalem (18)* and *Toribius de Mogrovejo (23)* as well as the Ferial Day of *Saint Chad (2)*. The **EASTER TRIDUUM** is **Holy Thursday (28)**, **Good Friday (29)** and **Holy Saturday (30)**.

In *April*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (8)**, the Feast of *Saint Mark, Evangelist (25)*, the Memorials of *Saints Stanislaus (11)*, *Martin I, Pope (13)*, *Adalbert (23)*, *George, Martyr (23)*, *Fidelis of Sigmaringen (24)*, *Catherine of Siena (29)* and *Pius V, Pope (30)*.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 2 through 5 and the Bulletin Notices on pages 18 and 19. We need everyone to help publish information with prayer groups and in your Parish Bulletin.

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

The PILGRIM

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

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

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

If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We operate on divine providence and the kind donations of those who can afford to support us. **PRIESTS!** Please note that **HOMILY** ideas have come from priests reading articles in *The PILGRIM*!"



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

PFMC PRESENTATIONS

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

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

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

Keith and Kathleen and Family:

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

Send us interesting web sites and e-mails:

PFMCkmw@home.com

