



The PILGRIM

Vol. 13, No. 5

Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

May 2002

The Monthly MESSAGE alleged to be from the GOSPA, Our Lady Queen of Peace, to an alleged visionary from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina appears with REFLECTION starting on page 14.
(The PFMC upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

A PRAYER



My Lord, open my heart to the fullness of my vocation to become holy. Forgive my sins and take away my earthly passions.

Increase in me graces and virtues toward Heavenly perfection. I can do none of this of my own accord, but I can say "yes" to Your call. I am so helpless Lord, so very helpless. And yet, with the Holy Spirit, I am guided to do all that You call me to in and through Love. Let grace overflow in my soul that I may be in love with You at the top of my list. Come, Holy Spirit, and sanctify me. AMEN.

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

PFMC ACTIVITIES JOIN US NOW

Kathleen is working closely with all of the volunteers to brainstorm for ideas around which to fashion future PFMC activities.

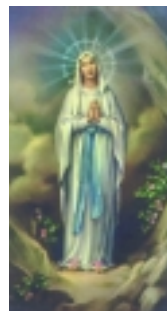
We have just had the most beautiful Day of Recollection for Women. Father McCarthy was excited about the women who attended. He wants to come back to do some additional activities at the PFMC. He specifically mentioned a Day of Recollection for Men. Father O'Leary thinks he wants Father McCarthy for a parish mission at Assumption in Atco, NJ for August. If you have ideas please let us know at (856) 768-9228.

JULY 24 to 31, 2002 PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - SIGN UP NOW!

Once again we are about to have to cancel a beautiful pilgrimage because pilgrims that have

indicated they wanted to go have not yet signed up. Because of 9/11/01 the airlines have clamped down on group reservations, and require us (in order to get group rates which are definitely less than single bookings) to submit names 60 days ahead of the departing date. Large deposits must be made to hold the seats. It is just too difficult for us or for any non-profit organization or small travel agent to forecast the numbers, and thus they cannot make such a deposit.

If you are at all interested on going on this pilgrimage, please call Kathleen immediately, or send in the enclosed application from immediately. We are still holding 15 seats for this group and will have to give up more treasured seating as the departure date approaches. **PLEASE JOIN US. THIS IS SUCH A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE.** It is safe to travel, and Lourdes is such a beautiful place of healing and prayer. We know you will enjoy this summer pilgrimage with Father Paschal Onunwa, Livia and Vincent Nocella as coordinators.



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

"The PILGRIM" for May 2002 is dedicated to "Our Lady, Bride of the Holy Spirit with His Seven Fold gifts." See page 3 for the Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ." section.

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

Price: \$1899 including air taxes - double occupancy with private bathroom, **\$299** for Private Room Lourdes and Paris.

Round Trip (RT) air transfer from Newark to Paris and then RT air transfer to Pau via **Air France**.

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

4 nights Lourdes at Hotel Imperial, **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), **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 walking tour of Lourdes with time to visit the Healing Baths of Lourdes.

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

Tickets to the Eiffel Tower, with elevator to the third floor, **River cruise** on Seine River in Paris

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)

NOVEMBER 1 to 14, 2002 PILGRIMAGE to ITALY

Keith and Kathleen will guide this group of pilgrims to the places below. Reservations are

being accepted, and we encourage you to enjoy traveling with them. They have been to most of these sites before, and found that the history of the area coupled with the love of the people and the great spirituality of the places we visit will bring you to new heights of spiritual growth and internal joy. Again, we have 30 seats available, and must have reservations at least 60 days before departure dates. Won't you look over the program and sign up now?

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

½ day guided tour of Assisi.

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

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.

½ day guided walking tour of Florence including entrance fee to Academia to see Michaelangelo's "David".

½ day guided tour of Rome.

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

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

Wednesday Papal Audience.

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.

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
 Portage 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)

FATHER ROBERT DEGRANDIS - HEALING GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT for PRIESTS, DEACONS, and SEMINARIANS SEPTEMBER 10, 11, and 12, 2002

The PFMC will sponsor a weekday retreat for priests, deacons and seminarians with Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. as the retreat master. It will be on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The PFMC has sponsored this retreat in the past and all that have attended have been truly overwhelmed with their experience. Father Robert has given this retreat to thousands including several retreats held in Rome, Italy. Father will go over the Healing Charisms of the Holy Spirit as you have never heard them taught. You will be renewed in joy to use them in your personal life and in the fullness of your ordained ministry.

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Please pencil September 10, 11, and 12th 2002 into your parish schedule and talk to your priests.

The location of this retreat will be the Holiday Inn on NJ 70 at Sayer Avenue, across from the main entrance to Garden State Park in Cherry Hill, NJ. Each priest, deacon or seminarian will have a king bed private

room. The hotel has a nice gym and indoor heated swimming pool for some exercise.

For prayer time, we will have a small chapel and we have Bishop DiMarzio's permission for offering daily Holy Mass, confessions and adoration at the hotel.

Your retreat will be held in a portion of a ballroom, and meals will be available for you to purchase at the local hotel restaurant or restaurants nearby. The PFMC will have coffee and light snacks available throughout the day and evening. There will also be tapes, CD's and books for you to browse through.

The cost of this retreat is \$199 and includes two nights of bed and breakfast in the hotel, and registration for the retreat. Please refer to the insert in this issue of "The PILGRIM" for more details.

For non-ordained persons, we ask that you give your retreat flier to a deacon or priest of your acquaintance. Would you be willing to sponsor your priest or a few priests who want to come but do not have the funds? Please contact Kathleen at (856) 768-9228 if you can help in any way.

OCTOBER 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2002 - FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF, SPIRITUAL WARFARE SEMINAR

Spiritual Warfare – it is what each of us encounter in our Christian lives every day. It is our struggle with truth vs. untruth, with good and evil, with Holy Spirits and unholy spirits. Do you ever want to understand what is happening to you or your family member? Do you ever feel helpless, depressed or dejected and cry out for help? Do you ever question why things happen in your life more than in others? Do you want to know how to pray against the evil one, and turn yourself around? Do you want to learn how to pray with others or over others? Do you want to know how to reach your family members and especially your children?

Come to this weekend with Father. John Hampsch to be held at the Hilton Hotel, beginning at 7 PM on Friday night and ending at 5 PM on Sunday night. With Bishop DiMarzio's permission, we will have daily Holy Mass, Confessions, and Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily and Holy Mass music will be provided by "S'Elah," and an evening of music will be provided by "Hearts Afire".

Saturday and Sunday lunch meals are included in the registration price. This is not an optional feature. It is necessary to provide the luncheons to meet public space requirements for the hotel. These meals will be full hot dinner type meals, served buffet style and all you can eat. We will also have a gift and book display available for you to browse. Father Hampsch will also have his books and tapes available for you to purchase.

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

Register for seminar and lunches by filling in the enclosed application and mailing it with a check or credit card number to PFMC at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963. You will be sent a confirmation letter and schedule upon receipt of your application.

DAUGHTERS of RUTH SUPPORT GROUP - A WEEKLY DAY TIME PROGRAM for WOMEN

As a support group for Christian women who are healing themselves through defining themselves within a prayerful and therapeutic atmosphere, the Daughters of Ruth reaches out to all women willing to work on healing themselves. Within the Daughters of Ruth Support Group, women will learn new coping skills and develop more confidence in their skills as they enter into new life roles and relationships.

Many women experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, anger, panic attacks, frustration, mood swings related to daily life stressors, or work and home environments.

Women have concerns about marital relationships, unforgiveness, parenting and family difficulties, as well as unresolved conflicts related to family origins.

We will look at root causes that have disrupted daily living. We will deal with life issues of job changes, self esteem, and parental aging and car. We will also explore issues of victimhood through verbal, physical and sexual abuse, dependency, co-dependency, and so much more.

Come and meet with Irene Atwell, M.Ed., LPC, a private practicing, licensed therapist, specializing in individual, family and group therapy. She has worked in the clinical field for over three decades including over seven years with Catholic Charities. Her skill and expertise are significant in working with those who need support, healing, and behavior changes.

There is no charge for this women's support group. Irene will accept free will offerings only. What an opportunity to receive healing supportive help and prayer. How can one turn down this opportunity?

The PFMC will offer a safe, confidential, and prayerful atmosphere from which you will be exposed to implementing new healthy techniques of living.

WHERE: Upper Room of Epiphany House at the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), 61 Cooper Road (CR-575), Voorhees, New Jersey 08043

DATE: Every Tuesday Morning beginning May 21, 2002

TIME: 10 AM sharp to 11:30 AM (includes ½ hour of healing prayer)

CHARGE: None. Free will offering only.

Irene will be available to explore the need for individual therapy if needed. We will have a monthly Holy Mass (if priest available) and Confessions.

Bring yourself, your friends and family members. All are welcome. Pre registration helpful but not necessary.

Call Irene Atwell at (856) 665 0959 OR Kathleen Werner at (856) 768-9228.

DEAN PULCINI WILL TEACH on MARIAN THEMES in MAY and INTRODUCTION to LITURGY in SEPTEMBER.

Join us on Wednesday nights from 7 PM to 9:30 PM with Dean Pulcini. He will conclude his teachings for the year 2002 with teachings on Mary. We will look at the various Titles of Our Lady, and of her in the Church.

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In the fall, starting in September Dean will take up teaching and "Introduction to Liturgy". Put Wednesday evenings from 7 PM to 9:30 PM on your calendar starting in September. The exact date of beginning these classes will be in the August 2002 issue of "The PILGRIM."

(Kathleen, Keith, the students, and volunteers)

RETREAT CONFERENCE-March 14th through 19th 2003 - MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

We have gone to contract with the Hilton Hotel for our 2003 March 14th, 15th, and 16th RETREAT CONFERENCE and the extension March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003. Guest speakers will be Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, and Father Robert DeGrandis.

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

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

The Hilton Hotel is now accepting room reservations for the 2003 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. Please call the Hilton Hotel at 1-800-HILTONS or

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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.

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

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

Send to us the enclosed registration to attend to the PFMC at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees NJ, 08043. Please note that a youth program will be available. With over 120 youth at our last retreat, we know that this is an important part of the program. So please sign up your children with your own registration.

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

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

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

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)

THE BEAUTIFUL PICTURE of MOTHER of the TWO HEARTS, QUEEN of the HOLY EUCHARIST

At our 2002 Retreat Conference we were graced by a painting by Neal Hughes of Our Lady of the Two Hearts. As she stood majestic in the entryway of the conference it was as though she personally

welcomed us with her hearts. She offered to transform our own hearts into hers and her Sons.

We have contacted Michael McColgan, who claims to have had the vision of Our Lady and was able to convey it to Neal to put on canvas. With it came a message that we wish to share with all who attended. Copies of the print are available through Mike, Neal or the PFMC. We regard what is happening with Mike McColgan in the same fashion as we regard what is happening with all private revelation. See the box on the bottom of page 2.

The alleged message and alleged vision concerning the painting of Our Lady, Mother of the Two Hearts, Queen of the Holy Eucharist, November 13, 1999, as presented by Michael McColgan follows:

Our lady came- in the middle of the church (Holy Name) in mid-air - with a white/cream colored dress and mantle. She said, "My child, I come to you this day under a new title" (she then raised her arms upward, palms facing up and then palms on an angle down, with light coming from above her and coming off her hands and down upon the globe she was upon - at that moment a white host, blazing like the sun appeared in the middle of her tunic, chest area, and then the hearts of Jesus and Mary appeared in front of the Eucharist) after a moment she spoke again, "I am Mary...Mother of the Two Hearts, Queen of the Holy Eucharist. My little ones, first I am Mother...Mother of God and thus Mother of all mankind and then I am Queen by nature of the first gift and grace that the Most Holy Trinity conferred upon me. My Son desires that an image be made of what you have seen and that this image be propagated and devotion spread under this title...the reason and grace is threefold. For greater understanding, devotion and love for the Holy Eucharist, the hearts of Jesus and Mary and finally for me, your Mother.

My children, many still do not comprehend the greatness of the present moment...or the moments that lie before you. In a short time the veil will be lifted. For now, I am in need of your prayers and sacrifices to help me bring souls back to my Son.

My child, on the 13th of December a door of great grace will open...it will usher in the coming moments of mercy. I will intervene in an even more extraordinary way from that day onward in the battle between the Woman clothed with the sun and Lucifer. I ask all of my children to attend Mass, pray the rosary and offer to me every sacrifice...culminating in their consecration to my Son's Sacred Heart and my Immaculate heart...

My children, whom I love so dearly, go in the peace of my Son, Who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

Our Lady stayed for a moment longer. She was serious throughout the message and vision, but joyful and serene.

(Michael McColgan)

ANNUAL PFMC MEETING and PICNIC at 61 COOPER ROAD

The PFMC required corporate annual meeting is combined with a potluck picnic at the PFMC will be on Sunday, August 4, 2002. It is always a pot luck event, and a lot of fun. Please mark your calendar now so that you will be sure to come.

We will have the grill, picnic tables and chairs ready, a lovely patio for our 3 o'clock Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and talk by a priest. Bring your own meat to cook, and a casserole to share (vegetable, pasta, etc. with or without meat) or your favorite desert. For those who don't cook, bring a bucket of chicken as that always is a welcomed meal.

We will have all the condiments and paper products to use, as well as the sodas. Be sure to bring the children...There will be bubbles to blow, balls to kick, and fun yard things to do. We will have hot dogs for the children.

Oh, don't forget your lawn chair. See you then!

PFMC RECIPE BOOK

We are looking for favorite recipes to put into a recipe book to encourage donations for the PFMC. Would you be interested sharing your favorite recipe? Would you be willing to type and help coordinate such a project? Please let Kathleen know by writing to her at PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08034-4963.

NEEDED for the PFMC

We have great need for 4-5 nice picnic tables with benches for the Epiphany House yard. When we have gatherings it is so nice to have our breaks or meals outside. These would be placed around the beautiful patio and statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. If you can help with a contribution of a bench and table or toward payment of one or more, we would be most grateful. Come and see our grounds this spring, enjoy

a book from our library, and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere for quiet prayer.

We also need someone who would come into the PFMC one time a week, and vacuum, empty waste baskets, and clean the kitchen and bathrooms. If you can't type or don't have a lot of time but have a gift of cleaning, and would help us in this way, please call Kathleen at (856) 768-9228.

We are still looking for someone to help with the typing, and if you have a gift of computer programs Keith needs a lot of help. He is especially interested in finding someone to maintain our web site, helping with format of newsletter, and Access programs. One or two hours a week would be great.

If interested in helping with Our Lady's work on computers, please call Keith at (856) 914-7297 to talk to him during his work hours and/or leave him a voice mail message. E-mail offers of computer support and assistance at either PFMCkmw@comcast.net or keithwerner@comcast.net will receive responses.

(The editor)

BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Unfortunately, the lack of familiarity with Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is not uncommon these days. I remember when I was "growing up" in the 60s that on special occasions my home parish had exposition and benediction. Then, for whatever reason, this beautiful ritual disappeared. I never remember encountering the practice until I went to the seminary in 1979, where we had exposition and benediction for Sunday Vespers, Wednesday Holy Hours and 40 Hours Devotion. Nevertheless, when I was assigned as a college chaplain, I met several college students who had never witnessed exposition or benediction, or even understood what the terms meant. A sad commentary indeed.

Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is not only a very old devotion in our Church, but one that highlights the fundamental mystery of the Holy Eucharist that our Lord is truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity, in the Blessed Sacrament.

In his holy Thursday letter to priests, "Dominicae cenae" (1980), Pope John Paul II wrote, "Since the Eucharistic mystery was instituted out of love, and makes Christ sacramentally present, it is worthy of thanksgiving and worship. And this worship must be

prominent in all our encounters with the Blessed Sacrament” (No. 3).

While emphasizing the importance of the Mass, the Holy Father recommends various forms of Eucharistic devotion: personal prayer and periods of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, exposition and benediction, Forty Hours devotion, Eucharistic processions, Eucharistic Congresses and a special observance of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. All of these devotions, which focus on the Blessed Sacrament, aid in our spiritual union with our Lord. As Jesus said, “I Myself am the Bread of Life. No one who comes to Me shall ever be hungry, no one who believes in Me shall ever thirst” (Jn 6:35).

The ritual for exposition and benediction as presented most recently by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship (1973) basically follows this ritual: The priest places the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance or ostensorium on the altar for adoration. (A ciborium containing the Blessed Sacrament may also be used, but the monstrance allows one to view the Holy Eucharist.)

At this time, a hymn of praise (such as “O Salutaris Hostia”) is sung as the priest incenses the Blessed Sacrament. During the period of adoration, the faithful may pray in quiet and foster a deeper spiritual communion with the Lord. However, the adoration period should also include prayers, such as a novena or Liturgy of the Hours, and readings from Sacred Scripture accompanied by a homily or exhortation to increase the understanding of the Eucharistic mystery.

At the end of the period of adoration, the priest again incenses the Blessed Sacrament as a hymn of praise is sung (such as “Tantum Ergo”), and then blesses the congregation with the Blessed Sacrament, making the sign of the cross. After the blessing, the priest reposes the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

This ritual seems to have arisen around the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi by Pope Urban IV in 1264. On this feast day, the Holy Eucharist was carried in procession in vessels similar to our present day monstrances, which allowed the faithful to view the Blessed Sacrament. Eventually a custom arose, especially in Germany, of keeping the Blessed Sacrament continually exposed to view in all of the churches.

At the same time, members of guilds began to gather to sing canticles in the evening after work in honor of the Blessed Mother. In particular, the singing of the “Salve Regina,” composed in the 11th century,

became popular in these devotions. These evening services were called “Salat” in France.

Over the next two or three centuries, these two services seem to merge. The faithful would gather, usually in the evening, for chanted prayers, particularly in honor of our Blessed Mother. The Blessed Sacrament would be exposed, more prayers would be chanted or recited, and the service would end with benediction. Interestingly, benediction is still known in France as La Salat.

(by Father William Saunders, Director of the Notre Dame Institute, from August 4, 1994 issue of the Arlington Catholic Herald (c) 1994. The newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, 1-800-377-0511 with permission.)

PRAY UNCEASINGLY: PERPETUAL ADORATION as a NECESSARY ANTIDOTE to ABORTION

The present title of our meditation can be shortened and simplified. It should read, “Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the Catholic Pro-life Movement.”

We have already spoken at length and in detail about the Holy Eucharist. Our focus has been to bring out the role of the Holy Eucharist in obtaining the graces we need to stem the tide of infant homicide and restore moral sanity in the modern world. As we reflected on the power of the Eucharist to achieve miracles, we kept insisting that these miracles will be performed by Our Lord only if we believe. Christ promised that those who believe will be able to move mountains by the divine power which Christ will exercise in their favor. But the condition set down by Christ is always, “If they believe.”

What the Savior told His contemporaries He is telling us. The moving of mountains can be done only by God. He will do so provided we believe in His Omnipotence as the man of Nazareth who is our Incarnate God. Our present task will be to see how prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is, by all odds, the most powerful in moving the will of God to exercise His divine power. There is a profound logic to understanding how prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is so potent because it is inspired by such faith as no other prayer in human experience depends upon.

What are the depths of faith that underlie prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? They are nothing less than the four most profound mysteries of Christian revelation. When we pray before the Holy Eucharist, we profess our faith in the Incarnation of the Son of God; we profess our faith in the true humanity of Jesus Christ assumed by the Second Person of the Holy Trinity; we profess our faith in Christ's death on Calvary and Resurrection from the dead; and we profess our faith in the continued *physical* presence of the risen Christ on earth in our midst, ready to exercise the limits of His divine power in our favor, depending on the measure and depth of our faith in this quadrad of mysteries of Christianity.

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

POPE JOHN PAUL II RECALLS and ENCOURAGES NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

The following are excerpts taken from the talk that Pope John Paul II gave at Phoenix Park during his historic three-day visit to Ireland, from September 29 to October 1, 1979.

From the Upper Room in Jerusalem, from the Last Supper, in a certain sense, the Eucharist writes the history of human hearts and of human communities.

Faith in Christ has profoundly penetrated into the consciousness and life of your [Irish] ancestors. The Eucharist transformed their souls for eternal life, in union with the living God. May this exceptional Eucharistic encounter of today be at the same time a payer for the dead, for your ancestors and forebears. With their help, may it become more fruitfully a prayer for the living, for the present generation of sons and daughters of today's Ireland, preparing for the end of the twentieth century, so that they can meet the challenges that will be put before them.

Yes, Ireland, that has overcome so many difficult moments in her history, is being challenged in a new way today, for she is not immune from the influence of ideologies and trends which present-day civilization and progress carry with them. The very capability of mass media to bring the whole world into your homes produces a new kind of confrontation with values and trends that up until now have been alien to Irish society.

Pervading materialism imposes its dominion on man today in many different forms and with aggressiveness that spares no one. The most sacred

principles, which were the sure guides for the behavior of individuals and society, are being hollowed out by false pretenses concerning freedom, the sacredness of life, the indissolubility of marriage, the true sense of human sexuality, the right attitude towards the material goods that progress has to offer. Many people now are tempted to self-indulgence and consumerism, the human identity is often defined by what one owns. Thus they can become more selfish in their demands. Everybody wants a full freedom in all the areas of human behavior and new models of morality are being proposed in the name of would-be freedom.

When the moral fiber of a nation is weakened, when the sense of personal responsibility is diminished, then the door is open for the justification of injustices, for violence in all its forms, and for the manipulation of the many by the few. The challenge that is already with us is the temptation to accept as true freedom what in reality is only a new form of slavery.

And so, it becomes all the more urgent to steep ourselves in the truth that comes from Christ, who is "the way, the truth and the life" (Jn. 14:6), and in the strength that he himself offers us through his Spirit. It is especially in the Eucharist that the power and the love of the Lord are given to us.

The Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ offered up for us is an act of supreme love on the part of the Savior. It is his great victory over sin and death—a victory that he communicates to us. The Eucharist is a promise of eternal life, since Jesus himself tells us, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (Jn. 6:54).

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is meant to be the festive celebration of our salvation. In the Mass we give thanks and praise to God our Father for having given us redemption through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is also the center of the Church's unity, as well as her greatest treasure. In the words of the Second Vatican Council, the Eucharist contains "the Church's entire spiritual wealth" (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 5).

On Sunday mornings in Ireland, no one seeing the great crowds making their way to and from Mass could have any doubt about Ireland's devotion to the Mass. For them a whole Catholic people is seen to be faithful to the Lord's command: Do this in memory of me. I have learned with great joy that large numbers also come to Mass several times a week and even every day. This practice is a great source of grace and of growth in holiness.

Yes, it is from the Eucharist that all of us receive the grace and strength for daily living--to live real Christian lives, in the joy of knowing that God loves us, that Christ died for us, and that the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Our full participation in the Eucharist is the real source of the Christian spirit that we wish to see in our personal lives and in all aspects of society. Whether we serve in politics, in the economic, cultural, social or scientific fields--no matter what our occupation is--the Eucharist is a challenge to our daily lives.

We cannot live on the glories of our past Christian history. Our union with Christ in the Eucharist must be expressed in the truth of our lives today--in our actions, in our behavior, in our lifestyle, and in our relationships with others. For each one of us the Eucharist is a call to ever greater effort, so that we may live as true followers of Jesus: truthful in our speech generous in our deeds, concerned, respectful of the dignity and rights of all persons, whatever their rank or income, self-sacrificing, fair and just kind, considerate, compassionate and self-controlled--looking to the well being of our families, our young people, our country, Europe and the world.

The truth of our union with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is tested by whether or not we really love our fellow men and women; it is tested by how we treat others, especially our families: husbands and wives, children and parents, brothers and sisters. It is tested by whether or not we try to be reconciled with our enemies, by whether or not we forgive those who hurt us or offend us. It is tested by whether we practice in life what our faith teaches us. We must always remember what Jesus said. "You are my friends if you do what I command you" (Jn. 15:14). The Eucharist helps love to triumph in us--love over hatred, zeal over indifference.

The call to conversion in the Eucharist links the Eucharist with that other great Sacrament of God's love which is Penance. Every time that we receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we receive the forgiveness of Christ, and we know that the forgiveness comes to us through the merits of his death--the very death: that we celebrate in the Eucharist. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we are all invited to meet Christ personally in this way, and to do so frequently. This encounter with Jesus is so very important that I wrote in my first encyclical letter these words: "In faithfully observing the centuries-old practice of the Sacrament of Penance--the practice of individual confession with a personal sorrow and the

intention to amend and make satisfaction--the Church is therefore defending the human soul's individual right: man's right to a more personal encounter with the crucified forgiving Christ, with Christ saying through the minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: 'Your sins are forgiven; Go and do not sin again.' Because of Christ's love and mercy there is no sin that is too great to be forgiven; there is no sinner who will be rejected. Every person who repents will be received by Jesus Christ with forgiveness and immense love.

I wish also at this time to recall to you an important truth affirmed by the Second Vatican Council, namely: "The spiritual life, nevertheless, is not confined to participation in the liturgy" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 12). And so I also encourage you in the other exercises of devotion that you have lovingly preserved for centuries, especially those in regard to the Blessed Sacrament. These acts of piety honor God and are useful for our Christian lives; they give joy to our hearts, and help us to appreciate more the liturgical worship of the Church.

The visit to the Blessed Sacrament is a great treasure of the Catholic faith. It nourishes social love and gives us opportunities for adoration and thanksgiving, for reparation and supplication. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Exposition an Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Hours and Eucharistic processions are likewise precious element of your heritage--in full accord with the teaching of the Second Vatican Council.

It is also my joy to reaffirm before Ireland and the whole world the wonderful teaching of the Catholic Church regarding Christ's consoling presence in the Blessed Sacrament: his Real Presence in the fullest sense: the substantial presence by which the whole and complete Christ, God and man, are present (cf. *Mysterium Fidei*, 39). The Eucharist, in the Mass and outside of the Mass, is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and is therefore deserving of the worship that is given to the living God, and to him alone (cf. *Mysterium Fidei*, 55; Paul VI, 15 June 1978).

And so, dear brothers and sisters, every act of reverence, every genuflection that you make before the Blessed Sacrament, is important because it is an act of faith in Christ, an act of love for Christ. And every sign of the Cross and gesture of respect made each time you pass a church is also an act of faith.

May God preserve you in this faith--this holy Catholic faith--this faith in the Blessed Sacrament.

(Pope John Paul II gave at Phoenix Park)

A CRACKED POT

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for

What they are, and look for the good in them. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape. Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life. Remember that God uses us even with our flaws... We all have a purpose as we are.

(LtlFlwr1@aol.com)

THE ROSE

A young, new priest was walking with
An older, more seasoned priest

In the garden one day and feeling a bit
Insecure about what God had for
Him to do, he was inquiring of the older
Priest.

The older priest walked up to a
Rosebush and handed the young
Priest a rosebud and told him to
Open it without tearing off any petals.

The young priest looked in
Disbelief at the older priest and was
Trying to figure out what a rosebud
Could possibly have to do with
His wanting to know the WILL OF
GOD for his life and for his ministry.

Because of his high respect for the
older priest, he proceeded to TRY to
unfold the rose, while keeping
every petal intact. It wasn't long before
he realized how impossible it
was to do so.

Noticing the younger priest inability
To unfold the rosebud while keeping it
Intact, the older priest began to
Recite the following poem...

It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.
The secret of unfolding flowers

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.

Is not known to such as I.
 GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
 When in my hands they die.
 If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
 This flower of God's design,
 Then how can I have the wisdom
 To unfold this life of mine?
 So I'll trust in Him for leading
 Each moment of my day.
 I will look to him for His guidance
 Each step of the pilgrim way.
 The pathway that lies before me,
 Only my Heavenly Father knows.
 I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
 Just as He unfolds the rose.
 "He shall set his angels to watch over you in all thy ways."

(Jesusmaryjoseph@prodigy.net)

LOVE IS the GREATEST REASON for DEVOTION to the SACRED HEARTS NOW!

We know why Our Lord wants us to receive Him especially on First Friday and First Saturday to honor His Heart and the Heart of His Mother. But why the emphasis on Their Hearts?

There are at least five reasons. The most important is LOVE.

God is Love. He has used hearts to reveal Himself. From a most pure heart, which is human, He formed another, which became Divine.

LOVE ITSELF came into the world through Two Hearts, and thus It comes to US.

(Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament)

SAINT THERESA on EUCHARIST

Describing her First Communion Saint Theresa of the Little Flower wrote: "How sweet to my soul was the fond caress of Jesus. It was a caress of love. I felt that I was cherished very much and I said, 'I love You; I give myself to You for all time and eternity.' Jesus asked nothing of me; He claimed no sacrifice. For long since, both He and His little Therese had contemplated each other and had understood each other. On that day, however, our encounter could not be called a simple look. It was a fusion of two spirits. We were no longer two.

The PILGRIM

Therese had disappeared like a drop of water lost in the ocean; Jesus alone remained. He was Master and King. And straightway the joy of Therese became so great and so overpowering that it could no longer be contained. Tears silent and full of sweetness began to flow."

("Basic Book of the Eucharist" by Father Lovasik,
page 113. Available from the PFMC)

THE DIVINE LOVE PRAYER

This prayer may be said on the Holy Rosary. A 'Glory Be' replaces the 'Our Father', while the 'Hail Mary' is replaced by these prayers to the Blessed Sacrament. After the 'Glory Be', each prayer is repeated ten times on the beads of the Holy Rosary until all nine decades are completed.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, I adore You and I praise You in union with the nine choirs of angels.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, burning with love for me, inflame my heart with love for You.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, Thy Kingdom come.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, make us one in mind, heart and will, with You, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, through the infinite value of each Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, offered now and until the end of time, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, thank You for the personal love you have for me in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, with all my heart, I love You.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, I put all of my trust in You.

(Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament)

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 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>

OUR LADY of the MAY

O Flowers of flowers, Our Lady of the May
Thou gavest us the World's one Light of Light:
Under the stars, amid the snows, He lay;
While Angels, through the Galilean night
Sang glory and sang peace:
Nor doth their singing cease,
For thou their Queen and He their King sit crowned
Above the stars, above the bitter snows;
They chant to thee the Lily, Him the Rose,
With white Saints kneeling round.
Gone is cold night: thine now are spring and day:
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!
O Flower of flowers, our Lay of the May!
Thou gavest us the blessed Christmas mirth:
And now, not snows, but blossoms, light thy way;
We give thee the fresh flower-time of the earth.
These early flowers we bring,
Are angels of the spring,
Spirits of gracious rain and light and dew.
Nothing so like to thee the whole earth yields,
As these pure children of her vales and fields,
Bright beneath skies of blue.
Hail Holy Queen! Their fragrant breathings say:
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!
Breathe from God's garden of eternal flowers
Blessing, when we thy little children pray:
Let thy soul's grace steal gently over ours.

Send on us dew and rain,
That we may bloom again,
Nor wither in the dry and parching dust.
Lift up our hearts, till with adoring eyes,
O Morning Star! We hail thee in the skies,
Star of our hope and trust!
Sweet Star, sweet Flower, there bid thy beauty stay:
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!
O Flower of flowers, Our Lady of the May!
Thou leftest lilies rising from thy tomb:
They shone in stately and serene array,
Immaculate amid death's house of gloom.
Ah, let thy graces be
Sown in our dark hearts! We
Would make our hearts gardens for thy dear care:
Watered from wells of Paradise, and sweet
With balm winds flowing from the Mercy Seat,
And full of heavenly air:
While music ever in thy praise should play,
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!
Not only for ourselves we plead, God's Flower!
Look on thy blinded children, who still stray,
Lost in this pleasant land, thy chosen Dower!
Send us a perfect spring:
Let faith arise and sing,
And England from her long, cold winter wake.
Mother of Mercy! Turn upon her need
Thine eyes of mercy: be there spring indeed:
So shall thine Angels make
A starrier music, than our hearts can say,
O Flower of flowers, our Lady of the May!

(Lionel Johnson, Thérèse, M. I Sing of a Maiden: The Mary Book of Verse. New York: Macmillan, 1947.)

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 4/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Rejoice with me in this time of spring when all nature is awakening and your hearts long for change. Open yourselves, little children, and pray. Do not forget that I am with you and I desire to take you all to my Son that He may give you the gift of sincere love towards God and everything that is from Him. Open yourselves to prayer and seek a conversion of your hearts from God; everything else He sees and provides. 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 4/25/02

SEEK from GOD the CONVERSION of YOUR HEARTS

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, walks with us on our way through life, accompanying us with her short motherly words every month. Throughout these almost 21 years, she unceasingly confirms to us the certitude that She is with us.

We approach the month that is consecrated to the Mother of Jesus Christ. The month of May is overflowing with the springtime awakening of life in the nature which is given to us. This is why Mary, our Mother, calls us to learn from this nature, to awaken our hearts together with the awakening of nature. She already told us that our souls were like flowers. Every sin takes away the beauty of our soul, steals its smile, brings dark and negative thoughts, burdens our life, poisons human relationships, destroys love and takes away joy from the heart. Each sin is a violence against the human soul and life. Nature also does not tolerate violence. If man tries to violently change natural laws incorporated by the Creator, nature takes revenge in the form of various unknown illnesses that are escalating from day to day.

It is in the nature of man to love, to live in peace. If man does not love, he cannot be happy. When he withdraws from God, he becomes a danger to himself and to others. He starts to wither and to die spiritually. When our body becomes physically ill, it tries to get well again with all its forces and powers, and we want to help it with various medications. God has put into our spirit a desire for happiness, for peace and for love. Nobody has invented love. We discover it as a need to survive. Man can seek love in various ways and on various paths, but only God, who created the heart of man, can fill it completely and heal it. Our Lady shows us the way: Pray. She promises us her

presence, companionship, collaboration - today, at the present moment.

All big things are very simple, almost incredibly simple. Jesus was born in such a simple and incredible way, in an ordinary manger. He grew up in a simple manner, and in a very simple way he chose his disciples, who were in no way extraordinary men. Our Lady comes here in a simple way through simple visionaries and talks to us in human, comprehensible, simple words. Without noise or clamour. In this message, she wants us to learn from nature. Natural beauties exist that make one marvel and be filled with something magnificent, as if he was already in front of the Most High. However, in its essence, nature is very simple. There aren't any big factories to produce the polychromy of flowers and of meadows, the beauty of mountains and of the sea. All this is the work of the Creator. Mary also is great, but not by works done by human power, but by the hand of the Creator. This is why she cries out: "The Lord has done great things for me, holy is His Name." (Lk 1:49)

All that happens in the souls of numerous pilgrims who visit this holy place is the work of the Creator who does not forget his children. Our Lady's apparitions are today a confirmation of this certitude.

The final words of this message from Our Lady are evangelical; they are the words of Jesus: "*seek a conversion of your hearts from God; everything else He sees and provides*". Jesus said: "*Seek first the Kingdom of God and all the rest shall be given to you*" (Lk 12:31).

Mary, our Mother, thank you for these words of God, for your motherly words. Thank you for all those who believed in your words and opened their hearts for an encounter with God, the source of life, of love and of peace. Obtain for us the grace to discern what is precious from what is useless in our lives.

Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM, Medjugorje April 26, 2002

THE MEDJUGORJE EMMAUS

Jesus is risen! We celebrated Easter, the greatest Christian feast, each one in one's own way. However, have we met the Risen Jesus? Have we looked into his eyes or, maybe, our sight was obscured by doubts and darkness? Let us ask ourselves: What do we have in common with the two disciples who, on their way to Emmaus, have not recognized Jesus, although He moved in step with them? Would Jesus tell us, as He told them: "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!" (Lk 24:25)

When I reflect on the event that happened on the way to Emmaus, the spirit presses me, to put myself at the place of one of the disciples. Their Master was dishonored, condemned, crucified and killed without any fault. If truth be told, the disciples abandoned the Master even before he died on the cross. We could say that, for his followers, Jesus was truly dead. They could not believe that Jesus, if he was God, could die. They were confused and, from their perspective, betrayed in their expectations. This is why they complain: "But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." (Lk 24:21)

The disciples had their own plans, but Jesus had His own way of realizing the plan, which was not comprehensible for them. The disciples wanted a manifestation of Jesus' divinity in their own concrete lives. It is evident that the friends of Jesus were slaves of their own time; they did not seek what is from heaven, but what is from the earth. This is why it is not surprising that they could not recognize the Risen One. Human eyes cannot see what is from heaven. If truth be told, they observed Jesus just as one of their own who excelled, however, in special deeds.

The disciples finally recognised Jesus, thanks to His words and the breaking of bread. With this intervention, Jesus attracted their attention to Himself and presented Himself anew. This is what Jesus does today for each one of us: every day, He presents Himself and gives Himself in Holy Mass, in His Word, in our brothers and sisters, in the gush of the see and in the silence of the nature.

In Medjugorje, our God presents Himself in a special way. Through Mary, His Mother, he invites us on the way to Emmaus – on the way to Himself. Mary indicates Her Son and calls us to follow Him, to start the journey, She invites us to the Medjugorje Emmaus. On this way, which leads towards the Cross

Mountain or towards Apparition Hill, many walk – like the disciples of Emmaus – tired and disappointed, but after the encounter with Christ, they also pronounce the words: "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." (Lk 24:29)

This is how it goes when you meet Jesus on your way. After this encounter, nothing is the same any more; when you are moved from within, you have to change your life. This is why pilgrimages to Medjugorje are a way to Jesus through Mary. In this sense, to go to the Medjugorje Emmaus means to walk on the path on which the disciples of Emmaus (on whom we are meditating here) have walked.

Father Mario Knezovic

**NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and
NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS**

During the month of March, 80,000 received Holy Communion and 1,115 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

**IMPRESSIONS of a VIETNAMESE
BISHOP**

As we mentioned in the last issue of the Bulletin, Msgr. Nguyen Quang Tuyen, Bishop of Bac Ninh, was on a private visit to Medjugorje from March 16 to 18, 2002.

This is what he told us: "We wanted to come to this place where Our Lady calls to conversion, and especially to pray the rosary. When we go back to Vietnam, we will speak about Our Lady's call to conversion, especially her call to adore the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, and to pray for peace. We ask you to pray for the Catholics in Vietnam, that they may grow in faith, in prayer and in peace."

**THE BLESSING OF A BELL FOR A
CHAPEL IN AUSTRIA**



During the German Pilgrim Mass on March 27, 2002, Father Christian Oppitz from Austria blessed a bell - a gift of a Medjugorje pilgrim - with the image of the Queen of Peace of Medjugorje, destined for a chapel in Austria. In his homily, Father Christian reminded "how

often Our Lady calls us to prayer. Likewise, we shall be invited to pray when the ringing of this bell three times a day shall call us to recite the 'Angelus'."

THE PRAYER SITE of the RISEN CHRIST STATUE



This year for Easter, the first part of the project of expansion on the site of the Risen Christ statue has been completed. The statue is a work and a gift of the Slovenian sculptor

Andrej Ajdic, put up in Medjugorje in 1998. A miniature of the same sculpture was given as a gift to the Holy Father John-Paul II during his pastoral visit to Slovenia. The idea of expansion was born and developed throughout the course of several years. The first part the project, at the service of all those who seek a place for recollection and silent prayer, was completed this year for Easter.



The construction of the second part, which will include an area to pray the Stations of the Cross, will begin immediately. This is especially important and needed

for those who cannot climb Mount Krizevac to pray the Way of the Cross there. We thank all those who participated in the realization of this project.

BLESSING of the SUBSIDIARY CHURCH of the MERCIFUL JESUS in ŠURMANCI



On Sunday, April 7th, 2002, a new subsidiary church of the parish was blessed in Šurmanci (one of the 5 villages belonging to the parish of Medjugorje, situated in the valley of Neretva on the eastern side of the Apparition Hill). Its construction began in 1998.

Father Luka Pavlovic, Vicar General of the diocese, a delegate of our bishop, blessed it. Eight priests concelebrated holy Mass, in which many parishioners and friends participated, as well as a group of Italian pilgrims who helped the construction of this church.

They offered an icon of the Merciful Jesus some years ago, which was placed for the time being in the chapel at the cemetery of Šurmanci, until it found its final place in this new church.

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

NEWS from MEDJUGORJE

VISIT of the CHINESE AMBASSADOR

23.04.2002 – H. E. Mr. Li Shuyuan, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited Medjugorje on April 23rd, 2002, accompanied by his secretary. He was received by the Pastor, Father Branko Radoš, who took him around the Shrine. Mr. Shuyuan also visited "Mother's Village" and the "Community of the Cenacolo", and expressed his satisfaction about what he had seen and experienced.

BLESSING of the FIELDS

22.04.2002 – The blessing of the fields in the parish of Medjugorje usually takes place at Easter time. According to the custom, on that day all of the inhabitants and their relatives gather from neighboring places, and even from further away. The blessing of the fields usually takes place on the cemetery, to also remember the faithful departed. The priest invokes the blessing of God on the earth and on the inhabitants, and prays for the protection from all evil.



REMINDER: REGISTRATION of PILGRIMAGES and CONTACT with GUIDES

19.04.2002 - Registration of pilgrimages prior to arrival to Medjugorje is necessary for the Shrine, so that the Information Booth may organize the program for the pilgrims and thus serve them better. This is why we ask all organizers of pilgrimages to announce the arrival of their groups by e-mail to: informacije@medjugorje.hr or by Tel/Fax: 00 387 36 651 988.

The Shrine requests that all the organizers make use of the services of local guides, members of the Association of Guides, which is operating, in agreement with the Shrine, since 1991. All the guides are prepared for work with the pilgrims through appropriate training and examination of their knowledge. They are trained for giving authentic information, and they accomplish their service in tight collaboration with the Information Booth. One-day service of a guide is 50 US \$; a half-an-hour translation is 20 US \$, a one-hour translation is 40 US \$, regardless of the number of groups. (Translation is

not charged apart, if you have taken a guide for the whole day.)

All necessary information as well as contact with the guides for your group (for Croatian, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Czech and Slovak) can be obtained at the Information Booth by e-mail: informacije@medjugorje.hr or by Tel/Fax: 00 387 36 651 988.

First Group of Pilgrims from Greece

11.04.2002 – During the second week of April 2002, the first group of pilgrims from Greece came to Medjugorje. It is an international prayer group of Catholic women living in Greece, since they are married to Greek citizens. Even before coming to Medjugorje, they have received many graces, because they sought the intercession of the Queen of Peace. Some of them came back to the Church precisely because of the Medjugorje messages. They came to give thanks and especially to pray for their children, who risk withdrawing from the faith.

MEDJUGORJE is a NEW WAY of LIVING our CATHOLIC FAITH

07.04.2002 – Thanks to our [Questionnaire: The Spiritual Movement of the Queen of Peace in the world](#), we came into contact with “Centro de paz de Medellin” and it’s webmaster who sent us a beautiful witness that we would like to share with all the friends of Medjugorje:

“We have a very humble web page in Spanish. In this page that we share with a catholic bookstore and owned by the director of the centre for peace, we do mention our “Centro de paz de Medellin” and our Saturday morning meetings, and try to keep posted the latest monthly message. (See: [Links Medjugorje](#))

I have not yet been physically to Medjugorje, but both Medjugorje and even more important Our Lady the “Gospa”, have come to my heart and I try to live each and every one of the messages every day, in prayer, fasting, conversion, love, peace and faith.

I think Medjugorje is no longer a small village lost in the Bosnian-Herzegovinian mountains, but rather a new way of living our Catholic Faith. Medjugorje is a seed Our Lady has planted and that has grown all over the world in the form of “converted new Catholics who are behaving as true children of Our Lady”, who love and listen to our Heavenly Mother, and who follow her words “Do as He says” (Jn 2:5).”

BLESSING of SAINT MICHAEL’S HOUSE in MOTHER’S VILLAGE



24.04.2002 – After a solemn Holy Mass in a chapel filled with children, religious, co-workers and friends, a new house was opened and blessed in Mother’s Village.

It is St. Michael’s House, built thanks to the initiative and generosity of Mrs. Doctor Heide Sedwick, psychologist from the USA, and a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. The construction was greatly helped by Mrs. Gertrud Pilger Schmidt, who collected funds in Germany. This project was prepared during Father Slavko Barbaric’s lifetime, and it became reality with the help of Father Svetozar Kraljević.

As a psychologist, Doctor Heide Sedwick has worked with the victims of the war and with orphans in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1994. The meaning of the existence of St. Michael’s House in Mother’s Village is



to offer the psychological and physical help in the spirit of St. Francis to the needy, as well as training for those who work with the victims of the war, with the poor, the abandoned, the unaccepted...

About 60 children live in Mother’s Village today, which continues to live exclusively from God’s Providence manifested through the generosity of people.

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

MARY - QUEEN OF CREATION

To greet thee is greeting all human hearts
To whom thou hast opened God’s treasure troves
Of joy and salvation, of hope and peace.
Thou art more fair than Eve in her beauty,
More beautiful than star-like Esther,
More valiant than Judith, the brave,
For thou wert with God in the beginning
of His ways,
Before he made the mountains and the sea,
Delight of the Triune ever plating before Him,
First-born of all His beloved creatures,
Sweet like the dawn and mild like the dusk;
Thy name is written into the sky

A sign that shall nevermore be erased.

(Anonymous, *The Christian Family and Our Missions*,
May 1950)

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."

And one particular four-year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

Six-year old Angie and her four-year old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait. 'Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the

sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

After the church service a little boy told the pastor, "When I grow up I'm going to give you some money." "Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?" "Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny, a child in the kindergarten class, seemed Especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying as though he was in pain. When asked what was wrong Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife!"

This last one is out of the mouth of a 3 year old boy: Our father, who does art in heaven, Howard is his name...."

JesusMaryandJoseph@prodigy.net

THE FOUR STAGES of PRAYER

One of the least understood aspects of prayer is that it changes as we grow in our spiritual life, much like our body changes as we grow from child to adult. If we are faithful to habitual daily prayer and committed to Jesus' Gospel, we can expect to be gradually transformed in Christ spiritually and as a human being. To make it simple to understand Saint Teresa of Avila uses the analogy of a garden – the soul that can be watered in four different ways, which represent the four stages of prayer.

First Stage – Vocal / Discursive Prayer

The first way to water our garden – which is the most arduous – is to fill a bucket with water from a well and water the garden ourselves. This analogy represents the vocal/discursive prayer, one that requires much effort, especially because in this early stage of our spiritual life, it is difficult to keep our minds focused on spiritual matters.

Our attachment to the world is still too strong, and we struggle to put aside worldly affairs to concentrate, even for short periods of time, on God alone. When we do accomplish it, we are busy composing lengthy prayers, fatiguing our minds with lofty meditations, reciting litany after litany. This early stage of prayer is the easiest time for the devil to tempt us away from our pursuit of a personal relationship with God. He will either convince us that our sinfulness makes it impossible or that our desire to become like the saints is a manifestation of pride.

The secret is to repeatedly ask the Holy Spirit for His help and to remain steadfast in daily prayer, for God will not fail to eventually reward our efforts by granting a variety of pleasing inspirations and delightful consolations, gradually leading one to an ever deepening love.

Saint Teresa's best advice for those in this stage is to persevere in daily prayer "no matter what" and avoid friendships or occupations that lead one back into the world. It is also wise to associate with people more advanced spiritually because they have a tendency to lift up those less experienced to higher levels.

Second Stage-beginnings of infused contemplation: prayer of Recollection

The second way to water the garden is to use a water wheel to draw the water up, which requires less effort on our part and yields more water. This method represents the beginnings of infused prayer, such as the Prayer of Recollection, when God inspires us with an increasing desire for silence and solitude rather than for discursive type prayer and meditation. We begin to experience a wonderful contentment just being in the presence of God.

Another notable sign of this advancing stage of prayer is an increasing awareness of God dwelling within us –of His being present at all times. We find ourselves "talking" to Him or "sharing" the events of our day with Him outside the time normally set aside for prayer.

But these early signs of infused prayer are easily overlooked because the transition between the first and second stages of prayer can be confusing. Infused prayer is so subtle that one who lacks information about it can very well fail to recognize what is taking place within them.

A person may actually fight the urge for silence by forcing themselves to recite habitual daily prayers because sitting quietly makes them feel like they are "wasting time."

Perhaps the boldest sign that this prayer is taking place is in realizing the transformation it has caused within ourselves. As Father Thomas Dubay explains in his book, "Fire Within." (Available at the PFMC) the contemplation given by the Holy Spirit burns faults away and produces virtues." In this stage, one is seriously practicing the virtues, particularly those of humility, love of neighbor and patience.

Third Stage – Prayer of Quiet

The third way to water our garden is to let water run into the garden from a nearby river or stream, which requires almost no effort on our part. God is now doing most of the "work" in our prayer life. Infused prayer, which has begun slowly and delicately, becomes progressively more powerful. The docile soul is allowing its God to flow through it taking over its will, intellect and imagination. Father Dubay describes it as an "infused and gentle awareness (of God) given by God and not produced by human effort. One is, as it were, gathered together in God and desires solitude to be alone with Him. The senses and external things slowly lose their hold on the person."

One is able to become aware of nothing but the Presence of God and its accompanying peace. Most often without our awareness of it, the Lord has been slowly enlarging the soul to receive the next phase of prayer called the "prayer of quiet."

In this phase, the Lord captures the will and unites it with His own, sometimes suspending the faculties so completely one is aware of nothing around them. In "Life of Theresa of Jesus," Saint Theresa writes, "One does not want any activity. They feel the greatest delight in the body and great satisfaction in the soul."

It is painful to speak or move. One dares not stir or do anything to interrupt what is taking place. Whole blocks of time (10 to 20 minutes) may sometimes disappear without remembering anything about what transpired. This is accompanied by a deep peace, not of human origin, that penetrates the soul and will

sometimes linger for days afterward. Love for God deepens substantially, making all human forms of love pale by comparison. The absorption in God that takes place in the prayer of quiet is always brief, never longer than a half hour, but one is never able to forget it and will often remember, for the rest of their lives, the exact place and time it occurred.

Fourth Stage – Transforming Union

In the fourth stage, the garden of the soul is now being watered directly by God who is sending it a deluging rain of delights along with great fires of love. The soul has undergone the two major stages of purification called the “night of the senses,” and much later, the “night of the soul.” It has finally reached the summit of spiritual perfection and the purpose of its creation – the achievement of total union with God. The soul now lives for God alone, is well advanced in God-centeredness and in living the Gospel message. Those who reach this level of prayer are so head-over heels in love with God it is painful for them to remain on earth. Sometimes the mere mention of the name of God is enough to send the soul into transports of joy.

This is the stage where prayers of rapture, ecstasy and transports of spirit take place. These are experiences of deep union with God that frequently are accompanied by complete suspension of the faculties. As Saint Theresa describes, “Now when the body is in rapture, it is as though dead, frequently unable to do anything of itself. It remains in the position it was when seized by the rapture, whether standing or sitting, with the hands opened or closed. Even though it can’t do anything of itself with regard to exterior things, it doesn’t fail to understand and hear as though listening to something from far off.”

It is in this fourth stage that we achieve what Father Dubay calls, “the culmination of contemplation on earth” – transforming union. This final immersion, wherein the Trinity is seen face to face, is described as an “unspeakable enthrallment.” Saint Theresa describes her own intellectual vision of the Blessed Trinity. She wrote, “First of all, the Spirit becomes enkindled and is illumined, as it were, by a cloud of the greatest brightness. It sees these three Persons individually, and yet, by a wonderful kind of knowledge which is given to it, the soul realizes that most certainly and truly all these three Persons are one Substance and one Power and one Knowledge and one God alone; so that what we hold by faith the soul may be said here to grasp by sight, although nothing is seen by the eyes, either of the body or of the soul, for it is no ordinary vision.”

The reader should be careful to assume that people who achieve this level of prayer are marginal, strange or eccentric. The truth is quite the opposite.

Total union with God on earth is supreme living, the ultimate human experience. No matter what one’s occupations, Father Dubay explains, “There remains deep down in the soul a great calm. On the sense or emotional levels, there may be little or no peace, but in the center of the soul, as the saint (Theresa of Avila) explains, there are stability and serenity.

Now that you’ve had a glimpse of the incredible mystical journey we call “prayer”, it’s important to remember that infused prayer is given by God and cannot be learned from a book or acquired by mastering certain techniques. It is something wholly “received.” The most we can do is create within ourselves the right disposition to receive it.

Father Dubay writes, “Progress in the prayer life is not measured chronologically by the number of years one has lived the religious life or practiced meditation. Growth is determined first of all by readiness and generosity. When these are present in a high degree, God gives much in a short time.”

**(Susan Brinkmann, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish,
Horsham, Pa.)**

A THIRD HEART

The saints tell us we might add a third heart, that of Saint Joseph. His heart became one with theirs. That is for each of us a cause of joy and hope. This is perhaps the deepest, most important reason for the Two Hearts to be held out to the world in this critical time: We, too, like Saint Joseph, are invited into that alliance of LOVE.

Saint John Eudes, who was responsible for introducing into the Church both the Feast of the Sacred Heart and that of the Immaculate Heart, said: “Do you forget that not only does Jesus reside and dwell perpetually in Mary’s Heart, but that He is in truth the Heart of her Heart and the Soul of her Soul. Therefore coming into the Heart of Mary means to honor Jesus, and to invoke her heart is to invoke Jesus.” And the saint prayed:

“O Jesus, living in the Heart of Mary, be the life of my heart! Mary, Mother of Jesus, obtain by thy intercession, I beseech thee, that I may have but one heart with Your Beloved Son and You.” (Indeed, like Saint Joseph!)

The world DESERVES chastisement. Indeed one wonders how the evils of our time can possibly be reversed in any other way.

But the hearts of Jesus and Mary say there IS another way, the way of Their Hearts!

It is the way of Communions of Reparation for us as individuals, for our families, and for the world.

“Behold the Heart of Your Mother,” Jesus said. And Our Lady promises: “If my requests are heard, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. Russia will be converted and an era of peace will be granted to MANKIND.”

How can we possibly refuse to embrace this simple devotion? How can we fail to resolve to make First Friday and First Saturday each month a family obligation? Do we not want these great promises for ourselves and for those whom we love?

But even more, how can we possibly refuse the appeal of These Two Hearts which suffered so much for us and which BURN with love for us? How can we refuse the appeal of Their Love for reparation to turn back the tide of evil and to save perhaps millions of souls which would otherwise be lost?

“So many souls are lost,” Our Lady said to the children of Fatima as they gazed at Her thorn encircled heart, “because there is no one to pray and make sacrifice for them.”

And yet Their Hearts ask so little, need so little, to save us and to save the world!

They are “NOW”

But the Hearts of Jesus and Mary HAVE NOT PASSED. They are living, beating, real Hearts...and ALL THOSE MYSTERIES, of each moment, of each day, of each year are in those Hearts NOW. And we can enter into those mysteries. We can make them alive in us.

“Saint John Eudes saw the heart of Jesus in the heart of Mary,” says Father Calkins, “and living in it.” Our Lady was not only the tabernacle of the Lord at the moment of the Incarnation. The MYSTERY remains. He cites these words of the Saint: “Do you forget that not only does Jesus reside and dwell perpetually in Mary’s heart, but He is in truth the Heart of her heart and the Soul of her soul; and that therefore coming to the Heart of Mary means to honor Jesus, and to invoke her Heart is to invoke Jesus?” On another occasion Saint John Eudes wrote: “Although the Heart of Jesus is distinct from that of Mary, and infinitely surpasses it in excellence and holiness, nevertheless God has so closely united these Two

Hearts that we may say with truth that they are but one because they have always been animated with the same spirit and filled with the same sentiments and affections...O Jesus, living in the Heart of Mary, be the life of my heart! Mary, Mother of Jesus, obtain by your intercession, I beseech you, that I may have but one heart with your Beloved Son and you.”

“One HEART”

Like Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Joan de Chantal, Saint John Eudes addressed the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as ONE heart: “Hail, Most Holy Heart” (*Ave Cor Sanctissimum*). (Illustrating this article is a cross bought at the convent of the apparitions in Paray le Monial, France. It shows the symbol used by Saint Francis and Saint Joan: A SINGLE HEART, pierced by two swords, surmounted by the same cross, and the letters I.H.S. are written in such a way that the H also becomes the symbol of Mary.)

Pope John Paul II, who introduced the expression *Alliance of the Two Hearts* seemed to summarize it all when he said (Sept. 22, 1986): “By dedicating ourselves to the Heart of Mary we discover a sure way to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, symbol of the merciful love of our Savior.”

We can now see why the Scapular and Rosary are so important and why the Hearts of Jesus and Mary want the First Saturday devotion in which Our Lady invites us to: “Keep me company for fifteen minutes contemplating THE MYSTERIES of the Rosary.”

This is far more than symbolism. This is far more than just a revelation of GOD as LOVE. This is far more even than the expression of the Incarnation. This is an invitation to enter into the MYSTERIES and as Father Calkins says, “reproduce them in ourselves.”

Enter into the Mysteries!

This wonderful mystery was perhaps best demonstrated in the apparitions of Our Lady in Pontmain, in 1876.

Our Lady appeared wearing a small scapular which was blank in front. She invited Estelle to come and kiss it. When the privileged soul did so, the SACRED HEART appeared on the Scapular as a living, pulsing REAL Heart. At the moment of the kiss, Estelle was aware of the Heart of Mary BEATING BENEATH IT AND ONE WITH IT and (this is most important) she realized that Our Lady was inviting her to be one with the Heart of Jesus as

She was one with Him (This is explained in more detail in the book *Her Glorious Title*.)

A new motto for our age (which Saint Grignon calls “these last times”) was revealed at the Youth Congress in Moscow in October, 1992: *Unus in Sui Amore*, One in His, Her, Their Love.

It means not only oneness among men, but oneness with God.

(VOICE of the SACRED HEARTS – INSTRUCTED HEART, Our Sunday Visitor, 1979.with permission)

HEART of the MYSTERY

Before reading this very important message, please place yourself in the presence of God and say this prayer:

O Most Holy Trinity, revealed to the little shepherds of Fatima in the Holy Eucharist while they were bathed in light from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, grant that I may understand the wonder of their cry: “Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, My God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament!”

Without thinking of the Trinity we can only have the SHADOW of an idea of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Compared with our hearts, the love of Their Hearts is a furnace. But Doctor Sheed says even the furnace of Their hearts “is a candle flame compared to the Furnace of Divine Love in the Trinity.” He adds that “the supreme value” of Their hearts is: They “were lit from THAT Furnace.”

It is a great mystery. But amazingly many even simple persons, like the three illiterate children of Fatima, can somehow grasp it.

Crowds Fascinated By It

Few writers dare to try to speak of it let alone to explain it. Frank Sheed himself was amazed when he first introduced the subject “on a soap box” in London’s Hyde Park.

“In fear and trembling,” he says, “we began to teach what the Church says on the Trinity and we made the discovery that the crowds were fascinated by it.” He points out also that these were not captive audiences. They could just walk away! And most of them were not Catholics! Yet whenever he spoke of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit “not as figures of speech but the actual DOCTRINE of the Trinity,” he was always certain an audience.

And what is that doctrine all about! It is LOVE.

It is the Love of the Father for the Son...of the Son for the Father...begetting Love: the Holy Spirit.

This is what “devotion” of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary is all about: God’s Love channeled to men in the Heart which the Son (Second Person) made His own and took from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, becoming one with Her Heart to complete the channel from God to us Her children.

All this Love is concentrated in the Holy Eucharist. That is why, bathed in the light from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the children of Fatima exclaimed: “O Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God, I Love Thee is the most Blessed Sacrament!”

Think about what you have just read! Do you adore God in the majesty and extent of His vast, complex creation, the world, all living things, the universe? Just think: HE IS LOVE! And all that Love is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament! This is the ultimate message of the Sacred Hearts.

(VOICE of the SACRED HEARTS – INSTRUCTED HEART, Our Sunday Visitor, 1979.with permission)

A GENTLE REMINDER

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt’s Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. Saint Peter’s Basilica
7. China’s Great Wall (The eighth is Texas....)

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn’t turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, “Yes, a little. I couldn’t quite make up my mind because there were so many.”

The teacher said, “Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help.”

The girl hesitated, then read, “I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to touch

2. to taste
3. to see
4. to hear

She hesitated a little, and then added,

5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop. Those things we overlook as simple and “ordinary” are truly wondrous.

(Carmen Aponte)

THE MAY QUEEN

She wears sunlight in her hair
 And violets in her eyes
 And her cheeks are the petals of a rose.
 She bears Love on her arm
 And lilies are her feet,
 And they carry Life wherever she goes.
 There are graces on her lips
 And rainbows on her robes
 And her wreath is the coronet of May.
 She is Fairy Queen of earth-
 The wand at her heart
 Is a Bud from the Triune Bouquet.
 She is Mother, Queen, and Maid,
 And God is her Child,
 And her Courts are the meadows where They play
 And her Courts
 Forever and for aye.
 She is Mary full of grace.
 She is Queen of Eternal May.

(Marie Fischer Robert, Cyril. *Our Lady's Praise in Poetry*. New York: Marist Press, 1944)

THE BLUE SCAPULAR of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Venerable Ursula Benicasa, foundress of the Order of Theatine Nuns, relates in her autobiography how the habit which she and her sisters were to wear in honor of the Immaculate Conception was revealed to her in a vision. When Jesus Christ had in return promised great favors for her order, she begged the same graces for all the faithful who should devoutly wear a small sky-blue scapular in honour of

the Immaculate Conception and to secure the conversion of sinners. Her petition having been granted she herself disseminated such scapulars, after they had been blessed by a priest.

This devotion bore such rich fruits that Clement X by the Brief of 30 January, 1671, expressly granted the faculty to bless and invest with this scapular. Clement XI granted certain indulgences for the wearing of the scapular and succeeding popes increased the number. The summary was approved by the Congregation of Indulgences first in 1845 and finally on 26 August 1882 (Rescr. auth. S. C. Indulg., pp. 574 sqq., n. 57).

Only the blue woolen cloth is essential and necessary. The scapular usually bears on one portion symbolization of the Immaculate Conception and on the other the name of Mary. In 1894 a confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin and Mother of God Mary was erected in the Theatine Church of S. Andrea della Valle at Rome. In the same year it was endowed with various indulgences, and then raised to an archconfraternity (cf. *Analecta ecclesiastica*, p. 189 sq.).

According to the statutes of the confraternity admission is effected by the blessing and investing with the Blue Scapular, the presentation of the small chaplet of the Immaculate Conception, and the enrolling of the name in the register of the confraternity. However those who received the scapular before 18 September, 1894, are not obliged to have themselves enrolled in the confraternity.

Similarly, priests who may have received the faculty only of blessing and investing with the scapular may continue to exercise it at present priests who receive this faculty from the General of the Order. The attainees, receive simultaneously the faculty of admitting the faithful into the confraternity and must forward the names of those admitted to Rome or to some other canonically erected confraternity of this kind.

(from <http://www.mount-carmel.com/wsn1255.html>)

THE BLACK SCAPULAR of the SEVEN DOLOURS of MARY

Shortly after Alexander IV had sanctioned the Servite Order in 1255, many of the faithful of either sex associated themselves with the order in ecclesiastical confraternities in honour of the Seven Dolours of Mary.

The members of this Confraternity of the Seven Dolours of Mary also wore in later times a scapular which, like the habit of the order, had to be of black cloth. In other respects nothing is prescribed concerning this scapular, although it usually bears on the front portion (over the breast) an image of the Mother of Sorrows.

This scapular must likewise be worn constantly, if one wishes to gain the indulgences of the confraternity. The summary of indulgences was last approved by the Congregation of Indulgences on 7 March, 1888. Priests may obtain from the General of the Servites the faculty to receive the faithful into the confraternity and to bless and invest with the scapular.

(from <http://www.mount-carmel.com/wsn1255.html>)

THE SCAPULAR of the MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

Priests who can receive the faithful into the Confraternity of the Precious Blood have also the faculty of blessing and investing these with this red scapular (or a red girdle). No special indulgences, however, are connected with the wearing of this scapular, and the wearing of it is left optional to the members of the confraternity.

For the scapular, it is prescribed only that it be of red cloth. The scapular as used in Rome bears on one portion a representation of the chalice with the Precious Blood adored by angels; the other segment which hangs at the back is simply a smaller portion of red cloth.

(from <http://www.mount-carmel.com/wsn1255.html>)

THE BLACK SCAPULAR of the PASSION

It is related in the life of Saint Paul of the Cross that before founding the Congregation of the Passionists he received in apparitions the black habit of the order with the badge on the breast. Later, after the foundation of the congregation, the Passionist Fathers gave the faithful who wished to associate themselves more closely with their order a black scapular in honour of the Passion of Christ. This bears an exact replica of the badge of the Passion, namely a heart above a cross, on which is written "Jesu XPI Passio" and below "sit semper in cordibus nostris". The other

portion of the scapular hanging at the back, consists simply of a small segment of black woolen cloth.

At various times indulgences have been granted to the faithful who wear this scapular, the Summary being last approved by the Congregation of Indulgences on 10 May, 1877. The Superior-General of the Passionists communicates to other priests the faculty to bless and invest with the scapular.

from <http://www.mount-carmel.com/wsn1255.html>

THE RED SCAPULAR of the PASSION

This scapular owes its origin to an apparition which Jesus Christ vouchsafed to a Sister of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul in 1846. Jesus Christ showed the sister a scapular, such as is worn, and promised to all who should wear it on every Friday a great increase of faith, hope, and charity. The apparition having been several times repeated, and finally in the following year reported to Pius IX, the latter sanctioned the scapular by a Rescript of 25 June, 1847, and granted the Priests of the Mission (the Lazarists) the faculty of blessing the scapular and investing the faithful with it. He simultaneously granted many indulgences for the wearing of the scapular. The Superior-General of the Lazarists can communicate the faculty of blessing and investing with this scapular to other regular or secular priests. The scapular and bands must both be of red woolen material. On one woolen segment Jesus Christ is represented on the Cross; at the foot of the Cross are the implements of the Passion, and about it are the words: "Holy Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Save us." On the other are represented the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and above these a cross with the inscription: "Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, protect us." These images also are essential to the scapular (Acta S. Sedis XXX, 748).

(from <http://www.mount-carmel.com/wsn1255.html>)

FAITH in the INCARNATION

When we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, we believe that the One to whom we are speaking is not only God but also God become man. Absolutely speaking, a person need not even have faith to accept the existence of God. The philosophers of ancient Greece, like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, accepted the existence of God. For that matter the Jews of the

Old Testament from Abraham until the last of the prophets also recognized the existence of God. Moreover the Chosen people of the Old Law not only knew there was a God because their native reason could conclude, as the Book of Wisdom tells them, seeing the beauties of nature they could conclude to the existence of a creator who produced His beauty in the world in which we live.

But once God took on human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the most significant event in human history took place. The God who had always been on earth by His almighty, sustaining presence, began to be present as man. The child in Mary's womb had flesh and blood like His Mother. He received a soul which animated His body. He was born at Bethlehem and, as a child, had to be nursed at His Mother's breasts. As Saint Luke tells us, He grew in age and wisdom and in the grace of God. He slept and ate and talked and became tired like the rest of us.

When He spoke to His fellow Nazarenes in their town synagogue, His listeners were dumbfounded with anger at the alleged claim that He was indeed the one predicted by Isaiah, whom the prophet had foretold would be the Emmanuel, that is, God with us.

During His whole public ministry, Christ's most difficult teaching to accept by His contemporaries was that He, though man, was the living God. When some Jews in their livid anger at what they thought were His mad pretensions picked up stones to kill Him; when He asked them, "Why do you want to kill me, is it because of the good works I have done among you?" They retorted, "It is not because of the good works you have done, but because you, though a man, make yourself equal to God." The Greek word in Saint John's Gospel for "equal" is *isos*. As we know from what we call the isosceles triangle, *isos* in Greek means mathematical identity. The Jews were scandalized at what they considered the blasphemy of a mere man claiming to be mathematically equal to God.

During His Passion, Christ was charged with a variety of crimes. But the peak of those crimes was Christ's claim to being not only the Messiah but also the Messiah whom the ancient prophets foretold would be the God who became man.

All the foregoing was necessary to bring out what is the first reason why prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is so powerful with God. It is so powerful because it is animated by faith in the divinity of Christ. It is impossible to exaggerate how crucially important this is. I really believe that many, if not

most, Catholics do not fully realize that Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is God become man. It is faith in the humanity of Christ. It is faith in Mary having given her divine Son a share in her own flesh and blood. It is faith in Jesus Christ not only as a historical memory, but faith in a present, geographic, local presence in Our midst no less than He was present to His disciples at the Last Supper or present to them after His resurrection when He told them to see and touch His risen body and even ate in their presence.

All of this is the first reason why prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is able to move Omnipotence to work signs and wonders that only believers have a right to expect from Jesus Christ.

**(by Father John A. Hardon, S.J., Pray Unceasingly:
Perpetual Adoration as a Necessary Antidote to
Abortion)**

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a church, store or travel agency. We operate as a ministry whose volunteers are mostly lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, through the Roman Catholic Church. We profess allegiance to the Magisterium of that Church led by Pope John Paul II.

We operate on donations for all our activities.

In the area of books, pamphlets and religious articles, we operate like a church pamphlet or bookrack where you make selections and offer a donation based on value posted or received. We have items from our inventory on display at Epiphany House and have produced order forms in the past. See the order forms enclosed in previous issues or loaded on the Internet Web Site, <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>, for a partial listing of items that can be obtained from the PFMC through donations. If you wish to order, please fill out your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card and mail to PFMC, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4896.

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.

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."

(Kathleen, Keith and all the PFMC Volunteers)

TUESDAY 10 AM to 11:30 AM "DAUGHTERS of RUTH" WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP at PFMC

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc. and Irene Atwell will host a women's support group "Daughters of Ruth" every Tuesday, 10 to 11 AM in the Upper Room at Epiphany House starting 5/21/2002. Prayer will follow this hour of group therapy and counseling. The number to call is (856) 665-0959.

WEDNESDAY 7 PM to 9 PM TEACHING by DEAN PULCINI

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc. hosts teaching by Dean Pulcini, Wednesday, 7 to 9 PM in the Upper Room at Epiphany House. Call (856) 768-9228 if you need directions.

May 2002 - teachings on Mary and September 2002 - teachings on Liturgy.

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

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

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

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

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is coordinating a summer pilgrimage to Lourdes and Paris, France from July 24th through July 31st, 2002. Package price is \$1899 from Newark, NJ.

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

SEPTEMBER 2002 RETREAT for PRIEST and DEACONS with FATHER ROBERT DeGRANDIS, S.S.J.

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2002 RETREAT for PRIESTS and DEACONS with Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. will be at the Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, NJ from Tuesday, 10 September 2002, through Thursday, 12 September 2002. For an information sheet with reservation form 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 form visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> or call (856) 768-9228.

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

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is coordinating a pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy from November 1st through November 14th, 2002. Package price is \$2599 from Newark, NJ.

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

2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE (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 \$92 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 \$129 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

CALENDARS:

In *May*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **ASCENSION of the LORD (9)** **PENTECOST (19)**, **HOLY TRINITY (26)** and the Feasts of *Saints Philip and James (3)*, *Matthias, Apostle (14)*, and the **VISITATION (31)** and the Memorials of *Saints Joseph the Worker (1)*, *Athanasius (2)*, *Damien of Molokai (10)*, *Isidore the Farmer (15)*, *Pope John I (18)*, *Bernardine of Siena (20)*, *Bede (25)*, *Pope Gregory VII (25)*, *Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (25)*, and *Augustine of Canterbury (27)*. Church calendars recognize **Mother Day (12)**, and **Memorial Day (observed) (27)**.

In *June* the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **CORPUS CHRISTI (1)**, **SACRED HEART (6)**, **BIRTH of SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST (24)** and **SAINTS PETER and PAUL (29)**, the Memorials of *Saints Justin (1)*, *Charles Lwanga and Companions (3)*, *Boniface (5)*, *Norbert (6)*, *Barnabas, Apostle (11)*, *Anthony of Padua (13)*, *Romuald (19)*, *Aloysius Gonzaga (21)*, *Paulinus of Nola (22)*, *John Fisher and Thomas More (22)*, *Cyril of Alexandria (27)*, *Irenaeus (28)*, and *The Immaculate Heart of Mary (7)*. Church calendars recognize **Father's Day (16)**.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 5 and the Bulletin Notices on pages 26 and 27. We need everyone to help publish information with prayer groups and in your Parish Bulletin.

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

DAUGHTERS of RUTH - WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesdays, 10 AM to 11:30 AM, PFMC Upper Room starting 5/21/02. Call Irene Atwell, (856) 665 0959.

PFMC PRESENTATIONS

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

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

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

Send us interesting web sites and e-mails:

PFMCkmw@comcast.net



The PILGRIM

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

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

Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

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

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

