



The PILGRIM

Vol. 13, No. 7-8 *Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)* July-August 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 10.
(The PFMC upholds the final decision of the Catholic Church as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

A PRAYER



My Jesus, I place my trust in Thee. All my joys and woes and any grief or distress I place in Your Sacred Heart. I give you all my trials both great and small. In You I seek my rest.

Oh sweet Savior, may I seek to see Thy Face and find Your smile upon my soul. May I cry out with a rapturous love. AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue)

PFMC SUMMER SCHEDULE DRAWING to a CLOSE

During the summer months, the PFMC offices in Epiphany House are closed on Fridays and will close earlier in the afternoons. The PFMC is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM in the summer months. This presumes volunteers are available. The plan is to allow current volunteers to have more time off with their children and families.

Unless we have a scheduled event, the PFMC will NOT be open on Saturdays or Sundays. Volunteers will be present on nights and weekends when events are scheduled in Epiphany House. Come and meet the volunteers. Tour Epiphany House.

“DAUGHTERS of RUTH” RESUME WEEKLY MEETINGS on 9/10/02 and ADD NEW GROUP on 9/11/02

Group I of the “Daughters of Ruth” group therapy for women will resume their weekly sessions on Tuesday, 9/10/02 at 10 AM. This group has been so successful, and many healing graces have occurred. A second group for women will be started on Wednesdays from

10 AM to 11:30 AM, beginning 9/11/02.

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

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

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

EARLY BIRD SIGN UP for “SIGHT AND SOUND” PERFORMANCE of the “MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS”

Saint John Neumann Parish, Sicklerville, NJ, and the PFMC are co-sponsoring and sharing a day filled with relaxation and fun in Lancaster, PA. We will travel by bus on Saturday, December 14, 2002, to enjoy a full day of enjoyment. Busses leave from and return to Marshall’s parking lot in Voorhees, NJ. We will have prayer, song and videos while traveling.

This is a perfect Christmas present for your spouse, for your children and grandchildren. It is a wonderful gift to give your best friend. And it will truly put you in the spirit of Christmas.

Donation of \$99 includes RT bus, visit to Weaver Nut Company, importers of candies, dried fruits, and nuts, 1 PM Show of the “Miracles of Christmas” at the Sight and Sound Theater, and a full Family Style Dinner at Plain and Fancy Farm. All taxes and gratuities are included.

Please call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 for flyers with reservation forms or see Father Hartman after Holy Mass at Saint John Neumann in Sicklerville.

“The PILGRIM” for July - August 2002 is dedicated to “Mary, Mother of God from the first instant of the conception of Christ in her womb.” See page 3 for Table of Contents / “IN THIS ISSUE . . .”.

If you wish us to set up such a bus trip for your prayer group or parish please call (856)-768-9228 and ask for Liz or Kathleen.

FATHER DeGRANDIS RETREAT on the HEALING GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT for PRIESTS, DEACONS, DEACONS in TRAINING, and SEMINARIANS – SEPTEMBER 10th –12th, 2002

We have had a lot of interest in this retreat for ordained ministers, priests, deacons, etc. or those in training to become ordained ministers. We need signed applications with donations so we can proceed with our planning.

This beautiful experience of the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit has been shared with hundreds of priests in Rome, in Portuguese and Spanish speaking countries, and in many of the dioceses of the United States. We are very grateful that Bishop McHugh and now Bishop DiMarzio have granted permission for Father DeGrandis to hold this retreat in the Diocese of Camden. Father DeGrandis has once again offered to teach these gifts in a way that touches all who listen.

Starting at 9 AM on Tuesday, 9/10/02, Father will meet in private with those who have registered. He will tailor the program to the needs of those present. He normally teaches morning, afternoon, and evening for two days and concludes around 1 PM of the third day, Thursday, 9/12/02.

The PFMC has made arrangements with the Holiday Inn in Cherry Hill. Bishop DiMarzio has given permission for daily Holy Mass, Adoration, and Confessions to be held at the hotel. This allows a quiet atmosphere to retreat into, and to rest as well as learn. There is an indoor heated swimming pool.

The requested donation is \$199 and includes registration and conference, 2 nights in a **PRIVATE** room, continental breakfast, and refreshments throughout served by the PFMC volunteers.

If you would like to sponsor your pastor or a priest or deacon or seminarian, get their permission to sign up

for them, and send us the donation and application or call us. Your donation is tax deductible.

All registrations must be in by August 29th (Thursday) to allow us to firm up all rooms and to set up hospitality. Please call us to register by phone (Visa, MasterCard or Discover accepted), or call (856)-768-9228 for a registration form.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2002 - DAY of RETREAT for SPANISH SPEAKING WOMEN with FATHER RON FALOTICO

On Saturday, September 14th 2002, the PFMC will hold a Day of Retreat for Spanish Speaking Women. Father Ron Falotico, pastor of Saint Peter's Church, Pleasantville, NJ will be Retreat Master.

All talks will be in Spanish, and the day will close with a Spanish Mass for spouses and family joining. The \$30 donation includes refreshments throughout the day, lunch, and handouts. Set up for this retreat is for 80 people. Please sign up early.

Please fill in the enclosed flier and send to the PFMC at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963.

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?

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.

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 Aflame".

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.

DEAN PULCINI WILL TEACH on INTRODUCTION to LITURGY in SEPTEMBER.

Come to the Upper Room of the PFMC Epiphany House on Wednesday nights from 7 PM to 9:30 PM with Dean Pulcini starting again on the first Wednesday (2) of October 2002. Dean plans to teach on "Introduction to Liturgy" Mark your calendars.

(Kathleen, Keith, the students, and volunteers)

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PILGRIMAGE to SHRINES of ITALY (NOVEMBER 1st – 14th) with OPTIONAL 5 DAYS (through November 19th) in MEDJUGORJE

Our pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy is coming upon us quickly. We ask that you sign up for these wonderful 14 days to see the magnificent shrines, pray there, and enjoy the wonderful company of our spiritual director Father Tony Lacson and pilgrims.

This is such a wonderful opportunity, and Keith and Kathleen, who have been to most of these shrines numerous times will accompany the group.

There will be time daily for a full spiritual program including daily Holy Mass at a shrine, and the Rosary and Divine Mercy Novena.

Please read the itinerary on the yellow information sheet enclosed, fill out the registration form, enclose

the deposit of \$500, and mail to us at the PFMC. We will send you a confirmation and more information as we come closer to departure date.

It is very important to lock names into departure confirmations. The airlines are already asking for names of confirmed travelers. They want all confirmations for groups 45 days before departure.

Keith and Kathleen plan to extend their Italy pilgrimage with 5 more days in Medjugorje. We will depart Rome on the evening of November 14th and return to Rome for an overnight on the evening flight of November 18th, to fly back to the USA on November 19th. If you would be interested in this extension, please tell Kathleen when you apply for the Italy portion. The cost of this extension is \$580 for the round trip air on Croatia Air, transfers, guide, house very close to the Church of Saint James, all breakfasts and suppers, full religious program and see the visionaries, and overnight on the 18th in Rome.

Should you desire to fly in from the USA on the 14th and go just to Medjugorje, there are ways to do this and if enough apply then possibly a group rate could be obtained. We already have a few interested.

Please call Kathleen at (856) 768-9228 Monday through Friday from 11 AM to 4 PM. God Bless.

“HEALING YOUR FAMILY TREE” - FATHER JOHN McFADDEN with NORMA and TOM FINERAN

Father John McFadden will team with Norma and Tom Finneran to provide a day of Recollection and Healing Prayer for all in your Family Tree on Saturday, November 30, 2002.

This “Healing Your Family Tree” day will be held in the Upper Room of the PFMC Epiphany House at 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ, from 8:30 AM and until about 4:30 PM.

The day will include Holy Mass, various talks with workshops using the Family Tree forms, times for Holy Mass, prayer, refreshments throughout the day, and lunch. Requested donation for the day is \$30.

If you have been praying for members of your family and for healing, you will thoroughly enjoy this very special day with Father John, Norma, and Tom Finneran. The day will be limited to 80 registrations. Please see enclosed form. Fill it out and send as soon as possible to PFMC. No walk-ins will be permitted.

DAY of PRAYER, FORGIVENESS, and HEALING for SEXUALLY, EMOTIONALLY, and PHYSICALLY ABUSED WOMEN- A ONE DAY RETREAT with FATHER ROBERT DEGRANDIS

On Saturday, February 12, 2003, Father Robert DeGrandis will hold a day of prayer, forgiveness, and Healing for women who have been abused Physically, Emotionally, or Sexually.

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

If you are interested in such a day, please call the PFMC for more information, and for a registration form. This will be limited to 50 people.

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

The Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ will be the site for our 2003 March 14th, 15th, and 16th RETREAT CONFERENCE and the extension March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003. Guest speakers will be Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, and Father Robert DeGrandis. Joseph Terelya and his interpreter will be featured before the Concert on Saturday night.

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

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

The Hilton Hotel is now accepting room reservations for the 2003 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. Please call the Hilton Hotel at 1-800-HILTONS or locally at (856) 665-6666 to make your hotel reservation. Rooms are \$92 per room and will accommodate 2 persons in a king bed or up to 4 persons in two double beds. Cots are also available, but **must be arranged for prior to arrival. Refrigerators in rooms must also be arranged for ahead of time.** You must guarantee your room with a one night charge on your credit card. Cancellation must be **72 hours prior** to the event. Please request smoking or non smoking rooms ahead of time, but

these are not guaranteed. The Hilton Hotel holds to a first come first served basis on their non-smoking rooms. Entire floors are either non-smoking or smoking.

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.

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

(Kathleen and Keith for All the PFMC Volunteers)

HUMANITARIAN AID to the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ever since our 6 Humanitarian Aid visits to Bosnia during the height of the war we have been looking for another Humanitarian project for the poor and sick. While on our vacation in the Dominican Republic this summer, the staff had a wonderful opportunity to bring over medicines, toys, money and books to the Diocese of Puerto Plata.

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

Donations of money to support the seminarians, who are studying English. This money will be used to buy the second edition of English books for them to use. It will also help with buying them English Bibles, and Catechisms, and shipping them there. (\$1000 needed)

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

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

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

Since the Bosnian War the PFMC has been involved with many Humanitarian Aid projects. We are quite excited about this particular project, especially since

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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, **Dean of Men** at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.

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

we have seen the true poverty of this country. We ask each of you to look into your hearts and hear God's call to help. We can't do a whole lot, but we sure can make a tiny dent.

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

CATECHISM REVIEW

How do we know the Catholic Church is the one true Church established by Jesus Christ?

We know from history that the Catholic Church is the one true Church established by Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ founded only one Church, the Catholic Church.

How do we know the Catholic Church has the fullness of faith?

We know the Catholic Church has the fullness of faith because we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Savior, and that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ on earth. The Catholic Church alone has the four chief marks of signs by which all men can recognize it as the true Church.

What are the chief marks of the Catholic Church by which all men can know it is the true Church founded by Jesus Christ?

The four chief marks of the Catholic Church by which all men can know it is the true Church founded by Jesus Christ are: It is ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC (or UNIVERSAL) and APOSTOLIC. No other church has ALL these four chief marks.

What are the three chief qualities (or attributes) of the Catholic Church?

The three chief qualities (or attributes) of the Catholic Church are: AUTHORITY, INFALLIBILITY, and INDEFECTIBILITY.

What is meant by the Church's "infallibility"?

INFALLIBILITY means that Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church to keep it in truth when it teaches or believes a doctrine of faith or morals. The Church teaching through the Pope or the world's bishops united with him CANNOT err on doctrines of faith and morals. They can only teach truth.

What is meant by the Church's quality of "indefectibility"?

INDEFECTIBILITY of the Catholic Church means that the Church Jesus founded will never be destroyed. It will remain until the end of the world. Furthermore, the Catholic Church will always possess

the truths and supernatural powers Jesus gave it when He lived on earth.

(Father Hartman)

THE STORY of RUTH

Ruth went to her mailbox and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter:

Dear Ruth:

I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit.

Love Always,

Jesus

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer."

With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least. "She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

"Hey lady, can you help us, lady?"

Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags.

"Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us. Lady, we'd really appreciate it."

Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to.

"Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him."

"Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks"

The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart.

"Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag.

"Thank you lady. Thank you very much!"

"Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

"You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one."

Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street...without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

"Thank you lady! Thank you very much!"

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox.

"That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day "She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth:

It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat.

Love Always

Jesus

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

[\(dolphinsrmagic@aol.com\)](mailto:dolphinsrmagic@aol.com)

PADRE PIO and the ANGELS

Padre Pio's life was full of difficulties, arguments, discussions, suspicions, contrasting opinions and even bitter condemnations. However, the deep significance of the life of Padre Pio and the meaning of his great mission have rarely been mentioned.

As is well known, Padre Pio's life was always marked by a massive presence of the supernatural. Our Lady, the Angels and the Saints revealed themselves unrestrainedly to him from when he was a small child. Then came the stigmata, the perfumes, the reading of

thoughts, bilocations, the searching of hearts, the prophecies and the healings.

So, given that Padre Pio was exceptionally endowed with such charisma, then we must ask **why God gave them and what kind of teaching He wished to transmit through them.**

Just as an example, let us examine the relationship of Padre Pio with the Angels.

The teaching of the Church on this question has always been clear and explicit. In the old Catechism of Saint Pius X, it is written, "The angels are the invisible ministers of God and also our guardians, for God has entrusted every person to one of them."

The new "Catechism of the Catholic Church" says, "The existence of incorporeal, spiritual beings that Holy Scripture habitually calls "Angels is a truth of faith. The testimony of Holy Scripture is as clear as the unanimous agreement of Tradition."

This is an amazing truth that projects meanings and perspectives of a fantastic kind into our everyday lives. It is a truth which we, poor mortals, have difficulty in maintaining and has frequently been seen as just a beautiful fable.

I remember during the seventies I conducted a journalistic investigation into this question and I had to travel half way around Italy before I could find a theologian who believed in Guardian Angels.

Nowadays, Angels are in fashion. They appear in films, books and articles, but if you examine **how** they are spoken about you realize that nothing has changed.

For the worldly media, Angels remain a conceptual, mythological reality, the fruit of dreams and imagination with roots planted in the stars and nurtured in the unconscious. To put it simply, they are something that does not exist.

On the other hand, through his behaviors and his suggestions, **Padre Pio has given this truth a disconcerting reality.**

For him, his Guardian Angel was always a true and inseparable friend. He lived almost in symbiosis with his Guardian Angel. In a letter to his confessor he calls him, "the little companion of my infancy." A phrase that reveals how, at the age of five or six, he enjoyed being in the companion of this entity. And at that age, the future Padre Pio was no different from other children.

He was a normal child who lived a life of absolute simplicity and Christian Faith given him by his mother.

When Padre Pio became a young priest his relationship with his Guardian Angel became more mature, more adult and stronger but no less tangible.

He wrote to his confessor, "At night before my eyes are quite closed, I see the shadows falling and Heaven opening before me. Cheered by this vision, I fall asleep with a beatific smile and an unwrinkled brow awaiting the little companion of my childhood to come and wake me up. Then we can carry out our morning devotions to the delight of our hearts."

Padre Pio grew so close to his Guardian Angel that he reached the point where he used to quarrel with him and accuse him of not being sufficiently solicitous in defending him from evil spirits. He got his Guardian Angel to translate letters from French and Greek as he did not know these languages. He sent his Guardian Angel to console his friends and give them urgent letters.

All these sides to his behavior might be considered absurd and rationally inadmissible, but they confirm that he had a simple faith in a truth taught by the Church. A truth which he lived according to an elementary significance that is contained in the words in which it is expressed, "Angel of God, you have been given to me to watch over me. God has given you the task of watching over me. And you, who are one of God's creatures, have a law that you must obey. You must stay close to me, whether you like it or not, and you are obliged to look after me."

And you, who are one of God's creatures, have a law that you must obey. You must stay close to me, whether you like it or not, and you are obliged to look after me."

Often, at the end of his letters, he wrote in a completely natural way, "Say hello to your little Angel." As one might say, "Give my greetings to your mother."

It is a phrase that shows his total conviction in the presence of the Angel alongside the person to whom he was writing. To those who came to say goodbye before going on a journey, he would say, "May the Angel of God go with you," or "May the Angel of God go with you and open all doors for you." To a spiritual daughter he wrote: "Remember your Guardian Angel. He is always near to you whether you are in God's grace or not. What greater friend can you have than your Guardian Angel?"

He often said to his spiritual children, "When you need me and you cannot come to me send your Guardian Angel to me with the message." One of them asked him, "But do you really hear what I send my Guardian Angel to tell you?" Padre Pio replied, "Of course, do you think I'm deaf?"

Father Alessio Parente, who spent a long time with Padre Pio, was a direct witness of many episodes that demonstrate the familiarity between him and the Angels.

The following one, for example, I find fascinating for the scene you can visualize. Father Alessio wrote a valuable little book entitled, "Send me your Guardian Angel" (available at the PPMC) and in it he recounts how in the afternoon when Padre Pio was on the veranda he would often mumble as though to someone near him although, in reality, he was completely alone.

One day Father Alessio approached him with some letters in his hand to ask him something and Padre Pio said to him brusquely, "Look here, can't you see I am doing something? Leave me in Peace."

Father Alessio was offended. He withdrew with a feeling of mortification. Padre Pio must have realized, and after a while he called him and said, "Didn't you see all those Angels around me? They were the Guardian Angels of my spiritual children who had come to bring me their messages. I had to give them answers to take back."

Reflecting on this anecdote for a moment is enough to take you aback. Padre Pio was not the type to use beautiful metaphorical phrases. He was a man of few words. He gave quick replies. If he said that phrase, then he meant what he said. Anyone taking it seriously realized that this is how it was.

Up to a short time ago, it was possible to think that behavior of this kind could be put down as one of the many strange things coming from a man of God.

However, now that the Church, after a long inquiry, has recognized the sanctity of Padre Pio, these "strange things" become intended parts of the teaching, the mission and the "peculiarity" of this Capuchin Brother. So, they must be weighed and thought about because in them are wrapped precious messages.

(R. Allegri – "Messenger of the Two Hearts")

REVELATION 8:3-4

“An angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all of God’s holy ones. From the angel’s hand the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it prayers of God’s people.”

The angels carry out God’s will. Let us pray that we too may listen carefully for His voice and hear His call.

O God, you made your angels messengers of your marvelous works, help us to proclaim your wonderful deeds to all people.

The angels unceasingly proclaim that you are holy and exalted, may your people on earth join their voices to the angelic song of praise.

You commanded your angels to watch over your servants in all their ways, guide those who are traveling and bring them home safely in joy and in peace.

You gave the angels the mission of announcing peace to all and inspire counsels of peace in the hearts of leaders and peoples of all nations.

When you send forth the angels to gather together your chosen people from every corner of the earth, but bring them all to the unending gladness of your kingdom.

(Angels of God, Edmundite Missions, 1428 Broad Street, Selma, Alabama 36701)

AN ANGEL KISS

A kiss that is sent from heaven,
A kiss from up above.
A kiss that is very special,
From someone that you love.

So when, your hearts are heavy,
And filled with tears and pain,
And no one can console you,
Remember once again...

About the ones you grieve for,
Because you sadly miss.
And the gentle breeze you took for granted,
Was just an Angel's Kiss

(Pat C.)

RETREATS for HEALING after ABORTION

If you are suffering from an abortion, experience the healing love of Jesus on a Rachel’s Vineyard retreat on October 18, 19, and 20, 2002. This retreat will be held in Immaculata, PA, which is located just outside of Philadelphia. For more information call Mary Alice at Toll Free 877-HOPE \$ ME or reach us online at www.rachelsvineyard.org. All requests are strictly confidential.

(Mary Alice or www.rachelsvineyard.org)

STRENGTH through PRAYER

The day had brought me heartache;
Turning skies to darkest gray.
With heavy heart I drew aside
And humbly knelt to pray.

I told God that my burden
Was more that I could bear –
Then I heard Him gently say,
“I’ll strengthen you through prayer.”

With anxious heart I still prayed on,
“Lord, take this cup from me.”
Again I heard His voice so kind,
“My child, draw near to me.”

There sweetly flowed an inner peace
That overcame despair;
In His kind and loving way
God strengthened me through prayer.

(By Kay Hoffman)

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

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

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

MESSAGE of 6/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Today I pray for you and with you that the Holy Spirit may help you and increase your faith, so that you may accept even more the messages that I am giving you here in this holy place. Little children, comprehend that this is a time of grace for each of you; and with me, little children, you are secure. I desire to lead you all on the way of holiness. Live my messages and put into life every word that I am giving you. May they be precious to you because they come from heaven. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE of 7/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Today I rejoice with your patron saint and call you to be open to God's will, so that in you and through you, faith may grow in the people you meet in your everyday life. Little children, pray until prayer becomes joy for you. Ask your holy protectors to help you grow in love towards God. 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 6/25/02

In this message, Mary promises us to pray for us and with us for the strength and power from on high: the Holy Spirit. Only in the Holy Spirit can we believe in God. Without the Spirit, there is no life, no love, no trust, no unity and no common life. The question of openness to the Holy Spirit is the fundamental question of our time, of our surroundings, of the whole earth and of our life on this earth. Only in the power and the force of the Holy Spirit can we approach our Mother, the Queen of Peace, who comes to us here. We cannot possess the Holy Spirit; we can only let Him possess us. God gives Him to those who desire and seek Him. By the Spirit, we know God, ourselves and this world. It is not comfortable to call upon the Holy Spirit, because He reveals the superficiality and the shallowness of our faith to us. He reveals to us that the Spirit, of which Jesus and Mary speak, is too often unfamiliar to us. He reveals to us that peace, which they promise, is so far away from us. However, let us not pray for the gift of the Spirit if we do not want to change anything...

Wherever Mary is present, the Holy Spirit is at work. We know it by the word of the angel Gabriel: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." (Lk 1: 35). We also know it by Jesus' words to the apostles, when he recommended them to stay in the town until the Spirit, which was promised, descends upon them. They received the outpouring of the Spirit united in prayer with Mary, in the room of the Last Supper. With Mary, we are secure; that is Her promise given

to us. Whoever loves Jesus will also love Mary, and whoever prays to Mary will be led to Jesus.

The time of the Church is the time of the Holy Spirit and the time of Mary, the Mother of the Church. It is under the cross that She has become the Mother of the Church. By receiving John from the hands of Jesus, She receives each one of us. On the cross, Jesus has pronounced his words "It is accomplished", only after having confided John to Mary and Mary to John. It is as if He wanted to tell that the maternity of Mary was in the plan of God for the salvation of the world. It is like when the head of the household gathers his children to tell them: "In my absence, listen to your mother. Do whatever she tells you." The essence of all the messages given by Our Lady can be precisely summarized in Her words pronounced at Cana in Galilee: "Do whatever He tells you!"

Thank you, Mary, our Mother, for not giving up on us. I implore you, lead us on the way of holiness, and may Your messages show us the way and be our light in this valley of tears, so that we may live joyfully together with You, until the final goal, where You await us.

Let us pray together now, six years later, the "Prayer of Thanksgiving to the Queen of Peace" written by Father Slavko Barbaric at the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the apparitions:

I am sitting on Your Hill, O Mary, on the place where the scared children saw You for the first time. Today, I want to thank You.

Thank You, O Mary, for each one of Your comings.

Thank You for each message and for each single word, especially for calling us Your dear

children.

Thank You, because I really can believe that we are dear to You and that You love us.

Thank You, because You told us to pray, in order to understand Your love, and then cry and jump for joy.

Thank You, because You said that we are important for You and that, without us, You can do nothing.

On Your Hill, my soul sings the song of thanksgiving to You and blesses the Lord with You, for having sent You to us.

I know that You are the humble servant of the Lord. Allow me nevertheless to praise You and to bless You.

Blessed are You, O Mary, Queen of Peace, my soul exclaims with Elisabeth, with the entire parish and all the pilgrims. Why are we so favoured, that our Mother should come to us?

I bless You with the visionaries and with their families.

I bless You with all the families that have received You and that live in peace.

I bless You with all the prayer groups in the world, because You teach us to pray.

I bless You with all those who came from near and from far to pray with us here.

I bless You with all those who went to confession and who were reconciled with the Lord; I bless You with all those who – through Your intercession – have found spiritual, psychological and physical health.

I bless You with all those who celebrate this anniversary here and in the world.

I bless You for all that the Lord shall do through You in the future.

I bless You with all those who were against and are still against Your coming, because You will show them Your tender motherly love.

With You, I pray to the Lord to pacify each heart and give peace to my people.

With You, I pray to the Lord for all those who are ill in their soul and in their body.

With You, I pray to the Lord for all those who are mourning in the war, for all the exiled, for all the invalids.

With You, I pray to the Lord for all the fallen soldiers who defend their country and all the victims of violence.

With You, I pray to the Lord, that Your Immaculate Heart may be glorified in the world. May He, through Your intercession, give peace to the world.

May the Almighty God be blessed now and

forever! Amen.

(Father Slavko Barbaric: Follow Me With Your Heart)

(Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM, Medjugorje June 26, 2002)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 7/25/02

Today, Our Lady tells us that she is present with us in the celebration of Saint James, the Patron saint of pilgrims and of the parish of Medjugorje, which she has chosen, in order to obtain, through her intercession, so many graces from God. It was not a coincidence that Saint James was chosen as the Patron Saint of this parish, just as it is not a coincidence - as Our Lady said in one message - that the parishioners constructed a cross on the hill above Medjugorje in 1933, to mark the 1900 years since the passion of Jesus. They could not imagine that so many people would come on pilgrimage to this cross, that so many graces would be poured out precisely on that place. God has his marvelous plans that are inaccessible for us, but his hand is sure. The parishioners have built this cross with love, and God always gives more than we can give him in return.

In this message, Mary, our Mother, assures us once again of her presence, and not only hers, but also the presence of Saint James and the entire heavenly court. She speaks about the unity between the Pilgrim Church that we are, and the Glorified Church that represent all those who unceasingly praise God. This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness.... They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.... So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped." (CCC 956) "They contemplate God, praise him and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. ... Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world." (CCC 2683) Saint Therese of the Child Jesus said: "I will spend my heaven in doing good on the earth!"

It is thanks to the existence of the saints and the Patron saints, friends of God, who love men, that our life has meaning and this earth is not cursed. Because they love men, they infinitely need God and thus become holy. They are a bridge between heaven and earth. We ask the saints to help us, to bring from God

what we cannot obtain ourselves, to watch over us and lead us to God. They take care of us, they protect us, they set us free and heal us, they intercede for us and are always on our side. They are the only ones who know the meaning and who know how to live. Saints and Patron saints call us to be good to one another, to reconcile and to forgive. One becomes a saint in desiring with one's whole heart to become a friend of God, in entering into dialogue with God through prayer, so that we may allow God to enter into our life and change it, as Mary teaches us for so many years now.

Holiness is the program of our life. Only the saints were normal and healthy people, because they were the friends of God, source of life.

Mary calls us again to pray, so that we may reach joy, and more precisely God, the source of joy. Our Mother places this powerful means into our hands. All her apparitions here in Medjugorje, all her words and messages, are only means that lead to the goal, which is God. Our Lady's apparitions here are not a goal but a means and an appeal. Why not take all that God gives us through our Mother? Let us listen to the call of her heart, which loves us, and in which there is place for every man.

(Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM, Medjugorje, 7/26/2002)

PRESS BULLETIN 175, 6/26/2002

Our Lady's Ambassadors

Jesus gave His disciples the mission to go into the whole world and preach the Good News. All of us are called to accomplish this mission. It is a mission for all Christians, but also a Christian duty. Nevertheless, if there is anyone to be set apart for this mission of announcing, these are priests – men consecrated to God – who have the authority for this. By their ordination, priests become workers in the Lord's vineyard. They represent Jesus in the Church and in the world. This is why it is important to have priests, because they make Christ present among men.

The future is impossible without Jesus. To seek a future without priests means to make it impossible for Jesus to reach us through the men to whom He has given the authority to announce the Gospel and to give the sacraments. Christ needs men; he needs priests – his ambassadors in the world. Just as Mary, who became the ambassador of God and the bearer of hope – we have to do the same, especially priests.

Priests from all over the world come to Medjugorje. They come to this shrine with their faithful to seek the true Christian message. These priests are mostly leaders of prayer groups in their countries, groups that grew on the foundations of Medjugorje. This is how priests put themselves at the service of the spreading of Our Lady's messages. They become Our Lady's messengers and Her representatives. It is interesting to notice that priests come to Medjugorje discreetly and humbly, just as Mary does. Many of them have received their vocation here and they come to say thanks for the gift of being called to serve God in a special way. In almost all the countries and all the dioceses of the world, you can find priests who have entered into the core of Medjugorje. I like to call them Our Lady's ambassadors. Through the priests, Our Lady and Medjugorje are present on every step of this earth. Truly, everything is possible to God.

In Medjugorje, a spiritual meeting of priests coming from all over the world takes place once a year. In prayer, they here renew their promises to God. At the beginning of July, Medjugorje becomes an oasis for priests.

When we reflect on priests, we cannot exclude ourselves and our prayer for them. Keeping in mind the importance of priests, we cannot avoid the question: What do I do so that there may be holy priests? Do I sometimes pray for my priest? These are the questions addressed to every pilgrim who steps into this shrine, because a priest waits for you in the confessional, on the altar, on the mountains, in the conference room... The possibility to receive sacraments and Holy Mass is not our right – it is a gift from heaven. This gift is given to us through the hands of priests. Let us appreciate this gift and let us thank God for their lives and their spiritual service.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

THE CELEBRATION of the 21ST ANNIVERSARY of OUR LADY'S APPARITIONS in the PARISH of MEDJUGORJE

During the last 21 years, Our Lady's message of peace spread all over the world through pilgrims, reached homes all over the world, and made a parish of the world out of Medjugorje. This is confirmed by the presence of more than 100 000 faithful who came to Medjugorje for the 21st anniversary. It is impossible to enumerate all of the countries where the pilgrims came from: they came from all the five continents.

Very many local pilgrims came on their bare feet to pray to the Queen of Peace for peace.

In the morning of June 24th and June 25th, Holy Masses were celebrated in 16 languages. During these two days, 48 000 communions were distributed.

The evening Mass on June 24th was presided by Father Milan Loncar and concelebrated by 155 priests. About 15,000 faithful were present.

The evening Mass on June 25th was presided by Fr Branimir Musa, and concelebrated by 200 priests from approximately twenty countries. About 35,000 faithful were present.

PEACE MARCH

The 11th traditional Peace March was held as every year on June 24th, the eve of the anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady. It began with prayer and the blessing of the pilgrims in front of the Franciscan monastery of Humac. About 4000 pilgrims started their march at 6 am. Upon their arrival in Medjugorje, pilgrims gathered in front of the parish church for a short common prayer. "The Peace March" is the fruit of an idea born in the hearts of Medjugorje pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje at the time of war, in 1992. Although the years of war are behind us, Our Lady reminds us in her messages that there are wars "in our hearts". This 13 km long March is a response to the trouble, violence and hatred, as well as an appeal to real peace and reconciliation.

REGULAR ANNUAL APPARITION to the VISIONARY IVANKA

The visionary Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez had her regular annual apparition on June 25th 2002. According to the visionaries, Vicka, Marija and Ivan continue to have daily apparitions, and Mirjana, Ivanka and Jakov have an annual apparition.

At Her last daily apparition on May 7, 1985, Our Lady confided to Ivanka the 10th secret and told her that she would have an apparition once a year on the anniversary of the apparitions. It was that way also this year. The apparition lasted 6 minutes. Ivanka had the apparition at home in the presence of her family, her husband and her three children.

Our Lady gave the following message: *Dear Children, do not tire of prayer. Pray for peace, peace, peace.*"

Our Lady related to Ivanka some new details about her life. She gave us her motherly blessing. Our Lady was joyful.

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of May, 100,000 received Holy Communion and 2,578 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

MONSIGNOR SILAS S. NJIRU, BISHOP of MERU (KENYA), on PRIVATE VISIT to MEDJUGORJE

From May 6 to 10, 2002, Monsignor Silas S. Njiru, Bishop of Meru (Kenya), came for a private visit to Medjugorje. This is what he told us about his impressions in Medjugorje:

"Medjugorje is really worldly known. Wherever I come, in my country, in the USA or in Europe, people talk about Medjugorje! Last year I was in Orlando, in Florida, and someone took me by car to the Space Centre. He told me that he went to Medjugorje several times, and that I should go there too. I answered him that I regret, but I can not, for three reasons: I have no time, it is far and I have no money. He answered me that Our Lady would work a miracle. This year, a missionary from Italy told me that he was going to Medjugorje and asked me if I would like to come with him. I answered in the same way: I have no time, it is far and I have no money. When he went back home, he sent me a letter saying: the money is here, everything is ready, just open your heart to Our Lady. This is why I am here, because I venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary. I am profoundly impressed by the faith of people in the Church. It is a strong faith. I especially see many young people. I see that many people go for confession and ask to be reconciled with God. Today, this is a real miracle. People told me that for many years they did not go to Church, and since they have been to Medjugorje, they go regularly for Mass. This is a real miracle for me. Whoever has been here cannot remain silent. We have to talk. We have to distribute rosaries. A man just stopped me in a souvenir shop and gave me a rosary and a crucifix. Then he called his whole family to be blessed by a bishop from Africa, so I blessed everyone! Sincerely, what is happening here is beyond the apparitions alone. In Africa, we also have people who have apparitions. They are possible and present. I ask myself one question: If God allows apparitions, why is he doing this? To deepen our faith, to bring us to conversion... I am happy if there are apparitions, but we have to go beyond them. Our faith has to be renewed, because if this is not happening, they have no meaning. If the faith is growing, then it is good."

PUPILS in MEDJUGORJE

Among local pilgrims, these days there are many pupils at Medjugorje who – at the end of their school year – go for a traditional excursion. Many of them traditionally come to Medjugorje to thank the Queen of Peace for their success at school.

PILGRIMS from URAL

Two pilgrims from the town of Zlatoust in South Ural, at the border between Asia and Europe, came to Medjugorje from May 8 to 11, 2002.

They came to Medjugorje through some friends from Vienna (Austria) who come often to Medjugorje. The town of Zlatoust numbers about 200,000 inhabitants with only 600 Catholics. A priest comes to them once a month, teaches them catechism and celebrates Holy Mass. Every Sunday, the faithful gather for the Liturgy of the Word. They have a prayer group where they read and meditate on Our Lady's messages. They have put a statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje into a little chapel. In thanksgiving for Our Lady's apparitions in Medjugorje, the parish is consecrated to the Queen of Peace.

SOLEMNITY of CORPUS CHRISTI – CONFIRMATION in MEDJUGORJE

On the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, May 30th, 2002, 81 candidates from the parish of Medjugorje received the sacrament of Confirmation from the hands of Monsignor Ratko Peric, Bishop of Mostar. The pastor of Medjugorje, Father Branko Rados, addressed his words of welcome to the Bishop. In his homily, Monsignor Peric spoke about signs that show whether we are living or not according to the Holy Spirit, and he invited the candidates not to conform to the world but to Christ.

After the evening Holy Mass, according to tradition linked to the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, there was a one-hour procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the parish, in which 38 local and foreign priests participated, as well as numerous parishioners and pilgrims.

MEETING of CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Another meeting of children's choirs from Herzegovina called "Golden Harp" was held on June 2nd, 2002, in the Franciscan church at Mostar. There were children from 11 parishes and among them the children's choir from Medjugorje, "Little Doves of Peace" under the guidance of Sister Slavica Kozul.

Although the aim of these meetings is primarily to bring children together and to glorify the Lord through the song, it is not without significance that, according to common opinion, "Little Doves of Peace" were most successful in the interpretation of their songs.

MALTESE ORDER AGAIN at the SERVICE of the PILGRIMS

The medical services of the Maltese Order from Germany came for the fifth time to Medjugorje to be at the service of the pilgrims. During the summer months, from June 1st to November 1st, 2002, at the time of the strongest influx of the pilgrims, the Maltesers will be on duty near the parish church and will offer first-aid at the ambulance service (clinic) in a house on the way to Cross Mountain, every day from 9 AM to 9 PM, and during night for urgent cases.

The Maltese Order has existed for 900 years now. Its slogan is "keep the faith and help the needy, witness faith with love and be at the service of peace in the world".

In this spirit, Father Branko Rados, pastor of Medjugorje, welcomed the Maltese Order and its medical staff during the German pilgrim Mass. He expressed the gratitude in the name of the parishioners and the pilgrims, and invoked on them the blessing of God through the intercession of the Queen of Peace.

We thank them in the name of all those who will during this summer receive their help and the comfort of their apostolate.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE of the INTERNATIONAL INTERNET PRAYER GROUP "QUEEN OF PEACE"

The International Internet Prayer Group [IIPG] "Queen of Peace" (www.iipg-queenofpeace.org), which is being led through the Internet by Ana and Steve Shawl (USA), comes regularly to Medjugorje for an annual pilgrimage on the occasion of the foundation of the group, June 4th.

[The IIPG was actually founded in Medjugorje by a male member of Ivan's prayer group. Having done his duty he was called to be with the Lord. Read his story on the above mentioned Internet web site.]

The "IIPG Queen of Peace" numbers about 1500 members today from all over the world. This year, about 60 members of the group were in Medjugorje.

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for GUIDES AND LEADERS of PEACE CENTRES and MEDJUGORJE PRAYER, PILGRIM and CHARITY GROUPS

The 10th International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity groups linked to Medjugorje will take place in the New Hall in Medjugorje from February 23 to 27, 2003.

[The program with a schedule of events and speakers is available on-line and via the PPMC.]

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

PRESS BULLETIN 176, 7/26/2002

MEDJUGORJE - A BRIDGE for YOUNG PEOPLE

Martin Thurner, a journalist, compares today's youth to the famous "Bridge of Avignon". Avignon is an old French city in which there is a beautiful but unfinished bridge. Under the bridge flows the Rhone River. The arches of the bridge have still not joined one another. There is a void in between. Builders have tried to cross the river and to join the arches, but without any success. The foundations were not strong enough to build on them and join the arches.

This is how Thurner sees today's young people: they seem to lack solid foundations and seem to need a mediator to go across the obstacles and step forward. His observation about our need of a mediator is very accurate. Indeed, we need a steer man who will take us to the other shore, who will cross the obstacles of this life. We need parents and teachers, friends and priests... We can do nothing alone. We especially need Jesus Christ, our guide along the way, and Our Lady, the mediator of graces who leads us to Christ. We need courage to walk in the footsteps of our God who says to the apostle Thomas and to all of us: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". If we find this, who can harm us? Is there any place left for fear? Is there any place left for despair and for a passage to the dark side of life? Embrace Jesus and build your future with Him! Open your door to Him and allow Him to enter into your interior! Be a bridge for His grace, His love and His goodness! Allow the river of God's grace to flow through you!

In Medjugorje, we so often have the occasion to meet young people who have reached the other shore. Yes, many of them had to abandon false foundations and build new ones, but they have succeeded. They understood that a better future could not be built on weak foundations. Young people have felt - here - that there is someone - here - to take them by the hand and to lead them from meaninglessness to meaningfulness. They have felt that - here - they can be recognized as beloved creatures - as persons with their full dignity. In Medjugorje, for young people, such a person becomes an experience of the living God. Under the protection of Our Lady, young people become someone. They find their hope in Our Lady, in Jesus. Then, they are enkindled with the divine fire of faith, of hope and of charity. Then - of course - everything changes. Then, they can overcome their imprisonment and captivity.

We live in a time that is serious and slippery. Nowadays, it is not easy to succeed in life. Crisis can be felt in all areas. Young people err and seek. Many have no desire for life, no courage, no initiative. They bear a grudge against their parents, teachers, friends, priests... Young people sometimes have the impression that everyone is on the way of their happiness. The prophet Elijah experienced something similar in the Old Testament: The Holy Scripture says that God sent an angel to feed him with bread in his misery and in his hopelessness, to give him strength and food for life. God intervenes in our seeking and wants to give answers to our questions. This is precisely why Our Lady is an answer from Heaven to all of our doubts and seeking. Young people have recognized this and therefore gladly come to Medjugorje.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of June, 125,000 received Holy Communion and 3,262 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES of the ROSARY on APPARITION HILL

For the 21st anniversary of the apparitions of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje, the parishioners have put up on the Apparition Hill, along the path leading from the place of the apparitions to the Blue Cross, five bronze reliefs representing the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. They are the work of the Italian sculptor Carmelo Puzzolo, whose reliefs of the

Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries, as well as the Way of the Cross, have inspired the pilgrims for prayer on the Apparition Hill and on Cross Mountain for many years now.

“THE LITTLE FLOWER” and PADRE PIO in the CONFERENCE HALL

For the 21st anniversary of the apparitions, thanks to anonymous donors and friends of Medjugorje, two statues have been placed in the Conference Hall: a statue of Saint Therese of Lisieux and a statue of Saint Padre Pio of Pietralcina.

The statue of Little Therese comes directly from Lisieux and was made especially for Medjugorje, and the statue of Padre Pio is a work of Carmelo Puzzolo, whose bronze statues and reliefs already stand in many prayer places at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje.

TWO PERUVIAN BISHOPS on PRIVATE PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE

Two Peruvian bishops, Monsignor Julio Ojeda Pascual and Monsignor Gerard Anton Zerdin, both from the Diocese of San Ramon in Peru, came on private pilgrimage to Medjugorje from July 4 to 6, 2002. We shall write about their impressions in the next issue of the Bulletin.

THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS

The 7th International Meeting for Priests at the School of Mary took place from Monday, July 1st, to Saturday, July 6th, 2002, on the theme: “THE PRIEST AT THE SERVICE OF HEALING AND DELIVERANCE”. This seminar gathered 483 priests and seminarians from 36 countries (speaking a total of 22 languages), from all of the continents.

During these days, priests were sharing, praying and celebrating the Eucharist in communion with the people of God. The day before last, they climbed the Cross Mountain praying the Way of the Cross, and the last day, they celebrated the Morning Prayer at the tomb of Father Slavko Barbaric, who initiated these Priests Meetings in 1996.

From year to year, the number of priests who choose to make their annual retreat in Medjugorje, under the protection of Our Blessed Mother – the Queen of Peace, is growing. The abundance of fruits of this meeting can be seen in the unexpected large number of participants. We entrust them into your prayers.

This year’s meting was also marked by the painful news about a terrible car accident, in which, on a highway in Hungary, 19 Polish pilgrims died and 33 were wounded, among them three priests who were coming for the priests’ retreat. The intention of the Evening Mass on July 2nd, 2002, presided by Father Branko Rados, pastor of Medjugorje, was for peace of the souls of the deceased, for the health of the wounded and for their families.

SEMINARS at “DOMUS PACIS”

During the month of June, two “Prayer and Fasting” seminars for about 90 Polish pilgrims were held in the house of prayer “Domus Pacis”. They spent a week in prayer and fasting in order to deepen their faith and their abandonment to the Lord.

Contact Father Ljubo Kurtovic for “Prayer and Fasting” seminars. (Fax: 00 387 36 651 444)

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

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

A VOCATION PRAYER

Father, we, the baptized, realize our call to serve. With our hearts you continue to love your people. Help us to know how. Call forth from among us priests, deacons, Sisters, Brothers, and lay ministers to heal the brokenhearted, dry the tears of those who mourn, give hope to those who despair and proclaim your steadfast love. We ask this in Jesus' name.

AMEN

THE FLYING MONK

Many Allied aviation pilots of various nationalities and of varied religions who during the Second World War, after September 8, 1943, were based in Bari to undertake missions on Italian territory, testified to an amazing occurrence.

Each time, while fulfilling their Italian military mission, they approached the zone of the Gargano, in the environs of San Giovanni Rotondo, they saw in the sky a Friar, who in stretching out his wounded hands, prevented them from dropping their bombs. Foggia and almost all of the centers of Puglia were subjected to repeated bombardment, on San Giovanni Rotondo not one bomb fell.

This event, which is to say the least unheard of, was directly witnessed by the general of Aeronautica Italiana Bemardo Rosini, who at that time was part of the United Air Command operating out of Bari with the Allied air forces. "Each time that the pilots returned from their missions, " the General said, " they spoke of this Friar that appeared in the sky and diverted their airplanes, making them turn back.

"Everyone laughed at these incredible stories. But since the episodes kept recurring, the Commanding General decided to intervene personally. He took command of a squadron of bombers to destroy a cache of German war materials that was said to be right in San Giovanni Rotondo. Up until that time, no one had ever succeeded in going in that direction because of the presence in the air of that mysterious phantasm which forced the airplanes back.

"Since this had been happening for some time, at the base there was much apprehension. We were all curious to see the results of this operation. When the squadron returned, we went over to ask what had occurred.

The American General was quite upset. He recounted that as soon as they arrived near the target, he and his pilots had seen rising up into the sky the figure of a

monk with his hands held high. The bombs dropped all by themselves falling in the woods, and the planes turned in retreat, without any intervention on the part of the pilots.

"That evening, the episode was the main topic of conversation. Everyone was wondering who was this spectra which the airplanes mysteriously obeyed. Someone said to the commanding general that at San Giovanni there lived a priest with the stigmata whom everyone considered a saint, and that perhaps he was the very one responsible for diverting the planes. The general found this hard to believe, but as soon as it was possible, he wished to go there to find out.

"After the war, the general, accompanied by a few pilots, arrived at the Capuchin Convent. As soon as he crossed the threshold of the sacristy, he found himself facing a number of Friars, among whom he recognized immediately the one who had stopped his airplanes. Padre Pio went up to meet him, and putting a hand on his shoulders, said to him: "So it is you, the one who wished to do away with all of us."

Astonished at seeing and hearing the Friar, the general knelt before him. Padre Pio had spoken in his usual Benevento dialect, but the general was convinced that the Priest had spoken in English. The two became friends. The general, who was a Protestant, converted to Catholicism.

(1 *Miracoli di Padre Pio*, by Renzo Allegri, 1993
Arnoldo Mondadori Editore S.p.A. Milano, Italy, pages
110-111)

GOD'S ARMY

It was late one Tuesday evening, before a mother could sit down, to tell her only child about the terror that hit downtown.

She looked into the eyes of her son, God, she loved him so, she felt her heart begin to break and the hurt begin to show.

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.

She gathered all her strength and courage, as her story she began to tell. "Baby don't cry, but I'm afraid daddy might be under a building that fell."

The boy looked back at his mother, his eyes made not one blink. And the mother's tears began to fall. What would her baby think?

You see, his dad is a firefighter, and his hero from the day of his birth. He loved his dad more than anything else that could ever inherit this earth.

The mother's head began to drop, her forehead resting on palm. she thought her son would be upset. Instead, he was very calm.

The boy leaned over towards his mom, and put his hand upon her head. In her ear he began to whisper, and this is what he said:

"Mommy please don't cry, I knew daddy wasn't coming home. I talked to him just a while ago, but it wasn't on the phone.

He told me that he loved me, and he promised we'd meet again. He told of his new home, and the job he was to begin."

"God is building an army, and there are many angels needed. That is where daddy and the others went. They weren't all defeated."

It was then, the mother lifted her head. The tears streamed down her face. And she could feel her husband's presence, as it filled her heart with grace.

It was then she knew her son was right. He was in God's great army now. She also knew her son was safe, that he'd be kept from harm somehow.

So, evildoers of the world beware. An army is on the way, bolstered by new angels, who left the towers that day.

Their commander has never been beaten. His power has never been matched, and if evil thinks he was almighty before..... Well, the surface has just been scratched!

GOD BLESS AMERICA !!!!!

(Collette)

REDEEMING GRACE

We sometimes stumble along the way
And we cannot see the truth...

That God must have a reason
For the pain we're going through.

It helps to know we're growing
And each trial will make us strong...

The PILGRIM

And God will draw us near to Him
Because it's where we all belong.
Don't let the hard times throw you
And cause you to doubt your faith...
God is just to make things right;
He redeems us by His grace.

(Hope for Tomorrow - By Jill Lemming)

BANISHING BOREDOM

Authenticity Works

In my experience of life I have found that encounters with normal teenagers are usually pleasant and, on occasion, exciting. But one December afternoon in England where I was giving retreats I met exactly the opposite.

Upon returning to the center of town from a quiet prayer walk on a deserted Atlantic beach, I passed a group of youths in their late teens. They were given to the current fad of coloring their late teens. They were given to the current fad of coloring and rodding their hair, but that is not what bothered me. What struck my mind and heart with sorrow was the ghastly jadedness portrayed on their faces.

Youthful countenances which should have sparkled with at least some semblance of enthusiasm instead proclaimed a dull boredom. These youngsters, of both sexes, appeared fed up with life. Their expressions seemed to be saying, "I've seen and done it all, and life for me is a colossal blah."

What is boredom? Just as nausea is a sign of bodily illness, so an inner pervasive bleakness is an abnormality in one's person. Something is haywire. Apathetic people do not respond – and especially not to what is best in reality. Nothing triggers lively wonder: not a sky, not the best of the world's music, not the marvels of an atom or a living cell, not even the heroic virtues of a saint.

While there may remain some interest in vanity, fame, money, or lust, these dull ones have scarcely a clue as to what selfless love is all about. They therefore have no capacity for joy. Cheerfulness and enthusiasm are mere words. Just as selfless love is absent, so is a noble and supreme goal in life. I am talking mostly about what is called existential boredom, an abiding indifference to life and existence itself, not merely a passing lack of response to a particular lecture, an acquaintance, or a conversation.

There are, of course, degrees of apathy of the spirit just as there are gradations of nausea in one's digestive system. The more or less severe end of the boredom spectrum is endemic in our society. Sizable segments of our population are more or less immune to genuine enthusiasm, deep joy, and genuine personality sparkle.

Recognition of this emptiness and inability to respond to reality is the chief reason for the increasing need in the entertainment industry to exaggerate and multiply sensual stimulations to ridiculous levels: glaring explosions of lights and sounds, vulgar and obscene language, violence and killings, eroticism and lewdness. Personality deadness is often so far advanced that almost nothing can elicit a healthy response. These people are psychically exhausted and empty; they are dead while they live.

I have sketched a frightening illness. We now need to notice that only human persons are capable of boredom. Cows may look bored, but actually they are incapable of this dreadful disease. The Carnation company advertises that its milk comes from "contented cows," as indeed they were and are. One must have an inner spirit to be bored. And of course no cow or cat or giraffe has an inner immaterial principle at all.

How is this?

Because our souls are immaterial spirit, and evidence for this bounds, we cannot help but seek endless happiness and immortality. A mere animal knows nothing of unlimited beauty, truth, goodness, delight, and existence – just as it knows nothing about writing and reading, art and design, and all sorts of activities of which only we humans are capable. Because we are spirit-in-the-flesh beings, nothing material can satisfy our endless desires.

Only the Infinite can fill us.

Because you and I are what we are, only God can rest our minds and hearts. Pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, and sloth never fill anyone, because they are all empty idols, devoid of love and beauty. But these capital sins are precisely what empty people pursue, which is why they are bored. By seeking fulfillment where it cannot be found they make themselves more and more ill, dreary, and dull.

What follows from all this? Much. And if we neglect these crucial points, we do so at our own risk – our eternal risk.

First of all, sin is a dead end. It promises but never delivers; it cannot deliver anything worthwhile. Jadedness derives most of all from sin: egocentrism,

avarice, lust, refusal to bestow selfless love, and all the rest that flow from the practical worship of these idols.

Secondly, the print, film, and electronic media – and especially their entertainment departments – progressively intensify their portrayals of violence and eroticism because these deaden human sensibilities and thus kill genuine delight. Since there is little or nothing of quality in this fare, the only thing left to assure continuing patronage is to amplify quantity and volume.

A third reflection brings us to very reason we exist. The sole solution to the human puzzle is a deep immersion in the triune beauty that is God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By this phrase, "deep immersion," I refer to a growing and profound intimacy with this indwelling Trinity in contemplative prayer. That is a subject which Scripture calls the "one thing," the most important activity we can engage in on our earth: "gazing on the beauty of the Lord" (Ps. 27:4). Elsewhere God's word invites us to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord" and to find that in this communion with him we become radiant with joy (Ps. 24:9, 6).

Strong words – and the exact opposite of the emptiness of boredom. Men and women with a deep prayer life are never bored. If you have doubts about this, try it out: taste and see for yourself. When the Second Vatican Council speaks of our burning with love during Mass, and when saints commonly experience this kind of deep prayer meant for everyone, it is simply what Saint Paul had in mind when he wrote that eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor can we even imagine what God has prepared for those who love him (1 Cor. 2:9). Drinking of infinite Beauty is bound to thrill anyone who has been purified from all the idols of sin.

Authenticity works. Well-crafted cars with clean gas lines and fresh spark plugs, with all cylinders operating properly, and driven according to the owner's manual written by craftsmen who made them, smoothly hum along the highway. So likewise, when you and I live according to the divine manual inspired by the Holy Spirit and understood according to the mind of the Church Jesus founded to teach in his name, we also will be the real thing: alive and responsive, brimming with love and zip and delight.

Indeed, boredom will be banished.

Authenticity does work.

(By Father Thomas Dubay, S.M., *Be Magazine*,
March-April 2001 Issue)

HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

When we meditate on human suffering we ought to remember that we are before a profound mystery; and that man himself is a mystery, known fully only by his creator. Saint Paul says that his life is hidden, and will be revealed in glory with the coming of Christ. (Col 3:4)

Suffering is the most powerful witness that man is not alone; that his origins lie elsewhere; and that this elsewhere is in God. There has not been a time when man has not been fascinated by the idea of owning his own life. When man was still in the Garden of Eden he wanted to possess the secrets of his own life, and that of the others. God made it clear to him from the beginning that certain decisions would endanger his own life (Gen 2:17).

With sin man is subject to death, and with this, also suffering which is a type of death or absence of the good that man enjoyed at the beginning of creation. It is not thought that man didn't know what it was to work, so it would be wrong to think that his only occupation was to eat the fruits of Eden. We do know that he did not suffer the fatigue of work since it became a malediction as a consequence of his sin: when God said "Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life (Gen 3:17).

The remedy for this absence of good is found in man's return to God; and it is precisely in suffering that man remembers to entrust his life to God, and that he is not self-sufficient, and that the further he gets from God and from others, the greater his inner void grows. Through the sin of our forefather we have inherited an infirm nature subject to material and moral suffering. True maturity is not in knowing how to control one's own life (Adam's same old error) but in realizing that a bleeding wound is in need of the Physician. Jesus came to heal the sick, and He says to us too: "why are you so afraid? (Mt 8:26)" ...and we could add: to suffer?

Trusting in Jesus and following His example are fundamental for man when he is faced with suffering. Faith is necessary since Christ's Cross is the bond of the new covenant. It is thanks to faith that we are once again bound to the Divinity in Christ's blood. And in imitating Christ's behavior His Eucharistic will of the one who sent me and to finish his work" (Jn 4:34).

We too are nourished in the Eucharist by this same will, but often we forget that in the Eucharist we are given the whole person of Christ. Therefore, when we suffer it is necessary for us to unite our will of thanksgiving and offering to that of the Holy Trinity, and know that we are constantly enveloped in the embrace of the Divine Family. We can say that our suffering is greater when we are not in God. To understand this we can think of a small baby who finds comfort in his mother's arms even though he still suffers. So it is for us, and our comfort is found in our Father's embrace.

We must never leave Christ. We are his body, and by virtue of His ascension we repose in Heaven with Him. For the same reason, Christ suffers with that part of the body which is still on the earth. We need to pray to the Holy Spirit, Consoler of those who mourn, life and strength of God,. Consolation, however is born from hope which is generated by the virtue of patience, and this in turn is fruit of suffering (2Cor 1:6). We entrust ourselves to His Spouse Mary, Comforter of the afflicted, that her pierced heart might always be a fount of consolation for us.

In September 1988 Our Lady gave to Jelena Vasilj the following message for the Prayer Group in Medjugorje. "I rejoice, my dear Children, that you desire going to Jesus by taking up your cross every day. Accept it with courage.

My Children, this way is strewn with thorns and is difficult, but know that I am next to you and will not leave you alone in any of the situations of your lives. I desire that you journey joyously along the way of the cross. Remember that Jesus did not complain about carrying the cross for you. So rejoice to when you carry it for the love of Jesus."

(Jelena Vasilj, locutionist, "Echo of Medjugorje")

FAITH

Faith can move mountains,
No matter how steep,
And calm the rough waters,
No matter how deep.
Faith can change darkness
To heavenly light,
While leading us tranquilly
Out of the night.
All this I can grant

With assurance, you see,
For countless are the mountains
Faith has moved for me.

(By Laura Baker Haynes)

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., Tuesday through Thursday, 10-12 September 2002, at the Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, NJ. Tell him you will work to gain sponsorship for him to go. See page 2 of this issue of "The PILGRIM" for more details on this Retreat on the Healing Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you.

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 host two “Daughters of Ruth” women’s support groups.

Group 1 (now closed) meets every Tuesday, 10 to 11:30 AM in the Upper Room at Epiphany House.

Group 2 (still open with first meeting on 9/11/2002) will meet every Wednesday, 10 to 11:30 AM in the Upper Room at Epiphany House.

Prayer will follow each period of group therapy and counseling. Individual counseling and therapy is available. Call Irene at (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.

Dean’s teachings are scheduled to resume on the first Wednesday (2nd) in October 2002 with teachings on Liturgy. Call (856) 768-9228 if you need directions.

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

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

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

31 AUGUST 2002 and 1 SEPTEMBER
2002 – JUNIE and SARAH IRIZARI

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host Junie and Sarah Irizari for two days of talks in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043.

They will their own unique insights into drawing closer to God through His Only Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. They have teamed together for the benefit of many souls over the past several years.

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

SEPTEMBER 6th through SEPTEMBER
8th – IHS UNITY CONFERENCE

The Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA is the new location for In His Sign (IHS) Network’s Unity Conference. Visit www.inhissign.com or Call (610) 527-2906 / (888) 34FAITH [343-2484].

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

RETREAT for SPANISH SPEAKING
WOMEN, 14 SEPTEMBER 2002

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a Retreat for Spanish Speaking Women on Saturday, 14 September 2002. The retreat director will be Father Ron Falotico, Pastor, Saint Peter Parish, Pleasantville, NJ.

For an information sheet with reservation form 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 with Father John Hampsch, CMF, will be immediately following the Camden Diocese Charismatic Conference in Wildwood, NJ and will concentrate on Spiritual Warfare.

For an information tri-fold 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, OPTIONAL
EXTENSION to MEDJUGORJE,
NOVEMBER 14 to 19, 2002**

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. An optional extension for 5 days in Medjugorje via Split and Dubrovnik is available for just \$580. Fly from Rome on 14th to Split and return via Dubrovnik to Rome on 18th with USA homecoming on 19th.

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

**30 NOVEMBER 2002 "HEALING YOUR
FAMILY TREE" DAY - FATHER JOHN
McFADDEN with NORMA and TOM
FINNERAN**

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

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

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

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a special retreat for women with Father Robert DeGrandis. This retreat will be held in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road,
Volume 13, Number 7-8 – July-August 2002

Voorhees, NJ on Saturday, 12 February 2003. It will concentrate on forgiveness, prayer, and healing for those women who have been abused, physically, emotionally, and/or sexually.

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

2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE (2003 RC) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. The 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 *August*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **ASSUMPTION (15)**, the Feasts of the **Transfiguration (6)**, **Saints Lawrence (10)** and **Bartholomew (24)** and the Memorials of **Saints Alphonsus Liguori (1)**, **Eusebius of Vercelli (2)**, **Peter Julian Eymard (2)**, **Cajetan (7)**, **Pope Sixtus II and Companions (7)**, **Dominic (8)**, **Pope Pontian (13)**, **Hippolytus (13)**, **Maximilian Kolbe (14)**, **Stephen of Hungary (16)**, **John Eudes (19)**, **Bernard (20)**, **Pope Pius X (21)**, **Rose of Lima (23)**, **Monica (27)** and **Augustine (28)** as well as the **Dedication of Saint Mary Major (5)**, **Queenship of Mary (22)** and the **Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist (29)**.

In *September*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of the **Triumph of the Cross (14)** and **Saints Matthew, Apostle (21)** and the Memorials of **Saints Gregory the Great (3)**, **Peter Claver (9)**, **John Chrysostom (13)**, **Cornelius and Cyprian (16)**, **Robert Bellarmine (17)**, **Januarius (19)**, **Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (20)**, **Cosmas and Damian (26)**, **Vincent de Paul (27)**, **Wenceslaus (28)**, **Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (28)** and **Jerome (30)**. Church calendars show Labor Day (2).

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 6 and the Bulletin Notices on pages 22 and 23. 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.

The PILGRIM

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Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc.
NON-PROFIT and IRS Code 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT
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If you do not desire to read "The PILGRIM," please give it to a Marian prayer group or return it to sender. If address has changed, please send a change of address.

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



UNITY CONFERENCE - 9/6 to 9/8

The Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA is the new location for In His Sign (IHS) Network's Unity Conference. Visit www.inhissign.com or Call (610) 527-2906 / (888) 34FAITH [343-2484].

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

keithwerner@comcast.net

