

MESSAGES alleged to be from the GOSPA, Our Lady Queen of Peace, to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina appear with REFLECTIONS starting on page 14.
(The PFMC upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

T

O

you's" than one usually hears in a lifetime.

The totally volunteer staff returned to the PFMC very tired but spiritually filled. When the Holy Spirit is working so powerfully the volunteers feel His power passing

"The PILGRIM" for *March-April 2002* is dedicated to ***"Mary, Mother of the Resurrected Jesus."*** See page 3 for Table of Contents / ***"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."***

through them. Not only through the teaching of the speakers, but through the hundreds after hundreds of stories that overwhelmed attendees and volunteers alike.

The speakers were so anointed in their teaching whether it was for one talk or many talks over the 6 days. They too expressed a profound joy in being with every one of you. Father Hampsch was particularly thrilled with being able to stay on for the 3-day extension. The Confessions he heard were a great joy to him even though he was up into the wee hours of the morning for several nights.

The music ministries, Al Barbarino, Devin Riley, "HEARTS AFLAME," Marty Rotella, "REFUGE," "S'ELAH," "THE FATHER'S LOVE," "VOYAGE," and Father Michael Semana, were truly grateful for the warm reception and participation in singing. They were pleased with the enjoyment you seemed to receive. I was sure Al Barbarino ran out of tears, he was so moved. S'elah said they were so grateful to have experienced their first event with us, and Refuge wrote us the most beautiful e-mail letter of thanks we have ever received. Dean of "Voyage" told us the Friday Holy Mass was truly a time of "Worship" in every sense of a very blessed retreat.

Even the hotel staff found us all to be "quite different" in the sense of our prayerfulness and joy and ease to work with. . They said it was so nice to have us stay with them and to work as a team with them. Many of the staff visited the book room, and especially loved the picture of Our Lady of the Two Hearts. Keith made sure that any staff member, who expressed a desire, got one of the small color pictures.

We just thank the Lord for the many, many blessings on the 120 children and the tremendous Youth Track volunteer staff that worked with them. The children were, for the most part, so well behaved, and the staff found more than ounces of patience and kindness in working with them. They are even so excited because parents and so many others have come forward to say that they will help next year. The children's program is to be commended for content, and we thank especially Joanne Niece and Sandy Ruiz, for all the many hours of preparing for this program.

If you had a particularly wonderful experience, please take a few minutes to write to us and tell us. You can communicate with Kathleen Werner via e-mail at pfmckmw@comcast.net or by mail to 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963. We appreciate hearing from you. If you would write to Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, his address is inside your program booklet. We know he would appreciate your experiences. And oh, don't forget to invite him to come next year, 14-19 March 2003!

The 2003 program will feature:

Father Bill Halbing, Pastor, Saint Antoninus Church, 337 South Orange Ave, Newark, NJ 07103

Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Saint Leopold Friary, 259 Nepperhan Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701.

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

The theme will be **"He must increase; I must decrease."** (John 3:30) [NAB]. This was hand picked for Kathleen by Father Abraham Mathew.

We will complete the hotel contracts soon. We will publish a flyer for the next issue of "The PILGRIM" and then ask you to make your hotel and PFMC reservations EARLY! Please reserve the weekend of 14-16 March 2003 to be with us and, if possible, join us for Saint Patrick's and Saint Joseph's days during the 3-Day Extension, 17-19 March 2003.

(Kathleen and Keith for All the PFMC Volunteers)

PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE - APRIL 18 through APRIL 25, 2002



This beautiful pilgrimage to Medjugorje had to be cancelled due to lack of interest and inability to obtain arrangements with airlines without exorbitant up front costs. Please pray for us in trying to arrange future pilgrimages.

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.

In the aftermath of 9-11-01, the travel industry has raised prices and required massive deposits to guarantee space. Pilgrims must commit as early as feasibly possible in order for any ministry and even travel agents to set up decent programs. Time is often very short to sign up. Every attempt is being made to keep the cost down, and yet provide a maximum amount of time for prayer and grace.

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

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



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 through 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.

Dates: *Wednesday, July 24, 2002 through Wednesday, 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 Sauvier

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)

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

OCTOBER 2002 RETREAT with FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF, PILGRIMAGE to the SHRINES of ITALY - NOVEMBER 1 - 14, 2002.....	4
DEAN PULCINI 2002 CLASSES, ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN'S SECRET of HOW to TOUCH MINDS and HEARTS, ONE HOUR WITH ME.....	5
WHY DEVOTION to the BLESSED SACRAMENT IS LACKING.....	6
LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE AND RESPOND - STAY ON THE BULK MAILING LIST.....	7
WE ADORE GOD'S PRESENCE.....	9
OUR LADY'S EASTER, SALLY	10
THE WORLD ITSELF KEEPS EASTER DAY, HEAVENLY FATHER.....	11
TO the MOTHER of GOD ON EASTER NIGHT, IN MEMORIAM - BISHOP SCHAD, GODS BLESSINGS, VOCATIONS - NAZARETH HOUSE.....	12
COMMITTED PRIEST ENCOURAGES OTHERS to COMMITMENT, SAINT BENEDICT'S PRAYER, HOLY MASS TIMES	13
MESSAGE OF 2/25/2002 VIA MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI, MESSAGE TO MIRJANA, 3/18/02, MESSAGE OF 3/25/2002 VIA MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI, REFLECTION ON THE MESSAGE OF 2/25/02.....	14
REFLECTION ON THE MESSAGE OF 3/25/02.....	15
SIN - THE GREATEST EVIL.....	16
REFINED SILVER, PRESS BULLETIN 171, 2/26/2002.....	17
PILGRIMS OF FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC), VISIT WWW.SPIRIT DAILY.COM, BULLETIN NOTICES FOR PFMC AREA EVENTS.....	22
PRESS BULLETIN 172, 3/26/2002.....	24
EXTRA FROM MEDJUGORJE.HR.....	26
CALENDARS:, AROUND THE PFMC AREA, PFMC PRESENTATIONS, INTERNET.....	28

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)

Call immediately - 856-768-9228

(Kathleen Werner)

OCTOBER 2002 RETREAT with FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF

We have arranged an additional 2002 RETREAT with Father John Hampsch, CMF. This retreat will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ from about 7 PM Friday, 18 October 2002, through about 6 PM Sunday, 20 October 2002.

This weekend retreat will be immediately following the Camden Diocese Charismatic Conference in Wildwood, NJ and will concentrate on Spiritual Warfare.

Visit <http://claretianapeministry.org/> for more information about Father John Hampsch, CMF.

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

PILGRIMAGE to the SHRINES of ITALY - NOVEMBER 1 - 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 Loreto, 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.

**Dates: Friday, November 1, 2002 through
Thursday, November 14, 2002**

Cost: \$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

1/2 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

Visit 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

Visit Padova and Bologna

1/2 day guided walking tour of Florence including entrance fee to Academia to see Michaelangelo's

1/2 day guided tour of Rome

1/2 day guided tour of Christian Rome including entrance fee to Catacombs

1/2 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 price.

Call 856-768-9228 for reservations.

(Kathleen Werner)

DEAN PULCINI 2002 CLASSES

Dean has been teaching here at the PFMC for the last two years. He holds a Masters Degree in Theology, and has been so generous with giving his time every Wednesday night from 7 PM to 9:30 PM.

Last year he taught a course on *“Apologetics”* and this year he has concentrated on an *“Introduction to Scripture.”* Dean will be concluding these classes for the year by the end of April and then break for the Summer.

He will be back again in the Fall (September, but date will be announced) to teach an *“Introduction to Liturgy.”* He will follow the Vatican II rulings for Liturgy as well as give a history of the development of Liturgy. This course will be excellent for anyone who is on a Liturgy Committee or who has anything to do with parish liturgy.

Please reserve Wednesday nights to join us in the Upper Room of Epiphany House from 7 PM to 9:30 PM on Wednesday nights.

We want to thank Dean for the wisdom he has shared with each of us. This sharing has deepened our knowledge of the Catholic Faith and Church. It has given us concrete answers to many questions we have had and created in us a hunger to learn more of our Church and its Sacred Tradition as well as how Sacred Scripture fits in that Sacred Tradition. We are very grateful for his time and energy applied to our learning process. We ask God to bless him abundantly in all his endeavors.

(Kathleen, Keith, the students, and volunteers)

ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN'S SECRET of HOW to TOUCH MINDS and HEARTS

NEVER was there a time in his life when Fulton Sheen did not want to be a priest; never was there a time in his life when he wished he had pursued another career. Part of his response to that call from God was a practice he started in the year of his ordination to the priesthood. Every day began with the very first hour, the freshest and therefore the best hour—he was a morning person—given to God in prayer. This was his Holy Hour, and it was always made in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The practice continued without interruption for the next sixty years...He made his Holy Hour the day of his passing. Whenever he chose to respond to those who asked him the secret of his ability to touch minds and hearts, his answer was—“The Holy Hour”—when he spoke to God, and listened to God speaking to him.

(Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara, *Epilogue. Treasure in Clay*, p. 351 - Image Books)

ONE HOUR WITH ME

The Son of God, the Word Made Flesh,
The source of all true happiness,

The PILGRIM is normally a Monthly Publication of the
Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)
A Religious Association, Inc.

Non-Profit and **IRS** Code 501 (c)(3) Tax-Exempt

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963

(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

DISTRIBUTION: To more than 2500 addresses in most of the 50 United States (U.S.), U.S. territories and many foreign countries.

President / Editor: Kathleen Werner,

Vice-President / Publisher: Keith Werner

Secretary: Fay Ramos, Treasurer: Dot Lyons

Communications – Bernadette Smutko,

Books and Religious Articles: Vince and Livia Nocella

Youth Ministry: Joanne Niece, Networks: Bob Van Horn

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

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan

Williams, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA,

Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Glenn Hartman, Father

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

the Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden,

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

Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org, *Vocations*

Director, Diocese of Camden, advises on discerning vocations.

PRINTERS: Jim Toudy, Brian James (856) 829-3787

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

A victim of man's sinful pride
 Was beaten, scourged, and crucified
 A crown of thorns upon His Head
 Nailed to a cross, He slowly bled.
 Knowing what His death would gain,
 He embraced the killing pain.
 "It is finished.", at length He cried,
 Bowed His head and then He died.
 He died for us that we might live.
 No greater love could anyone give.
 Now He reigns in Heaven above,
 Yet stays with us because of love.
 "I am with you until the end",
 Promised our Savior and best friend.
 Before His Passion, He did pray,
 "O Father, take this cup away,
 But not My will, but Thine be done."
 To His death, an obedient son!
 To His disciples, was this plea,
 "Could you not watch one hour with Me?"
 "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak",
 Said Jesus as His friends did sleep.
 To us He now repeats His plea,
 Will you not spend one hour with Me?
 Could we refuse, after all he's done,
 This small request from God's own Son?
 Now, on every altar, until the end of time,
 Lives our Risen Jesus, both human and divine.
 He is truly present in the consecrated Bread.
 "This is My Body", our loving Savior said.
 The Tabernacle's His new home,
 A golden monstrance for a throne.
 Enthroned within its rays of god,
 Dwells a treasure, worth untold.
 Thru sacred Host's unblinking stare,
 God looks on us with loving care.
 He sees our needs, our pains, our fears,
 Our hearts that cried a million tears.
 In silence, Lord, You speak to us,
 Your words of love and tenderness.
 In quietness, when all is still,
 Our hungry hearts, with grace You fill.
 With loving thoughts of gratitude,

We thank You for Your Heavenly Food.
 In holy adoration, we sincerely pray.

(Bill Duncan)

WHY DEVOTION to the BLESSED SACRAMENT IS LACKING

Thousands of people receive Holy Communion weekly yet it appears that devotion to Our Lord in the most Blessed Sacrament has declined—a contradiction? Maybe not!

Perhaps our current limited vocabulary has caused a change of attitude, understanding, and even belief. The Central Mystery of our Faith is now referred to, in all its many aspects, in one term only—*The Eucharist*. Few know the meaning of the word, or the magnificent theology and ecumenical concern which inspire its use. A tiny child making his first Holy Communion is told that he is to receive *The Eucharist*. Later he learns that "Eucharist" is the Greek work for "thanksgiving" and has no relation to the Food of Life at all. Further, maybe, he is taught to sing about eating bread and drinking wine while actually approaching Holy Communion.

The confusion of his understanding and faith become confounded. Does he receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Risen Jesus, or a thanksgiving—an abstract concept, or just bread and wine? Could he not be told quite simply, that he is to receive *Jesus* through a miracle of his love?

Our public worship is now called—*The Eucharist*. Seldom do we hear of the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross being made present for us by doing "this in

With such emphasis on "The Eucharist" symbolizing a "thing" rather than a "Person", no wonder only a faithful few stay behind after Holy Mass to thank Jesus for coming to uniquely into their hearts.

Consequently also, Holy Hours followed by Benediction are now rare. A relationship to the *living person, really present*, inspires these devotions to the Blessed Sacrament.

Unfortunately, for protection, most parish churches have to be kept locked between Holy Masses. The custom of "paying a visit" has just quietly diminished. Perhaps if we talked freely of "Our Divine Lord", or "Our Blessed Lord" in relation to the Blessed Sacrament instead of only

“The Eucharist”, he who thanked his Father, and whom we thank, would not be abandoned in his tabernacles behind locked doors.

Let us who have the privilege of our Divine Lord really present in our churches make a special visit to him in the Blessed Sacrament for any nine days. A deep and reverent genuflection and loving and fervent prayer will increase prayer will increase our union with him and make reparation for any coldness and indifference he may receive in this sacrament of his love.

(Mary Holmes, South African Representative of the Eucharistic Union)

LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI

In the year 422 A.D. Pope St. Celestine enunciated an axiom in sacred theology. “Legem credendi statuit lex orandi.” From the Latin, translated literally it means “the rule of prayer determines the rule of faith.” In other words, “the way we pray, shows what we believe.”

It is because this axiom is so true that Holy Mother the Church takes great care in making sure the liturgy, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is carried out with the greatest care. Consequently, the priest is supposed to follow certain rubrics during the [celebration of Holy] Mass, such as genuflecting at certain times, folding his hands, or hands outstretched, enunciating clearly the words of the [Holy] Mass, especially the Holy Words of the consecration, etc. Why?

The reason is to show that the [Holy] Mass is not like going to McDonalds for a Big Mac, to show, to point out that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is something very special. The [Holy] Mass transcends time and space because we are being made present to the Redeeming and Salvific act of Christ’s Redemption-the Sacrifice of Calvary. The [Holy] Mass is the sacred Eucharistic Sacrifice. The [Holy] Mass is the Sacrificial Banquet!

Unfortunately, over the past 30 years we have seen an excessive emphasis on the meal or banquet aspect of the [Holy] Mass to the detriment of the sacrificial aspect. And so how many of us have witnessed liturgical aberrations in Masses we’ve attended where the priest might dress up as a clown so “the children can better relate to him and the Holy Meal “

Or the Halloween Masses where the priest is dressed up in a Halloween costume, or the Masses where Father is acting more like Jay Leno on the Tonight Show rather

than acting in “persona Christi” at the altar? I could go on and on.

If people come to [Holy] Mass and see their priest dressed as a clown, in a Halloween costume or telling constant jokes during the [Holy] Mass, what are they to think about the [Holy] Mass? There is consequently a lessening of the understanding of what the [Holy] Mass is and so the faith of the people is weakened. Remember the axiom-lex orandi, lex credendi-how we pray, shows what we believe?

But there is an even more insidious on the faith of the people in the Eucharist stemming from the changes enacted by the American Bishop’s conference which tolerated illicit liturgical abuses such as communion-in-the hand, female altar servers, and then proceeded to legislate them into law! Recently the American Bishops issued a pastoral letter defining Catholic teaching concerning the Real and True Presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, responding to ignorance and or unbelief in the Real Presence.

Over the past thirty years or so we have witnessed going from gold chalices to hold the Precious Blood of Christ to glasses and pottery cups; from the gold ciborium that holds the consecrated Hosts to bread baskets and dishes; from kneeling to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion-a gesture no one could mistake for anything but an act of faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, to standing to receive Holy Communion; from being fed the Holy Eucharist on one’s tongue a definite and definitive action showing plainly that this is no ordinary food but the Bread of Angels, to receiving Holy Communion in one’s

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

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

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

hands you would take food off a table or a snack of potato chips; from receiving Holy Communion from the hands of the priest ordained to feed and nourish his family, to being handed the Eucharist from “Joe the butcher” from down the street and from Sue my neighbor with whom I was just gossiping over the telephone yesterday; from the Blessed Sacrament being reserved on the altar in the center of our churches to the tabernacle being placed on a pedestal as if it were just another religious statue.

Why are the bishops surprised and shocked that so many American Catholics do not know and believe the teaching of Christ regarding the Most Blessed Sacrament? Why do the American bishops act so puzzled and alarmed that recent polls show over 50% of American Catholics are ignorant of or do not believe the Church’s teaching that the Eucharist is the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and not just a symbol of Jesus? When it is they who have presided over, authorized and promoted so many of these changes pertaining to the manner of reception of Holy Communion and the reservation of the Eucharist in our Catholic Churches. What is so desperately needed today is not a pastoral letter, not a “verba” but “facta.” The old Latin axiom rings so true-“facta non verba.” “Deeds not words.”

Our people in the pews need to see the immediate restoration of all those sacred gestures and actions which say, “Yes, we believe the Holy Eucharist we receive is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” What we need today is to make the ORANDI correspond with the CREDENDI! We need to make what and how we pray around the Holy Eucharist correspond to what we believe about the Eucharist.

The American bishops need to reassemble the apparatus that for years has safeguarded the mysterious and clear truth of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The American bishops don’t need so much to publish a pastoral letter but they need to reaffirm by DEEDS the doctrine of the Real Presence, by reinstating all the gestures and actions which say by deeds, This is the Real and True Body and Blood of Christ I am receiving in Holy Communion.

“See, I kneel to receive my God!”

“See, I receive my Lord on my Tongue for he is no ordinary food but God himself.”

See, I kneel as I enter my parish church and I can find my Lord on the altar in the center in the tabernacle-he is

the focus of my life. He is really Christ my Savior and Lord in the tabernacle.”

We’ve all heard the old expression, “A picture is worth a thousand words, “There is really no substitute for the Eucharistic piety expressed by our bodies, infused into our souls, known with the power of our minds, when one’s whole being bows in adoration to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

So, we ask the question-what can be done to repair so much damage caused by the dismantling of traditional

Eucharistic piety? The American bishops need to reevaluate all that they have legislated in the past 30 years.

Instead of proposing that standing should be the recognized posture for receiving Holy Communion in the United States, the American bishops should be saying we need to reaffirm the Catholic teaching of the Real Presence.

1. FACTA - Kneeling for Holy Communion will now be the norm.
2. FACTA - Abolishing the option of receiving Communion in the hand which has become in practicality the only option since we have a generation or two of children who were never even told there was any other option of receiving Holy Communion but in the hand.
3. FACTA - The ordained Priest or deacons are the only ministers of Holy Communion unless in case of emergency.

All of the changes can be accomplished smoothly by a year long catechesis from the pulpit, Catholic newspapers and publications on the reasons necessitating these changes coupled with preaching from the pulpit what the true doctrine of the Church regarding the Eucharist is, thereby combining the FACTA with the Verba.

You see the Pastoral Letter of the American bishops is the Verba, we eagerly await the FACTA. You see, the Pastoral Letter of the American bishops is the Credendi, we eagerly await the ORANDI.

Bottom Line: We probably wouldn’t need a Pastoral Letter restating Catholic doctrine on the Real Presence if we were still kneeling for Holy Communion, receiving the Eucharist humbly on our tongues from the hands of the priest!

(Reverend Anthony J. Manuppella, Pastor of Saint Peter’s Church, Merchantville, NJ)

WE ADORE GOD'S PRESENCE

Eucharistic devotion outside of Mass is both a preparation and a continuation of the Sacrifice, says the Holy Father. **Adoremus in aeternum Sanctissimum Sacramentum.** United with the angels and saints of the heavenly Church, let us adore the *most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist*. Prostrate, we adore this great mystery that contains God's new and definitive covenant with humankind in Christ.

Dear Brother Bishops, Priests and Religious, Dear Sisters and Brothers, it gives me great joy to kneel with you before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, in an *act of humble and fervent adoration*, in praise of the merciful God, in thanksgiving to the giver of all good gifts and in prayer to the one who "lives forever to make intercession" for us (c.f. Heb 7:25).

Through the mystery of the Eucharistic bread the Lord can say to each of us, "*whoever eats my flesh and drinks of my blood remains in me and I in him*" (Jn 6:56). His life flows to us as the life-giving sap of the vine flows to its branches to make them live and bear fruit. *Without true union with Christ*—in whom we believe and who nourishes us—there can be neither supernatural life in us, nor fruit.

The continual adoration—which took place in many churches throughout the city and in some even at night—was an enriching feature that distinguished this Congress. If only this form of adoration, which ends tonight in a solemn Eucharistic vigil, would continue in the future too, so that in all parishes and Christian communities the custom of some form of adoration of the Eucharistic might take root.

You know well that the various forms of Eucharistic devotion are both an extension of the Sacrifice and of Communion and a preparation for them. Is it necessary to stress once again the deep theological and spiritual motivations which underlie devotion to the Blessed Sacrament outside the celebration of Mass? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "to deepen faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the Church is aware of the meaning of silent adoration of the Lord present under the Eucharistic species" (n.1379).

What strength, what consolation, what staunch hope the contemplation of the Eucharistic mystery gives rise to! It is God *with us* who enables us to share his life and sends us into the world to evangelize it and make it holy!

The Eucharist really is "the source and culmination of all evangelization" (*Presbyterorum ordinis*, n. 5). It is the horizon and the goal of the entire proclamation of Christ's Gospel. We are constantly journeying towards it through the word of truth, the proclamation of the message of salvation. Thus every liturgical celebration of the Eucharist according to the spirit and the norms of the Church has great evangelizing force. Indeed, the celebration of the Eucharist develops an essential and effective teaching of the Christian mystery: the believing community is summoned and gathered as a family and the People of God, the Body of Christ; it is doubly nourished at the table of the Word and of the sacrificial banquet of the Eucharist; it is sent as a means of salvation into the world. All this is in praise and thanksgiving to the Father.

Evangelization *through* the Eucharist, *in* the Eucharist and *from* the Eucharist: these are three inseparable aspects of how the Church lives the mystery of Christ and fulfills her mission of communicating it to all people. May God cause many vocations, of apostles, of missionaries, to spring from intimacy with Christ in the Eucharist, in order to bring this Gospel of salvation to the ends of the earth. Today the whole Church is demanding a new missionary outreach, a vibrant *spirit of evangelization* "new in its zeal, in its methods and in its expressions."

Adoration of the Eucharist is the contemplation and recognition of the true presence of Christ under the sacred species outside the celebration of the Mass.... It is a true encounter of dialogue,...through which we become open to the experience of God.... "It is also a gesture of solidarity with the needs and the needy of the whole world" (Basic Document of the Congress, n. 25). And through its own spiritual dynamic, this Eucharistic adoration should lead to the service of love and justice for and with our brothers and sisters.

May the Virgin Mary, who in Seville and in this cathedral is honored by the name of *Nuestra senora de los Reyes*, impel us and guide us to the encounter with her Son in the Eucharistic mystery. May she, who was the true Ark of the New Covenant, the living Tabernacle of God made man, teach us to act with pure intention, humility and fervent devotion to Jesus Christ her Son, present in the tabernacle. May she, the "Star of Evangelization," support us in our pilgrimage of faith to bring the light of Christ to all people, to all the nations. Amen.

(A condensation of a talk that the Pope gave at the International Eucharistic Congress in Spain, 1993, L'Osservatore Romano, June 23, 1993.)

OUR LADY'S EASTER

She knelt, expectant, through the night:
For He had promised. In her face
The pure soul beaming, full of grace,
But sorrow-tranced-a frozen light.

But, ere her eastward lattice caught
The glimmer of the breaking day,
No more in that sweet garden lay
The buried picture of her thought.

The sealed stone shut a void, and lo!
The Mother and the Son had met!
For her a day should never set
Had burst upon the night of woe.

In sudden glory stood He there,
And gently raised her to His breast:
And on His heart, in perfect rest,
She poured her own-voiceless prayer.

Enough for her that He has died,
And lives, to die again no more:
The foe despoiled, the combat o'er,
The Victor crowned and glorified.

What song of seraphim shall tell
My joy today, my blissful queen?
Yet truly not in vain, I ween,
Our earthly alleluias swell.

But thou, sweet Mother, grant us more
Than here to join the festive strain:
To hymn, but never know, our gain
Were ten times loss for once before.

For so, amid the onward years,
This feat shall bring us strength renewed;
To pass secure, o'er self subdued,
To Easter in the sinless spheres.

(Robert, Cyril, Our Lady's Praise in Poetry,
<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry/risen.html>)

SALLY

Sally jumped up as soon as she saw the Surgeon come out of the operating room. She said: "How is my little boy? Is he going to be O.K.? When can I see him?"

The Surgeon said, "I'm sorry, we did all we could."

Sally said, "Why do little children get cancer, doesn't GOD care anymore? GOD, where were you when my son needed you?"

The Surgeon said, "One of the nurses will be out in a few minutes to let you spend time with your son's remains before it's transported to the university".

Sally asked that the nurse stay with her while she said Good-bye to her son.

Sally ran her fingers through his thick red curly hair.

The nurse said, "Would you like a lock of his hair?"

Sally nodded yes. The nurse cut a lock of his hair and put it in a plastic bag and handed it to Sally.

Sally said, "It was Jimmy's idea to give his body to the university for study. He said it might help somebody else," and that is what he wanted.

I said, No at first, but Jimmy said, "Mom I won't be using it after I die, maybe it will help some other little boy to be able to spend one more day with his mother".

Sally said, "My Jimmy had a heart of Gold, always thinking of someone else and always wanting to help others if he could".

Sally walked out of the Children's Hospital for the last time now after spending most of the last 6 months there. She sat the bag with Jimmy's things in it on the seat beside of her in the car. The drive home was hard and it was even harder to go into an empty house. She took the bag to Jimmy's room and started placing the model cars and things back in his room exactly where he always kept them. She lay down across his bed and cried herself to sleep holding his pillow.

Sally woke up about midnight and lying beside of her on the bed, was a letter folded up. She opened the letter, it said:

Dear Mom,

I know your going to miss me, but don't think that I will ever forget you or stop loving you because I'm not around to say I LOVE YOU. I'll think of you every day Mom and I'll love you even more each day. Some day we will see each other again. If you want to adopt a little boy so you won't be so lonely, he can have my room and my old stuff to play with. If you decide to get a girl instead, she probably wouldn't like the same things as us boys do, so you will have to buy her dolls and stuff girls like. Don't be sad when you think about me, this is really a great place.

Grandma and Grandpa met me as soon as I got here and showed me around some, but it will take a long time to see everything here. The angels are so friendly, I love to

watch them fly. Jesus doesn't look like any of the pictures I saw of Him, but I knew it was Him as soon as I saw Him. Jesus took me to see GOD! And guess what, Mom? I got to sit on GOD'S knee and talk to Him like I was somebody important. I told GOD that I wanted to write you a letter and tell you Good-bye and everything, but I knew that wasn't allowed. God handed me some paper and His own personal pen to write you this letter with. I think Gabriel is the name of the angel that is going to drop this letter off to you.

God said for me to give you the answer to one of the questions you asked Him about. Where was He when I needed him? God said, "The same place He was when Jesus was on the cross. He was right there, as He always is with all His children.

Oh, by the way Mom, nobody else can see what is written on this paper but you. To everyone else, it looks like a blank piece of paper. I have to give God His pen back now, he has some more names to write in the Book of Life.

Tonight I get to sit at the table with Jesus for Supper. I'm sure the food will be great. I almost forgot to let you know - Now I don't hurt anymore, the cancer is all gone. I'm glad because I couldn't stand that pain anymore and God couldn't stand to see me suffer the pain either, so He sent The Angel of Mercy to get me. The Angel said I was Special Delivery!

Signed with love from: God & Jesus & Me.
(Msmith514907083@aol.com)

THE WORLD ITSELF KEEPS EASTER DAY

The world itself keeps Easter Day,
And Easter larks are singing;
And Easter flowers are blooming,
And Easter buds are springing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Lord of all things lives anew,
And all His works are living too.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
There stood three Mary's by the tomb
On Easter morning early-
When day had scarcely chased the gloom,
And dew was white and pearly.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
With loving, but erring, mind

They came the Prince of Life to find,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
But earlier still the angel sped,
His news of comfort giving;
And "Why," he said, "among the dead
Thus seek ye for the living?"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Go tell them all, and make them blest,
Tell Peter first, and then the rest."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
But one, and one alone, remained,
With love that could not vary;
And thus a higher joy she gained,
That sometime sinner, Mary.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The first the dear, dear form to see
Of Him that hung upon the tree.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The world itself keeps Easter Day,
And Easter larks are singing;
And Easter flowers are blooming,
And Easter buds are springing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Lord of all things lives anew,
And all His works are living too.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

(John Mason Neale Doane, M.C. The Book of
Easter. Norwood, MA, USA: Norwood Press, 1910)

HEAVENLY FATHER

I call on you right now in a special way. It is through your power that I was created. Every breath I take, every morning I wake, and every moment of every hour, I live under your power.

Father, I ask you now to touch me with that same power. For if you created me from nothing, you can certainly recreate me. Fill me with the healing power of your spirit. Cast out anything that should not be in me. Mend what is broken. Root out any unproductive cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild any damaged areas. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection.

Let the warmth of your healing love pass through my body to make new any unhealthy

areas so that my body will function the way you created it to function.

And Father, restore me to full health in mind and body so that I may serve you the rest of my life.

I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

TO the MOTHER of GOD on EASTER NIGHT

Thy faith had never faltered, nor thy trust;
Thy love had loyal proved when Calvary
Had mingled with its very mire and dust
The Blood Divine which God had gained thru thee.
Thine eyes looked up thru tears of sorrow such
As mother-heart, in all earth's centuries,
Had never known, nor ever shall, Thy touch
Yet unto us, who brought upon thee woe,
Forbidden was to soothe God's agonies.
Thou givest love-when we have wronged thee so!
Thyself hast seen Him in the morning bright,
And won for us the Pax of Easter night!
O Mother, in thy joy at this our bliss,
Help us forget the awful Judas-kiss,
The sorry symbol of our cowardice
And arrant emblem of our perfidy!
God's Mother Mary, keep us close to thee,
And teach our hearts to tender such embrace
As brings the glow of gladness to His Face-
That Face Divine which won its features fair
From thine, thine own, thou Lily chaste and rare!
Thy heart is knowing that we feel His peace,
Thy soul is sighing that we give Him love.
Throughout earth's exile help our hope increase,
Till Christ shall crown it in His courts above!

(Maria Dilecta, Robert, Cyril. Our Lady's Praise in Poetry. New York: Marist Press, 1944.

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry/risen.html>)

IN MEMORIAM – BISHOP SCHAD

Born James Louis Schad, July 20, 1917, he passed on to the Lord on March 27, 2002, the first, and to date only Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Camden. We were truly blessed with his presence and will miss him. Thank you Lord for allowing him to serve us.

GODS BLESSINGS

God offers us His Blessings
As we go along life's way.
Not only is He testing
But wants us to ever stay
Only in His Holy Ways.
How often we refuse them
And turn from Him away.
When we go to meet Him
Upon our judgement day,
Looking in His Loving Eyes,
What will we have to say?
Must we tell Him we despised
His Grace, on Judgement Day?
Must we be turned away?
Be grateful for God's Blessings
Accepting every one,
And to Him then addressing
Our thanks for all He's done.
God is not a tyrant, then,
Who seeks to hurt our soul;
He only asks that we be sent,
Each to his chosen goal.
We are the ones who chose it
By accepting good or bad;
So blame not God a bit.
It is truly very sad...
That we make bad choices,
Losing what we could have had.

**(Sister Mary Agatha, O.S.F., The Maryfaithful -
Sept/Oct 2001)**

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 theologate formation, through a shared community life of

prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service. It now houses the Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

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

COMMITTED PRIEST ENCOURAGES OTHERS to COMMITMENT

TWO YEARS AGO, Father Charles Fanelli, the pastor of Saint John Vianney church, found it difficult to get adorers to fill all the hours in his adoration program. There were 25 open hours that no one volunteered to take. As a pastor of a busy, growing parish, he could not find time to fill the hours himself. It was obvious that unless something was done soon the perpetual adoration program would fail.

It was at this point that Father Peter Cops, S.S.S., arrived at the scene. As a member of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, a congregation which promotes Eucharistic adoration, Father was eager to help. Having been at Saint John's before, he was already familiar with the parish and was anxious to recruit new adorers and better organize the program. Father Cops personally takes at least one daily holy hour and has been involved with promoting adoration his whole priestly life since 1952 when he was ordained in Holland.

Father Cops' first task was to fill the open weekly hours. He notes that the primary reason for open hours in any program is the unwillingness of people to make a commitment. Such reluctance is "the sign of the times" as reflected in the lack of priestly and religious vocations and marital fidelity. Now, after personally inviting others to sign up and by constantly placing notices that more adorers are needed, only two hours remain open.

Last year, Father Cops coordinated the renovation of Saint John's adoration chapel in order to make it more conducive to silent adoration. He also thought a more efficient worship space was needed to insure the safety of

the adorers and safeguard against any possible profanation. Besides installing a new carpet and papering the walls, a new marble altar of exposition was erected. The long wooden pews were replaced with smaller ones and a special key card lock was installed for the protection of the night adorers from 10 PM to 6 AM. In all this Father Cops notes that people were most generous, some even donating their labor to complete the project.

Father continues to supervise the program and lead the daily holy hour at 7:30 PM. Attendance varies each night with 40-45 people that come on Fridays. On the average, several confessions are heard after the evening services and it is not uncommon for at least one conversion or return to the Faith to occur each week. Father Cops is quick to add this it is the Lord who draws others to Himself. He is merely the instrument.

(Immaculata – Special Eucharistic Adoration Issue)

SAINT BENEDICT'S PRAYER

Gracious and Holy Father,
Please give me
Intellect to understand You,
Reason to discern You,
Diligence to seek You,
Wisdom to find You,
A spirit to know You,
A heart to meditate on You,
Ears to hear You,
Eyes to see You,
A tongue to proclaim You,
A way of life pleasing to You,
Patience to wait for You,
And perseverance to look for You.
Grant me Your Holy Presence,
A blessed resurrection, and life everlasting.

(101 Foundation Times # 52)

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

MESSAGE of 2/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! In this time of grace, I call you to become friends of Jesus. Pray for peace in your hearts and work for your personal conversion. Little children, only in this way will you be able to become witnesses of peace and of the love of Jesus in the world. Open yourselves to prayer so that prayer becomes a need for you. Be converted, little children, and work so that as many souls as possible may come to know Jesus and His love. I am close to you and I bless you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE to MIRJANA, 3/18/02

Dear Children! As a mother I implore you, open your heart and offer it to me, and fear nothing. I will be with you and will teach you how to put Jesus in the first place. I will teach you to love Him and to belong to Him completely. Comprehend dear children, that without my Son there is no salvation. You should become aware that He is your beginning and your end. Only with this awareness can you be happy and merit eternal life. As your mother I desire this for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE of 3/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Today I call you to unite with Jesus in prayer. Open your heart to Him and give Him everything that is in it: joys, sorrows and illnesses. May this be a time of grace for you. Pray, little children, and may every moment belong to Jesus. I am with you and I intercede for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 2/25/02

PRAYER IS A NEED

The time of Lent we now go through is a time of grace, the Blessed Virgin Mary tells us in her message. The time of grace began with the coming of Jesus Christ. In many preceding messages, Our Lady attracted our attention to this reality within us and around us. Her presence here is a grace and a gift for those who receive Her as the Mother of their lives and the Mother of their peace. Each word of hers and each message is a call of a motherly heart addressing the heart of men.

Also through this message, Mary, our Mother, wants us to become the friends of Jesus: to be strangers no longer, but friends who come to know Him better each day. Also amongst ourselves, we can become true friends for one another only if we are the friends of Jesus. We can be considered believers and Christians, we can go for Sunday Holy Mass, we can go for confession regularly, we can live our faith more or less exteriorly without knowing Jesus and without being His friends. We can never say that we know Jesus enough. We can only seek Him and find Him, because He went first to seek us.

The PILGRIM

According to St John the Apostle: "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins." (1 Jn 4:10)

A most beautiful experience of the love of God and of His closeness, obtained through prayer by Saint Monica for her son, can be found in Saint Augustine's "Confessions":

"Late have I loved You, beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you. You were in me and I was outside of myself. You were with me, and I was not with You. You called and you shouted, and You broke my deafness. You sent a lightning, you enlightened and dispersed my blindness. You spread your perfume, I breathed it in, and now I languish after You. I tasted, and I am hungry and thirsty. You touched me and I burn for Your peace. When I shall cling to You with all my being, there will be no more pain nor suffering for me, and my life shall be alive, full of You. Behold, I do not hide my wounds. You are the doctor, I am the ill one. You are merciful, I am miserable. And all my hope is only in Your great mercy, o Lord my God." We need such experiences of the nearness of God, and Our Lady wants to lead us to these experiences, this nearness and this friendship.

It is necessary to work for conversion. But the conversion is so immense, it is not only depending on us. It is much

beyond human power. Evil is stronger than man and wants to paralyze him. This is why we need God. Only Jesus Christ can save us from sin, laziness, selfishness, lies and evil. But it is expected from us to do the decisive step. We can neither change nor convert ourselves, but we can say “yes” to God. We can do a turn around in our lives, we can take the words of Jesus as Gods’ words and not human words. These words have the power to heal, to convert, to save man. Only then will we be able to say with Saint Paul: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”(Ga 2:20).

Thank you, Mary, our Mother, for giving us the means which can lead us to Jesus. May, through your intercession, our hearts discover more and more prayer as a need. May there be more and more of those who will, out of love of God and themselves, discover prayer not as something that has to be done but as something they can do.

Medjugorje, February 26th, 2002
Father Ljubo Kurtovic, OFM

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 3/25/02

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, calls us to unite with Jesus, and a means that She puts into our hands is prayer. Long ago, we learned in the catechism that prayer was a dialogue with God. To dialogue, you need someone, another person. You may converse with someone without grasping life itself, but remaining simply at its surface. There are conversations, which bring about movement, lift up and heal. Prayer is such a conversation, held not with just anyone, but with the God almighty. Man has the capacity to converse with God, with Jesus, because he has the spirit, as God is spirit. As God became man in Jesus, we can talk to Him humanly, because we have the Holy Spirit, because we are baptized and confirmed, because we have received these capacities, these gifts which enable us to be as close to Jesus as possible. If we ask ourselves where is Jesus, I would say: Where is He not? Wherever you look, you can meet Him. His look and His eyes watch every person with love. It is important to be conscious of this fact, in order to be able even to start our walk towards Him. He is with us always, but we have to make an effort to be with Him.

Our Mother calls us: “*Open your heart to Him and give Him everything that is in it*”. To share bread, property,

money, even time with someone, is much easier then to receive someone under one’s roof, to introduce someone into one’s own house, to open one’s heart to someone. To allow someone to enter into the most hidden parts of one’s soul is much more difficult. Most difficult is to share the deepest depths of one’s joy, one’s sufferings, wounds and crosses of one’s life. It is possible with those who are closest to us, if it is possible at all to really do it with human beings. We are an enigma and a mystery for ourselves, we do not know ourselves until the end and completely, and other people know us even less than that. Only the One from whose hand we have come knows us and can heal us, make us well and fill the void of our soul and heart.

It is much easier to enumerate prayers then to open one’s heart. This is why it is not prayer that will help us, because prayer does not help and does not bring rest, but God in prayer. However, He cannot come into a prayer done without heart, as you cannot enter into a house whose door is locked.

The greatest suffering of man is the mistrust towards God, which provokes fear, anguish and worries about one’s own life, about the future. If I am afraid that someone will steal my property or kill me, I will try to defend myself, to protect myself, I will close and lock the door. I feel the opposite if I trust. It is the same in our relationship to God: If I trust Him, if I believe that my life with Jesus will be happy and fulfilled, if I take His words as divine and not human, if I believe that His word is truth, that He has the words of the eternal life – I will open to Him the door of my house, of my home and of my heart.

This is “*a time of grace*”, tells us Mary, our Mother. She motivates us not to allow our hours and days to pass without Jesus. With Jesus everything can be realized. The fundamental problem of man is that he is far away from God, that he works without Him, without contact with Him. It can often happen that we forget Him, push Him aside, or call Him maybe as an ambulance when life’s distress oppresses us. Maybe we pray five minutes or half an hour, and then we push Him aside instead of permanently being nourished with Him. Hence, God is not a fireman; He would like to become our companion on the road, our friend and Saviour, yours and mine.

Let us take seriously the words conceived in the heart of our Mother, so that our days do not pass without meaning and without goal. Let us allow Jesus to rise in us also this Easter. Peace and good to you.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, OFM
Medjugorje, March 26, 2002

SIN - THE GREATEST EVIL

There is really in the final analysis only one evil in the world. That evil is sin.

Sin must be removed before that purpose for which man was created may be achieved.

Jesus means Savior. From what did he come to save us? From sin.

The only reason for his horrible sufferings and his terrible death was that sin might be atoned for and man be everlastingly forgiven and saved.

General atonement was made on Calvary. But Calvary's merits had to be applied to individual souls by their coming to Jesus, the savior. Jesus died for god's appeasement, but He forgave sins in virtue of His death in specific cases and by his actual treating with each individual sinner.

In forgiving sins, the words of were strikingly simple and direct:

To Mary Magdalene He said: "Thy sins are forgiven thee." (Lk. 7:48.)

To the paralytic He said exactly the same words: Thy sins are forgiven thee." (Matt. 9:2.)

Individual persons – individual pardons.

Since sin is the only evil, and since it stands thus alone in the way of the individual person's salvation, it must be removed for every person – and for millions of men – to the end of time.

And since the Church is the Savior's representative on earth, since it exists to do his work, we would expect that one of its first powers and duties would be to forgive sin and to set men back on the road to eternal safety.

And such indeed is the case by the kind disposition of our God of Mercy!

On that very day on which Jesus finally and fully overcame sin in the world, He appeared to His Apostles to give them the power to wrest individual souls from the strange hold of Satan by forgiving sins. With the breaking asunder of the tomb on Easter Morning came the bursting of the chain of the sin—forever!

Listen here to the Newly Risen Conqueror: "Now when it was late that same day, the first of the week, and the doors were shut, where the disciples were gathered together, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them: Peace be to you! And when

He had said this, He showed them His hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord. He said therefore to them again: Peace be to you! As the Father hath sent me, I also send you. When He has said this. He breathed on them, and He said to them "Receive ye the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." John 20:19-23.

The scene is solemn. "Peace be to you," said the Risen Savior Almighty Conqueror. He proceeds to show the Apostles, His priests, His wounds. Why? By them was sin overcome—His suffering and being nailed to the cross. And again He repeats: "Peace be to you!" Sin and peace cannot coexist! Bitterly do sinners experience this! And Our Savior wants that to be understood. The soul is calm and at peace—as is a collection of souls, a community, a nation, the world – only when sin is removed from it. Hence the repetition of "Peace be to you" before the power to remove sin is conferred.

The solemnity of the Easter evening scene continues: As the Father sent me I send YOU." The power to forgive sins comes from God. Of course! No man forgives in his own right—how could he? His Power is from above—a delegated power. A sinner coming to confession begins his confession by saying: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, Father, in His stead...." And the priest, God's poor instrument, with hand bowed under the tremendous power vested in him, channels God's forgiveness into the immortal depths of the soul being emptied of sin

The Church's (priest's) formula of forgiveness is this "God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of His Son, has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace, and I forgive you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, (makes a cross over penitent), and of the Holy Spirit."

Most impressive and unmistakable was the newly Risen Savior's very plain bestowal of the power to forgive

And this power to forgive sins has passed down in the Catholic Church through the twenty centuries of Christianity, and must continue so long as men are born and there are souls to save. One of the most sacred powers possessed by the priest is the power of forgiving sins.

As the young candidate kneels before the ordaining bishop, the prelate lays his hands upon the young man's head and repeats the words of Christ, spoken on that first Easter receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven...."

Calvary is the confessional, where the soul is washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb. The merits of the Savior's general forgiveness and atonement flow down and over the centuries into the aching, and restless soul of the sinner kneeling in the shadow of the confessional crucifix. The priest, Christ's minister and representative, speaks consoling forgiveness. A humble head bows low to hear and savor the words of Christ. Comes calm to that soul as the shackles of sin are broken, just as purifying balm descended upon the sinners hearing words of pardon from the lips of the Savior in human flesh.

The words of absolution in the confessional are simple, direct, quick, as were the startling words of Christ forgiving sin. They are tremendously sacred – almost unbelievable – words, sweeping the expanse of eternity: "I absolve you of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!"

And the tomb of the eternal, death is broken asunder! The penitent rises and comes forth – free! Easter has dawned in the Penitent soul!

("Catholic Quote" March, '86, The Maryfaithful, pg. 69, July – August 1988)

REFINED SILVER

There was a group of women studying the book of Malachi. As they had gotten to the third chapter, they came across the third verse which says:

"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

The verse puzzled the women and they wondered what this statement meant about the nature and character of God.

One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week the woman called up a silver smith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't say much about the reason for her interest in silver beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silver smith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up

He explained, "In refining silver, you need to keep the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames are hottest so that all the impurities get burned away."

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot. Then she recalled the exact words of the verse: that he sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.

She asked, "Do you have to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver is being refined?"

"Yes. I have to keep my eyes on it the entire time it's in the fire.

Otherwise, if the silver is left even a moment too long in the flames, it will be destroyed."

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked, "How do you know when it is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered,

"Oh, that's easy. When I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you, he will not let you get destroyed and will keep watching you until he sees his image in you

saintsinthemaking@comcast.net

PRESS BULLETIN 171, 2/26/2002

THE DOOR to CHRIST

We stepped into Lent – a time of grace, of prayer, of fasting, of penance and of conversion. Lent consists precisely of the words that Our Lady repeated to us so many times here in Medjugorje: prayer, fasting, penance, conversion. Lent is a time of grace, because in forty days – through personal trial and purification - we have the occasion to touch the bottom and the summit of a meaningful life. What is asked from us during this time is also to renounce to the joys of this world in order to become fully free, because only in freedom can our soul feel at home. During lent, it is necessary to find a moment of peace, a moment of self-denial. It is necessary to die to oneself in order to begin to live as a reflection of the light of Christ, and to shine in others. In Lent, you simply have to choose, you have to taste the bitterness of the suffering of Christ if you want to rejoice in His glorification.

Lenten days are moments when the rich and the poor must walk on the same roads; these are moments when the learned and the illiterate find a common language and become brothers united by the Cross of Christ. In Lent,

we can freely shout out: Blessed are the artisans of peace, blessed are those who suffer, blessed are those who hunger and thirst, blessed are the poor! Similarly, we can stand in line with them and wait for the grace for us and for those who, out of God's world, make a prison for individuals and for nations. Our duty in the time of Lent is not the condemnation of the world but a rebirth through our renunciation, fasting, prayer and penance. This is the only right we have. When we do this, the world will be its condemnation and announce its own collapse.

In his trials, Jesus was praying, fasting and suffering. He knew that without the experience of suffering and without a time of personal refinement, he would not be able to transform humanity. He was utterly given to the service of men, he approached men through suffering, by his drops of sweat, he watered the seed of friendship between man and God, and by his blood sealed forever the covenant. This is a clear example we also should follow. We have to seek Jesus in suffering and in self-denial. So, whenever you enter into suffering, illness, fear, anguish - know that this is the door to Christ. This is how your situation becomes a meeting point with God. This is why those who suffer are a blessing for the earth, the society and the nation. So let us follow Christ and put into practice the appeals of the Queen of Peace from Medjugorje. And let us not forget: Without Golgotha, Easter cannot shine!

Father Mario Knezovic

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of January, 35,000 received Holy Communion and 768 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

BLESSING of FAMILIES

In our parish, the blessing of families and of houses is traditionally given during the Christmas holidays. At this time, priests at service in the parish meet their parishioners, exchange experiences and come to know each other better. During the holy time of Christmas, which is the time of coming close to each other, the blessing of families has an even stronger significance. The visit of a priest strengthens the family and confirms the household in good intentions and decisions.

The blessing of the family is particularly important there, where love is lacking for one reason or another. The power of blessing was especially felt in "Mother's Village" when all the inhabitants of this community

gathered for the annual blessing: children and grandmothers, "aunties" and religious sisters who take care of the village, and friends who came to embellish this occasion with their songs.

Father Svetozar Kraljevic and Father Ljubo Kurtovic gave the blessing. Although everyone is missing Father Slavko Barbaric, Mother's Village and its inhabitants continue to grow, relying on the love of God and His Providence, which manifests itself so often and so generously through friends and benefactors.

FATHER OREC PASSED AWAY

Doctor Father Leonard Orec, a highly regarded Herzegovinian Franciscan father, passed away on January 21st, 2002, after a serious illness.

Father Leonard was born on January 20th, 1928, in Posuski Gradac. He finished primary school in his native place, attended the secondary school in Siroki Brijeg from 1940 to 1945, then in Varazdin from 1945 to 1946. He entered the Franciscan order in 1946 in Kraljeva Sutjeska, and finished his secondary school in 1949 in Sarajevo. He studied theology in Sarajevo from 1947 to 1952. He made his solemn vows in Split on June 29th, 1951. He was ordained priest the same year. From 1952 to 1956, he served in Split and in Kraljeva Sutjeska as an educator.

His continued his studies - he received a doctorate in Ljubljana in 1956, and then he pursued his formation in München (Munich) in 1957 and 1958. He was a professor at the Franciscan Theology in Sarajevo from 1958 to 1961. Father Leonard was member of the Provincial Council from 1967 to 1973, and vice-provincial from 1973 to 1976. From 1961 to 1967, he was also in charge of Franciscan vocations. From 1967 to 1977, he was Novice master in Humac. In his fifties, he was sent to Germany, where he perfected his knowledge of German language and passed his driver's license exam. He was Pastor in Blankenau and in Hosenfeld from 1977 to 1988. During this period, he taught during two school years at the High Theological School in Fulda. He was in charge of Franciscan vocations for 25 years, and he spent almost 25 years outside of his Province.

From 1988 to 1991, Father Leonard served in Medjugorje, including more than one year as Pastor. During these three years, he left an indelible imprint as an experienced and wise priest, fervently spreading Our Lady's messages of peace and reconciliation. Many ideas were born in his heart and mind, which were also realized

in the past years. In the difficult times of communist repression and of pre-war tension in our regions, he did not bend the knee, but resisted courageously and wisely to all attacks, sometimes even to the treats of those who did not and who did understand his vision of the development of the Shrine. Among other things, he instated the “Association of Guides for Pilgrims in the Parish of Medjugorje,” and he managed to bring the guides under the shield of the Church, encouraging them to live the spreading of Our Lady’s messages first and foremost as a mission. Knowing many people all over the world and the difficult situation of our people stricken by the war, he started the humanitarian association “Medjugorje-Mir” in Split in 1992. Thanks to the friends of Medjugorje, this association distributed dozens of tonnes of humanitarian aid during the war, and continues today with its humanitarian work. Father Leonard worked also on the spiritual renewal of people wounded by the war and, according to Our Lady’s message of peace and reconciliation, was a link between nations and religions.

Since 1997, Father Leonard was serving in the Franciscan General Curia in Rome. At the age of 70, he learned to speak Italian and to use a computer. He was in Rome until July 2001, when he became seriously ill, at the time of the celebration of his 50 years of priestly ordination.

All those who knew Father Leonard Orec will remember him as a great man, an intelligent man full of experience, which he transmitted generously to all those he met on his way. He was happy to be a Franciscan friar, and he transmitted this joy also.

At the light of his life and of his last days, Father Leonard as a man and as a believer can be best described by the words of Saint Paul: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim 4:7)

FATHER OREC WAS BURIED

Father Leonard Orec was buried on January 23rd, 2002, in his native town of Posusje. The ceremony began with Holy Mass in the Parish Church presided by Father Slavko Soldo, Franciscan Provincial of Herzegovina, and concelebrated by more than 120 priests. A great number of the faithful and many religious sisters from all over Bosnia, Herzegovina and Croatia assisted at the burial, as well as Medjugorje friends from abroad, Father Leonard’s old friends who helped him in his humanitarian work through the Association “Medjugorje-Mir” from Split. (More about it)

The provincial, Father Slavko Soldo, gave his farewell speech in the name of the Franciscan province of Herzegovina during the Holy Mass. After Mass, many other speakers intervened:

- In the name of the Superior General of the Franciscan order spoke the Definitor general of the Order, Father Capistran Martzall;

- In the name of Msgr. Ratko Peric, Bishop of Mostar, spoke Father Luka Pavlovic, Vicar General of the Diocese;

- In the name of the Franciscan Province of Bosnia spoke Father Stjepan Radic, who reported the words spoken by Father Leonard’s friend, Doctor Father Vitimir Slugic: “Your ship went to the open sea, and we wave greeting you from Bosnia...” in his Franciscan service, Father Leonard Orec was tightly linked with the suffering population and his Franciscan brothers from Bosnia.

- In the name of the Franciscan Province of Saint Jerome (Zadar, Croatia) spoke Doctor Father Jozo Sopta;

- In the name of the Humanitarian Association and its friends and collaborators from all over the world spoke Drago Cutuk;

- In the name of the Professors of Theology spoke Doctor Father Ljudevit Rupcic who expressed what all of Father Leonard’s friends think: “Many will have to make enormous efforts to see the ideals you have put into practice...”

Helping the needy, Father Leonard was a bond between nations and religions, and so he supported the Macedonian people in the time of war in their country.

- In the name of Macedonian people, who felt Father Leonard’s efficient help and love, spoke the President of the community of the Macedonian Orthodox Church in Split, Ivona Music Medelkovska.

Father Leonard spent the last months of his life at the Franciscan convent in Zagreb, where he was medically treated.

- In the name of his Franciscan brothers from Zagreb spoke Doctor Father Ivan Dugandzic, Superior of the Zagreb Convent, who described Father Leonard’s Franciscan dimension: “He was known as a joyful friar who shared tirelessly his Franciscan enthusiasm to others, and during his last days ‘joyfully expected his Sister

- In the name of the Parish of Medjugorje and all of you who came to Medjugorje and met Father Leonard spoke Father Branko Rados, Pastor of Medjugorje. He described the broadness of spirit of this great man, which was confirmed at his burial through the presence of so many different people, nations and religions. This is what he said:

“Brothers and sisters! One of the specificities that distinguishes we humans from all of God’s other creatures is the power to speak. With words we are able to express, to make present, to explain, to make understood and even to embellish so many things. And still there are moments when we feel all the powerlessness and weakness of our power to speak. Each time we face an important event, we remain speechless. When we have to console someone, words seem too poor. We feel all the poverty of our speech especially when we face death, when we observe the greatness of a life that is gone. This is such a moment. We face greatness, a priest, a Franciscan, a theologian, a pedagogue, a benefactor...

There are no words to describe Father Leonard’s life. This is why I wish to underline only one of his qualities, which were so numerous, and this is the broadness of spirit. Dear Father Leonard, thank you, because so many pilgrims who came to Medjugorje found in you a true host, a caring man, a friar who rejoices to see them with all the broadness of his Franciscan soul, who waits for them with an open heart and open arms. Thank you for all the wisdom and visionary spirit you have shown in guiding the parish and the Shrine. Thank you for all the ideas, prayers, projects you have given to the Parish of Medjugorje. You spent the last 20 years of your life living with Medjugorje and for Medjugorje. You took Medjugorje with you to Split and to Rome and everywhere you went during these years. It was your inspiration and a motivation: When tired, you did not think about tiredness, when ill, you did not think of your illness. Your desire was to glorify Christ as much as you could, through Mary, the Queen of Peace.

“It is good to do good” – was the name of one of the humanitarian actions during the war in Croatia. It is good to give people the possibility to do good! Working tirelessly, you gave the possibility to many pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje to do good. May God reward you for all the good done through you! May the Queen of Peace, whom you venerated above all, obtain for you the Peace of her Son!

Together with parishioners of Medjugorje and numerous pilgrims from all over the world, I pray today: Eternal rest give to him, O Lord!”

After the ceremony in the parish church, the procession went to the Franciscans’ Alee on local cemetery Martica Kriz in Posusje, where Fr Leonard was buried. At the cemetery, Father Marinko Leko, Pastor of Posusje, delivered the last farewell.

VICKA IVANKOVIC’S and MARIO MIJATOVIC’S WEDDING

Vicka Ivankovic, one of the six Medjugorje visionaries, and Mario Mijatovic were married on January 26th, 2002, in Saint James parish church of Medjugorje.

The Solemn Holy Mass, during which the sacrament of marriage was celebrated, was presided by Father Branko Rados, pastor, in concelebration with two former pastors – Father Jozo Zovko and Father Ivan Landeka – and twenty foreign priests.

The church of Medjugorje was not big enough to receive all those who wanted to express their joy, their good wishes to the newlyweds, and the desire to see them continue on the way they were going for so many years now.

This was precisely the theme of Father Branko’s homily, in which he invited them to continue to be “salt of the earth and light of the world”, as they have been for the uncountable pilgrims they have already met.

In our times, when the world is in a deep spiritual and moral crisis precisely because of the crisis of the family, we rejoice because of the choice of Vicka and Mario to continue to witness the love of God through the family life: Vicka, at the service of Our Lady’s message of peace and reconciliation, and Mario - for many years a collaborator with Father Slavko Barbaric - at the service of Mother’s Village.

After the ceremony, Vicka and Mario entrusted their marriage in prayer to Our Lady, the Queen of Peace. Boys and girls from the Cennacolo Community sung and played at the wedding. Sister Elvira came to Medjugorje for this solemn occasion, and the newlyweds joined them in singing after Holy Mass.

We express our good wishes to Vicka and Mario, entrusting them to your prayers, that God may give them the grace and strength to continue to love and to serve together, as they already do.

A NEW PARISH FLAG for MEDJUGORJE

On Sunday, January 27th, 2002, a new parish banner for Saint James Parish in Medjugorje was inaugurated and blessed during the Sunday Parish Mass. What is the actual meaning of a parish flag?

One of the images describing the Church is the image of an army, which, following Christ, spiritually struggles against evil. In this struggle, the soldiers of Christ stand under a standard and follow Christ in his victorious mission of Salvation.

All catholic parishes have a patron saint, a special intercessor before God. The patron saint of Medjugorje Parish is Saint James, a pilgrim. So, let us follow Christ under a standard on which we see on one side a pilgrim, a man of prayer and of penance, a man of God, and on the other the parish church of Medjugorje, which has become a symbol of prayer and of peace for the whole world...

The new standard of the parish of Medjugorje was carried on the feast of Saint Blaise, patron saint of Dubrovnik, on Sunday, February 3rd, in the traditional procession where many pilgrims from the city and the region gather in Dubrovnik.

About 100 pilgrims from the parish of Medjugorje marched this year under the new parish flag on this traditional pilgrimage to Saint Blaise.

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 Centers and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity Groups under the theme "Pray, Pray, Pray..." took place in Medjugorje from February 17th to 21st, 2002.

During five days, the participants meditated on the conferences given by Doctor Father Ivan Dugandzic and Father Ivan Landeka, they exchanged their experiences and prayed together.

These meetings are very important for those who come to Medjugorje as well as for those who work in Medjugorje at the service of pilgrims. Through the diversity of our work with the pilgrims we enrich one another, we

understand better the importance of the Apostolate and receive councils for our work.

About 170 participants from 15 countries took part in this meeting. They adopted a common Declaration:

"The Ninth International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity Groups was held at the beginning of the Lenten graceful time of prayer, fasting, penance and conversion, and under the shelter of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. At the meeting under the title, "Pray, Pray, Pray..." 170 participants from 15 countries from all over the world gathered.

Aware that, as Christians, we are called to follow Christ completely (Lk 5:1-11), we understand our responsibility for the tasks given by our Saviour in this contemporary, sometimes godless world.

The world and each individual can be open to the grace of God through prayer and thus establish a dialogue with the Creator of the world (Mt 6:7-15). Precisely in Medjugorje, the prayer movement represents a specific way of renewal of the Church and a specific response to the generosity of God.

Our Lady calls us with perseverance to pray with the heart for this peaceless world (message of September 25th, 2001), which tears itself down in hatred and selfishness. This is why we, the participants of this seminar invite everyone to abandonment in prayer, because this is the road that can lead the world and each individual to Christ, who is our peace.

Encouraged by the presence of Our Lady in this Shrine and by her motherly patience and love for us, we invite all human hearts to recognize Our Lady's voice that calls us to prayer and conversion.

In the time of Lent, we encourage in a special way generosity, renouncement and fasting as a form of encounter with Christ in those who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned... (Mt 25:31-46).

From this meeting held in the spirit of prayer, and from this place, which has become a sign of encounter and prayer of the whole world, we invite everyone to pray for unity of the Church, for peace in the world, and for the conversion of sinners.

Obedient to the message of Our Lady, we tend also to make her voice present in every heart, and to implant her school of prayer into our parish communities and our families.

Although coming from different parts of the world, through prayer we were united in one family. May this fruitful sign speak to the contemporary humanity, which is so disunited.

Medjugorje, February 21st, 2002, The participants”
<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

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.

While you’re there speak to your pastor about participating in the Priest’s Retreat with Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J., 10-12 September 2002.

Tell him you will work to gain sponsorship for him to go. More details in future issues of “The PILGRIM.”

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.

20 APRIL 2002 DAY of
RECOLLECTION for WOMEN with
FATHER BILL McCARTHY of MY
FATHER’S HOUSE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is hosting a Day of Recollection for Women with Father Bill McCarthy, M.Ss.A., of My Father’s House, Moodus, CT. This will be on Saturday, 20 April 2002, in the Upper Room at Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ, 08043. Advanced or pre-registration is required in order to support the light lunch and refreshments to be served. Check-in starts at 8 AM with the first talk at 9 AM. Sunday Holy Mass will end the day starting around 4 PM.

This will follow by one week the Spiritual Rally for Men “Come Back to Me” from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ.

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

OCTOBER 2002 RETREAT with
FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2002 RETREAT with Father John Hampsch, CMF (2002 RFJH) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ from Friday, 18 October 2002, through Sunday, 20 October 2002. This weekend will be immediately following the Camden Diocese Charismatic Conference in Wildwood, NJ and will concentrate on Spiritual Warfare.

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

2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE (2002 RC) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ.

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

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

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

The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2003, with a 3-Day Extension (3DX) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003. 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 “HEARTS AFLAME,” “S’ELAH,” “The FATHER’S LOVE,” “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 - Inner Healing.”

Rooms may be booked at the \$## rate for both the 2003 RC and 3DX as well as up to 7 days before or after the events. This rate and availability of additional rooms expires on 2/19/2003.

The regular room rate is currently \$#### per room per night and will probably go up by March of 2003.

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 PFMC Volunteer Staff

THANK YOU, VICTORIOUS JESUS

Dear friends, you who venerate Our Lady! I wonder if anyone can remain speechless facing the fact of the Resurrection of Jesus? Can anyone retain his feelings and withdraw himself from crying out to the Saviour: Thank you, victorious Lord! Bravo, Jesus! You are our salvation! In you is the source of life, in your light we see the light!

On the day of the Resurrection, what was the state of mind of Jesus' executioners? What did they feel seeing what had happened? Out of shame and fear, could they show up in public?

Jesus' opponents went terribly wrong. They wanted to kill Him, but he became eternally alive. They wanted to remove Him from the scene, and behold, He plays His role in the whole world. They wanted to ridicule and deride the King of the Jews, but they had to cry, and Jesus became the King of a Kingdom that has no end.

Jesus' opponents wanted to nail the hands of Jesus, to prevent Him from helping anyone. But they went wrong. Jesus is risen and since then His hands reach many sick, sinners to whom He grants forgiveness, through His hands is given the Blood and the Body of salvation. Since then, His hands are extended towards the poor, the suffering and the afflicted. Jesus' opponents wanted to nail the feet of Jesus, to prevent Him from walking on this earth. Again, they were wrong. Since then, Jesus became a traveler who reaches the most distant countries, who knocks at every door and visits families and peoples... The world is full of Him. He is in all of the churches, consciences, human hearts. He walks in the world through His servants in Holy Communion and in the sacraments.

Further, Jesus' opponents wanted to pierce Jesus' heart, thinking that would be the end of His beating. Again, they were wrong. The heart of Jesus beats since then in the millions of persons, in countless Christians. Since then, every sinner can lay his hand on the heart of Jesus and hear the beatings of His love and acceptance. Jesus' opponents wanted to shut Jesus' thirsty mouth, giving Him a bitter vinegar to drink. Again, they did not succeed. Today, humanity receives from this mouth the salvific flow of words of peace, life, forgiveness, love and salvation.

In Medjugorje, Our Lady calls us to listen to these words.

Finally, the executioners lay Jesus in the tomb thinking that this will end the history of a person. However, the history

The PILGRIM

of the New Man and of the world renewed by Him begins here. Death and hatred remained in the tomb and Jesus rose up to a new life. The tombstone is taken away and the door of the tomb became the door of life. What a paradox! What was incomprehensible until then becomes reality. This is why Father Rufin Silic, a renowned Franciscan, says: "Christ's tomb became a mother's womb where new children of God are born. For Christ's faithful, the tomb is no more the end but the beginning of life. The cross is not any more the tree of death, but the tree of life."

Father Mario Knezovic

**NUMBER of HOLY COMMUNIONS and
NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS**

During the month of February, 40,000 received Holy Communion and 601 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

**THE ANNUAL APPARITION of OUR
LADY to MIRJANA SOLDO**



The visionary Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo had daily apparitions from June 24th 1981 to December 25th 1982. During the last daily apparition, Our Lady gave her the 10th secret, and told her that she would appear to her once a year, on the 18th of March. It has been this way through the years.

This year several thousand pilgrims gathered to pray the Rosary, which began at 8:45 AM at the Cenacolo Community in Medjugorje. The apparition lasted from 9:27 a.m. to 9:34 a.m. and Our Lady gave the message [which appears on page 14].

**YOUNG FRANCISCANS from SPLIT
ON PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE**

11.03.2002 – On Saturday, March 9th, 2002, a group of young Franciscans from the Province of the Most Holy Redeemer (Split, Croatia) with their Masters Father Anto and Father Simo, came on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

ACCOMMODATION for all the priests IS A GIFT FROM THE PARISHIONERS, WHO WILL RECEIVE THEM IN THEIR HOMES.

To bring with you: The alb and stole, a Bible, a small radio and head-phones with an FM frequency (for simultaneous translation).

QUESTIONNAIRE: “THE SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT of the QUEEN of PEACE in the WORLD “

Inspired by the theme of the Ninth International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity Groups “Pray, Pray, Pray...”, we started in February 2002 a project called “Questionnaire: The Spiritual Movement of the Queen of Peace In The World”.

The movement inspired by Our Lady’s apparitions in Medjugorje includes pilgrimages to Medjugorje, the creation of Peace Centres and prayer groups all over the world, as well as pastoral, editorial, humanitarian and other activities...

We have prepared a questionnaire to be published on our web page in various languages, which will give us the possibility of having a better idea of the worldwide dimension of this movement at the service of the Universal Church, which will also enable us to better know each other and to better communicate with different groups all over the world, as well as to grow better together in prayer and in service.

This is why we ask all of the guides and leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje prayer, pilgrim and charity groups to kindly fill in this Questionnaire and send it to the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje by e-mail to lidija.paris@medjugorje.hr or by fax to +387 36 651 444.

SUMMER SCHEDULE at the SHRINE: - MAY 1st, 2002

The summer prayer program schedule at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje begins this year on May 1st. Prayer of the Rosary in the parish church will begin at 6 PM. Holy Mass will be at 7 PM, followed by the prayer program according to the day of the week. Eucharistic adoration on Wednesday and Saturday will begin at 10 PM. Rosary on the Apparition Hill and the Way of the Cross on Krizevac will begin at 4 PM.

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

presentation of the lecturers: on the web-page www.medjugorje.hr under the title International Meetings - The 7th International Meeting for Priests - [Programme](#))

Many priests who do not have access to Internet may not have been informed about the existence of such an international meeting in Medjugorje. Therefore, we kindly ask all Organizers of pilgrimages, Prayer Groups and Centres for Peace to diffuse this information as largely as possible by all means at your disposition, so that as many priests as possible may participate. We also kindly ask you, as much as it is possible, to materially help priests who wish to come, but who do not have the necessary funds for such a journey. Thank you, and may the Lord and Our Lady, Queen of Peace, bless all your efforts in spreading Gospa’s message of peace.

You may make reservations by e-mail: lidija.paris@medjugorje.hr or by fax: +387-36-651-444, in the Information Booth personally, by phone/fax: +387-36-651-988 or by e-mail: informacije@medjugorje.hr.

In place of financial payment, we ask the priests to kindly celebrate five Mass intentions. The

**PILGRIMAGE for DEAF PERSONS
from the USA**



08.03.2002 – A group of deaf persons from the USA came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje at the beginning of March, 2002, organized by “Medjugorje Web” (Steve Shaw). There was also a priest with them who knows sign language, as

well as two interpreters.

There are very few of those who know the sign language, so it is very difficult for deaf persons to find a priest who could hear their confessions. During this pilgrimage, all of them could experience the special grace of God given in this “confessional of the world”.

The Queen of Peace always invites us to “pray with the heart”. This very special group of pilgrims helped many to “pray with the heart” when during English Mass, instead of words and voices, they sung the glory of God with their whole being and their whole body...

**DEATH of CARDINAL FRANJO
KUCHARIC**

12.03.2002 – Cardinal Franjo Kuharic departed in Zagreb on March 11, 2002, at the age of 82, in his 57th year of priesthood.



He was ordained a priest on July 15, 1945 by the Blessed cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, and "was sent in a blood bath" of the communist regime. He was ordained a bishop on May 3, 1964. Five years later, he was appointed apostolic administrator of the archdiocese of Zagreb, and June 16, 1970

archbishop of Zagreb, service which he rendered until October 4, 1997. Several times, he was elected president of the Conference of the bishops of Yugoslavia, and since the creation of the Conference of the bishops of Croatia, he was its first president, until his retirement in 1997. At the Consistory of February 2, 1983, the Pope Jean-Paul II named him

cardinal. He was member of the Congregation for the clergy and the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the discipline of the sacraments.

Cardinal Kuharic on Medjugorje: “We bishops, after a three-year-long commission study accept Medjugorje as a holy place, as a shrine. This means that we have nothing against it if someone venerates the Mother of God in agreement with the teaching and the belief of the Church... Therefore, we are leaving that to further study. The Church does not hurry.” (Glas Koncila, August 15, 1993)

Cardinal Kuharic was buried on March 14, 2002 in the Cathedral of Zagreb. The liturgy of the burial was presided by the special envoy of the Holy Father, the Cardinal Jozef Tomko, former prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, with the participation of the Apostolic Nuncio in Croatia, Archbishop Giulio Einaudi, the president of the Conference of the Bishops of Croatia, Archbishop Josip Bozanic, the Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Joachim Meisner, Cardinal Friedrich Wetter of Munich, Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Archbishop of Bucharest Ioan Robu, Archbishop of Belgrade Stanislav Hocevar, a great number of bishops of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro and other countries, as well as representatives of other Christian churches and other religions.

Pope John Paul II sent a telegram of condolence to Archbishop Josip Bozanic of Zagreb, Croatia, upon learning of the death of Cardinal Franjo Kuharic.

The Pope writes that the deceased cardinal “knew how to serve with wisdom and faithfulness the people of God



who were entrusted to his pastoral care. During the time of the communist regime as well as during the recent troubled period of national history, he committed himself

with all his energy to defending the liberty and the dignity of the Croatian people. ... A man completely dedicated to the cause of the Gospel, he gave a coherent testimony of Christ, tirelessly instilling confidence and courage in the faithful during the trying times to which the Croatian land has been subjected.”

EXODUS of CROATIAN CATHOLICS from BOSNIA

17.03.2002 – Ten years after the beginning and seven years after the end of the war, there is a new exodus of the Catholics from Bosnia in view. Thousands of refugees lodged temporarily in Drvar (Bosnia) want to go to Knin (Croatia), because they cannot go back to their homes in Central Bosnia or in the Serbian part of Bosnia. The bishops of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Cardinal Puljic, try for many years now to make aware the public of the position of Croatian Catholics in their dioceses, but with no success.

During the past year, 1200 Croatian refugee families were expelled from their lodging, and in next two months, there may be 300 more. It means that within the next few months all of the Croatian refugees would be expelled from Drvar.

In February of the past year, the Holy Father interceded for refugees and exiles from Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said that we cannot and must not forget this injustice. “Tens of thousands of persons from the region of Banja Luka, from Bosnian Posavina and other parts of the country wait to return to their homes, and”, he said, “wait for a satisfying solution in the light of the accords of Washington and Dayton”. It is necessary “to correct the existing injustices and to pay attention to legitimate expectations of those who are directly concerned, and who demand the respect of their inalienable rights. This is the only basis of the future in a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious country as Bosnia-Herzegovina”. The Pope also reminded the unconditional need of religious freedom for all.

A BISHOP from VIETNAM at the SHRINE of the QUEEN of PEACE



19.03.2002 – Msgr. Nguyen Quang Tuyen, Bishop of Bac Ninh, with his secretary, and Msgr. Nguyen Chan Hung, Administrator of Hai Phong from Vietnam, were in

Medjugorje from March 16 to 18, 2002.

They came to Europe for the regular Ad Limina visit to the Holy Father in Rome, and then went for pilgrimage to Our Lady's shrines of Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje. They are convinced that Our Lady appears in Medjugorje, shows Christ and calls us to prayer and to

peace. They came to pray to Our Lady for the Church in Vietnam, and for priestly vocations.

ORCHESTRA for the YOUTH FESTIVAL MLADIFEST 13 – AN APPEAL to MUSICIANS

21.03.2002 – The 13TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PRAYER MEETING "WITH MARY WITNESS PEACE AND JOY" will take place from July 31 to August 6, 2002. For this occasion, gathers every year in Medjugorje an international orchestra to accompany the conferences and prayer by music.

We ask young musicians who want to play in the orchestra to send their application to: COMMITTEE FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE 13TH YOUTH PRAYER MEETING, by fax to: + 387 36 651 988 or by e-mail to: informacije@medjugorje.hr.

Mention: your name and family name, age, address (fax, e-mail), the instrument you are playing and for how long. After the election, the Committee will contact you personally. THANK YOU

LENTEN RECOLLECTION DAY for THOSE WHO WORK in the MEDIA

23.03.2002 – On Saturday, March 23, 2002, the eve of the Palm Sunday, the Information Centre “Mir” Medjugorje and Radio “Mir” Medjugorje organized a recollection day for about 40 persons from Herzegovina who work in the media.

They were welcomed by the host of the day, Father Mario Knezovic. Doctor Father Luka Tomasevic, a university professor from Split (Croatia), gave a talk on “Ethical and Christian Challenges of Globalization.” The participants were from: Dnevni List, Croatian Radio Herceg-Bosna, HTV Mostar, Nasa Ognjista, Radio Kupres, Radio Posusje, Slobodna Dalmacija, Vecernji List, Ziral, reporters of different Croatian daily and weekly newspapers, Information Centre “Mir” Medjugorje and Radio “Mir” Medjugorje.

After discussion on the theme, the participants had the occasion to make their Easter confession. They joined the parishioners and the pilgrims for the evening prayer program, and after Mass gathered again for a social, where they had the occasion to know each other better and to exchange experiences in their work in the media.

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

K

