



The PILGRIM

Vol. 13, No. 9 Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)

September 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 12.

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

A PRAYER



Oh Mary, you are our model of Love. You are so loved by God, and as spouse of the Holy Spirit, you gave us Jesus, your Son, most infinitely lovable.

As you stood at the foot of the Cross, you joined your will to that of Jesus. How much your heart was bursting with love for Him who you once held so tiny in your arms. You participated in His sacrifice. You felt everything Mary – His pain and His love for mankind. How you freely entrusted Him into the hands of the Father. At this moment your love, Mary, flows from your Son's love, and united to it, you became a mirror of His love.

Mary, teach us to imitate you in prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Teach us simplicity, gentleness and the care of a mother's touch. Teach us to pray with our hearts and feel with all our being. Teach us to trust as you trusted. For these are the gifts of your personality, and help us to live in faith, hope and love.

We are spiritually hungry Mary, and long to find joy in the same simple pleasures of your love for your Son. Teach us about Jesus in the Eucharist, for He is the finest wine of the wedding feast.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue)

PLEASE MARK the DATES of the FOLLOWING 2002 AND 2003 PFMC EVENTS on YOUR CALENDARS. CONSIDER REGISTERING EARLY!

Please review the event articles on pages 1 through 9. Use the Table of Contents as a quick reference for events and dates. Mark the PFMC events on your 2002 and 2003 calendars. **Consider the possibility**

of your early registration for these events and then send in your registration form.

If you are from out of town and are considering your participation in these activities, please know that you are most welcome to participate at any of them. For larger events, we use local hotels. For those programs that are held at the PFMC, there is a Holiday Inn Express just a few blocks away. We are very convenient to great places to eat: diners, restaurants and fast food places. We welcome you to join us.

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

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

It includes round trip air from **Newark** to **Rome**, transfers, lovely comfortable rooms in 3 star or above hotels with private bathrooms (double occupancy), all entrance fees, guides, portage of one suitcase, comfortable coach for travel, **all breakfasts and suppers for 14 days, or 19 days** with the optional extension to **Medjugorje** for only **\$640**, and full spiritual program daily. Daily Holy Mass will be celebrated in many of the Shrines we will visit. Private room single supplement is available for **\$399 Italy** and **\$125 Medjugorje**.

"The PILGRIM" for September 2002 is dedicated to "Mary, Our Mother and Our Queen." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE".

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

Alitalia now needs final names and final payment for this wonderful pilgrimage to Italy and its Shrines.

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

Please review the enclosed information and registration form as this will be the last time we will include it in our newsletter. Full payment is now due. Call (856) 768-9228, Kathleen, with any questions.

“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.

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

A second group for women will be started on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11:30 AM, beginning 9/11/02.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you are a CCD teacher or on any Liturgy Committee in your parish, leader or part of a prayer group or just interested in the Holy Mass and Ceremonies of our beautiful Catholic Church, we welcome you to come - just try out a few classes, and we know that you will be drawn to the next one. Classes will help you understand the liturgy so you can explain it to your family, children, grandchildren, members of parish committees, etc. Ask your pastor and bring your whole liturgy committee. Bring your pastor with you! We are especially interested in having husbands and wives, or even high school and college students attend.

Pre-registration for this class is necessary. Please call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 by October 1, 2002. We need your name, address phone number. A form is enclosed if you wish to register by mail.

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

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, a retreat will be held in Immaculata, PA, which is located just outside of Philadelphia. For more information call Mary

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.

Alice at Toll Free (877) HOPE 4 ME or reach the team online at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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

All requests are held strictly confidential.

(Mary Alice or www.rachelsvineyard.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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

This will be the last time that the tri-fold information sheet and registration form will be included in "The PILGRIM." **PLEASE SIGN UP NOW!** Remember that the registration includes a meal plan with two huge ample hot lunches (that are filling as a dinner is). Send us your registration, and call the Hilton Hotel for a room reservation with up to 4 in a room.

God bless you.

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We hope to see you at this and other events on the PFMC calendar of activities.

Please consider cutting out the above Table of Contents of "IN THIS ISSUE . . ." block and posting it on your refrigerator or bulletin board so you can think about registering for PFMC events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“HEALING YOUR FAMILY TREE” - FATHER JOHN McFADDEN with NORMA and TOM FINERAN, 30 NOVEMBER 2002

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.

The day will include Holy Mass, various talks with workshops using the Family Tree forms, times for Confessions, prayer, refreshments throughout the day, and lunch. A 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.

The day will be limited to 80 registrations. Please see enclosed form. Fill it out and send as soon as possible to PPMC. No walk-ins will be permitted.

It will be held at the PPMC Epiphany House at 61 Cooper Road from 8:30 AM until close at 4:30 P M.

“MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS” – SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2002

Saint John Neumann Parish, Sicklerville, NJ, and the PPMC 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. Busses leave from and return to the 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 PPMC at (856) 768-9228 for flyers with reservation forms or see Father Hartman after Holy Mass at Saint John Neumann in Sicklerville.

If you wish us to set up such a bus trip for your prayer group or parish please call (856) 768-9228 or 1-800-788-MARY [6279] and ask for Liz or Kathleen.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE – FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2002

We know everyone gets busy during the holidays so we are planning the Christmas Open House at the PFMC NOW! Please stop by between 4 PM and 7 PM to enjoy a little holiday refreshments in the Upper Room of Epiphany House on Friday, 6 December 2002. You are always welcome to stop in but this will be a particularly festive time when the manger scene will be set up for the arrival of baby Jesus.

LITURGY of the HOURS: IT'S NOT JUST for CLERGY ANYMORE

For the past 16 months, Pope John Paul II has been encouraging people to pray with the Psalms, and particularly to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

We here at the Center have been talking to many and they have been asking how to pray the "Liturgy of the Hours".

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

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

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

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

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

At Saint Peter's Basilica, like in many cathedrals around the world, everyone is welcome to join in Sunday evening vespers.

The Sunday prayer is the only part of the Liturgy of the Hours celebrated in public by the Chapter of Saint Peter's Basilica, the group of priests who minister full time there.

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

(Catholic Star Herald June, 2002)

WOULD YOU LIKE to LEARN HOW to PRAY the LITURGY of the HOURS? 9 and 30 JANUARY 2003

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

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

Please mark your calendars. There is no charge for these sessions to help understand how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Reservations will be taken by

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

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

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963

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

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

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Glenn Hartman, Father John

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

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

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

Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden,

Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and
Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.

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

phone **AND WILL CLOSE ON DECEMBER 10TH, 2002** to allow us to order the Liturgy books. It is mandatory that each person attending buy their own Liturgy of the Hours book and guide. We will have them available for \$32 each the night of the first class. Large print is \$35.95. **We will only order enough books and guides for those registered.** If you already have the book, you may bring it. It is not necessary to buy another book.

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

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

WE NEED YOUR MONTHLY or ANNUAL DONATIONS, WE CAN ACCEPT ANY DONATION by CHARGE CARD

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

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

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

We are **very** grateful for every donation. Actually no donation is small, all the donations add up and help us tremendously, and we thank you for all your prayers and donations. You have helped us cover the printing and mailing of "The PILGRIM," the heat, electricity,

copying, water, insurance, and setting up of programs. We are excited with how Our Lady is guiding us for the year of 2002. We cannot do it without you.

Please come and see the PFMC. We know you will enjoy what you see and finding a way of helping out.



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

Thank you and God bless you,

Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

1. PARTICIPATE IN MAILING "The PILGRIM" AND OTHER MAILINGS (once a month),
2. BOOKKEEPING,
3. BOOK and RELIGIOUS ARTICLE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (REQUIRES SOME TYPING and COMPUTER SKILLS),
4. ORGANIZATION and DEVELOPMENT of CENTERS MONTHLY PROGRAMS,
5. HOSPITALITY DURING RETREATS,
6. UPKEEP of COMPUTERS and WEB SITE,
7. ADDRESS and INFORMATION MAINTENANCE in MICROSOFT ACCESS,
8. HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS,
9. VOCATION AWARENESS and EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DEVELOPMENT
10. PRO LIFE ACTIVITIES
11. HELPING to ANSWER PHONES,
12. PILGRIMAGE PLANNING and SET UP (TRAVEL BACKGROUND REQUIRED),
13. GIFT ROOM ASSISTING ESPECIALLY for RETREATS and DURING CHRISTMAS and SPECIAL HOLIDAY TIMES.
14. TYPING (KNOWLEDGE of "MICROSOFT WORD" HELPFUL- WE WILL TRAIN YOU).

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

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

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

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

The PFMC will host Father Bill McCarthy in a Triduum study of **"THE TABERNACLE (OLD TESTAMENT TO NEW TESTAMENT), THE LAMBS SUPPER, THE 7 COVENANTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ONE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE EUCHARIST, AND THE SACRAMENTAL SYSTEM"**.

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

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

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

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

PRAY for FATHER BILL McCARTHY, M.Ss.A.

Rumors of Heart Attack or Stroke are circulating as we go to press. Check www.myfathershouse.com.

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

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

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

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

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

RETREAT CONFERENCE and 3 DAY EXTENSION, 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].

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

The Hilton Hotel is now accepting room reservations for the 2003 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. Please call the Hilton Hotel at 1-800-HILTONS or locally at (856) 665-6666 to make your hotel reservation. Rooms are \$92 per room and will accommodate 2 persons in a king bed or up to 4 persons in two double beds. Cots are also available,

but **must be arranged for prior to arrival. Refrigerators in rooms must also be arranged for ahead of time.** You must guarantee your room with a one-night charge on your credit card. Cancellation must be **72 hours prior** to the event. Please request smoking or non-smoking rooms ahead of time, but these are not guaranteed. The Hilton Hotel holds to a first come first served basis on their non-smoking rooms. Blocks of rooms and, where possible, entire floors are either non-smoking or smoking.

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

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

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

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

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

(Kathleen and Keith for All the PFMC Volunteers)

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

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

We will have special rates for you at the Holiday Inn Express just around the corner from the Center. The hours of the Retreat will be from **9AM ON SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2003 to 5 PM and 9 AM TO 5 PM on SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2003.** The **registration donation of \$80 per couple includes a lovely lunch both days.** We can only take **40 couples.**

We hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful weekend and **register early** by calling the PFMC at 856 768 9228 to register. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Or, you may register by mail by sending your check and filling in the enclosed registration. God bless you.

FATHER MICHAEL SEMANA to CONDUCT a RETREAT at the PFMC – 18 to 19 OCTOBER 2003

Father Michael Semana will conduct a retreat weekend October 18 and 19, 2003. Mark your calendars for coming to the PFMC. Topic and more details at a later date.

GIFT ROOM OPEN DAILY

Our spiritually nourishing gift room is open 10-4pm daily. Come and browse for statues, rosaries, pins, medals, prayer books, prayer cards, holy cards, scapulars, and religious books. Discounts on donations given for large orders. We have a large assortment of wonderful things coming in for Christmas and special occasions. Call Livia or Vince for any special orders (856) 768-9228.

HUMANITARIAN AID to the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VOCATION DEPARTMENT:

A PRAYER for PRIESTS

I beseech You, direct the hearts and wills of the servants of Your Bride, the Holy Church, unto Yourself so that they may follow the poor, bleeding, humble, and gentle Lamb of God on the way of the Cross. Make them angels in the shape of men: for after all, they have to administer and distribute the Body and Blood of Your Only Begotten Son! AMEN

(Saint Catherine of Siena)

THE PRIESTHOOD

The priesthood is ministerial. "That office...which the Lord committed to the pastors of his people, is in the strict sense of the term a service." It is entirely related to Christ and to men. It depends entirely on Christ and on his unique priesthood. It has been instituted for the good of men and the communion of the Church.

The sacrament of Holy Orders communicates a "sacred power" which is none other than that of Christ. The exercise of this authority must therefore be measured against the model of Christ, who by love made himself the least and the servant of all. "The Lord said clearly that concern for his flock was proof of love for Him."

(Catholic Catechism # 1551 "Celebration of the Christian Mystery")

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

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass in the area that you are going to visit or are currently located, call 1-800-MASS-TIME 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. You can find maps to the churches in addition to the times of Holy Mass celebrations.

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 PRAYER for PRIESTS

Oh my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord. Lord, give us holy priests; You yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.

May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things.

(Saint Mary Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament)

INTERESTED in FORMING A VOCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM in YOUR PARISH?

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

ADOPT A BROTHER PRIEST

Ask Mary to assign Him to you.

Love Him like a real Brother.

Daily pray and sacrifice for Him.

Shield Him from temptations.

Beg God that he avoids giving scandal.

Call Him back to fervor.

Become a saint that He may become one.

Pray that Mary be a tender Mother to Him and find Him good friends.

Prepare Him for a saintly death.

Ask for a new vocation to replace Him.

Even ahead of more vocations, is the need for sanctity among Bishops and Priests in today's Church. Saints attract vocations. The early Christians prayed for the Apostles "In the Spirit...using prayers and petitions of every sort" (Eph. 6:18). A Eucharistic Holy Hour makes up for and helps prevent scandals.

(Father August Bosio, SDB, Mary Help of Christians, Tampa, Florida)

THE BIRTHDAY of OUR QUEEN (SEPTEMBER 8)

All hail O New World! Come and see!
Here in a cradle lies our Queen,
Mother of God, one day to be,
O come and see this heavenly scene.

A beauteous, fragrant rose-bud,
Immaculate! God's own flower,
His masterpiece of royal blood
Who came to earth this midnight hour!

Thousands of angels stand to guard
This mystical counterpart of God
And Seraphs play sweet lullabies
Upon their harps, as Cherubs laud.

Hail holy babe! Hail full of grace!
With wee hands clasped, with eyelids closed
She talks with God - face to face!

(Sister Francis Marie, Robert, Cyril, Mary Immaculate: God's Mother and Mine. Poughkeepsie, NY: Marist Press, 1946)

THORNS for SEPTEMBER

The rose is blowing now, a shattered thing,
That once held beauty high above the thorn.
It will be stripped some nearing autumn morn,
Such is the sadness that September brings!
The vanished loveliness.... The sharper sorrow
That seeks out every flower and every tree,
Leaving them desolate for all to see,
Caught in the shivering chill of some tomorrow.
And so does Mary's heart lie shattered, too,
As she looks up to find no blossoming tree -
Only the cross beyond Gethsemane
Stark in the winter wind. How much she knew
Of death and loneliness and bitter hours,
And sharp and cruel thorns that own no flowers!

(Blanche Yvonne Mosler Robert, Cyril. *Our Lady's Praise in Poetry*. Poughkeepsie, NY: Marist Press, 1944)

WOULD YOU LIKE to SPONSOR a PPMC RADIO PROGRAM?

Every Thursday on WTMR 800 AM from 2:15 PM to 2:30 PM Keith and Kathleen have a radio program ***"Put on the Armor of God."*** This has been on the air for over a year now. It consists of looking at Ephesians 6:10-17, and using the Catechism, and Church teachings to evangelize and help you with your prayer life.

We need sponsors for this program. In our arrangement with Dom Lettieri and In His Sign Ministries, this one-half program costs the PPMC \$100. If you are interested in donating to help us we will mention your name on the radio as our sponsor for that week. Or, you can donate in memory of a loved one, and we will mention their name. Prayer groups can come together and donate for their prayer intentions and we will mention the prayer group and their intentions.

We thank you for listening, and for your support.

THE QUEEN of PURGATORY

O turn to Jesus, Mother! Turn,
And call Him by His tenderest names;
Pray for the Holy Souls that burn
This hour amid the cleansing flames.

Ah! They have fought a gallant fight:
In death's cold arms they persevered;
And, after life's uncheery night,
The harbor of their rest is neared.
In pains beyond all earthly pains,
Favorites of Jesus! There they lie
Letting the fire wear out their stains
And worshipping God's purity.
Spouses of Christ they are, for He
Was wedded to them by His Blood;
And angels o'er their destiny
In wondering adoration brood.
They are the children of thy tears;
Then hasten, Mother! To their aid;
In pity think each hour appears
An age while glory is delayed.
See, how they bound amid their fires,
While pain and love their spirits fill;
Then with self-crucified desires
Utter sweet rumors, and lie still.
Ah me! The love of Jesus yearns
O'er that abyss of sacred pain,
And, as He looks, His bosom burns
With Calvary's dear thirst again.
O Mary, let thy Son no more
His lingering Spouses thus expect;
God's children to their God restore,
And to the Spirit His elect.
Pray then, as thou hast' ever prayed;
Angels and Souls, all look to thee;
God waits thy prayers, for He hath made
Those prayers His law of charity.

(Father Faber, *Ibid.*)

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 **PPMC**.

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 8/25/2002 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today I am with you in prayer so that God gives you an even stronger faith. Little children, your faith is small and you are not even aware how much, despite this, you are not ready to seek the gift of faith from God. That is why I am with you, little children, to help you comprehend my messages and put them into life. Pray, pray, pray and only in faith and through prayer your soul will find peace and the world will find joy to be with God. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 8/25/02

SEEK from GOD the GIFT of FAITH

Mary, Our Mother, the Queen of Peace, strengthens us in faith and security while promising us her presence. She, who was present in the most difficult moments of the life of Christ, remains forever with the Church of Christ and with all the generations of men, to this very day. She was present with the apostles in prayer, while waiting the coming of the Promise from on High, the power and the strength of the Holy Spirit. She is a believer and a pilgrim who walks with us, who prays and believes with us. With her, chosen by God, our faith is greater, our love is stronger and our hope is indestructible.

Faith is a grace and a gift. We receive it from God, and God uses men to offer to us His salvation. This is why, on this journey of faith, He has given us the Church, and within the Church, He has given us Mary – our Mother – and Himself. Our life is almost unconceivable without faith. When a child is born, it believes its parents, and that is why it can grow and develop peacefully and safely. It can freely throw itself into the lap of its parents, knowing that they will receive it and protect it.

To believe also means to know. Without faith, we cannot grow in knowledge, we cannot move freely; we have to be afraid of everything. The opposite of faith is fear, mistrust. A person, which does not believe others, has to defend itself, protect itself, has to live in permanent tension and fear to be attacked, robbed, and killed. The foundation of our life is faith and trust, first in God and then in people whom God has placed on our way. Living without faith is like building a house on the sand: that house can collapse at any moment.

Jesus asked faith of his disciples. He used to say: “Your faith has saved you”. Jesus is the one who

saves, but it is as if he wanted to say: “Through your faith, you have allowed me to help you. Through your faith you have opened the door through which I can enter to bring you health and my salvation”.

In the Gospel, we see that Jesus could not do miracles for people who approached him out of interest, out of curiosity, without trust in His person. We have to ask for faith in prayer, we have to have the faith of the woman from the Gospel, who was ill for 18 years, and who approached Jesus with faith, expecting salvation and health. Many have touched Jesus, but when this woman touched Him, He felt that a power went out of Him, and only this woman was healed. She was healed because she told “Yes” to Jesus with her whole heart. She had the courage to abandon herself and to give herself to Jesus, this is why Jesus could give Himself to her.

To believe in one person means also to know this person. Without faith, this is impossible. Hence, God is a person. We can truly approach a person only with an open heart, with a heart that gives itself and which accepts the other as a gift. We can never completely know God, because He is always new, always different. God always wants to surprise us. With Him, we can never be bored. Prayer can be boring, but not God. If prayer is difficult, it is a sign that much selfishness has to die in us, so that God may break through to the first place in our lives.

Sin, which is in us, took away from us the power to do good. This is why we experience difficulties in prayer, difficulties in pardoning, in loving, in confessing our sins, in arranging our lives according to God’s commandments. This is why Mary, our Mother, reminds us, “You are not ready to seek the gift of faith from God”; because we do not know this gift and we do not feel the need for it. To grow in spiritual life means to strengthen within us the virtues of faith, of hope and of charity. Who can say: “I fully believe in God, I perfectly love God, I live in hope”? We experience that we can always grow in faith, in hope and in love more and better. We can grow to the

fullness of Christ within us, because we are created in His image. This is why Our Lady comes, this is why she speaks to us not leaving us in our own tranquillity but offering us the peace of her Heart, which is abandoned to God.

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

PRESS BULLETIN 177, 8/26/2002

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE of the CROSS

When – in 1933 - the parishioners of Medjugorje made a vow, and when – in 1934 – they constructed the large cross on the hill above the village, which, for this reason, later received the name of Cross Mountain, they did not think that this place would become a meeting point of pilgrims from the whole world. Today a prayerful procession takes place on this mountain in which pilgrims meditate on the passion and death of Jesus. Climbing the hill to reach the cross, the faithful conform their life and their pain, their cross and their suffering to the Cross of Christ. Here, a believer can feel the nearness of the love of God and of His intervention in our lives. God Himself takes upon Himself the shame of the cross and dies, out of love, for our new birth.

It is inconceivable to speak about Christianity, about following Christ, without embracing the cross. The Cross stands in front of us as a choice and as a reality of Christian belonging. Jesus says clearly to his disciples: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mt 16,24). This is Jesus’ offer. Jesus offers to us the same as what His Father and our Heavenly Father offered Him. Jesus pushes us onwards, but with the weight of the cross. Nevertheless, we should not be afraid. The Cross is not a curse. The Cross is a blessing and the reality of the disciples of Jesus. On this way, we are neither alone nor abandoned. God knows our strength and our capacities, and this is why He repeats to us that His yoke is easy and His burden light.

Observing Medjugorje in the context of the Cross, we come to the conclusion that the Cross is at the very centre of Medjugorje, and that – at the same time - Medjugorje is a new cross. In Medjugorje, Our Lady offers us nothing alluring, and nothing passing. Our Lady, as God’s ambassador, calls us always to Christ. Hence, we have seen what Christ offers: the Cross, renouncement and the dying out of love for others. It

is therefore not surprising that, precisely at the school of Mary, the Cross becomes, in Medjugorje, a light burden and an acceptable choice. In Medjugorje, people leave their addictions and enslavements, which are a meaningless suffering, and through sacraments, they purify their souls and choose the Cross, which is for Christians the tree of life, giving a reason to the meaning of earthly existence.

Father Mario Knezovic

NUMBER of COMMUNIONS and NUMBER of CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of July, 85,000 received Holy Communion and 4,436 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

THE IMPRESSION of PERUVIAN BISHOPS

As we have written in the Bulletin No 176, two Peruvian bishops, Monsignor Julio Ojeda Pascual, OFM, Bishop of San Ramon / Peru, and Monsignor Gerard Anton Zerdin, OFM, a missionary and Bishop-coadjutor of the same diocese, came on private pilgrimage to Medjugorje from July 4 to 6, 2002.

Monsignor Julio Ojeda Pascual told us about his impressions:

“I am happy and touched for having had the occasion to come to this country. I heard about the apparitions for the first time from the newspapers that were given to us by Father Gerard and other Franciscan priests living in Peru. For me, it meant nothing more than other strange names and I was sceptical, but I have noticed conversions and this is what impressed me most of all. I have come here thanks to the Franciscans from Zagreb (Croatia) who invited me to visit them. There was an occasion to come to Medjugorje and I did it. I see so many people coming here; people who want to come closer to Jesus through Mary. Let us thank God for having given us Mary, whom we venerate as Mother of God, and who always leads us to Jesus.

Nature is so beautiful here, vegetation and mountains, there are so many rocks; it is an impulse for a spiritual experience. It is like the image of the man, the sinner, who is maybe as hard as a stone, and from whom vegetation can germinate with the help of the grace of God. I believe in the grace of prayer for the spiritual path of man towards God. These pilgrimages can obtain the grace of more workers in God’s harvest. The harvest is big but there are few laborers. Many

people go to these places out of spiritual motives, others come out of curiosity. Instead of finding satisfaction for their curiosity, they find something else: they find an example. There are many conversions here, which can lead to spiritual vocations: a priestly vocation, a religious vocation, an active lay vocation...

When I come back home, I will tell what I have seen and experienced: People really come with the intention to make a pilgrimage. There is an atmosphere of pilgrimage, order and prayer. I do not see anything negative. I am positively impressed. We have seen people praying in deep recollection. The ambience is good.

May the Mother of God always be with us, and not only in exceptional days of pilgrimage. Let us be faithful in our daily life to all of that, faithful to what the Mother of God leads us."

Monsignor Gerard Anton Zerdin told us:

"We read about the Medjugorje apparitions in newspapers, we received people who showed us some materials, and we were especially touched by the desire of people to come closer to God, to use every occasion to come closer to God. They have seen that a door towards God was open and they came closer, asking for grace, wanting to transform their lives. This is a great value. This is what we want: to always come closer to God through the sacraments, to be transformed, to become better, to be more Christian.

We have come to see, but even more to experience. Yesterday, we were at Holy Mass, today we went to the Apparition Hill to meditate on our vocation, on our missionary work; we went to ask God, to ask Our Lady to send us missionaries, labourers that we need, so that the Word of God may spread to the ends of the earth.

It is difficult to come from Peru, people have restricted possibilities for these kind of journeys. We have some shrines in Peru, especially pilgrimages to places where crosses are put up. The devotion to the Crucified Christ is very popular: on the picture, He is with Mary, and the Holy Trinity is present. The image itself is a matter for catechesis. People make large processions, which are occasions for us to preach the Word of God, to confess, to convert. Many popular folklore customs are also linked to these processions in Peru.

There is no tourism here. Through the pilgrimage, through prayer, people seek to come closer to God. The examples of others stimulate them to conversion."

CELEBRATION of the FEAST of SAINT JAMES

The feast of Saint James the Apostle, the patron saint of the parish, was solemnly celebrated on July 25th. The Eucharistic celebration began and ended singing the litany of All the Saints and a procession with the statue of the Patron Saint, which was carried this year by men from Podbrdo. After the traditional procession with the statue of the saint from the parish church to the wood near the church, followed Holy Mass, presided by Father Mate Dragicevic, OFM, Pastor of the parish of Cerin, a native of Medjugorje, along with 29 priests, among whom was the Herzegovinian provincial Father Slavko Soldo, himself also a native of Medjugorje. The parishioners and their friends, who come for this special occasion to celebrate the patron saint of the parish of Medjugorje, were joined by a large number of foreign pilgrims, who also venerate Saint James, who is also patron saint of pilgrims. As a reminder, let us say that the parish of Medjugorje was founded in 1892, and Saint James has been as its patron saint since then.

13th INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PRAYER MEETING

The 13th International Youth Prayer Meeting took place, again this year, from July 31st to August 6th in Medjugorje. About 15,000 young people from about 30 countries from all over the world gathered together. There were also about 250 priests, who accompanied their young parishioners to this meeting. The theme of the meeting was, "With Mary, Witness Peace and Joy". During the evening prayer program, numerous other pilgrims joined young people.

Lecturers and witnesses invited young people to live in peace and joy, so that – according to the invitation of the Holy Father – they may become, with their intelligence and their feelings, a sure foundation of the future of humanity.

This meeting was another exceptional spiritual experience for all young people who participated. This is why we invite them to come next year again to Medjugorje and to renew their fidelity to God, to the Holy Father and to the Church.

The meeting was simultaneously translated into 16 languages.

THE FEAST of the ASSUMPTION of MARY

Several thousands of local and foreign pilgrims came to Medjugorje for the feast of the Assumption of Mary. During the morning, Holy Masses were celebrated in several languages, and the solemn evening Mass, in concelebration with 60 priests, was presided by Father Stojan Zrno, a missionary in the Congo. This year again, already during the night, a large number of Croatian pilgrims came barefoot, after having walked many kilometres.

SEMINARS at “DOMUS PACIS”

A “Prayer and Fasting” seminar for a group of Croatian and Slovenian pilgrims was held at the end of July. Forty-three pilgrims spent 6 days in prayer, fasting and silence, desiring to deepen their faith and their abandonment to the Lord. The seminar was led by Sister Ljilja Pehar and Father Ljubo Kurtovic.

Contact for “Prayer and Fasting” seminars: Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Zupni ured Medjugorje, Gospin trg 1, 88266 Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (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>)

OUR LADY of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Unique in all creation stands
Thy Virgin-Motherhood,
Bright substance
Out of which was wrought
Each pristine vessel For Emmanuel:

Blest Chalice - of the Word's most precious Blood;
Pure Paten - of His Body's first repose;
Ciborium - of His infant dwelling;
Fair Pyx - of His first journeying;
Monstrance - of His earliest benedictions;

O Mary,
Tabernacle - of the Incarnate One,
Shelter thou ours souls that they may dwell with God.

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

OUR LADY of the EUCHARIST

Dear Lady of the Sacred Host,
In hearts enshrined, beloved most,
Pure temple of the Holy Ghost,
Maria!

Of purity, the crystal shrine,
Thou Mother of our God Divine,
But, too, sweet Mother, thou art mine,
Maria!

Fair Lady of the Eucharist,
Enduring Love as in a mist,
Unto thy client fondly list,
Maria!

Receive me, Mother as thy child,
And make me humble, meek, and mild,
Preserve me chaste and undefiled.
Maria!

With meek and contrite love adorn
This stony heart of mine; each morn
May I receive thy Son new-born,
Maria!

(Sister M. Frederica, O.S.B. Ibid.)

PRAYER for OUR COUNTRY

Heavenly Father, You are the real foundation of nations, raising them up to serve and care for the people dwelling in their boundaries.

I thank you for making me a citizen of this land of freedom and unlimited opportunity – our United States.

Send forth You Holy Spirit to this country, make it a source of wisdom and strength , order and integrity throughout the world. AMEN

A RED MARBLE

During the waning years of the depression in a small southeastern Idaho community, I used to stop by Mr. Miller's roadside stand for farm-fresh produce as the season made it available. Food and money were still extremely scarce and bartering was used, extensively.

One particular day Mr. Miller was bagging some early potatoes for me. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new

potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

"H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas ... sure look good."

"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time."

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"

"No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."

"Would you like to take some home?"

"No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."

"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?" "All I got's my prize marble here."

"Is that right? Let me see it."

"Here 'tis. She's a dandy."

"I can see that. Hmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?" "Not 'zackleybut, almost."

"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble."

"Sure will."

Thanks, Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said: "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, perhaps."

I left the stand, smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys and their bartering. Several years went by each more rapid than the previous one.

Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his viewing that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon our arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts ... very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing smiling and composed, by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary, awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and mentioned the story she had told me about the marbles. Eyes glistening she took my hand and led me to the casket. "Those three young men, who just left, were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size... they came to pay their debt. "We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but, right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho." With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three, magnificently shiny, red marbles.

Moral: We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

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

saintsintheking@comcast.net

FROM THE CATECHISM: THE HOLY SPIRIT – GOD'S GIFT

"God is Love" and love is his first gift, containing all others. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Because we are dead or at least wounded through sin, the first effect of the gift of love is the forgiveness of our sins. The communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church restores to the baptized the divine likeness lost through sin.

He, then, gives us the "pledge" or "first fruits" of our inheritance: the very life of the Holy Trinity, which is to love as "God (has) loved us." This love (the "charity" of 1 Cor. 13) is the source of the new life in

Christ, made possible because we have received “power” from the Holy Spirit.

By this power of the Spirit, God’s children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear “the fruit of the Spirit:... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.” “We live by the Spirit”; the More we renounce ourselves, the more we “walk by the Spirit.”

Through the Holy Spirit we are restored to paradise, led back to the Kingdom of Heaven, and adopted as children, given confidence to call God “Father” and to share in Christ’s grace, called children of light and given a share in eternal Glory.”

(This is taken from the “Profession of Faith” # 733, 734, 735, and 736 of the “Catechism of the Catholic Church, Doubleday, 1994 Available from the PFMC)

POOR FOLKS

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?”

“It was great, Dad.”

“Did you see how poor people can be?” the father asked.

“Oh Yeah” said the son.

“So what did you learn from the trip?” asked the father.

The son answered, “I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.”

With this the boy’s father was speechless.

Then his son added, “Thanks dad for showing me how poor we are.”

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don’t have. What is one person’s worthless object is another’s prize possession. It is all based on one’s perspective.

It makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for all the bounty we have, instead of worrying about wanting more.

Take joy in all you have, especially your friends.

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.

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

EXPLAIN GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said

"O.K."

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven.

So He did. And now He helps Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to

the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.

Keep these thoughts with you throughout the coming years:

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring and sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary.

Face it, He's crazy about you. Send this to the people you're crazy about. I thought this was pretty special, just like you.

Pass this on and brighten someone's day, and remember: God answers Knee-Mail!

(AdoreLora2@aol.com)

CHURCH PROCLAIMS MARY "MOTHER of GOD"

Contemplation of the mystery of the Saviour's birth has led Christian people not only to invoke the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Jesus, but also to recognize her as Mother of God. This truth was already confirmed and perceived as belonging to the Church's heritage of faith from the early centuries of the Christian era, until it was solemnly proclaimed at the Council of Ephesus in 431.

In the first Christian community, as the disciples became more aware that Jesus is the Son of God, it became ever clearer that Mary is the Theotokos, the Mother of God. This is a title which does not appear explicitly in the Gospel texts, but in them the "Mother of Jesus" is mentioned and it is affirmed that Jesus is

God (Jn 20:28; cf. 5:18; 10:30, 33). Mary is in any case presented as the Mother of Emmanuel, which means “God with us” (cf. Mt 1:22-23).

Already in the third century, as can be deduced from an ancient written witness, the Christians of Egypt addressed this prayer to Mary: “We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God: despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all evil, O glorious and blessed Virgin” (from the Liturgy of the Hours). The expression Theotokos appears explicitly for the first time in this ancient witness.

In pagan mythology, it often happened that a certain goddess would be presented as the mother of some god. For example, the supreme god, Zeus, had the goddess Rhea as his mother. This context perhaps helped Christians to use the title “Theotokos”, “Mother of God”, for the Mother of Jesus. It should nevertheless be noted that this title did not exist but was created by Christians to express a belief which had nothing to do with pagan mythology, belief in the virginal conception in Mary's womb of the One who had always been the eternal Word of God.

Council of Ephesus proclaimed Mary as the Mother of God

By the fourth century, the term Theotokos was frequently used in the East and West. Devotion and theology refer more and more to this term, which had by now become part of the Church's patrimony of faith.

One can therefore understand the great protest movement that arose in the fifth century when Nestorius cast doubt on the correctness of the title “Mother of God”. In fact, being inclined to hold that Mary was only the mother of the man Jesus, he maintained that “Mother of Christ” was the only doctrinally correct expression. Nestorius was led to make this error by his difficulty in admitting the unity of Christ's person and by his erroneous interpretation of the distinction between the two natures—divine and human—present in him.

In 431 the Council of Ephesus condemned his theses and, in affirming the subsistence of the divine and human natures in the one person of the Son, proclaimed Mary the Mother of God.

Now, the difficulties and objections raised by Nestorius offer us the opportunity to make several useful reflections for correctly understanding and interpreting this title. The expression Theotokos, which literally means, “she who has begotten God”, can at first sight seem surprising; in fact it raises the

question as to how it is possible for a human creature to give birth to God. The answer of the Church's faith is clear: Mary's divine motherhood refers only to the human begetting of the Son of God but not, however, to his divine birth. The Son of God was eternally begotten of God the Father, and is consubstantial with him. Mary, of course has no part in this eternal birth. However, the Son of God assumed our human nature 2,000 years ago and was conceived by and born of Mary.

In proclaiming Mary “Mother of God”, the Church thus intends to affirm that she is the “Mother of the Incarnate Word, who is God”. Her motherhood does not, therefore, extend to all the Trinity, but only to the Second Person, the Son, who, in becoming incarnate took his human nature from her.

Motherhood is a relationship of person to person: a mother is not only mother of the body or of the physical creature born of her womb, but of the person she begets. Thus having given birth, according to his human nature, to the person of Jesus, who is a divine person, Mary is the Mother of God.

Blessed Virgin's consent precedes Incarnation

4. In proclaiming Mary “Mother of God”, the Church in a single phrase professes her belief regarding the Son and the Mother. This union was already seen at the Council of Ephesus; in defining Mary's divine motherhood, the Fathers intended to emphasize their belief in the divinity of Christ. Despite ancient and recent objections about the appropriateness of recognizing Mary by this title, Christians of all times, by correctly interpreting the meaning of this motherhood, have made it a privileged expression of their faith in the divinity of Christ and their love for the Blessed Virgin.

On the one hand, the Church recognizes the Theotokos as guaranteeing the reality of the Incarnation because—as St Augustine says—“if the Mother were fictitious, the flesh would also be fictitious ... and the scars of the Resurrection” (Tract. in Ev. Ioannis, 8, 6-7). On the other hand, she also contemplates with wonder and celebrates with veneration the immense greatness conferred on Mary by the One who wanted to be her Son. The expression “Mother of God” refers to the Word of God, who in the Incarnation assumed the lowliness of the human condition in order to raise man to divine sonship. But in the light of the sublime dignity conferred on the Virgin of Nazareth, this title also proclaims the nobility of woman and her loftiest vocation. God in

fact treats Mary as a free and responsible person and does not bring about the Incarnation of his Son until after he has obtained her consent.

Following the example of the ancient Christians of Egypt, let the faithful entrust themselves to her who, being the Mother of God, can obtain from her divine Son the grace of deliverance from evil and of eternal salvation.

(General Audience with Pope John Paul II, November 27, 1996 - Provided Courtesy of: Eternal Word Television Network, 5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, AL 35210
www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/JP961127.htm)

MARY

Mary! A Name too pure for mortal lips
Or language of the seraphim,
First borrowed from the songs of heaven,
It stirs the soul, yet soothes our fears.

O Mary! Who, in joy, or tears,
While onward o'er the surges driven,
Hath e'er unaided called on thee,
Thou Star of life's tempestuous sea!

Sweet Name of power and Virgin love,
Fair as the spotless heavens above,
Bright as the wave beneath the sun,
Pure as the cloudless diamond.

(Tabernacle and Purgatory - September 1960)

OUR LADY - SKYSCRAPER IN THE NIGHT

Our Lady like a hundred-story building standing all alone alight, amid a deep dark night, rises, terraced strong on steel, and towers tall high-shaped and sheer to stop the pilgrim and enthrall, with each ascending floor a pyramiding row of golden-squares - taller yet than all - of light. Down by her feet fair fountains mirror-play their waters in her polished stone, while at her utmost height great spotlights print her crown in a dazzling white.

A skyscraper Mary is, and wears her hundred-stories tall like one long mist-like golden gown of light; A Queen She is, glorious-tall, majestic in the night.

(Albert Joseph Hebert, S.M. Mary, Our Blessed Lady.
New York: Exposition Press, 1970.)

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a church, store or travel agency but have aspects of all three. We operate as a ministry whose volunteers are mostly lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, through the 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. These activities include retreats and days of recollection at the PFMC where Holy Mass and Adoration take place for the public with Bishop DiMarzio's permission. The PFMC was established based on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other holy places or shrine worthy of pilgrimage. Books, pamphlets and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and take based on donations. We are NOT a store.

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

Thank you and God bless you,

(Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff)

DONATIONS by CHARGE CARD ACCEPTED

We accept DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS) for all donations to the PFMC. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, "The PILGRIM," or the building debt retirement fund.

BLESSED OIL

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

Read the articles in the November and December 1994 issues as well as the Bible readings for the Holy Week Chrism Mass about Blessed Oil and Holy Oil of Gladness. If you no longer have these articles or never received them, you may request copies from the PFMC.

Oil from Medjugorje is a **sacramental** and should be handled as such. It is NOT the same as the oils blessed by the Bishop for official church ceremonies or during administration of the sacraments by a priest. People being signed with oil as a sacramental should not be misled into thinking that use of a sacramental by the laity in any way replaces blessing by a priest, whose Holy Hands are consecrated by the Bishop in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

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

BULLETIN NOTICES for *PFMC* AREA EVENTS

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

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

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.

WEDNESDAY 7 PM to 9 PM

TEACHING by DEAN PULCINI

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

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

THURSDAY 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM

"Put on the Armor of God" RADIO PROGRAM on WTMR, AM-800

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

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

OCTOBER 2002 RETREAT with FATHER JOHN HAMPSCH, CMF

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

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 \$640. 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.

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

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a "Christmas Open House" with refreshments in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043, on Friday, 6 December 2002 from 4 to 7 PM. For directions call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

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

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a special retreat for women with Father Robert DeGrandis. This retreat will be held in the Upper Room of Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ on Saturday, 12 February 2003. It will concentrate on forgiveness, prayer, and healing for those women who have been abused, physically, emotionally, and/or sexually. For an information sheet with reservation form please call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

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)

PRAY for FATHER BILL McCARTHY, M.Ss.A.

Rumors of Heart Attack or Stroke are circulating as we go to press. Check www.myfathershouse.com for any additional information.

CALENDARS:

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)**.

In **October**, the Church celebrates the Feasts of **Saint Luke, Evangelist (18)** and **Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles (28)** and the Memorials of **Saints Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1)**, **Francis of Assisi (4)**, **John Leonardi (9)**, **Denis and Companions (9)**, **Pope Callistus I (14)**, **Teresa of Jesus (15)**, **Hedwig (16)**, **Margaret Mary Alacoque (16)**, **Ignatius of Antioch (17)**, **Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and Companions (19)**, **John of Capistrano (23)**, **Anthony Mary Claret (24)** as well as **The Guardian Angels (2)**, **Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)** and **Our Lady of the Rosary (7)**. Church calendars show **Columbus Day (14)**.

clearly and slowly, leave your name, address and phone number with area code so that we may return your call. You may FAX your questions to (856) 768-9428. If you have Internet access, you may utilize the Internet web site or e-mail addresses posted below to obtain information about PFMC events.

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.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 9 and the Bulletin Notices on pages 21 through 23. We need everyone to help spread this information with prayer groups and Parish committees as well as to publish it in your Parish Bulletin. For additional information, call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 or 1-800-788-MARY [6279]. Please speak

The PILGRIM

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

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Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors

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

**PRIORITY DATED
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**Mailed early AM,
Thursday, 9/12/2002**

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PLEASE DON'T THROW THIS AWAY!!

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!"



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

